

CHAPTER IV.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION.

Before discussing the economic condition of the people it has to be mentioned that the district is predominantly agricultural and in spite of a certain amount of disintegration, the effects of joint family system are still lingering. It has further to be observed that one individual usually holds a variety of land rights besides earning an independent income from some other source. He might have been a zamindar (before the zamindari was abolished), a tenure-holder, a tenant, a wage-earner under an employer or an independent wage-earner as an industrialist. This feature in the economic life coupled with the fact that even if there is no active joint family system in the family the members in their distress may turn to the better placed individual, explains why in spite of the average income of the common man being so poor, there is not that stress of poverty which the average income should indicate. There is a sort of cushion in the family, a padding in the economic life which absorbs much of the shock of individual poverty. In spite of a definite trend towards the urbanisation, the district still exists in the villages. There has, however, been a very recent trend of the better class and the intellectual element in the villages going over to the towns. This trend, however, has not yet assumed a proportion that would upset the economic condition of the rural areas. This is so because in spite of their flight to the urban areas, they have not, nor can they, afford to snap the links with the villages.

AREA.

The total area of the district is 19,31,520 acres. The average taken for the years 1945—48 shows that the average cultivated area is 15,11,261 acres. The total culturable waste lands in the district has been calculated to be near about 59,886 acres. These culturable waste lands can hardly strictly be called as waste because they are mostly *chaurs* or water-logged marshes. When the water dries up, portions of the *chaurs* are cultivated. At places, the water of the *chaurs* is used for irrigation purposes. Some of these culturable waste lands are used as grazing grounds or for obtaining grass for thatching houses. The non-culturable waste lands have been calculated to be 58,969 acres. The rest of the area of the district is covered with homestead lands, roads, tanks, etc. Muzaffarpur is one of the thickly populated districts in the State and it may be said that practically the entire land area is fully occupied. The density of the population is acute in spite of seasonal emigrations. There appears to be hardly any scope for extension of cultivation in the district. There is, however, ample scope for more intensive cultivation on improved lines.

LAND TENURE.

The district had permanent zamindari system of land revenue settlement. The State Government have acquired the zamindaris and the intermediary link between the *raiyat* and the Government has been abolished. The zamindars have not yet been paid their full compensation. At the moment, the class of zamindars has been economically hit as there is a complete change in their status and sources of income. But there has been no vacuum created as it is only a very small percentage of zamindars that depended only on their zamindari for livelihood before the abolition of the zamindari. Most of the zamindars had their ample *bakast* lands and were also tenure-holders or tenants on their own rights. Some of their sources of income have not been touched. It is expected that with the abolition of zamindari they will take to, as they are already taking to, business or other professions.

TENURES.

There are various tenures under which land in the district is held by different classes of tenants. The most important tenure is the occupancy tenure. An occupancy tenant is a person who holds land in a village for 12 years or more or, has acquired an occupancy holding in the village. The occupancy tenant has the right to hold, or transfer by sale, gift or inheritance, his holding subject to the obligation to pay rent to the landlord. The payment of rent is the first charge on the land. The area of lands under occupancy tenants totals 11,02,764 acres.

There are a number of other tenures in the district, such as *gair-majarua-am*, *gair-majarua-khas*, *devottar*, *brahmottar* and other service tenures, *bhauli*, and *zirat*. *Gair-majarua-am* lands are lands meant for general public use. The outlets of village water, ditches, small strips of land on the road-sides, public grazing grounds, etc., are usually placed in this category. These lands are neither the property of the landlord, nor the property of individual tenants. They belong to the village in its collective capacity. These lands cannot be leased out by the landlord. *Gair-majarua-khas* lands, on the other hand, are lands held by the landlord for the public use of the village. The landlord has the right to settle these lands with individual tenants. The landlord has full proprietary right in these lands and he can transfer part or whole of his right in this category of lands.

