

P. K. Land...

THE CONDITION OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN INDIA

BY

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CONTENTS

Agricultural Labour—

Basic Social Problem	1
1. Number of Agricultural Labour House Holders	3
2. Employment & Un-employment	...	...	4
3. Wage Structure in Agriculture	...	...	6
4. Earning Strength & Size of Income	...	...	9
5. Consumption & Cost of Living	...	...	11
6. Extent & Incidence of Indebtedness	15
7. Women & Child Labour in Agriculture	17
8. Tables	22-52

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Agricultural Labour—

A BASIC SOCIAL PROBLEM

1 The emergence of agricultural labour as a big social force is of
3 recent origin. Whether agricultural labour existed as a distinct social
4 class or category in the last century is a matter for the historians to decide,
6 but one fact is indisputable the land relations that were introduced
9 by the British in the last century resulted in large sections of the
11 peasantry getting expropriated from land and becoming pauperised,
15 landless peasants. In the course of further developments, this landless
17 peasantry become agricultural labour, whose ranks always got and are
still getting replenished by further expropriation of the peasantry and
rural artisans.

Unfortunately, the concept 'agricultural labour' constantly changed
from census to census: even the Union Ministry of Labour used
different definitions at different times. The first Agricultural Labour
Enquiry, conducted in 1950-51 took the quantum of hired employment
in agriculture as the criterion. An agricultural labour family was
defined as one in which either the head of the family or 50 p.c. or more
of the earners reported agricultural labour as their main occupation, the
main occupation of a person being one in which he was engaged for
50 p.c. or more of the total number of days worked by him during the
previous year. As for the agricultural labourers, all those who were
engaged as hired labourers in agricultural operations for 50 p.c. or more
of the days worked by them during the previous year were deemed as
agricultural labourers. In the second Agricultural labour enquiry
conducted during 1956-57, the criterion adopted for demarcation of
agricultural labour families was income and not employment. An
agricultural labour household was defined as one for which the major
source of income during the previous year was agricultural wages.
Further, the First Enquiry took only farming into consideration for

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defining wage-labour in agriculture, whereas the Second Enquiry took into consideration dairyfarming, horticulture, livestock breeding, poultry and bee-keeping etc. Also the concept of 'employment and unemployment' differed in the two enquiries. In the First Enquiry, wage employment for half the day or more was counted as full day's occupation and less than that was ignored. All those who worked even for a day in a month were taken to have been gainfully employed. Consequently, employment data of the First Enquiry was somewhat not precise and tended to be rather on the high-side. But the basic classifications of activity pattern adopted in the Second Enquiry were different and more precise. They were at work, sub-divided into wage employment comprising agricultural labour, non-agricultural labour, employment on salary basis; 'self employment' on cultivation of land and 'other self-employment'; not at work-but with job sub-divided according to reasons like sickness, weather conditions, ceremonials, and rest or holidays etc.

Due to this, a comparative study with exactitude, is difficult. However the Second Enquiry tried the comparison as exact as possible, and comparison of wages, child labour, income and expenditure, indebtedness etc. are made on almost the same basis so that no difficulty in these respects is felt.

Agricultural labour is the section which received the least attention from the rulers. Only in recent times there is some change. The emergence of a strong agricultural labour movement in some States, coupled with the universal suffrage, necessitated paying attention to their problems. Now-a-days, it has become usual for every Statesman and politician to speak of the uplift of the underdog, of land to the tiller, of harijan welfare and so on. But by and large, agricultural labour is the least benefited by all this talk of development, uplift, reconstruction etc. The stupendous problem is still to be touched—even its fringe is not get touched. The director of the Labour Bureau, Union Ministry of Labour and employment, makes this caustic but profound remark on this subject. "Agriculture, in India, is not only an economic activity, but also a way of life since business and family life are intimately connected with and interwoven in farming, the general welfare of the rural community is a prior consideration for any improvement directed

to strengthen the agricultural industry. The various ways and means aiming at modifications of land tenure systems introducing of new methods of cultivation, development of agricultural cooperation, encouragement of rural settlements, etc., should not be confined to physical targets but ought to be used for creating the social background for human satisfactions. The problem at present is thus not one of finding how an agrarian policy *ought* to work, but essentially of devising a methodology and machinery by which a scheme *will* and *must* work in the rapidly changing economic and social conditions of the country". (Agricultural Labour in India Report on the Second Enquiry - P iii)

Viewed from this angle, the Second Enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour reveals a dismal picture. The enquiry covered the first five year plan period, it had also studied the conditions of agricultural labour in the community development areas and focussed light on the conditions in those areas as no better than in the no C.D. areas. Thus, the enquiry helped the entire nation to understand better the deplorable conditions in which the agricultural labourers are living and appreciate the necessity of basic and a radical reforms than those for rebuilding our economy envisaged so far.

In the following pages, a brief summary of the findings of the Second Enquiry are given.

Number Of Agricultural Labour House-Holders :

The general points that emerge from the survey into the number of agricultural labour house-hold are as follows.

1. The total number of agricultural labour households come to 16.3 millions in 1956-57. This figure is less by 1.6 mil than that of 1950-51. This is largely due to the change in the concept of 'agricultural labour household' adopted in the second enquiry.
2. The fall in number was marked in the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala, the states with the largest percentage of agricultural labour households.
3. Agricultural labour households are concentrated in certain regions, particularly in the Southern and Eastern regions. These two zones alone accounted to 60 p.c. of the total estimated number of

agricultural labour households in the country.

4. The number of landless agricultural labour households have increased by 1956-57. They have 57 p.c. of the total, whereas, they accounted to about 50.0 p.c. in 1950-51.

5. The number of attached agricultural labour households have increased : Whereas their p.c. was only 10 in 1950-51, in 1956-57 it was 27 p.c. of the total.

6. The average size of the household had increased by 1956-57 : whereas it was 4.3 in 1950-51 it was 4.4 in 1956-57.

7. The number of wage earners in the household had gone up by 1956-57. It was 2.0 in 1950-51 and 2.03 in 1956-57. Of these wage earners, 1.13 were men, 0.74 women, and 0.16 children in 1956-57 as compared to 1.1 to men, 0.8 women, and 0.1 children in 1950-51.

8. The proportion of child wage-earners increased by 1956-57. The following tables will give particular of each State.

Statement 4.1

Statement 4.2

Statement 4.4

Employment and Unemployment

Employment of agricultural labour depends upon many factors—the extent of land utilisation, irrigation, crop season, intensity and extensity, of farming, size of holding agricultural economy, prices and so on. Some of these factors vary violently from year to year and have a bearing on employment of agricultural labour.

Except that the concept “employment” was made more precise in the Second Enquiry, other factors remained almost normal. Yet the enquiry shows that employment had fallen by 1956-1957 compared to 1950-51.

While men workers formed 55 p.c. of all agricultural labourers according to the First Enquiry, the corresponding figures was 56 in the Second Enquiry. Wage employment of adult males did not show any marked change over that of the First Enquiry (table No. 5.1). The

question of non-agricultural employment for all labour households had slightly decreased from 29 days in 1950-51 to 27 days in 1956-57. The question of wage employment of labourers without land was more than that of the labourers with land by about 38 days for casual workers and 45 days for attached workers, the corresponding figures in the First Enquiry being 35 days and 24 days respectively.

The Second Enquiry also revealed the obnoxious conditions under which attached workers in some regions were working. Grant of loans to attached workers without interest solely for the purpose of retaining them in service for an indeterminate period is not uncommon, though, in the words of the enquiry report, it might not contain any pronounced element of agrestic serfdom. The grant of tie-in-allotments to the labourers is also prevalent in many regions.

The Second Enquiry revealed that women workers average employment was 131 days in agricultural, and 10 days in non-agricultural, labour, the corresponding figures in the First Enquiry being 120 and 14 days respectively. Thus, employment of women workers showed an upward trend, unlike that of male workers. The following table shows the employment of adult female agricultural labourers.

Statement 5-6.

That women employment forms a substantial part of the employment of the household is seen from the following table.

Statement 5-7.

Because of a decrease in employment in agriculture, unemployment shows increase. Much of the rural labour force, confined almost to agricultural work, is redundant. This redundancy is more than a seasonal phenomenon and shows that considerable hidden unemployment exists throughout the year. Employment in agriculture being seasonal, slack period is inevitable and has to be filled in only by other occupations. But unemployment of agricultural workers reveals the dearth of other occupations for them in the rural areas. The following statement shows the unemployment position of agricultural workers.

Statement 5-9.

The reasons for unemployment are important.

Statement 5-11

Employment position is no better in the community project areas : the following two tables show the employment and unemployment position in the C.D. project areas.

