

## CHAPTER - VI

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT & OTHER AGENCIES  
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

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## 6.1 STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN THE DISTRICT OF WEST DINAJPUR

In view of the backwardness of the district of West Dinajpur, some steps were taken by Government, for development and expansion of cottage and village industries in the district. However, insignificant is their degree of achievement, but these were only steps for development in areas other than agriculture, during the last 30 years after independence.

The department of cottage industries has been trying to introduce new skill in the cottage industrial sector for facilitating the setting up of new industries and also for introducing better technique in existing industries.

In view of this objective, 32 Training-cum-Production Centres, till 1981, have been opened in the district. 6 of these institutions imparted training in weaving (handloom); 4 in manufacturing of dhokra (jute weaving); 6 in tailoring; 5 in tanning; 2 in tiles making; 1 in footwear making; 3 in production of cane and bamboo products and 1 each in production of rope, twine, gur, blacksmithy. 5 of the centres imparted training to tribals only, while 2 imparted training to the members of the scheduled caste only. Of the 5 centres which trained the tribals only, 3 imparted training in jute, wool and cotton weaving. The rest 2 imparted training in carpentry, mat manufacturing etc. The total number of trained persons turned out by all these institutions is 256 per annum.

Of the total number of institutions, 10 were established during the second plan period. That was the first opportunity for the artisans of this district to be trained,

to pursue their avocations with improved technique and tool. These institutions are as follows :

<u>Particulars of Organisation</u>	<u>Details of the scheme</u>
Training-cum-Production Centre of Jute and Wool Industry (for Scheduled Tribes), Pagliganj, Balurghat.	Imparting of practical training to members of the Scheduled Tribes in order to encourage them in producing articles of jute, cotton and wool.
Training-cum-Production Centre of Jute Cutting and Weaving (for Scheduled Castes) Baghan, Kaliyaganj.	Imparting of Practical training to the members of Scheduled Castes for dhokra weaving.
Training-cum-Production Centre of Rope Industry, Islampur.	Imparting of practical training to people irrespective of Caste & Creed for making rope from jute and other fibre like hemp and mesta.
Ideal Indigenous Oil Mill Centre, Chottoparua, Raiganj.	Ideal indigenous Oil mill centre set up for development of oil industry with the help of improved type of indigenous Oil Mill.
Mobile Weaving Training Centre, Balurghat.	Imparting of practical training for weaving and attractive design for weaving.
Gur and Khandeswari Exhibition Centre, Raiganj.	Imparting of training for making of Gur and Khandeswari by adopting improved methods and formation of Co-operative Society for the workers, with a view to develop the industry.

Particulars of OrganisationDetails of the scheme

Co-operative Blacksmith  
Centre, Raiganj.

Endeavouring to give incentive to the village artisans and to develop the Blacksmithy industries in villages and to bring them under Co-operative Society.

Training Centre for  
Hand made paper, Tarangapur, Kaliyaganj.

Setting up of training centre for hand made paper and forming Co-operative Society for the artisans who have completed their training course.

Handloom Centre,  
Balurghat.

Cotton thread is supplied to the handloom weavers of Balurghat area, and cloth produced by them are taken back at cash.

Mobile Training Centre  
for making leather goods

Imparting of training to the Harijans for making leather goods through improved methods and setting up of Co-operative Society.

Latter on, a number of new centres of this type were established and some of the old ones were closed. The industrial extension officer in different blocks have also arranged for short term training courses for rural artisans and helped them both financially and technically. District Handloom Centre was established in Gangarampur for development of weavers in this region. It is worthwhile to note here that Gangarampur is a concentrated are of handloom weavers and accounts for majority of the artisans belonging to this industry in this district.

#### 6.2 R.M.S. & D.I.C. IN WEST DINAJPUR :

No Rural Marketing Service Centre (RMCs) as envisaged in Sixth Central Plan has come into operation till 1981. However District Industries Centre (DIC) came into operation in 1980.

#### 6.3 CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN WEST DINAJPUR :

During the plan periods an attempt was made to bring the artisans of the district under Co-operative system. In 1961, 59 Industrial Co-operative Societies were established. Of these 17 were weavers' Co-operative Societies, 3 blacksmiths' Co-operative Society, 2 Societies were engaged in gur and Khandeswari making, and one in beedi making. The number of members of such industrial co-operatives rose to 2363 in 1960-61 from 279 in 1949-50; the capital Rs.36043 in 1970-71 from Rs.2027 in 1949-50. Since then a number of co-operatives have come into existence, and some of the old ones lost their existence for lack of proper nursing. The number of the Industrial Co-operatives came to the minimum by 1981.

Besides the establishment of co-operative societies, steps were also taken to set up co-operative banks to finance the cottage, village and small producers.

#### 6.4 ROLE PLAYED BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES :

Along with other agencies, voluntary agencies also play an unique role in the socio-economic development of different region. In this district also there are a few 'Mahila Samitis' (Womens' Association) engaged in training and production of handicrafts. The other prominent agencies are : The Balurghat Agrani Mahila Samabay Samity Ltd; The Bongi Women's.