Service tenures originated in the form of gift of rent-free lands by the zamindars to priests, scholars, etc. These lands are held in perpetuity free from the obligation of paying rent. In most cases they are transferable not only by inheritance but also by sale, mortgage or gift. Originally nothing had to be paid to the landlord or the Government for these lands. But now local cess has to be paid. The area of such lands in the district, however, is very small.

Bhauli is a tenure under which the tenant holds land subject to payment of rent in kind. Orchards, bamboo groves, and culturable

lands are in some cases held under this tenure. In the case of culturable lands, the share of the landlord usually varies from 7/16ths to 9/16ths of the produce raised although the common acceptance is that half the produce has to be given. Amendments to the Bihar Tenancy Act have helped to abolish this kind of tenure.

Another important category of lands is that of the *zirat* lands. *Zirat* lands occupy 4,71,200.58 acres. Due to the previous existence of a large number of small zamindars, the proportion of the *zirat* lands to the total area for the district is very large. The big landlords with large areas of *zirat* land have found it profitable to settle portions of the *zirat* land with some tenants. The smaller landlords find it more profitable to do personal cultivation of the *zirat* land.

Another explanation for the *zirat* lands covering nearly one-third of the total cultivated land area is the existence in the past of a large number of European planters in the district. The European planters were always keen to consolidate blocks of land for *khas* cultivation. The planters obtained land on long lease and they also purchased lands from the zamindars. Lands which were under the actual cultivation of the landlords prior to the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885 were classified as *zirat* lands.

These *zirat* lands have the peculiar feature that occupancy right does not accrue in these lands even when they are settled to occupancy tenants provided the settlement is made from year to year or for a fixed term of years. The existence of such a large area of *zirat* lands in a thickly populated district like Muzaffarpur has important consequences. The landlords were given an opportunity to exploit landless agricultural labourers and small cultivators. The burden of population on land becomes more acute and the size of the agricultural holding for the individual cultivator becomes very small. A large number of people, thereby, were forced to depend on a smaller block of land. The only relieving feature of consolidated *zirat* land is that the individual can invest more capital on the land and enter into ambitious schemes for agricultural production on improved lines.

CESS AND RENT.

The cess (local cess) realised during 1949-50 was Rs. 9,24,678, in 1950-51 Rs. 10,53,941, in 1951-52 Rs. 10,08,994, and in 1952-53 it was Rs. 9,25,314. Figures for the total rent collection, and for the net income from *zirat* and *jalkar* are not available. But on the basis of the cess collected, the annual rental value of the lands of the district may be estimated at about Rs. 98,70,000 to Rs. 1,05,00,000. The average incidence of rent per cultivated acre of land comes to nearly Rs. 6-9-0 per year. But even this figure gives a wrong impression of the burden of rent on lands held by the *raiyats*. *Zirat* lands and *bhauki* lands are rated at a lower level for the purpose of calculation of cess. Therefore, the average incidence of rent on

occupancy holdings can easily be estimated at about Rs. 7-8-0 per acre. The rates of rent in this district are definitely higher than in the adjoining district of Darbhanga, which is almost equally thickly populated. If we compare the incidence of rent in this district with that of Purnea, we find that the rent in Muzaffarpur district is about three times that in Purnea district. In the thirties when the agricultural prices were very low, the rent of land must have been felt more heavy.

Rents are generally lower in the bigger estates. Besides, other rights of the tenants are also less interfered within those estates. But the division of small zamindaris into small fragments by the co-sharers has often led to an attempt by the landlord to squeeze the tenants as much as they possibly can. In these cases and in the cases of small lease-holders and *thikadars*, the rents have been considerably pushed up.

The rent structure in the district has its peculiarities. Rents vary on account of various reasons. Firstly, there are variations in rent on account of variation in the productivity of the lands. The lands which grow money crops like sugarcane, tobacco, potato, etc., or lands which grow three or four crops in the year pay higher rent than other lands. Variation occurs also on account of the location of the land. Rents are generally higher in Hajipur subdivision than in other subdivisions of the district. Lastly, variation occurs according as the land falls within a bigger estate or within the estate of a small proprietor.