Statement (5-12)

Statement (5-13)

Wage Structure In Agriculture

Wage structure in agriculture is complex and has got its unique features as compared with that of industry. Whereas wages in industry are completely monetised, it is not so in agriculture. Similarly, industrial wages are regularly paid whereas in agriculture, they are paid irregularly. Wage differentials in agriculture are more marked and numerous than industry. The cash wages in agriculture are particularly marked with disparity and generally differentials between wages of men and women in agriculture are more than what they are among industrial workers. They are influenced not only by supply and demand but also by such other elements as caste, credit worthiness, vagaries of the seasons, economy of the landholders etc.

In view of these characteristics of agricultural wages, the wage structure in agriculture is subject to constant change in so far as their wage differentials, their patterns and modes of wage payment are concerned, but their rigidities relating to tradition and custom that lead to exploitation of workers have their persistent influence putting the workers to a disadvantage.

Wages form the major part of the income of agricultural labour families. This shows that they have hardly any other means or resources to be invested in any enterprise in which they might be self-employed. The following table will show this.

Statement 6-1

During the First Enquiry, average income derived from wage employment formed about 76 p.c. of the total, of which agricultural wage income formed 64 p.c. During the Second Enquiry, income from agricultural wage constituted a higher quantum, namely 73 p.c. while that derived from non-agricultural wage employment was only 8 p.c.

Thus employment inside-occupations and income from that source were less in 1956-57 than in 1950-51.

A considerable part of the wages were paid in kind or partly in cash and partly in kind, with or without perquisites. Wage payments were influenced by factors like crops grown, custom and tradition and availability of cash resources to the landholders. The following table will show the break up of wage payment.

Statement 6.2

Daily cash wages have strategic importance, since the overwhelming majority of the agricultural labourers are casual workers. These daily cash wage rates are subject to constant fluctuations. The determinants are economic factors and social factors. Population pressure, land utilisation, size of holdings, pull of urban and industrial production centres on the proximate rural regions, nature of crops grown, seasonal factors, caste and community, custom and tradition have got their pull and influence on the wage levels in agriculture.

Considering all these factors, the wage rate for casual adult male workers declined compared with 1950-51. It fell, at the all-India level, from 109 naye paise in 1950-51 to 96 N.P. in 1956-57. So also, the wage rate for casual women workers fell, at the all India level, from 68 n.p. in 1950-51 to 59 n.p. in 1956-57. The wage rate of children, at the all India level, dropped from 70 n.p. in 1950-51 to 53 n.p. in 1956-57. The following table is instructive.

Statement 6.4

It would be interesting to see that wage differentials between men, women and child workers had generally widened more in 1956-57 than in 1950-51. At the all-India level, while women's wages formed 62.4 p.c. of men's wage in 1950-51, the corresponding percentage in 1956-57 was 61.5 showing some divergence, though negligible. The divergence between the wage rates of women and children is more marked; whereas children's wage rate was above that of women, at the all India level, in 1950-51, it fell much below that of the latter in 1956-57.

The following tables are of interest. They show how wage rates

vary for different kinds of work and between men and women for the same kind of work.

Statement 6.5

Statement 6.6

A close study of the tables showing employment and wage rates reveals some distinct trends. At the all-India level, in the agricultural sector, the quantum of work for casual men workers remained the same at 167 days during 1950-51 and 1956-57, but agricultural wage had declined from 109 n.p. in 1950-51 to 96 n.p. in 1956-57 per day. For women workers, whereas employment increased from 120 days in 1950-51 to 131 days in 1956-57, the average wage rate for agricultural operations had fallen from 68 n.p. to 59 n.p. per day, in the same period. This trend shows the utter helpless conditions in which the agricultural labourers live and work.

Average wage is an indicator of the central tendency only and does not reveal variations in earnings among individual workers employed in different agricultural operations. It is only frequency distribution of wage-paid man days as among different wage slabs that provides a more clear picture of the extent of prevalence of particular wage levels. The following table will show this frequency distribution.

Statement 6.8

Basing on the per household agricultural wage income and the number of households, an estimate can be made of the total wage-bill in agriculture. The total wage-bill in 1950-51 was estimated to be Rs. 5000 mil whereas in 1956-57, it was estimated to be Rs. 5200 mil. The increase may be largely due to the fact that the proportion of attached labour households was considerably higher (above 27 p.c.) in 1956-57, as compared with 1950-51 (about 10 p.c.) and that the average annual income for attached labour households taken together from agricultural wage employment in 1956-57 was higher than in 1950-51. (see tables)

Agricultural wage rates fall far behind industrial wage rates of unskilled-workers. The following table, showing comparative wages rates in agriculture and cotton textile industry. Our biggest national industry - will bear out this statement.

Statement 6-11

There is no system of paying dearness allowance in agriculture ; nor is there any system of linking wage rates to prices. As a result wage rates in agriculture always trail far behind the prices. The following table show this.

Statement 6-13

Earning Strength and Size of Income

For ascertaining the income of agricultural labour household family was taken as the unit. Even though the definition of income is a complex one the earnings of all the earners and earning dependents as well as the income of the family occurring from property, cultivation of land—either owned or taken on lease—livestock etc. were pooled together and the total income ascertained. As this whole income goes for the collective maintainance of the household, the level of living was assessed in terms of the household as a whole and not for each individual.

The following table gives the average annual income of agricultural labour households in 1950-51 and 1956-57.

Statement 7-2

These figures show that income from wage paid employment in agriculture was the main source of income at the all-India level as well as in every State. In 1950-51 it found 64 p.c. of the total income and in 1956-57, 73 p.c. The income from land was very little ; in fact it had fallen since 1950-51. Whereas it was 13.4 p.c. in 1950-51, it fell to a mere 6.87 p.c. in 1956-57. Non-agricultural wage income also is small, accounting for 11.9 p.c. in 1950-51 and 7.99 p.c. in 1956-57. This shows the dire need for radical land reform and development of small and medium size industries as well as cottage industries.

If we further closely study the average annual income of different categories of households we will find that whereas the income of attached labour households has risen from Rs. 480 in 1950-51 to Rs. 492.30 in 1956-57, it had fallen in the case of casual labour households from Rs. 442 in 1950-51 to Rs. 417.56 in 1956-57. Considering that casual labourers were in overwhelming majority, it is no wonder that the

average annual income of agricultural labour households had fallen. The following table will show this.

Statement 7.8

This table shows the regrettable feature that whereas the earning strength of the household had increased, the average annual income had fallen.

The total national income for 1956-57, according to the estimates of the General Statistical Organisation was about Rs. 113,000 mil. The total annual income of agricultural labour households, from all sources, was estimated to be about Rs. 7120 mil. Thus, whereas the agricultural labour households formed about 20 p.c. of the total households in the entire country yet their share in the national income was only about 6.3 p.c.

Annual per capita also, accordingly showed a fall. The following comparative table shows this.

Statement 7.10

The conclusions that were drawn by the enquiry were :—

Conclusions :

The following results emerge from the analysis of the income of agricultural labour households as between 1950-51 and 1956-57 :—

(i) The average annual income in 1956-57 was slightly lower than that in 1950-51 at the all-India level.

(ii) The average annual income was higher in 1956-57 in the states of Assam, Mysore, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Punjab and Bombay. Slight fall was noticed in the case of Orissa, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh but the fall was marked in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(iii) Wage-paid employment in agriculture was by far the major source of family income and accounted for 73 percent of the total income as against 64 percent in 1950-51 at the all-India level.

At the State levels also, the percentage of income from this source was high ; in some States, it was as high as 81 to 85 percent.

(iv) Income from non-agricultural labour and that from cultivation of land had fallen in 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51, the percentage of income from the first source being 7 and 12 and from the second 7 and 13 respectively, at the all-India level.

(v) Income from miscellaneous sources had slightly increased in 1956-57.

(vi) Income of attached labour households was generally higher than that of their casual counterparts; the proportion of attached labour households 1956-57 was 27 percent of the total as against 10 percent in 1950-51.

(vii) Income of households with land was higher than that of those without land in the case of casual labourers, but in the case of attached labour households the income of those without land was higher. The proportion of landless households had increased in 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51, the figures being 57 and 50 p.c. respectively.

(viii) The earning strength of agricultural labour households had increased in 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51, the figures being 2.2 and 2.0 respectively. In many States also, it had increased.

(ix) The per capita annual income in 1956-57 was Rs. 99.4 as against Rs. 104.0 in 1950-51; the average size of households in 1956-57 was 4.4 as against 4.3 in 1950-51.

(x) The national per capita income in 1956-57 was Rs. 291.5; thus, the per capita income of agricultural labour households was about 4 percent of the national income per capita.

Consumption and Cost Of Living

Data on expenditure on (1) food (2) clothing, footwear, bedding and household requisites, (3) fuel and lighting (4) house rent and repairs (5) services and miscellaneous items and (6) ceremonies and functions, was collected. The following table will give the consumption expenditure.

