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The different crops have been listed up according to their profitability per acre. It is seen that the cultivation of commercial crops like sugarcane (if sold in the form of cane to sugar mills) and cotton is more paying than that of cereal crops; while cultivation of sugarcane crop for producing *gur* is least profitable. Fodder cultivation is found to be quite high in the order of profitability. The cost of production for irrigated wheat worked out to Rs. 12.88 per *maund*, that for unirrigated wheat Rs. 14.98, for unirrigated gram Rs. 10.88, for irrigated rice Rs. 10.70, for irrigated American cotton Rs. 27.95, for irrigated *desi* cotton Rs. 24.58, and it was Rs. 1.43 per *maund* of irrigated sugarcane.

Report on the Survey of Rural Unemployment in the Punjab (October-December, 1955), Board of Economic Inquiry, Punjab, Publication No. 76, Economic and Statistical Organisation, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh, 1961. Pp. vi + ii + 64. Rs. 3.55.

The report presents the results of a survey conducted in October-December, 1955 with a view to assessing the extent and form of unemployment in the rural areas of Jullundur and Karnal Districts of the Punjab State. The survey covered in all 1,198 rural households from 120 villages, both the households and the villages having been selected on a random sampling basis. The problem of unemployment has also been studied in the light of demographic particulars in the sense that the incidence of unemployment has been examined with reference to certain demographic characteristics, *viz.*, age, sex, educational and professional attainments, marital status, etc.

The report is divided into four chapters. The introductory chapter describes the methodology of the study and deals with the concepts and definitions used. The general characteristics of the population surveyed are presented in chapter 2. The next chapter deals with the various characteristics of the labour force and the last chapter presents the results of the survey. The findings reveal that the labour force constituted 35 per cent of the total population—31.9 per cent males and 3.1 per cent females. Of these 73.52 per cent were earners and the remaining earning dependents. 3.6 per cent of the labour force were children in the age group 6—14 years. Sex-wise, the labour force comprised of 91 per cent males and 9 per cent females. 8.03 per cent of the labour force or 2.81 per cent of the whole population were unemployed. Among male members of the labour force, unemployment was to the extent of 8.68 per cent; it was only 1.34 per cent among the female members. The largest incidence of unemployment, *i.e.*, 50 per cent, was in the age group 21—50 years. The incidence was 45 per cent in the age group 11—20 years which accounted for a relatively higher proportion of new entrants to the labour force. A study of the distribution of the unemployed according to the literacy standards of the population revealed that illiterate persons and those with education upto the primary standard accounted for more than 75 per cent of the unemployed. Another interesting phenomenon revealed by the survey was that the incidence of unemployment was lower on the households having one earner each and it was higher in the case of households having larger number of earners. The following findings of the survey throw some light on the problem of labour mobility. More than 81 per cent of the unemployed were willing to migrate from their villages if jobs were made available to them elsewhere. However, the number of willing migrants was more among new entrants to the labour force.

Studying under-employment, it was found that about three-fifth of the owner-cultivators and about half of the landless cultivators generally remained busy in agricultural operations from 9 to 12 months in a year. More than 40 per cent of all the cultivators were under-employed—the intensity of under-employment in the case of 27 per cent varied from 3 to 4 months and for the remaining from 5 to 9 months.

Report of the Study Group on Landless Agricultural Labourers, Government of Maharashtra, Finance Department (Planning), Bombay, 1961. Pp. 24 + xvi. Re. 0.32.

A Study Group was appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to examine generally the economic condition of landless agricultural labourers, with particular reference to the benefits derived by them under the measures taken by the State Government in the first two Five-Year Plans, and to suggest schemes other than land reforms for improving their economic conditions. The publication contains the majority report and two notes of dissent submitted jointly by two of the members of the Group.

The number of cultivating labourers and their dependents in the geographical area which is now Maharashtra was estimated at 47.33 lakhs in 1951 constituting about 14.8 per cent of the total population of the State. Assuming an increase of 9 per cent in the population in the First Plan period, this figure is estimated at 51.6 lakhs in 1955-56; at 56.75 lakhs in 1960-61 and 62.43 lakhs in 1965-66—assuming an increase of 10 per cent in the Second and Third Plan periods respectively. Pointing out that at the end of the Second Plan the per capita income of landless agricultural labour is about 28 per cent of the average for the total population of the State as against 31 per cent that prevailed at the beginning of the Second Plan, the Group has recommended fixing of the target of growth of per capita income of agricultural labourers during the Third Five-Year Plan at double the rate for the total population of the State, *i.e.*, at 33—34 per cent. The most important among the measures other than land reforms to bring about this is industrial development in rural areas based on sufficiently modern techniques of production. The main scope for immediate industrial development in the rural areas lies in co-operative industries like agricultural processing, sugar, cotton spinning, preservation and canning of fruit, etc. Thus a total industrial investment of Rs. 44.95 crores has been recommended, which is expected to raise the incomes of landless labourers to the extent of 20.4 per cent during the Third Plan. The gap of about 13.0 per cent between this figure and the targetted increase is to be filled by making suitable adjustment in other sectors, for example, milk production and poultry and additional construction through a diversified programme of public works.

In the Appendix, an attempt has been made to estimate the likely effect of the measures recommended by the Study Group on the incomes of the landless agricultural labour. The effects of the developments during the Third Plan in the other sectors, such as intensification of agriculture, grant of land, increase in construction activity and increase in tertiary activity as reported by the Planning Division of Government have also been estimated on the basis of a number of assumptions.