Cash rent was the general rule before the zamindari system was abolished although a considerable portion of the cultivated area was assessed with rents in kind. Besides taking almost half of the produce, the landlord will also take an annual *salami* usually Rs. 4 to Rs. 10 per acre. The *salami* may also be paid in kind such as by loaning the plough or free supply of some labour or supply of milk, etc. The *bataidar* is a tenant-at-will who holds land at the pleasure of the owner. The tenancy legislation has made a provision that a *bataidar* if he has continued to cultivate the land for three years or more, could get the rent converted into cash. Owing to the prevalence of high prices of grains, the landlords stood to gain a lot by taking half of the produce. But commutation of rent into cash was widely encouraged and rent in kind is becoming extinct.

Another kind of rent payment known as *mankhap* has now become out of date. Under this system, the land is let out on the assurance of a fixed return from the lands. *Mankhap* rents are estimated to be about Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 per year per acre. Zamindars who have more *zirat* lands than they can conveniently cultivate and people engaged in services usually adopted this system.

It has already been mentioned that for *bhauli* land rent in kind has to be paid. The total area of *bhauli* lands is 52,873.96 acres. Nearly 50 per cent of the *zirat* lands used to be cultivated either under

batai system or under *mankhap* system. This gives an area of about 2,35,000 acres. Nearly one-tenth of the occupancy holdings in the district is cultivated by *bataidars*. The area of occupancy holdings cultivated by *bataidars* may be put at 1,10,270 acres. Thus, the total area of the district cultivated under different systems of payments comes to 3,98,743 acres. The average incidence of rent on these lands can be estimated at about Rs. 75 per year per acre.

CROPS.

Detailed information will be found regarding the important crops grown in the chapter on Agriculture. The district on the whole has very favourable soil and climatic conditions for the growing of crops and fruits. Briefly it may be mentioned that Hajipur subdivision has lighter soil and lower rainfall than the two other subdivisions of the district, namely, Sadar and Sitamarhi. In the Sadar subdivision, some areas have the same kind of soil as in Hajipur while we find heavy clay in other areas. The areas with light soil and fair rainfall are specially suitable for the cultivation of fruit trees. Various kinds of plantains, mangoes, litchis, guavas and limes are grown in abundance. Horticulture has a future in this district. Hajipur particularly seems a good area for garden-farming combined with dairy and poultry. The produce will have a ready market in Patna.

Paddy, maize, wheat, barley, *arhar*, *khesari*, sweet-potato, tobacco and sugarcane are the important crops of the district. Sitamarhi subdivision with heavier rainfall and more clayey soil has better prospects for paddy.

Mixed cropping is quite common. Wheat or barley is sown with mustard, linseed, *masur* or gram. The other type of mixed cropping is where two or more crops maturing in different periods are sown together. Maize is sown with sugarcane and *arhar*. Maize crop is reaped after about two and a half months while *arhar* and sugarcane keep the land engaged for almost the whole of the year. This type of cultivation reduces the cost, assures two crops in the year and does not affect the yield of either crop.

Unfortunately, the fruits grown in Muzaffarpur could have had a better market. Litchis and mangoes are assured a very good market in any part of India and even beyond but quicker transshipment is required. For a couple of years, litchis used to be air-lifted to Calcutta. The bottleneck of transshipment at Mokameh Ghat or Sonepur and Paleza Ghat affects the fruit trade badly. The opening of the Ganga bridge at Mokameh Ghat is expected to have a better effect on fruit trade. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that there is a great future for proper canning of fruits like mangoes and litchis. This industry was taken up decades before by a pioneer in Muzaffarpur but it had to close down.