(Statement No. 8.1)

This table shows that the average annual expenditure was

considerably higher in all States during 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51. An interesting feature is that those States which recorded high expenditure in 1950-51, like Punjab, Assam, West Bengal and Rajasthan, remained so in 1956-57 also whereas states like Madras, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa which showed low expenditure in 1950-51 remained so in 1956-57 also.

The most disquieting feature is that every State showed expenditure much higher than income. The following table will show this.

Statement 8.2)

The per capita expenditure, on the basis of the average size of the family was as follows.

(Statement 8.3, column 1, 2, 3 only)

This was the average. But there were several households which spent much less than this. Some fortunate families spent more. So it is necessary to see the level of living

(Statement 8.14)

It will be seen from the above table that a majority of States had the maximum percentage of households in the per capita expenditure group of Rs. 101—150. It was only Punjab and Assam that registered a higher percentage of households where average per capita expenditure exceeded Rs. 250.

That agricultural labour is the poorest among the rural households is an undisputable fact. A comparison of their expenditure with that of the rural households will show this.

(Statement 8.21)

Agricultural Labour households spent far greater percentage of their income on foodgrains than the general rural households and consequently they spent far less on such items as are called protective foods, clothing etc.

One third of the total number of sample villages were located in the community project areas. A comparison of the pattern of

consumption in the two sets of villages will show, that generally speaking, there was not much difference. The following table will show this.

(Statement 8-22)

The conclusions arrived at by the survey are as follows.

Conclusion

In this Chapter an attempt has been made to indicate the different facts of the consumption pattern of agricultural labour households and their levels of living to the extent possible. In this connection the results of the 1950-51 and 1956-57 Enquiries have been compared and a comparative picture of the consumption pattern of agricultural labour households and all rural households has also been given in nutshell. The broad conclusions that emerge from the foregoing discussions are as follows :—

(i) Expenditure being a function of income which was rather on the low side, there was not much of a preference as regards goods and services on which money could be spent. It was rather making both ends meet, somehow or other. In fact there was a deficit of Rs. 180 at the all-India level, the average debt being Rs. 138.

(ii) The consumption expenditure in 1956-57 was considerably higher than in 1950-51 at the all-India level as also the State level.

(iii) The percentage expenditure on food (77.3 percent). While in 1956-57 was, however, lower than that in 1950-51 (85.3 percent). While the percentage expenditure on clothing and miscellaneous and services group was practically the same at the two points of time that on fuel and lighting was considerably higher in 1956-57 (7.9 percent) and it almost off set the fall in the percentage expenditure States.

(iv) The States in which the level of expenditure was relatively high in 1950-51 continues to be high level expenditure States in 1956-57. The same was true for relatively low level expenditure States.

(v) As in 1950-51, the consumption expenditure of households with land was generally higher than their counterparts without land.

(vi) There was not much change in the size of households as between

1956-57 and 1950-51, but in spite of slightly larger family size in 1956-57 the per capita expenditure on food was 108-4 as against Rs. 91.4 in 1950-51. Both the figures no doubt indicate the poverty of agricultural labourers.

(vii) The expenditure on food was less heavily dominated by that on cereals in 1956-57 (68.6 percent of the total expenditure on food) than in 1950-51 (79.2 percent).

(viii) As in 1950-51, the per capita intake of cereals per day was roughly in the ratio of 50 : 50 in respect of fine cereals (rice and wheat) and coarse cereals. The intake of cereals (including the cereal content of perquisites) per capita was almost the same as between the two points of time. However, the cereal content was less in 1956-57 than in 1950-51. In a few States, it was practically nil.

(ix) Spices continue to account for the largest share of expenditure on food other than cereals and pulses. However, some improvement (though slight) was noticed in the consumption of milk and milk products and meat, fish and eggs in 1956-57.

(x) The services and miscellaneous group accounted for a larger proportion of total expenditure (8.7 percent) in 1956-57 than in 1950-51 (6.5 percent).

(xi) A frequently distribution statement of agricultural labour households according to suitable per capita expenditure class was prepared in order to have an idea of their 'levels of living'. It was observed that, as in 1950-51, the size of households went on decreasing as the expenditure levels rose. But unlike the results of the 1950-51 Enquiry the percentage expenditure on food went on tapering off at the relatively higher levels of expenditure.

(xii) The intake of cereals, however, went on increasing with the rise in the expenditure classes. It seemed to suggest that there was still a measure of unsatisfied demand for cereals in the lower expenditure levels.

(xiii) There was not much difference in the consumption pattern of agricultural labour households in the Community Project Areas and

non-Community Project Areas.

(xiv) The annual per capita expenditure (excluding expenditure on ceremonies of agricultural labour households in 1956-57 was Rs. 140 as against Rs. 197 for all rural households according to the 9th and 10th rounds of the National Sample survey conducted in May 1955 to May 1956. The corresponding figures for 1950-51 Agricultural Labour Enquiry and 1949-50 National Sample Survey were Rs. 107 and Rs. 204.

Extent and Incidence of Indebtedness

That agricultural classes are steeped in heavy indebtedness is being seen for the last 3 decades. The Rural Credit Survey had revealed that, in the year of survey, it was found that it was still growing. The total extent of indebtedness of agricultural labour, as a percentage of the total rural indebtedness may not be great, but, compared to their income its incidence was heavier than on the other rural sections.

During both the Agricultural Labour Enquiries (1950-51 and 1956-57), data on indebtedness of agricultural labour households were collected. The following table shows comparative position of indebtedness of agricultural labour households as between 1950-51 and 1956-57.

(Statement 9.1)

Of the total debt per indebted family, namely Rs. 138, Rs. 64 or about 46 percent was incurred for meeting consumption expenditure in 1956-57, the corresponding figure in 1950-51 being as high as 74 p.c. This, even though there was a shift in the position in 1956-57, the necessity to incur debt for meeting consumption needs continued to account for the large proportion of the total loan taken.

The sources of borrowing shows that the clutches of employers, lenders and money lenders continued to be strong and had even tightened, whereas the role of cooperatives is almost absent. The following table will show this

(Statement 9.3)

The extent of indebtedness in the community project areas also appalling. The percentage of indebtedness-families was slightly

higher, but the average debt per indebted family was lower. The following table shows this.

(Statement 9.5)

Of the estimated total number of 16.3 million agricultural labour households in the country 63.9 percent were indebted, with an average debt of Rs. 138/- per annum. Thus, the total volume of debt of the indebted agricultural labour families may be estimated at about Rs 1430 million. A similar estimate was made on the basis of results of the 1950-51 Enquiry and it worked out to about Rs. 800/- million. It is significant to note that even though the estimated number of agricultural labour households in 1956-57 was less by 1.6 million as compared with 1950-51, the total debt of indebted agricultural labour families had considerably increased in 1956-57.

The following conclusions emerge from this.

The main conclusions are as follows :--

(i) The proportion of indeed agricultural labour households was higher in 1956-57 as compared with 1950-51 the respective figures being 64 and 45 percent.

(ii) The increase in the proportion of indebted households was rather marked in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala Madras and Bihar. In Assam, Bombay, Punjab and Rajasthan, the proportion was lower than in 1950-51.

(iii) The average debt per agricultural labour households per annual was Rs. 88 in 1956-57 as against Rs. 47 in 1950-51 at the all-India level. It was higher in all States except in Assam, Bombay and Rajasthan.

(iv) The average debt per indebted households was Rs 138 in 1956-57 as against Rs. 105 in 1950-51. The increase in average debt per indebted household was rather marked in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Kerala.

(v) Broadly, the States which showed high debt in 1950-51 continued to remain so in 1956-57.

(vi) About 46 percent of the total debt per indebted household was incurred for meeting consumption expenditure in 1956-57 while the corresponding figure in 1950-51 was 74 percent. Social purposes accounted for 24 percent of the total loan in 1956-57 as against 16 percent in 1950-51. Debts incurred for productive purposes formed 19 and 10 percent respectively at the two point of time. There was, thus a shift in the purpose of borrowing from meeting consumption expenditure to production as well as social purposes. The diversion of loan receipts to social purposes, though small, was not a healthy sign.

(vii) Of the total loan taken, 34 percent was from money lenders, 44 percent from friends and relatives, etc., 15 percent from employers, 5 percent from shopkeepers and only 10 percent from Co-operative Societies in 1956-57. Thus, Co-operative Societies continued to play an insignificant part in loan transactions.

(viii) The proportion of indebted households was higher among attached labour households than among casual labour households.

(ix) Debt per attached labour households was also generally higher than that of casual labour household

(x) The total estimated volume of indebtedness of agricultural labour households in 1956-57 was Rs. 143 crores as against Rs. 80 crores in 1950-51.

