

Location of ICHALKARANJI CITY IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

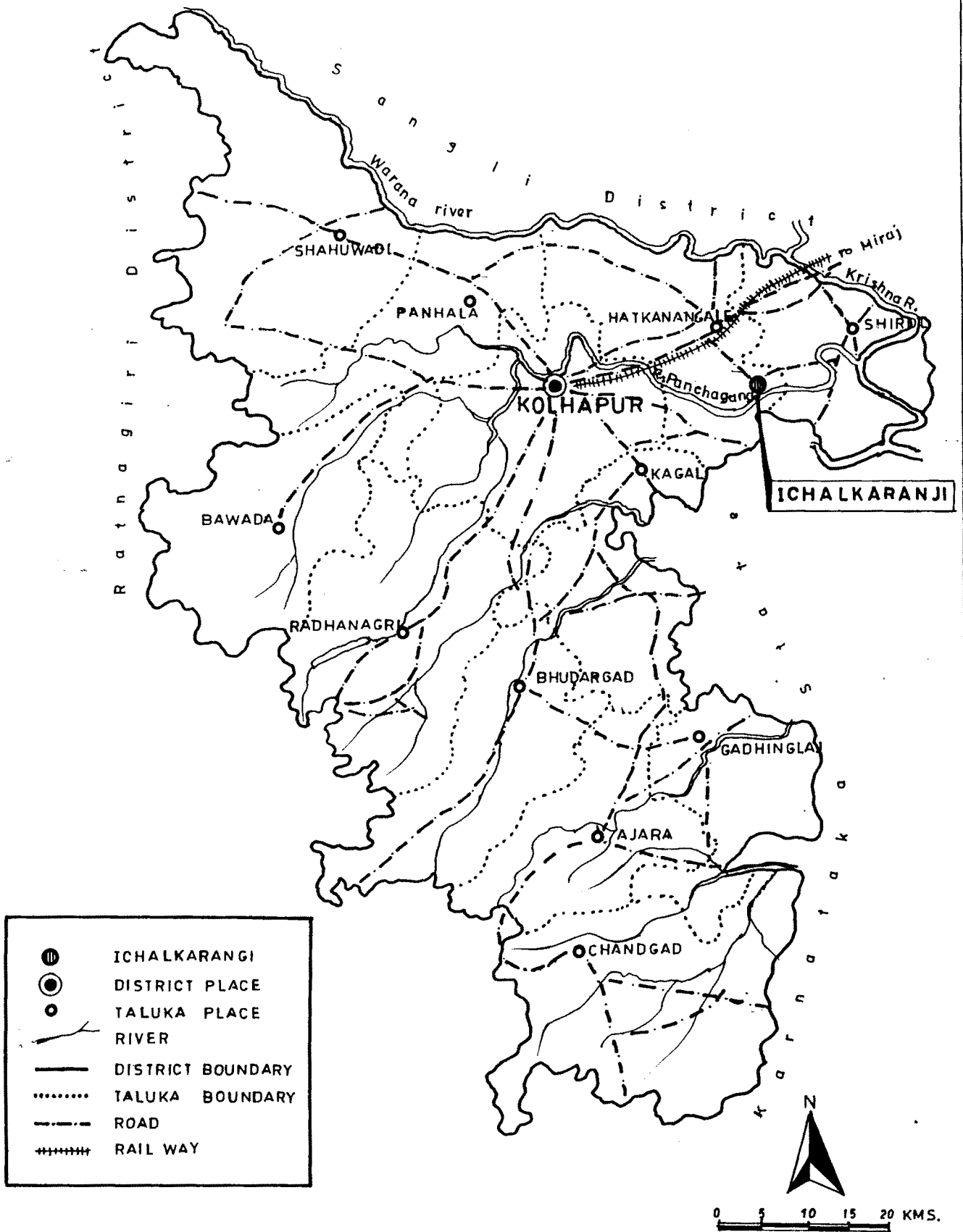


FIG 2-1

2.1 INTRODUCTION :

In the urban development of Southern Maharashtra, Ichalkaranji city is one of the very important urban centres. It is an important industrial city, where the development of textile and powerloom industry has brought overall prosperity. Besides, this being an industrial centre, it is the main central place on the boundary of South Maharashtra and Karnataka State. So the city performs a vast range of functions.