Sugarcane and tobacco are the two important cash crops. Raw tobacco is consumed locally. Besides supplying the local market,

the district exports large quantities of tobacco to Patna, Gaya and Monghyr districts in the province. Muzaffarpur also exports tobacco to Calcutta. The variety of tobacco produced is good for chewing and also for making cigarettes. There are three sugar mills in the district at Goroul, Motipur and Belsand. A large quantity of sugarcane is also used for making into *gur*. Potato on a large scale has not yet been properly tried.

CONDITION OF CULTIVATION.

Except in a few cases, small scale cultivation with old type appliances continues. The growing density of population and the fragmentation of land due to the laws of succession stand on the way of any large scale cultivation, consolidation of holdings or the use of modern appliances like tractors. The efforts of the State Government have been partially successful in introducing some improvements in the method of cultivation. Some improved variety of cattle and better type of ploughs are being introduced. The use of organic manure is common but the use of inorganic manure has not yet been popular.

As the agricultural economy absolutely depends on the rainfall which is variable, provision of irrigational facilities is being encouraged. The district also suffers occasionally from an excess of rainfall. Drainage of the extensive *chaurs* will be of some value to this district. But a mass drainage of the *chaurs* for cultivation purposes will not be good as the *chaurs* are also pasture grounds and supply thatching grass. Periods of drought are also quite common.

Another form which the excessive supply of water takes in some part of the district is the annual visitation of floods. Portions of Sheohar, Belsand, Runisaidpur, Majorganj, Sitamarhi, Sonbarsa, Bairagnia, Pupri thanas in Sitamarhi subdivision, Shakra, Muzaffarpur, Baruraj, Katra Kanti, Minapur thanas in the Sadar subdivision and Raghapur and Mahanar thanas in Hajipur subdivision suffer from annual floods from the rivers Bagmati, Gandak and Ganga respectively. The floods damage the standing crops over a large area and hundreds of houses and also bring in epidemics. Steps are being taken by the State Government to control the floods of these rivers and to utilise their water for irrigation purposes. When this is done, the health and the economic condition of the people would immensely improve. The chapter on Natural Calamities gives more details.

LARGE FARMS.

Muzaffarpur is one of the districts in Bihar which still have got some large farms. These are the legacy of the old indigo plantations. European method of cultivation and manufacture of indigo had started in the district near about 1785 although there is evidence to show that there used to be some cultivation of indigo even before the advent of the British here. On account of the encouragement and special

favours to the European planters in the hands of the administration, the plantations and factories grew in number and size. They were able to create large plantations, at times covering thousands of acres or even more. During the whole of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th century, the planters were a powerful force in the district both economically and politically.

The development of the artificial dyes affected the prosperity of indigo industry severely. The plantations had grown at the cost of a certain amount of exploitation of the smaller cultivators. The degree of exploitation increased along with lesser consumption of indigo due to competition from the artificial product. The political agitation of Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 against the oppression of the indigo planters tolled the knell of the industry.

The planters exercised a very big influence on the economic condition of the district. On the one hand, they saw to the maintenance of good roads for the transport of their indigo and for keeping up their social contacts, for going to the schools for the tenants and also to encourage the improvement of crops. Their farms were a sort of model to the surrounding area. They were also the bankers of their tenants and the agriculturists who brought them indigo. Exercising a good deal of influence on the administration (at one time they had the privilege to draw money from the Government treasury on their own), they could do a good deal to ameliorate the condition of those villages in which they were interested. In case of epidemics or near famine conditions, the planters would get remedial measures quickly taken, if they were interested in those areas.

The planters gave employment to a sizable percentage of the population. They encouraged the *melas* and fairs and frequently held socials, races, and polo meets. They kept horses and very good type of livestock. The Sonepur *mela* in the days of the planters attracted commodities and traders from the North-West Frontier Province to the south. The old documents show that practically all the first rate European firms of Calcutta and Lucknow used to open their branches at Sonepur fair. The turn-over of the commodities which included luxury goods besides livestock was enormous. When we remember that the state of communications was much less developed we realise the great significance of these *melas* and fairs which were definitely encouraged by the planters.