Women and Child Labour In Agriculture

Women : Women agricultural labourers are generally drawn from families of marginal landowners, small tenant-farmers and landless classes. While agriculture labour itself is seasonal, employment of women labour in agriculture is of a sporadic and intermittent nature. In view of poverty they have to work for supplementing family earnings and even during non-agricultural season they may be seeking employment for wages in other occupations and in small industries nearby.

As such women wage labour is considerable in agriculture. In 1950-51, as per the First Enquiry, they constituted 40.4 percent of the total agricultural wage-labour, whereas, in 1956-57, their proportion was 36.5 percent. But this decline is more apparent than real for the

definition of agricultural labour, as was explained was changed in 1956-57.

The following table gives the proportion women labour.

(Statement 10.1)

The position of women employment and unemployment and wages were already given in the respective chapters.

The conclusions drawn were the following.

Conclusion

11.1. The estimated number of women workers declined from 14 million in 1950-51 to 12 million in 1956-57 for all India. There was a marked increase in women workers in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and Assam, and steep decline in Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Kerala between the two points of time. Earning strength of women was also less at the all-India level. It was 0.80 in 1950-51 and 0.74 in 1956-57. At State level too the earning strength had slightly declined in most of the States except Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Assam. Though average employment for wages had increased for all-India from 134 days in 1956-57, there were wide variations at State level. Women were employed mostly in harvesting, weeding and transplanting operations. While their agricultural employment had increased from 120 days in 1950-51 to 131 days during 1956-57, their non-agricultural employment had declined from 14 days to 10 days for all India. They were self-employed, on an average, only for 27 days. Average daily wages of women had fallen from 68 n.p. during 1956-57 in agricultural operations while non-agricultural wages had shown a slight increase from 61 n.p. to 62 n.p. Wages levels in States showed disparities in the extent of fall. Wages for agricultural operations had risen only in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa whereas in themselves they were low at both the points of time. Average wages for principal agricultural operations (excluding sowing) had also generally declined compared with the levels obtaining in 1950-51 with some exceptions at trend was increase in wage disparities in the agricultural sector as compared with 1950-51.

11.2. The comparative situation during 1956-57 as between villages surveyed in the Community Project Areas and non-Community Project Areas regarding employment and wages of women workers did not show any improvement in the former. The position was rather depressing as the following statement would show :—

The situation in community project areas is no better for women. The following table will show this.

(Statement 10.10)

Children :

The scope for employment of child labour in agriculture arises from the fact that from the employers' angle, child workers may be put on different types of work at lower wage rates than adult men, while from the point of view of parents, it either serves as a source of supplementary income to the family or avoidance of consumption expenditure to the extent the child has his board and lodging with the employer. Employment of child labour in agriculture is nothing uncommon, for such child labour is also engaged in bidi making, domestic service, tailoring shops, restaurants, etc.

The proportion of child labourers in agriculture may be low : it was 4.9 percent of the total agricultural labour force in 1950-51 whereas it increased to 7.6 percent in 1956-57. But children working for wages at an age when they should be going to school is a sign of the deplorable conditions of agricultural labourers. The following table shows the proportion of child labour.

(Statement 11.1)

This shows that where child labour was small in number in 1950-51 in Kerala, U.P., Rajasthan and Punjab and was absent in Assam, there was a large increase in 1956-57 in U.P. and Punjab. Besides these States, there was sharp increase in Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh also.

The wages of child labour had sharply fallen by 1956-57. The following table will show this.

(Statement 11.7)

Children are employed not only as casual labourers but as

attached labourers, mainly as cattle-tenders or farm lands to do routine work of a light nature. But their wages are triflings.

This in brief, is the report on the Second Enquiry regarding the conditions of agricultural labours in India. The enquiry shows that the conditions had deteriorated during the period of the first five year plan. In the community project areas also, the same trend is visible. This shows that something more, something basically new should be done. The Director of the Labour Bureau himself says. "The environmental relationship between primary industries (agriculture) and human energy is immediate and direct, whilst in secondary industries (manufacturing), which take for their raw materials power the products of primary industries, economic rather than natural factors govern the employment of human labour problems of the economic and social welfare concerning the man power engaged in primary and secondary industries emerge, therefore, from divergent planes i.e. natural and cultural respectively, and planning in the domain of labour legislation and social reform needs to be guided by the characteristic issue involved in the reorganisation of the two fundamentally distinct wings of the country's economic wings.

"Since human labour and relations of production are originally related to primary industries (agriculture), the problem of agricultural labour welfare are inextricably bound up with those of the land one emerging imperceptably into the other. In such a geo-economic complex of natural and cultural landscapes it is necessary that all planning for agricultural labour welfare should begin with land reform. This fact, complied with the tendency to unrestrained population increase and the proportionate shrinkage in the man-land ratio in consequence, warrants radical reforms not only in the technique of primary production, but also in the relative allocation of man-power in primary and secondary industries in the country as a whole".

This is the conclusion arrived at by a senior officer of the Government of India, almost the same conclusion as is being advocated for a long time by the Kisan Sabha. Yet the Government efforts either at carrying out radical land reform or at raising the living standards

of the men behind the plough are negligible. What ever is being done is going to benefit only the upper layers of landholders and the bulk of the peasants and agricultural labourers are sinking more and more in poverty, unemployment and under employment and indebtedness.

Lifting agriculture from out of its low equilibrium and breaking the mesh of interlocking factors such as out-dated technique, primary poverty and low productivity needs, first and foremost, radical and reform, fixing fair wages, reducing tax-burdens, redemption of debt and provision of cheap credit, all of which are gigantic and yet urgent tasks. Only a mighty agrarian movement can achieve this.

TABLE I
Percentage Distribution of Agricultural Labour
Households to Total Rural House-holds

States and Zonal Council Areas	Estimated number of households (in million)				Percentage of agricultural labo ur house- holds to total rural households	
	Rural		Agricultural Labour		1950-51	1956-57
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Zone	15.7	16.9	2.9	3.3	18.47	19.53
Uttar Pradesh	11.1	11.6	1.6	2.0	14.41	17.24
Madhya Pradesh	4.6	5.3	1.3	1.3	28.26	24.53
Eastern Zone	15.4	19.2	5.1	5.2	33.12	27.08
Bihar	6.4	8.8	2.6	2.6	40.63	29.55
West Bengal	4.3	4.8	1.1	1.2	25.58	25.00
Orissa	2.8	3.4	1.2	1.0	42.86	29.41
Assam*	1.9	2.2	0.2	0.4	10.53	18.18
Southern Zone	12.5	13.3	6.3	4.5	50.40	33.83
Andhra Pradesh	5.5	5.9	2.8	2.1	50.91	35.59
Madras	4.9	5.2	2.7	1.9	55.10	36.54
Kerala	2.1	2.2	0.8	0.5	38.10	22.73
Western Zone	9.8	10.6	3.1	2.8	31.63	26.42
Bombay†	6.9	7.3	2.0	1.9	28.99	26.03
Mysore	2.9	3.3	1.1	0.9	37.93	27.27
Nothern Zone	5.5	6.6	0.5	0.5	9.09	7.58
Rajasthan	2.6	2.9	0.2	0.2	7.69	6.90
Punjab‡	2.6	3.2	0.3	0.3	11.54	9.28
All Indias	58.9	66.6	17.9	16.3	30.39	24.47

*Includes Manipur and Tripura.

**The figures given in this Report relate to the old Bombay State as a whole, since bifurcation took place only in May, 1960.

†Includes Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

‡Includes Jammu and Kashmir.

TABLE II

**Percentage Distribution of Agricultural Labour Household
With and Without Land and of Casual and Attached
Labour Households in 1950-51 and 1956-57**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Percentage of agricultural labour households				Percentage of agricultural labour households			
	With land		Without land		Casual		Attached	
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	50-51	56-57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central Zone	38.69	49.57	51.31	50.43	83.2	63.06	16.8	36.94
Uttar Pradesh	40.13	55.59	59.87	44.41	99.8	63.97	10.2	36.03
Madhya-Pradesh	35.97	40.52	63.03	59.48	75.5	61.69	24.5	38.31
Eastern Zone	57.87	50.56	42.13	49.44	93.0	65.38	7.0	34.62
Bihar	64.11	61.22	35.89	38.78	99.0	58.48	1.0	41.52
West Bengal	46.29	36.51	53.71	63.49	91.3	78.69	8.7	21.31
Orissa	55.23	46.47	44.77	53.53	85.8	84.35	14.2	15.65
Assam	56.65	36.99	43.35	63.01	88.1	29.88	11.9	70.12
Southern Zone	52.89	37.51	47.11	62.49	94.6	84.03	5.4	15.97
Andhra Pradesh	46.29	34.26	53.71	65.74	87.5	82.94	12.5	17.06
Madras	59.00	37.28	41.00	62.72	98.6	84.32	1.4	15.68
Kerala	55.02	51.59	44.98	48.41	99.7	87.48	0.3	12.52
Western Zone	45.00	34.21	55.00	65.79	86.5	85.30	13.5	14.70
Bombay	36.71	33.28	63.29	66.72	82.3	83.12	17.7	16.88
Mysore	59.64	36.18	40.36	63.82	84.8	89.84	5.2	10.16
Northern Zone	27.86	17.76	72.14	82.24	59.4	60.56	40.6	39.44
Rajasthan	41.15	37.20	58.85	62.80	82.2	77.44	17.8	22.56
Punjab	16.37	9.26	83.63	90.74	45.7	53.41	54.3	46.59
All-India	49.93	42.87	50.07	57.13	90.3	73.37	9.7	26.63

TABLE III.