Co-operative Industrial Home Ltd.; The Samjhia Mahila Samabay Samity Ltd.; The Buniadpur Mahila Samabay Samity Ltd.; The Akhanagar Women's Co-operative Industrial Home Ltd.; The Raiganj Co-operative Mahila Sammilani Ltd.; and The Raiganj Mahila Samabay Silpa Sangha Ltd. These agencies have been working in a Co-operative spirit to give shape of the various schemes sponsored by the Government, e.g. hand pounding of rice, embroidery; weaving; and manufacturing of hand made paper etc.

There are also few Clubs and Associations, namely Raiganj Institute of Raiganj, Prachhya Bharati of Balurghat, Milani of Gangarampore, Running Bullet of Kaliyaganj, occasionally arranged for training programme for rural artisans and exhibition of cottage products.

Inspite of criticisms, the role of missionaries in socio-economic development of backward classes is worth mentioning. Missionaries in the district are doing well for uplifting the condition of scheduled tribes. They not only trained them for production, but also supply raw-materials and finance to the artisans and also undertake to marketing the products. There are 4 centres of Missionaries in the district, operating at Islampur, Kanki, Karandighi and Gangarampur P.S.

Last but not least one, the Government for development of modern cottage industries has established two vocational institutes at Karnajora, Raiganj and at Kaliyaganj for training of district's youths.

## 6.5 THE ROLE PLAYED BY INSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES :

Besides the Government, there are large number of independent agencies or statutory bodies engaged in the development of cottage and village industries. Some of these agencies are spreaded all over India and few others are operating at state level. The agencies operating in the state of West Bengal are as follows :-

Comprehensive Area Development Corporation : This Corporation (previously Project) was created during fifth plan and is engaged in rural development. According to their policy, they undertake a particular area, comprising of a few Mouzas for development. Among the other activities, they -

- \* Provide facilities for agricultural development;
- \* search for new technology in production;
- \* provide training to villagers in village industries;
- \* act as a raport in between villagers and other agencies;

One of the branch of this institution came into operation in the district of West Dinajpur at 'Baghan' P.S. Kaliyaganj in the year 1974. In short, they have succeed in overcoming the difficulties of villagers of that area.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) : The activities of KVIC cover a wide range, including procurement of raw materials and their distribution to the producers at one end and the disposal of finished goods at the other. Besides the KVIC manufacture and distribute improved tool, equipment and machinery to the producers on concessional terms; it provides facilities for technical research and assistance for setting up suitable organisations for Khadi and village industries; to which it provides financial

assistance or sponsors for assistance through bank. The policy and programme for KVIC are generally executed through (i) State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, which are statutory organisation, set up under state legislation; (ii) Institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860; and (iii) Industrial Co-operative Societies registered under the State Co-operative Societies Act. In areas and spheres, where pioneering work is required, such as hill, border, backward and inaccessible areas, the KVIC directly shoulders the implementation of policy. It also assists individuals in suitable cases.

The KVIC is extending financial assistance to the implementing agencies in the form of grant or loan. As per KVIC's pattern of assistance khadi loans are free of interest, whereas village industries loans carry an interest of 4%. The loan are given for capital assistance and working capital requirements, whereas some element of grant is provided for managerial assistance, training, marketing, publicity and related functions.

Till 1980, no branch of this organisation came into operation, in this district. However one of the branch of KVIC came into operation in the district of West Dinajpur very recently (1982). This centre yet to start its fulfilled functioning.

Silk Board : Like the KVIC, the functions of Silk Board are to promote production of Mulberry Leaf and Silk cocoons. This board came into operation in this district in early seventies, and has progressed remarkably. Upto year 1980, 187 hectares of land <sup>are</sup> cultivated for mulberry leaf and production of the same was 4544 (M.T.). It has 15 production centres operating in the district of West Dinajpur as on 1980.



The West Bengal Handloom and Powerloom Development Corporation Ltd. : This Corporation was created to protect the weavers from Mahajan. The main objectives of this corporation are :-

- \* to supply yarn to weavers at reasonable price;
- \* to facilitate production and marketing of goods,
- \* to supply quality dye-stuff to weavers;
- \* to produce quality dye-stuff and yarn;
- \* to launch scheme for mass production for yarn and wages.

There are two centres of this corporation operating in the district ~~at~~ at Raiganj and Gangarampur.

The West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. :- The Society was formed to organise rural weavers and to form co-operative. The main functions of this Society are :-

- \* marketing of products produce by member-societies and
- \* to supply quality raw-materials to member societies at reasonable price.

There are 16 member Societies of this Society operating in the district of West Dinajpur at block level. Though most of them are not running at economic level, but their effort to organise small artisans in the district is worth mentioning.

## SUMMARY :

We have already mentioned that there is no scope for large scale industries in the district immediately. Hence development of cottage industries, is the only way to cope with increasing poverty and unemployment. Viewing the situation of artisans and importance of cottage sector in the local economy, a number of institutions including government have come forward to aid the artisans of the district. In view of composition and backwardness of the artisans belonging to this district, more and more aid is expected from these external development agencies and the existing facilities appears inadequate to meet the challenge that the artisans of this district are facing.

## PART - 'B'

PROBLEMS OF COTTON HANDLOOM INDUSTRY  
IN THE DISTRICT OF WEST DINAJPUR

This section specifically deals with the problems that the artisans engaged in cotton handloom industry in the district of West Dinajpur are facing. It includes the study of :-

- \* The problems of entrepreneurship
- \* The problems of input & technology
- \* The problems of finance
- \* The problems of marketing and
- \* The role of trade union in organising small and poor weavers