But, unfortunately, there was an opposite side also. The planters usually depended on their subordinate staff (*amlas*) and they were rather oppressive. A large number of *abwabs* or illegal taxations came into vogue. The tenants were forced to cultivate indigo on the best part of the land whether it was economic or not. The *tinkathia* system under which the planters made it obligatory on the tenants to grow indigo on the portions of the land opened the flood gates of various types of oppression. It appears that the planters overlooked the *zulum* done by the subordinates and their close link with the

administrative set up reduced the tenants to a state of utter helplessness. There was a social and economic emasculation of the villages in certain ways. The revolt of the *raiyats* was natural.

The large farms of the planters who gradually liquidated themselves by sale of their farms were purchased by rich agriculturists of the district or of the neighbouring districts. Unfortunately, the standard of cultivation has not been maintained in most cases. The indigo plantations had been substituted by sugarcane and oat plantations. Oat plantations, however, died out when the Pusa horse farm closed. Some of the old plantations like Kanti, Motipur and Daudpur, are now growing sugarcane extensively. Kanti concern is one of the oldest indigo concerns in North Bihar and continues to be in the hands of an enlightened gentleman-farmer of a well-known family of Calcutta. The Motipur indigo concern is now in the hands of Motipur Sugar Factory. Excepting in these two cases, the other big farms have been broken up into pieces and sold or leased out to different individuals.

The use of the modern tractors is limited to the big farms and sugarcane plantations. The rubber-tyre bullock carts introduced by the planters have not yet made much headway.

POPULATION.

It may be briefly mentioned here that the total population of the district according to 1951 Census is 35,20,739. There is an excess of 59,239 females over males. The urban population consisting of 1,35,696 persons forms a small percentage of the total population. Although the percentage of urban population is small, there is a definite swing of the intelligentsia going over to the urban areas from the villages. There are no big industries in the towns and that also explains partially the low percentage of urban population. 90.5 per cent of the population for the district depends on cultivation.

The people living in the municipal areas of the district mostly have non-agricultural occupation. About 35 per cent of the town dwellers carry on cultivation or work as agricultural labourers. Similarly there are some people in the villages who live only by some craft. Usually even the craftsmen in the villages have some land, or occupy themselves in agricultural work during a part of the year. If both these exceptions are omitted we find that about 90 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture. We do not know how many persons of the district live in the urban areas outside the district or have no agricultural occupation outside the district. At a liberal estimate we can put this category of people at about 3 per cent of the total population. There will also be some scope of migration or seasonal migration of labour. But that will be negligible.

The total cultivated land area of the district comes to 15,11,261 acres. 90 per cent of the total population of the district is roughly 31,64,918. The cultivated land area gives less than half an acre per

head of the population depending on land. The incidence of poverty of the people, therefore, becomes self-evident. Even under the best conditions agriculture cannot provide a living standard for such large numbers. Economic pressure is driving people to move from the rural areas in the district or find alternative employment such as hawking and pulling of rickshaws in the towns. Rickshaw fare is probably the lowest at Muzaffarpur in the whole of the State. A very large number of rickshaw-pullers at Patna are inhabitants of Muzaffarpur. This is not accidental.

INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

Muzaffarpur being the headquarters of the Tirhut Division which is cut off from South Bihar by the river Ganga has its own significance in a wide scope for assembling industries with a large closed market. The existence of a number of sugar factories in North Bihar assures a certain amount of machine repairing work as well. It may be mentioned here that Messrs. Arthur Butler and Co. Ltd., of Muzaffarpur, is now at least 110 years old. Along with Saran Engineering Works in Saran district, this concern has been engaged in the manufacture of implements, etc., for the needs of North Bihar. Even with the opening of the Ganga bridge at Mokameh Ghat it is not expected that there will be a diminution for the scope for assembling industry for Muzaffarpur town.