Estimated Number of Agricultural Labourers
in 1956-57 (Thousands)

States and Zonal Council Areas	Men	Women	Children	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone	3824	2456	588	6868
Uttar Pradesh	2340	1180	314	3834
Madhya Pradesh	1484	1276	274	3034
Eastern Zone	6143	2646	530	9319
Bihar	3053	1475	259	4787
West Bengal	1454	256	58	1768
Orissa	1194	706	166	2066
Assam	442	209	47	698
Southern Zone	4831	4052	775	9658
Andhra Pradesh	2261	2026	491	4778
Madras	1950	1594	263	3807
Kerala	620	432	21	1073
Western Zone	3069	2721	565	6365
Bombay	2097	1850	400	4347
Mysore	972	871	165	2008
Northern Zone	642	234	81	957
Rajasthan	158	130	22	310
Punjab	478	103	59	640
All-India	18509	12109	2539	33157

TABLE IV

**Percentage of Man-days Worked by Men and Women
Casual Workers**

Zonal Council Areas and States	Percentage of workers		Percentage of man-days worked in agricul- tural operations	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1	2	3	4	5
All-India				
1950-51	52.3	43.8	52.3	31.2
1956-57	55.01	37.94	40.42	31.51
Central Zone	56.23	35.70	46.66	30.95
Uttar Pradesh	63.72	28.32	52.82	22.00
Madhya Pradesh	46.96	44.81	39.53	41.29
Eastern Zone	66.67	28.26	60.05	18.02
Bihar	62.35	32.16	59.68	23.32
West Bengal	83.45	13.79	63.50	8.82
Orissa	57.83	35.54	44.93	18.91
Assam	72.00	24.00	62.94	13.98
Southern Zone	49.87	42.89	47.50	37.84
Andhra Pradesh	46.23	44.16	45.38	39.48
Madras	51.27	42.68	46.72	37.96
Kerala	60.67	38.20	62.18	29.04
Western Zone	47.70	44.06	45.78	39.14
Bombay	47.40	44.22	44.13	40.18
Mysore	48.30	43.75	49.40	36.88
Northern Zone	63.16	29.82	57.56	21.64
Rajasthan	50.00	42.31	44.96	33.23
Punjab	74.19	19.35	66.63	12.52

TABLE V

**Percentage of Mandays and Average Number of Days
Worked by Men and Women Casual Workers in
Different Agricultural Operations and
Non-agricultural Labour.
(All-India)**

Operations	Percentage of man days worked		Average number of days worked	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
1	2	3	4	5
Ploughing	(a) 12.7	0.2	52.00	28.00
	(b) 8.05	0.52	26.66	2.08
Sowing	(a) 2.6	1.2	19.00	18.00
	(b) 1.14	0.94	3.79	3.76
Transplanting	(a) 3.1	4.5	25.00	31.00
	(b) 2.99	4.10	9.90	16.50
Weeding	(a) 6.0	8.9	31.00	44.00
	(b) 6.13	7.65	20.31	30.81
Harvesting	(a) 11.2	9.7	40.00	42.00
	(b) 13.20	11.54	43.68	46.45
All Agricultural operations	(a) 52.3	31.2	167.00	119.00
	(b) 50.42	31.51	166.95	126.82
Non-agricultural operations	(a) 10.0	3.7	56.00	41.00
	(b) 9.03	2.54	29.89	10.23
All Labour	(a) 62.3	34.9	200.00	133.00
	(b) 59.45	34.05	196.84	137.05

(a) First Agricultural Labour Enquiry, 1950-51.

(b) Second Agricultural Labour Enquiry, 1956-57.

TABLE VI

**Unemployment of Adult Men (Casual) and Women
Workers During the years 1950-51 and
1956-57 for Different States.**

States	Casual adult male workers		Women workers
	1950-51	1956-57	1956-57
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh ...	132	126	191
Assam ...	71	94	123
Bihar ...	85	120	214
Bombay ...	137	113	171
Kerala ...	125	170	109
Madras ...	107	162	210
Madhya Pradesh ...	77	117	187
Mysore ...	98	118	183
Orissa ...	53	135	239
Punjab ...	155	150	117
Rajasthan ...	99	138	192
Uttar Pradesh ...	48	124	220
West Bengal ...	93	113	169
All-India ...	90	128	196

TABLE VII

**Average Number of Days for which Casual
Adult Male Workers were Unemployed
for Certain Reasons. (1956-57)**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Total Number of days unemployed	Due to want of work	for other reasons	Percentage of days unemployed due to want of work to the total
1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone	122	45	77	36.89
Uttar Pradesh	124	48	76	38.71
Madhya Pradesh	117	40	77	34.19
Eastern Zone	121	69	52	57.02
Bihar	120	69	51	57.50
West Bengal	113	85	28	75.22
Orissa	135	58	77	42.96
Assam	94	13	81	13.83
Southern Zone	147	92	55	62.59
Andhra Pradesh	126	71	55	56.35
Madras	162	107	55	66.05
Kerala	170	116	54	68.24
Western Zone	115	49	66	42.61
Bombay	113	48	65	42.48
Mysore	118	52	66	44.07
Northern Zone	145	69	77	47.26
Rajasthan	138	64	74	46.38
Punjab	150	72	78	48.00
All India	128	68	60	53.12

TABLE VIII

Employment of Casual Adult Male and Female Workers in Community Project
and Non-Community Project Areas.

	Employment for wages										
	Agricultural Labour		Non-Agricultural Labour		Total		Self employment		Total employment		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Community Project Areas	163.20	127.71	30.01	10.28	193.21	137.99	43.11	26.18	236.32	164.17	
Other than Community Project Areas	168.84	132.89	29.83	10.08	198.67	142.97	38.34	27.93	237.01	170.90	

TABLE IX
Unemployment of Casual Male and Female Workers (Adults)
in Community Project Non-Community Project Areas.

	Total Unem- ployed days		Unemployed days due to want of work		Unemployed days due to other reasons	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Community Project Areas	128.68	200.83	64.65	81.64	64.03	119.19
Other than Community Project Areas	127.99	194.10	69.37	87.59	58.62	106.15

TABLE X
**Percentage of Annual Income, by Source, of All Agricultural
Labour House-Holds.**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Agricultural wage employment		Non-agricultural wage employment		Total	
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Zone	68.8	73.2	11.3	8.6	80.1	81.8
Uttar Pradesh	68.9	67.0	10.2	10.0	79.1	77.0
Madhya Pradesh	68.8	83.6	13.0	6.2	81.8	89.8
Eastern Zone	63.2	67.8	14.4	11.3	77.6	79.1
Bihar	64.3	71.3	12.0	10.8	76.3	82.1
West Bengal	64.3	55.6	16.3	15.7	80.6	71.3
Orissa	55.9	65.4	19.4	12.6	75.3	78.0
Assam	71.6	84.8	15.6	2.5	87.2	87.3
Southern Zone	62.4	76.5	9.7	4.9	72.1	81.4
Andhra Pradesh	60.6	74.0	11.0	4.9	71.6	78.9
Madras	62.0	83.3	7.3	5.0	69.3	88.3
Kerala	67.9	65.9	12.7	4.5	80.6	70.4
Western Zone	66.5	77.6	10.6	5.0	77.1	82.6
Bombay	71.8	81.0	10.4	4.5	82.2	85.5
Mysore	57.0	71.0	10.8	5.00	67.8	76.9
Northern Zone	56.7	75.5	11.9	10.0	68.6	85.5
Rajasthan	50.9	74.9	8.8	9.9	59.7	84.4
Punjab	60.9	75.7	14.4	9.9	75.3	85.6
All-India	64.2	73.0	11.9	8.0	76.1	81.0

