

CHAPTER - VPROSPECTS FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES IN NORTH
BENGAL

Industrial growth in North Bengal can be accelerated by establishing more small-scale industrial units in future. It has been mentioned earlier that the region is enriched with huge amount of agro, forest and mineral resources which are suitable for setting up industries. There is an under developed infrastructure and the growth of urban population in different centres during the last three decades has resulted a large number of unemployed persons in this region.

If the existing resources are fully exploited for industrial use, unemployment problem can be mitigated on the one hand and at the same time it will foster development of this region. On the basis of field survey and information received from different sources, small scale industrial units of North Bengal are grouped into two viz., Resource Based and Demand Based. On the basis of availability of raw materials, labour, finance and infrastructure, a district-wise prospect for small-scale industries has been made.

Prospects for small industries in Cooch Behar district:

This industrially backward district inherited a few Rice and Oil Mills and one Ply-wood factory at the time of merger of the princely state with West Bengal. Causes of backwardness

are mainly lack of raw materials, lack of finance and lack of entrepreneurship, inadequate communication system etc. The types of small-scale units functioning in the district are as follows:

Saw Mills, Rice & Oil Mills, Footwear, Cotton textile, Furniture making, Ice and Ice-candy, Bakery, Confectionery, Distilled water, Storage battery, Soap manufacturing, Bricks & Tiles, Umbrella Assembly, Engineering Job works.

The following resource-based and demand-based industries have scope in the district.

Resource-based industries:

1. Manufacture of cigars and cheroots
2. Paper Pulp
3. Jute rope and fabrics.
4. Match Factory.
5. Bricks and tiles.
6. Bone Mill.
7. Cardboard.
8. Saw Mill.
9. Rice Mill.
10. Carpentry.

Demand-based Industries:

1. Bucket Manufacturing.
2. H.C.C. Spun Pipes.

3. Wire nails.
4. Umbrella making.
5. Agricultural implements.
6. Coke Briquette.
7. Stone-chips.
8. Steel Furniture.
9. Storage Battery.
10. Straw Board.
11. Polythene and plastic unit.
12. Engineering workshop.
13. Bakery.
14. Tyre retreading.

Prospects for small industries in Jalpaiguri district:

As the biggest district of North Bengal, Jalpaiguri is situated in the foothill region of the Himalayas. About 19.8 per cent of the area of the district accommodates 150 tea gardens and 27.2 per cent of its area is accounted by 'Forest' of valuable trees. The climatic condition of the district provides scope for establishment of phytochemical industries. The dolomite reserve of the district located along Jayanti hill range in Buxa Forest Division is now under exploitation. The live stock resource of the district is expected to provide 300 tons of bones and 170 MI of hides and skin per annum. Five towns of the district i.e. Jalpaiguri, Malnaguri, Mal-Chalsa, Dhupguri, Birpara and Alipurduar provide the focal points of growth of small industries.

A survey conducted in 1974 by the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Department in collaboration with the Small Industries Extension Training Institute, Hyderabad had pinpointed the potential for growth of some industries in the district with reference to availability of raw materials. These are given below: (1)

Types of Unit.

Raw Materials

I. Resource Based:

A. Agro-Based:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Straw Board manufacturing | Straw, Jute etc. |
| 2. Paper manufacturing | |
| 3. Jute Stalk Board. | |
| 4. Rope & twine. | |
| 5. Jute Bags. | |
| 6. Cigarette and Churoot Factory. | Tobacco |
| 7. Caffeine | Tea waste |
| 8. Fruit processing | Pineapple, Orange
Ginger etc. |

B. Forest Based:

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|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Commercial Plywood | Timber |
| 2. Veneer and Splint | |
| 3. Saw Dust Hard Board | |
| 4. Wooden Furniture. | |
| 5. Railway Slipper. | |

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|------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 6. Tea Chest | | |
| 7. Bakelite moulding powder | | |
| 8. Rope making | .. | Long Staple grass |
| 9. Straw Board | | |
| 10. Phytochemical industries | | Medicinal plants |
| 11. Ayurvedic medicines | | |

C. Mineral Based:

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|-----------------|----|----------------------------|
| 1. Stone chips | .. | Stone, Dolomite, Sand etc. |
| 2. Tiles making | | |
| 3. Pottery | | |
| 4. Cement Unit. | | |
| 5. Lime Unit. | | |

II. Demand Based:

1. Agricultural implements manufacturing
2. Engineering jobbing.
3. Aluminium utensils.
4. Coke briquettes.
5. Confectionery.
6. Tea Garden Implements.
7. Packaging.
8. Tin Container manufacturing.
9. Polythene film/pipes.
10. Industrial grease.
11. Hosiery.
12. Glass container.
13. Sports goods.