Ichalkaranji city is situated midway between Kolhapur and Miraj railway line, and it is 9.5 kms south of the Hatkanangale railway station, which is also its taluka place. Ichalkaranji city is 29 kms from Kolhapur, its district headquarter and is connected with Kolhapur, Sangli nearby district place and Hatkanangale by motorable roads. Fig 2.1,

The city of Ichalkaranji is located in southern part of South Maharashtra. It is situated on the 16°40' North latitude and 74°25' East longitude at an altitude of 542 Metre above mean sea level. This city is situated in the Panchaganga valley about 2 kilometer north on left bank of Panchaganga river a tributary of Krishna river. It also enjoys the moderate climate with temperature in maximum 29°C and minimum 20°C. Ichalkaranji city receives a fairly good amount of rainfall.

Historical background of the city :

The city originated as an important settlement which the town is said to be 'formed of seven hamlets' in the 18th

century. Ichalkaranji town was one of the important eleven feudatory Jahangirs in the Kolhapur State until it was included in the Bombay State on the 1st March 1949. When Ichalkaranji Jahangir was included in Bombay State, at the time the result regarding whether Ichalkaranji was a separate state or Jahagir of Kolhapur state; the Kolhapur state was not declared and Ichalkaranji was considered a Jahagir of Kolhapur State.

The history of Ichalkaranji village and its clashes with Kolhapur ruler, the founder of Ichalkaranji family was Brahmin clerk named Naro Mahadev in the service of an ancestor of Senapati of Kapasi who had got the village of Ichalkaranji in 'Inam'. In compliments of his benefactor the grantee assumed the latter's family name of Ghorpade Naro-Mahadv soon increased in the wealth and power and his fortunes reached zenith in 1722 when his son married to the daughter of Balaji Vishwanath the first Peshwa. The alliance was of immense importance to the chief of Ichalkaranji who always relied on the sympathy and support of the Peshwa in case of apprehension received from Raja of Kolhapur treaties and agreement concluded from time to time between the Peshwa and Raja of Kolhapur contain reference to protection granted to Ichalkaranji by the Peshwa against the Kolhapur Raja.

As regards the remarkable personality of founder of Ichalkaranji the Historian H.G. Franks said that " Naro Pant

the founder of Ichalkaranji State was a man of outstanding abilities, great mentality and energetic determination. A man at once trust worthy prudent and factful at Bahirewadi on the Ghats as a helpless urchin and died as noble man of the first rank."

Ichalkaranji was one of the more important feudatories along with Vishalgarh, Bavada and Kagal. The importance of the chief of Ichalkaranji can be made clear that, he was the first class Sardar of the British Government for rank procedense only and subsequently been permitted to pay a separate visit to the head of government.

Industrial background of the city :

During the British period, it has gained importance, as a weaving centre. This town had got tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The record shows that in 1845 A.D. in Hatkanangale taluka of Kolhapur district, there were 636 handlooms of which 236 handlooms were in Ichalkaranji town. When we find out the information about weaving industry at Ichalkaranji, at that time there was not unique about the weaving industry at Ichalkaranji. In 1882, there were 3102 total number of weaving looms, out of these looms only 350 looms were in this town. At the time it had larger number of looms than the most other places in Kolhapur State. When Jahagirdar Narayan Bahasaheb was installed on the 'Gadi' (throne), it was due to his leadership and patronage, Ichalkaranji became an important powerloom and weaving centre of

Maharashtra, so it is known as 'The Manchester of Maharashtra'. During the period 1882 to 1892, this town was only one place in Kolhapur state which had maximum looms. The number of looms working on cotton in Ichalkaranji Jahagir had increased from 337 in 1882 to 447 by 1895.

As regards the potentially of the industrial development of Ichalkaranji, the report shows great hopes by stating that - Ichalkaranji has dry climate, large population, weekly bazaar day, a big trade and most important thing is that, it has an educational and cultural ruler in Shrimant Babasaheb to look after its interest. As a result of these factors, there is no doubt that this will become in the near future a centre of flourishing and important trade and other towns in Kolhapur state will derive considerable benefits by emulating the example of Ichalkaranji.

The ruler of Ichalkaranji named Babasaheb Ghorpade did assist the industrial development of this city in every possible way for regulating civic affairs. A separate Municipal Council was established by him in 1893 A.D. with his full encouragement, the powerlooms were installed and grey cloth was produced.

Though Ichalkaranji had a long tradition of handloom weaving, so as to attract the industry to itself, Babasaheb Ghorpade brought some 'Koshti' families from outside of Ichalkaranji, allotted land for their residence cum-factories and gave them initial financial assistance to produce cloth on handloom.

The other factor which must be mentioned here in industrial development of Ichalkaranji is that, ' commercial services, like banking and marketing grew up and developed.' The Marwadi merchant built up a market for powerloom saree. Labourers became familiar with technique of industry and in course of time a high standard of workmanship was developed.