TABLE XI

**Percentage* of Man-days Worked by Casual Adult Workers
Under Different Modes of Wage Payment**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Cash		Kind		Cash and Kind	
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttar Pradesh	55.6	41.9	35.1	52.5	8.2	5.6
Madhya Pradesh	35.5	31.7	49.8	62.3	3.3	6.0
Central Zone	46.5	37.2	41.8	57.0	8.3	5.8
Bihar	40.9	27.2	53.3	65.3	3.3	7.5
West Bengal	78.1	51.2	15.7	12.4	5.0	36.4
Orissa	40.7	35.7	36.5	57.0	19.9	7.3
Assam	96.5	69.3	0.6	13.7	2.5	19.0
Eastern Zone	51.0	37.5	39.1	46.4	7.6	16.1
Andhra Pradesh	59.5	54.5	23.0	38.5	14.4	7.3
Madras	64.4	57.2	21.5	36.0	12.0	6.8
Kerala	64.7	48.6	24.5	28.0	9.5	23.4
Southern Zone	62.3	54.9	22.6	36.4	12.7	8.7
Bombay	65.9	63.0	23.4	25.7	6.3	11.3
Mysore	55.6	54.5	21.4	34.7	19.1	10.8
Western Zone	62.2	60.3	22.6	28.6	10.9	11.1
Rajasthan	88.6	61.1	4.9	27.7	3.1	11.2
Punjab	33.3	53.2	38.7	36.7	25.7	10.1
Northern Zone	60.4	56.6	20.9	32.8	16.0	10.6
All-India	56.0	48.7	31.3	40.5	9.8	10.8

*Percentage for 1950-51 do not add up to 100 since the share of children is not included.

In each case the balance relates to children.

TABLE XII

Average Daily Wage (in Naye Paise) of Women Casual Labourers as Compared to That of Men and Children in Agricultural Operations

State and Zonal Council Areas	Daily wage in Naye Paise						Percentage of women's wages to men's wages in		Percentage of children's wages to women's wages in	
	Children		Women		Men		1950	1956	1950	1956
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	-51	-57	-51	-57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Zone	92	56	80	61	100	86	80.0	70.9	115.0	91.8
Uttar Pradesh	120	55	105	65	118	92	89.0	70.7	114.3	84.6
Madhya Pradesh	58	57	51	59	79	76	64.6	77.6	113.7	96.6
Eastern Zone	98	67	96	94	124	106	77.4	69.8	102.1	90.5
Bihar	116	70	111	74	126	91	88.1	81.3	104.5	94.6
West Bengal	130	89	104	98	166	143	62.7	68.5	125.0	90.8
Orissa	52	51	49	55	72	80	68.1	68.8	106.1	92.7
Assam	...	100	148	115	190	154	77.9	74.7	...	87.0
Southern Zone	59	45	63	54	101	91	62.4	59.3	93.7	83.3
Andhra Pradesh	56	48	63	55	97	87	64.9	63.2	88.9	87.3
Madras	59	39	59	48	97	84	60.8	57.1	100.0	81.3
Kerala	68	63	79	70	126	128	62.9	54.7	86.1	90.0
Westren Zone	60	49	63	55	97	86	64.9	64.0	95.2	89.1
Bombay	57	50	66	55	101	87	65.3	63.2	86.4	90.9
Mysore	66	47	67	55	90	84	66.3	65.5	115.8	85.5
Northern Zone	94	58	113	79	156	163	72.4	48.5	83.2	73.4
Rajasthan	90	44	94	61	123	98	76.4	62.2	95.7	72.1
Punjab	98	69	134	122	184	198	72.8	61.6	73.1	56.6
All-India	70	53	68	69	109	96	62.4	61.5	102.9	89.8

TABLE XIII

**Daily Wage Rates of Casual Adult Male Workers for
Important Agricultural Operations (Naye Paise)**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Ploughing		Weeding		Trans- planting		Harvest- ing		All agri- cultural Operations	
	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956
	-51	-57	-51	-57	-51	-57	-51	-57	-51	-57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Zone	95	89	81	69	88	104	131	94	100	86
Uttar Pradesh	107	94	102	76	108	106	158	97	118	92
Madhya Pradesh	81	80	56	58	64	68	100	89	79	76
Eastern Zone	111	104	110	110	127	123	156	103	124	106
Bihar	103	94	104	89	130	101	181	92	126	91
West Bengal	163	143	146	141	171	160	174	135	166	145
Orissa	71	63	74	79	73	87	85	81	72	80
Assam	174	168	210	144	186	157	193	146	190	154
Southern Zone	109	97	82	74	83	91	96	83	101	91
Andhra Pradesh	112	90	76	82	84	91	95	81	97	87
Madras	107	91	76	61	73	92	81	81	97	84
Kerala	111	130	120	...	116	78	144	132	126	128
Western Zone	93	94	78	76	95	111	100	84	97	86
Bombay	94	97	80	79	102	112	102	87	101	87
Mysore	91	88	73	66	83	108	96	77	90	84
Northern Zone	166	182	144	134	138	133	201	202	156	163
Rajasthan	144	108	115	83	112	100	124	110	123	98
Punjab	184	208	169	173	160	134	268	247	184	198
All-India	105	100	89	88	116	111	126	93	109	96

TABLE XIV
Average Wages of Casual Women Agricultural Workers for
Important Operations

(Naye Paise)

States and Zonal Council Areas	Sowing		Weeding		Transplant- ing		Harvest- ing		All Agri- cultural operations	
	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956
	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Zone	74	63	61	54	70	72	111	64	80	61
Uttar Pradesh	88	51	74	53	78	74	142	67	105	65
Madhya Pradesh	57	77	46	55	60	68	74	62	51	59
Eastern Zone	89	101	81	64	92	85	135	70	96	74
Bihar	103	87	86	61	99	85	183	73	111	74
West Bengal	99	115	91	114	112	116	110	68	104	98
Orissa	43	62	48	68	47	56	53	58	49	55
Assam	155	107	155	107	165	154	163	99	148	115
Southern Zone	60	74	51	48	59	59	72	54	63	54
Andhra Pradesh	64	81	53	50	59	64	69	56	63	55
Madras	52	61	41	45	56	53	66	49	59	48
Kerala	76	108	74	57	69	59	102	72	79	70
Western Zone	55	62	51	50	64	73	74	53	63	55
Bombay	54	56	50	51	69	96	77	54	66	55
Mysore	57	66	53	47	55	87	68	53	57	55
Northern Zone	42	38	111	67	74	68	221	105	113	79
Rajasthan	90	38	98	65	70	35	101	67	94	61
Punjab	...	...	123	194	78	100	326	140	134	122
All-India	60	82	54	52	72	69	79	58	68	59

TABLE XV
Distribution of Man-days Worked According
to Wage Slabs (All-India)

Wage slabs (Naye Paise)	Percentage break-up of man-days worked	
	1950-51	1956-57*
1	2	3
Below 62 ...	13.5	21.5
62 to 87 ...	21.1	22.2
87 to 112 ...	27.1	31.0
112 to 137 ...	16.0	9.3
137 to 162 ...	10.1	9.5
162 to 187 ...	4.4	2.5
187 to 212 ...	4.0	2.5
212 and above ...	3.8	1.2
Mean wage (Naye Paise)	109	96

*0.5 percent of man-days worked was not recorded.

TABLE XVI
Comparative Statement Showing the Over-all Agricultural
wage for Casual Male Workers and the Daily Wage
with Dearness Allowance of Unskilled Workers in
Cotton Textile Industry at Different Centres.
(Naye Paise)

Name of the State/Centre	Overall agricul- tural wage for adult casual male workers	Daily wage of cotton textile un- skilled worker, including D. A.	Percentage of agricul- tural wage in col. 2 to industrial wage in col. 3
1	2	3	4
Bombay State:—			
Bombay	87	401	21.7
Ahmedabad	87	382	22.8
Sholapur	87	244	35.7
Baroda	87	347	25.1
Nagpur	87	298	29.2
Madhya Pradesh :—			
Indore	76	328	23.2
Madras State:—			
Madras	84	312	26.9
Uttar Pradesh :—			
Kanpur	92	330	27.9
West Bengal State :—			
West Bengal	143	233	61.4

TABLE XVII**Wage Index and Consumer Price Index Numbers****(Base 1950-51=100)**

State	Wage index for male Casual workers 1956-57	Consumer Price Index Number 1956-57
1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	96	108
Bihar	72	90
West Bengal	86	109
Orissa	111	104
Assam	81	116
Andhra Pradesh	90	108
Madras	87	103
Kerala	102	104
Bombay	86	104
Mysore	93	104
Rajasthan	80	92
Punjab	108	99
All-India	88	101

TABLE XVIII
Average Annual Income of Agricultural Labour
House-holds by Sources (Rupees)