14. Paints/Varnish

15. Cutting tools.

Prospects for Small-Scale Industries in Darjeeling district:

Darjeeling district has abundant natural resources viz. tea, timber and other forest products. The district, deficient in its economic activities has considerable potential for further development of industries. On the basis of available resources and infrastructural facilities, following industries may be set up in the district.

A. Resource-based

1. Fruit processing unit.
2. Dehydration of agricultural products.
3. Medicinal drugs from herbs.
4. Safety matches.
5. Extraction of oil from Ginger, Cardamom etc.
6. Bone Meal.
7. R.C.C. Span pipes.
8. Seasoning of timber, saw Mill etc.
9. Extraction of pineapple fibre.
10. Distillery.

B. Demand - based:

1. Automobile body and spare parts manufacturing.
2. Hosiery goods.

3. Tyre & Tube manufacturing.
4. Polythene bags and sheets.
5. Asbestos pipes and sheets.
6. Electrical Wooden accessories.
7. Candle factory.
8. Washing soap, Detergent powder etc.
9. Semi-mechanised Bakery.
10. Wool knitting.
11. Ceramics.
12. Chemical and pharmaceutical units.
13. Wire Nails, Screws etc.
14. Manufacturing of steel furniture.
15. Paints and vernishes.
16. Distilled water for medical use.
17. Calendering and Dying.
18. Boiling plant.
19. Silicate unit.
20. Umbrella manufacturing etc.

Prospect for Small-Scale Industries in West Dinajpur district.

West Dinajpur is industrially very backward district. The main economic activity of the district is agriculture. A survey conducted in 1974 by the SIET Institute, Hyderabad showed that 26 per cent of the small industries in the district was agriculture based and 54.2 per cent was demand based. The Saw Mills

accounted for 3.2 per cent and other industries like preparation of food stuff, tanning, ice-candy etc. accounted for 10.3 per cent. (2.)

Lack of communication facilities, lack of finance, lack of entrepreneurship and slow scale modernisation of agriculture are the main causes of industrial backwardness of this district. In view of the ready availability of raw materials, the Department of Cottage & Small Scale Industries has proposed to establish the following industries in the district.

1. Mini Paper Mill.
2. Jute stick powder.
3. Fabrication workshop.
4. Bone Mill.
5. Mini Sugar Plant.
6. Chrome tanning unit.

The mini Paper Mill and a fabrication unit has already started functioning. In addition to chrome tanning unit, the sizable livestock population of the district offers prospect for a bone crushing unit.

Prospect for Small-scale industries in Malda district.

Although the principal economic activity of Malda district is agriculture but the Small-scale industry sector occupies an important position in Malda's economy. The district is completely barren in respect of minerals and the forest resources are very poor.

But in respect of sericulture and Mango, the district occupies first position in the state. Sericulture and mango orchards are concentrated in Kaliachak, Gujapur, Englishbazar, Old Malda, Manikchak and Ratga P.S. and a large number of people earn their livelihood from the production of silk and mangoes.

A survey on the industrial potential of Malda district was conducted in 1972 by the SIFT Institute, Hyderabad. On the basis of resources available and demand potential, the following industries have scope in the district. (3.)

A. Resource - based:

1. Fruit processing
2. Silk reeling and weaving.
3. Straw Board.
4. Bricks & Tiles.
5. Jute Twine.
6. Oil crushing.
7. Spices grinding.
8. Small Match Factory.
9. Ply-wood
10. Bone Mill.

B. Demand - based:

1. Paper and Cardboard packing boxes.
2. Engineering jobbing.

3. Steel Furniture.
 4. Paints and Varnishes.
 5. Aluminium Utensils.
 6. Auto body building.
 7. Soaps and detergent.
 8. Plastic/Polythene products.
 9. R.C.C. Spun pipes/Jallis etc.
 10. Small Confectionery
 11. Semi - mechanised bakery.
 12. Coke briquette.
 13. Tyre retreading.
 14. Pharmaceutical/Chemical products.
 15. G. I. buckets.
 16. Roslery.
 17. Ceramic/Pottery Unit.
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