A small settlement of Ichalkaranji has become important city today. It occupies 18.13 sq.km area. In recent years the expansion of city limit brought two important places Kabnur and Shahapur in the urban industrial complex of the Ichalkaranji city.

2.2 THE GROWTH OF POPULATION :

Being an important textile powerloom and weaving, commercial centre of South Maharashtra, the city of Ichalkaranji has expanded its area and population during the 20th century. According to the census of 1901, the place has population of 12,920 persons. It was classified as a town in 1893. According to the census of 1961, the Ichalkaranji city was ranked 8th in Maharashtra, but according to the census of 1971 it ranks 6th in Maharashtra. Now this time, this city ranks in class four cities in Maharashtra. According to the year 1901 the population of this city was 12,920. In 1911 the population was decreased that went down to 10,239. Since in 1921 the population of Ichalkaranji city shows

continuous increasing trends of the population. In 1921 the population was 10,244. In the 1931 the population was 11,940, in 1941 the population was 18,574. In 1951 the population was 27,423, in 1961 the population was 50,978 and in 1971 the population was 87,731 and today according to 1981 census, the population of city is 1,33,704. Now in recent years the expansion of city limit brought the two important places Kabnur and Shahapur with population 26,885, which includes in Ichalkaranji city, now the population of city is 1,60,636. During the 1901 the period due to the several epidemics, the growth rate of population is zero. The population of Ichalkaranji city showed decrease. In 1921 the growth rate indicates 56.03 percent growth during the decade in 1941 and growth rate decrease in 1951. During the last two decades (1961 and 1971) the growth of Ichalkaranji city shows 85.90 and 72.10 growth rate of population but in 1981 the population was increased but growth rate of population is decreased. Table 2.1 shows growth of population of Ichalkaranji city.

When we study the population growth of Ichalkaranji city, we have seen that after the independence this city is included in class four city. In 1961 the population of this city has reached more than one half lakh and now in year 1981 census the population is more than one lakh considering this growth in population and expansion of city limit, the Fig.2.2

ICHALKARANJI CITY

GROWTH OF POPULATION

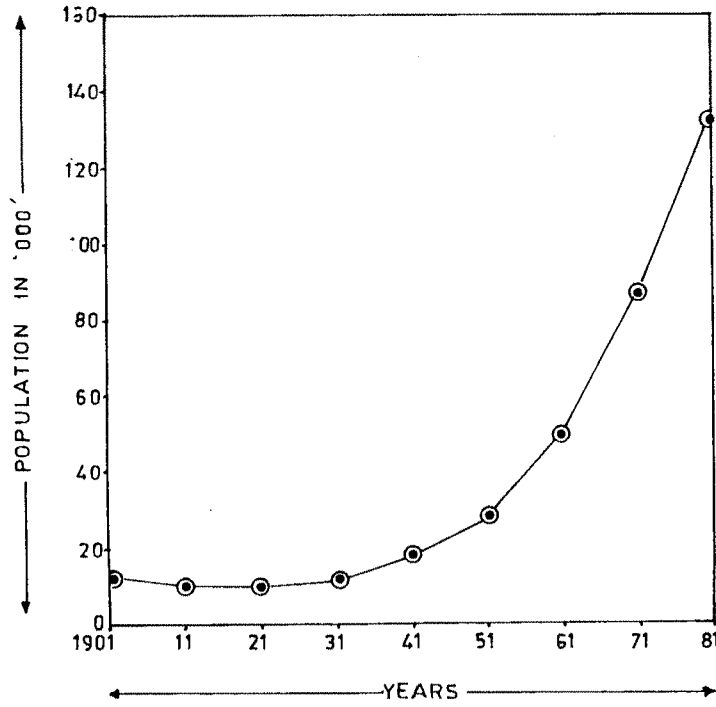


FIG 2-2

shows explanation of population growth of city, and the Table 2.1 gives the details of population and rate of growth.

TABLE 2.1 : Growth of population of Ichalkaranji city.

Sr. No.	Year	Population	Decadal changes	Growth rate in percentage
1	1901	12,920	-	-
2	1911	10,239	- 2,681	- 00.26
3	1921	10,240	+ 0.001	+ 00.09
4	1931	11,940	+ 1,700	+ 16.25
5	1941	18,574	+ 6,634	+ 56.03
6	1951	27,423	+ 8,849	+ 47.64
7	1961	50,978	+ 23,555	+ 85.90
8	1971	87,731	+ 36,753	+ 72.10
9	1981	133,704	+ 45,973	+ 52.40

2.3 PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT OF ICHALKARANJI CITY :

When we study about the phases of development of Ichalkaranji city, we observe that the Rajawada was the centre of Ichalkaranji village and around this core, the area of village expanded. In 1893, the city was very small and most of the population was living in the closed area of the city (Fig.2.3-A).