States and Zonal Council Areas	Average annual income per house-hold							
	Cultivation of land		Agricultural labour		Non-agricul tural labour		others	
	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956
	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central Zone	52.10 (10.9)	27.29 (7.62)	328.86 (68.8)	262.21 (73.22)	54.01 (11.3)	30.63 (8.55)	43.03 (9.0)	37.93 (10.61)
Uttar Pradesh	61.71 (11.2)	34.88 (9.36)	379.64 (68.9)	249.64 (67.02)	56.20 (10.2)	37.07 (9.95)	53.45 (9.7)	50.91 (13.67)
Madhya Pradesh	61.06 (10.5)	15.84 (4.7)	269.01 (68.8)	281.17 (83.58)	50.83 (13.0)	20.92 (6.22)	30.10 (7.7)	18.49 (5.49)
Eastern Zone	55.15 (10.9)	39.54 (8.17)	319.79 (63.2)	328.22 (67.79)	72.86 (14.4)	54.65 (11.29)	58.20 (11.5)	61.75 (12.75)
Bihar	56.71 (10.6)	37.81 (9.00)	344.01 (64.3)	299.72 (71.31)	64.20 (12.0)	45.22 (10.76)	70.08 (13.1)	37.50 (8.9)
West Bengal	46.21 (7.6)	65.23 (9.92)	391.94 (64.3)	365.48 (55.60)	99.10 (16.3)	103.40 (15.73)	71.75 (11.8)	123.21 (18.75)
Orissa	59.16 (17.4)	27.72 (8.69)	199.06 (55.9)	208.53 (65.40)	65.96 (19.4)	40.10 (12.58)	24.82 (7.3)	42.51 (13.33)
Assam	40.19 (6.6)	12.70 (1.68)	436.05 (71.6)	640.02 (84.82)	95.00 (15.6)	18.95 (2.51)	37.76 (6.2)	82.96 (10.99)
Southern Zone	71.16 (18.2)	24.63 (6.06)	243.98 (62.4)	310.98 (76.51)	37.93 (9.7)	19.93 (4.90)	37.93 (9.7)	50.92 (12.53)
Andhra Pradesh	65.15 (17.1)	29.06 (6.82)	230.89 (60.6)	315.20 (74.01)	41.91 (11.0)	20.82 (4.89)	43.05 (11.3)	60.84 (14.28)
Madras	83.85 (22.6)	10.69 (2.85)	230.02 (62.0)	312.64 (83.31)	27.08 (7.3)	18.92 (5.04)	30.05 (8.1)	33.02 (8.80)
Kerala	45.20 (9.3)	55.70 (12.74)	329.99 (67.9)	286.86 (65.86)	61.72 (12.7)	19.83 (4.54)	49.09 (10.1)	73.66 (16.86)
Western Zone	52.78 (13.0)	27.50 (5.96)	269.59 (66.5)	357.86 (77.56)	43.04 (10.6)	22.87 (4.96)	40.19 (9.9)	53.16 (11.52)
Bombay	39.84 (9.6)	28.02 (6.23)	297.97 (71.8)	363.99 (80.96)	43.16 (10.4)	20.09 (4.47)	34.03 (8.2)	37.40 (8.35)
Mysore	74.88 (19.3)	26.42 (5.44)	221.16 (57.0)	345.10 (71.03)	41.90 (10.8)	28.63 (5.89)	50.06 (12.9)	85.68 (17.64)
Northern Zone	90.72 (14.0)	14.66 (2.41)	337.42 (56.7)	459.58 (75.48)	77.11 (11.9)	60.88 (10.00)	112.75 (17.4)	33.70 (12.1)
Rajasthan	163.96 (27.1)	23.18 (6.90)	307.94 (50.9)	251.76 (74.88)	53.24 (8.8)	33.43 (9.94)	79.86 (13.2)	27.86 (8.28)
Punjab	28.13 (4.1)	10.51 (1.44)	417.77 (60.9)	553.97 (75.74)	98.78 (14.4)	72.15 (9.86)	141.32 (20.6)	94.84 (12.96)
All-India	59.90 (13.4)	30.07 (6.87)	286.97 (64.2)	319.15 (73.04)	55.19 (11.9)	34.94 (7.99)	46.94 (10.5)	52.91 (12.10)

Figures in brackets are percentage to total income from all sources.

TABLE XIX

**Income and Earning Strength of Agricultural Labour
Households in 1950-51 and 1956-57.**

Zonal Council Areas and States	Average earning strength		Average annual income of agricul- tural labour house- holds (in Rs.)	
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57
	1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone	1.8	2.3	478	358
Uttar Pradesh	1.4	2.2	551	372
Madhya Pradesh	2.3	2.5	391	336
Eastern Zone	1.9	1.9	506	484
Bihar	2.2	2.0	535	420
West Bengal	1.5	1.6	608	657
Orissa	1.8	2.1	340	319
Assam	1.3	1.9	609	755
Southern Zone	2.1	2.3	391	406
Andhra Pradesh	2.2	2.4	381	426
Madras	2.0	2.2	371	375
Kerala	2.0	2.3	486	437
Western Zone	2.4	2.4	406	461
Bombay	2.4	2.4	415	450
Mysore	2.1	2.5	388	486
Nothern Zone	1.8	2.1	648	609
Rajasthan	2.1	2.1	605	336
Punjab	1.7	2.1	686	731
All-India	2.0	2.2	447	437

TABLE XX

Annual Per Capita Income of Casual and Attached Agricultural Labour House-Holds in 1956-57.

States and Zonal Council Areas	1950-51		1956-57	
	Annual per capita income		Annual per capita income	
	Casual	Attached	Casual	Attached
1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone	111.9	109.3	79.9	81.8
Uttar Pradesh	131.2	137.1	81.0	79.7
Madhya Pradesh	86.8	92.4	77.8	85.5
Eastern Zone	118.4	121.5	101.2	120.8
Bihar	118.7	153.2	84.0	95.5
West Bengal	149.8	169.8	145.8	183.9
Orissa	8.9	74.8	74.3	87.7
Assam	167.2	162.4	177.0	189.3
Southern Zone	90.2	109.8	98.2	89.4
Andhra Pradesh	87.0	123.3	106.2	95.5
Madras	88.1	75.4	94.3	79.1
Kerala	105.7	353.3	84.3	96.0
Western Zone	88.4	103.0	100.9	117.5
Bombay	90.0	100.9	96.2	125.9
Mysore	87.5	104.2	100.0	93.1
Northern Zone	123.9	178.5	118.7	130.2
Rajasthan	133.6	156.8	82.4	59.1
Punjab	116.1	161.5	139.4	144.2
All-India	102.8	108.7	97.1	105.0

TABLE XXI
Average Annual Consumption Expenditure of Agricultural
Labour Families (excluding Ceremonials)
by Consumption Groups

	percentage to total									
	Total (in Rs.)	Food		Clothing and Footwear*		Fuel and Lighting		Services and miscellaneous items		
		1950 -51	1956 -57	1950 -51	1956 -57	1950 -51	1956 -57	1950 -51	1956 -57	1950 -51	1956 -57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Zone	478	589	86.2	78.1	7.1	6.9	0.9	8.4	5.8	6.6
Uttar Pradesh	548	615	84.7	78.9	7.8	7.1	1.1	7.6	6.4	6.4
Madhya Pradesh	395	549	88.7	76.6	5.9	6.5	0.7	10.0	4.7	6.9
Eastern Zone	529	654	87.9	79.6	4.8	4.8	1.1	8.2	6.2	7.4
Bihar	575	617	89.9	81.7	4.5	4.6	0.9	8.2	4.7	5.5
West Bengal	625	725	85.9	78.7	4.7	5.2	1.2	8.1	8.2	8.0
Orissa	331	482	84.9	79.6	6.3	4.6	1.5	8.8	7.3	7.0
Assam	622	1044	85.7	74.7	4.3	4.9	1.1	7.7	8.9	12.7
Southern Zone	403	541	82.6	76.5	6.5	5.5	1.1	7.3	9.8	10.7
Andhra Pradesh	407	575	84.2	78.1	6.8	5.8	1.1	6.9	7.9	9.2
Madras	373	488	82.9	75.4	6.8	5.9	0.9	7.5	9.4	11.2
Kerala	487	595	77.8	73.0	5.1	3.2	1.4	8.6	15.7	15.2
Western Zone	421	639	83.8	74.9	7.5	7.1	1.4	8.0	7.3	10.0
Bombay	428	620	86.2	75.1	6.9	7.0	1.4	8.1	5.5	9.8
Mysore	407	679	79.5	74.5	8.6	7.2	1.5	7.7	10.4	10.6
Northern Zone	666	963	84.7	72.2	7.8	10.4	0.8	6.0	6.7	11.4
Rajasthan	580	734	84.7	75.0	9.4	11.5	0.7	6.0	5.2	7.5
Punjab	740	1066	84.7	71.3	6.8	10.1	0.9	5.9	7.6	12.7
All-India	461	617	85.3	77.3	6.3	6.1	1.1	7.9	7.3	8.7

*Includes bedding and household requisites.