Although essentially an agricultural district there was some development towards industrialisation during the Great War of 1914-18. This was evidently out of the necessity felt for the turn-over in goods which could not be imported from foreign countries. Commerce and trade flourished for some time and a capital was built up for reinvestment in certain types of industries. The flourish in trade and commerce was, however, short-lived and the third decade of the 20th century saw a depression in trades. But during the Second Great World War, the various indigenous industries of the district and particularly the industry of manufacture of cutlery and iron goods received a great encouragement.

There are 135 factories registered under the Factories Act. They are distributed as follows :—

Sugar	...	...	3
Engineering	...	...	4
Rice, oil, flour and dal	...	...	85
Miscellaneous	...	...	43

As already mentioned, sugar manufacture could be described as the main industry in this district. The three sugar factories are located one in each of the three respective subdivisions. The location of the sugar factories in all the three cases is outside urban influence. It has already been mentioned that the sugar factories are in a way the legacy of the indigo planters. Under the Welfare State, facilities

have been offered for ameliorating the condition of the labour in these factories. There is no dearth of labour in any of these factories. Unskilled labour force is mainly supplied to these factories out of surplus rural population in the district.

The minimum wages in the industry have been increased from about Rs. 10 per month in 1930—32 to Rs. 55 in 1948-49. The same incidence of wages continues with slight changes. The minimum wages had decreased from about Rs. 10 to Rs. 6 in 1936-37 and again increased to Rs. 11 in 1939-40. It may be said that no other industry has perhaps reacted so favourably to the demands of labour. There have been, from time to time, legislations affecting the growers, societies, factories and the labour. The sugarcane cess that is realised is spent for the good of the industry as an item of the welfare fund. The recruitment of the skilled percentage of the hands does not admit of any regional limits.

The industry is a seasonal one and, therefore, employment is partly seasonal and partly permanent. Seasonal labour consists largely of unskilled workmen, while some technical men, such as, fitters, drivers, juice supervisors, chemists are not employed throughout the year but are allowed a retaining allowance for the off season. No retainership is, however, allowed to unskilled labour. As the unskilled labour comes mostly from the rural areas who are more dependent on agriculture or industries associated with agriculture, it cannot be said that much hardship is caused by their discharge. There is no specific rule laid down for regulating the method of recruitment but according to the unanimous decision of bi-partite conference of Labour Advisory Board (Central) and Bihar in 1951 seasonal employees have been given the right of re-employment.

There are 5 fairly large engineering workshops. Welfare facilities to the workers in these engineering workshops are in conformity with the minimum existing in the sugar factories. The district being mostly a paddy producing area, a large number of rice mills for husking paddy have been set up. Most of these rice mills are located in the northern part of the district, i.e., Sitamarhi subdivision and very close to the Nepal frontiers. Paddy husking is a seasonal industry and therefore to keep the mills going the employers have attached dal and flour sections to it. The labour force in this industry mostly hails from the agriculture population. They are usually daily-rated or casual. They work in these mills when the harvesting or sowing season is over. This tendency makes the labour force in these mills rather fluctuating and does not help a proper organisation or modernisation. The minimum wage in this district is Rs. 1-6-0 per day per worker. Muzaffarpur district has a future for the industry of assembling parts.

One of the important recent phases which should affect the economic condition of the people is the availability of electricity in many of the rural areas. Electricity has now been made available in

the important parts of the two mofussil subdivisions, Sitamarhi and Hajipur. It is expected that in the near future, the availability of the electricity will lead to the development of industries within the district. The Pontoon bridge connecting Hajipur with Sonapur and the opening of the new Sonapur bridge are also factors that will help trade and commerce. Without a mixed economy, there cannot be much improvement in the economic standard in the district.