TABLE XXII

**Average Annual Income and Expenditure (Excluding
Ceremonials) of Agricultural Labour House-
holds in 1956-57 (Rupees)**

States and Zonal Council Areas	Income per house- hold	Expenditure per house- holds
1	2	3
Central Zone	358	589
Uttar Pradesh	373	615
Madhya Pradesh	336	549
Eastern Zone	484	654
Bihar	420	617
West Bengal	657	725
Orissa	319	482
Assam	755	1,044
Southern Zone	206	541
Andhra Pradesh	426	575
Madras	375	488
Kerala	437	595
Western Zone	461	639
Bombay	450	620
Mysore	486	679
Northern Zone	609	963
Rajasthan	636	734
Panjab	731	1,066
All-India	437	617

TABLE XXIII

Per Capita Consumption Expenditure

States and Zonal Council Areas	Size of family	Total Consump- tion expendi- ture per ca- pita* (Rs.)
1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	4.63	134
Madhya Pradesh	4.16	133
Central Zone	4.44	134
Bihar	4.76	130
West Bengal	4.27	171
Orissa	4.17	116
Assam	4.06	258
Eastern Zone	4.47	147
Andhra Pradesh	4.08	141
Madras	4.08	120
Kerala	5.09	117
Southern Zone	4.20	129
Bombay	4.45	141
Mysore	4.50	152
Western Zone	4.46	145
Rajasthan	4.39	167
Punjab	5.16	211
Northern Zone	4.92	199
All-India	4.40	141

*Includes expenditure on ceremonies.

TABLE XXIV

Percentage Distribution of Estimated Number of Agricultural Labour House-Holds by Annual Per Capita Expenditure Classes During 1956-1957.

States and Zonal Council Areas	Annual per capita expenditure classes (in Rupees)							
	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	301-350	351 and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central Zone	2.70	26.47	35.94	17.76	7.29	3.98	2.61	3.25
Uttar Pradesh	2.93	26.87	34.65	17.88	7.47	3.33	3.23	3.64
Madhya Pradesh	2.36	25.88	37.90	17.58	7.00	4.95	1.67	2.66
Eastern Zone	1.49	24.22	29.09	21.02	11.60	5.10	3.18	4.30
Bihar	1.76	30.30	31.43	21.66	8.91	2.38	2.15	1.41
West Bengal	...	10.86	26.70	28.11	17.68	7.72	4.72	4.21
Orissa	3.19	35.23	35.91	15.06	6.95	2.31	0.68	0.67
Assam	...	1.02	8.32	13.59	20.89	18.86	10.14	27.18
Southern Zone	3.30	28.11	31.21	19.76	9.05	4.06	2.17	2.34
Andhra Pradesh	1.83	20.62	33.10	22.31	11.20	5.49	2.29	3.16
Madras	4.40	34.43	29.93	18.48	6.99	3.07	1.54	1.16
Kerala	5.42	36.45	28.04	13.83	7.48	1.68	3.92	3.18
Western Zone	1.67	23.66	32.90	20.00	9.73	4.72	3.66	3.66
Bombay	1.74	25.77	35.77	17.99	8.05	4.42	1.10	3.16
Mysore	1.53	19.26	26.92	24.18	13.24	5.35	4.81	4.70
Northern Zone	0.75	11.47	23.31	21.99	13.72	10.15	4.89	13.72
Rajasthan	2.45	20.86	29.45	20.86	10.43	6.75	4.29	4.91
Punjab	...	7.40	20.27	22.47	15.07	11.78	5.20	17.81
All-India	2.24	25.25	31.52	19.88	9.77	4.68	2.92	3.74

TABLE XXV

Annual Per Capita Expenditure of Agricultural Labour
Households and all Rural Households

(Rupees)

Consumption Groups	Agricultural labour house- holds (1956- 57)	Rural house- holds NSS (May 1955 to May 1956)*	Agricultural labour house- holds (1956- 57)	Rural house- holds NSS (May 1955 to May 1956)*
	Actuals (Rs.)		Percentage to total	
1	2	3	4	5
I. FOOD :—				
Foodgrains ...	79.74	47.76	56.86	37.98
Edible Oil ...	3.65	5.40	2.60	2.74
Sugar ...	2.39	5.28	1.70	2.68
Milk & Milk Products ...	3.38	17.22	2.41	8.75
Salt. ...	0.64	0.72	0.46	0.37
Meat Fish and Eggs. ...	3.58	5.16	2.55	2.62
Other food ...	15.08	23.04	10.75	11.70
II. Fuel and				
Lighting. ...	11.04	13.26	7.87	6.74
III. House Rent...				
	0.05	0.48	0.04	0.24
IV. Clothing and				
Footwear. ...	8.48	18.30	6.05	9.30
V. Services and				
Miscellaneous items. ...	12.22	33.24	8.71	16.88
Total Expenditure.	140.25	196.86	100.00	100.00

*National Sample Survey Draft Reports No. 42 and 45 (9th and 10th rounds), 1959.

TABLE XXVI

Average Annual Consumption Expenditure per Agricultural Labour Household
(Excluding Ceremonials) by consumption Groups (1956 - 57) in
Community and Non-Community Project Areas.

(Rupees)

	Total consumption expenditure	Average annual expenditure on				
		Food	Clothing and footwear	Fuel and lighting	House rent	Services and miscellaneous items
Community Project Areas.	606.7	462.1 (76.2)	40.7 (6.7)	46.4 (7.6)	0.2 (—)	57.3 (9.5)
Non-Community Project Areas.	622.4	484.8 (77.9)	35.7 (5.7)	49.7 (8.0)	0.2 (—)	52.0 (8.4)

Figures within brackets denote percentages to total expenditure

TABLE XXVII

Extent of Indebtedness of Agricultural Labour Households

States and Zonal Council Areas	Percentage of indebtedted households		Average debt per household (Rupees)		Average debt per indebtedted household (Rs.)	
	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57	1950-51	1956-57
Central Zone	32.9	62.0	21	105	62	170
Uttar Pradesh	21.9	71.8	7	141	32	197
Madhya Pradesh	45.9	47.3	37	51	79	108
Eastern Zone	33.8	63.2	27	65	78	103
Bihar	41.9	68.5	40	97	95	142
West Bengal	32.9	69.2	15	39	44	56
Orissa	16.9	59.1	9	39	50	67
Assam	39.2	29.9	29	10	74	35
Southern Zone	51.9	70.2	45	93	89	132
Andhra Pradesh	58.9	66.2	59	102	100	154
Madras	46.0	72.3	38	90	89	124
Kerala	47.8	49.1	21	63	43	79
Western Zone	53.9	55.2	74	71	137	128
Bombay	49.5	46.8	49	47	98	101
Mysore	61.7	72.8	118	120	191	164
Northern Zone	76.0	73.6	247	264	336	358
Rajasthan	64.6	61.6	222	218	343	352
Punjab	85.8	79.0	285	287	332	363
All-India	44.5	63.9	47	88	105	138

TABLE XXVIII

Sources of Borrowing (Per Agricultural Labour Household.)
(Rupees)

States Zonal Council Areas	Employers		Shopkeepers		Money lenders		Co-operative societies		Others	
	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956	1950	1956
	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57	—51	—57
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Central Zone	18	27	5	6	17	57	...	2	22	78
Uttar Pradesh	12	25	8	5	7	71	...	2	5	94
Madhya Pradesh	22	32	3	10	23	25	...	1	31	40
Eastern Zone	23	21	2	4	41	45	...	1	12	32
Bihar	26	33	2	2	54	69	...	...	13	38
West Bengal	19	8	1	8	11	11	...	1	13	28
Orissa	1	8	4	3	36	30	4	3	5	23
Assam	64	10	5	5	5	2	...	...	...	18
Southern Zone	14	10	5	5	27	47	1	2	42	68
Andhra Pradesh	18	17	9	6	40	80	...	2	33	49
Madras	10	4	...	1	15	24	2	1	62	94
Kerala	9	2	7	16	8	9	1	...	18	52
Western Zone	25	15	6	12	59	30	2	4	45	67
Bombay	16	8	6	12	42	22	2	5	32	54
Mysore	38	24	7	11	83	42	1	3	62	84
Northern Zone	98	99	19	33	138	87	2	2	79	137
Rajasthan	25	26	32	36	219	172	...	...	67	118
Punjab	147	125	11	32	84	58	3	3	87	145
All-India	22	21	6	7	38	47	1	2	38	61

TABLE XXIX

**Extent of Indebtedness in Community Project and
Non-Community Project Areas**

	1	2	3	4
	Percentage indebted household	Average debt per household (Rupees)	Average debt per indebted household (Rupees)	
1. Community Project Areas.	64.29	7.04	121.29	
2. Non-Community Project Areas.	63.70	93.18	146.14	