The present agrarian policy of the State Government in Bihar follows closely the agrarian programme drawn up for India. The Congress election manifesto of 1946 had definitely mentioned that there should be reform of the land system involving the removal of the intermediaries between the peasant and the State. It was further mentioned that while individual farming or peasant proprietorship should continue, progressive agriculture as well as the creation of new social values and incentives require some system of co-operative farming. The manifesto had further indicated that in the development of land and industry, there has to be a proper integration and balance between rural and urban economy.

The implementation of this policy has been taken up and as mentioned before, the abolition of zamindari is one of the main steps taken. But before the abolition of zamindari in 1950, other steps had been taken which were calculated to improve the economic condition of *raiyyats*. Various amendments and reforms in the tenancy laws had been taken up after 1947. They broadly embody the following provisions :—

- (i) if any settled *raiyyat* of the village cultivates any *bakast* land of the landlord, he will immediately get occupancy status;
- (ii) in settling *bakast* lands the landlords should give preference to persons residing in the village or in the neighbouring villages; the rent must not exceed 10 per cent of the average village rate and the *salami* should not exceed ten times the rental;
- (iii) occupancy tenants have been given full rights of excavating tanks and wells and of constructing buildings on their lands for their own use and also for religious and charitable purposes;
- (iv) tenants have been given full rights over trees in their holdings for which they pay cash rent including the trees which were previously recorded in the names of the landlords;
- (v) tenants can send rents by postal money order; and
- (vi) it has been made incumbent on the landlord to furnish a full account of the rent payment to the *raiyyat* failing which he will be liable for penalty.

Apart from these, some other tenancy measures were taken like the Bihar Bakast Disputes Settlement Act, 1947, and the Bihar

Privileged Persons Homestead Tenancy Act, 1947. All these measures have no doubt gone to improve the economic condition of the cultivator.

There has been an over-all attempt to improve the agricultural income per head. According to a study of the Director of Economics and Statistics, Bihar, the agricultural income per head of the agricultural population, as comprised in the agricultural classes given in the 1951 Census, is as follows:—

TABLE.

District.	Population belonging to the agricultural classes (in lakhs).	Number of persons of the agricultural classes per acre of net area sown.	Aggregate value of agricultural produce (in lakhs of rupees).	Gross agricultural income per head of the agricultural population.
				Rs.
Patna ..	18.7	1.9	1,372.7	73.3
Gaya ..	25.6	1.3	1,426.2	55.8
Shahabad ..	22.4	1.3	2,239.5	100.1
Saran ..	28.6	2.3	1,375.0	48.0
Champanan ..	23.6	1.6	1,322.0	56.0
Muzaffarpur ..	31.9	2.1	1,563.8	40.1
Darbhanga ..	33.6	2.1	1,582.2	47.1
Bhagalpur ..	23.8	1.5	2,089.9	87.7
Monghyr ..	23.5	1.4	1,151.6	49.0
Purnea ..	22.3	1.4	2,466.9	110.4
Santhal Parganas ..	21.3	1.2	1,428.5	67.0
Ranchi ..	16.7	0.9	1,533.6	92.0
Palamau ..	9.0	1.4	711.4	79.2
Hazaribagh ..	10.5	1.5	827.1	50.1
Manbhum ..	17.5	1.7	1,921.8	109.5
Singhbhum ..	11.1	1.7	832.3	75.1
Bihar ..	346.1	1.6	23,844.6	68.9

The above table would give a picture of the plight of the peasantry in Muzaffarpur district along with that of the other districts in Bihar and Bihar as a whole.

It is rather premature to make an objective appraisal of the actual effects of the abolition of the zamindari on the tenants. But it is not difficult to guess that due to the steps taken to do away with the intermediaries between the State and the peasantry and with certain amount of industrialisation, improvement of agriculture and improvement of communications the economic condition of the people is likely to be better.