In 1985 the second phase of expansion began (Fig.2.3-B), most of the area of Gaonthana Kasaba Ichalkaranji, Rajawada and

*were there only
two small villages
which were merged*

PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT OF ICHALKARANJI CITY

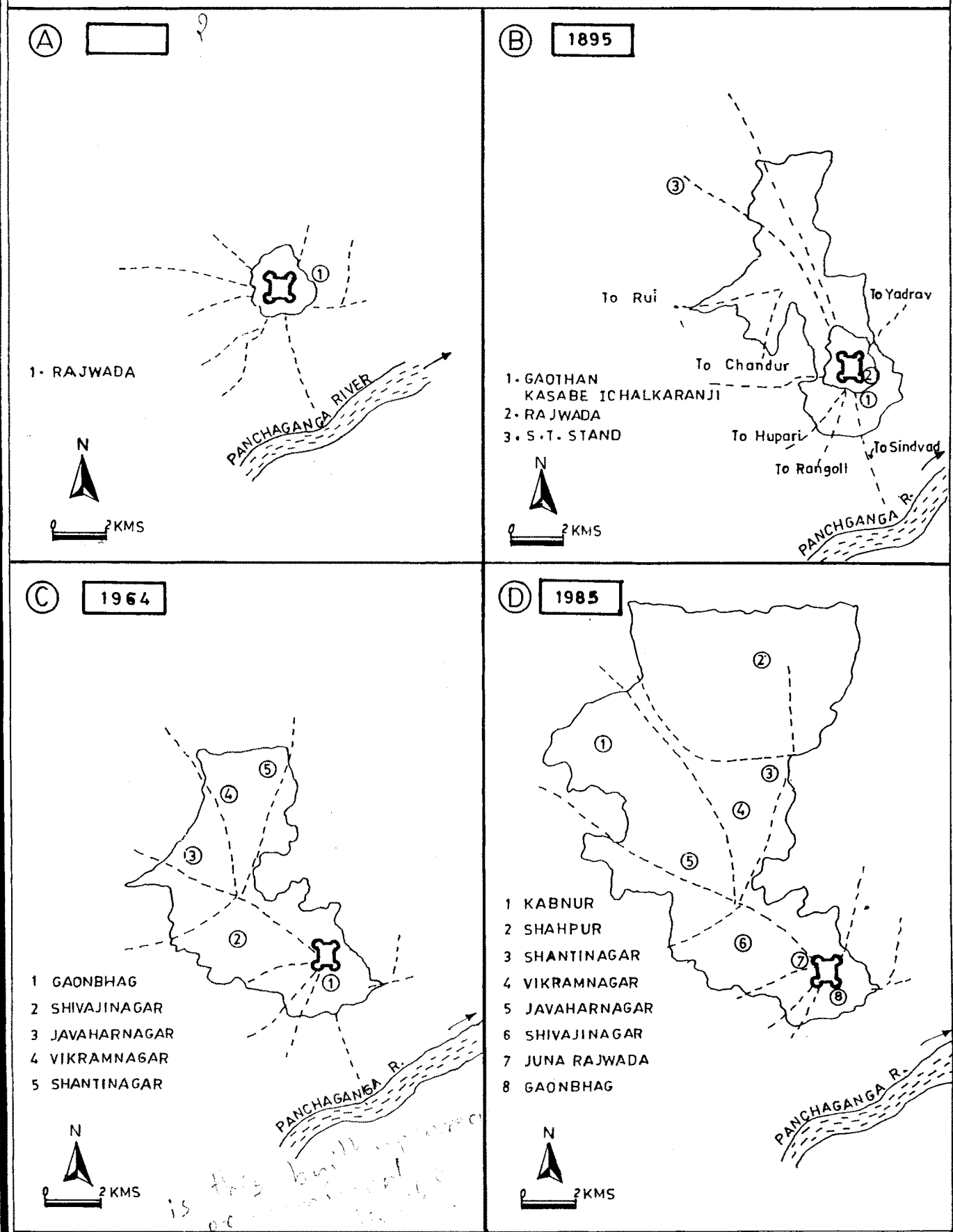


FIG. 2.3 (A)

EXPANSION OF CITY LIMIT

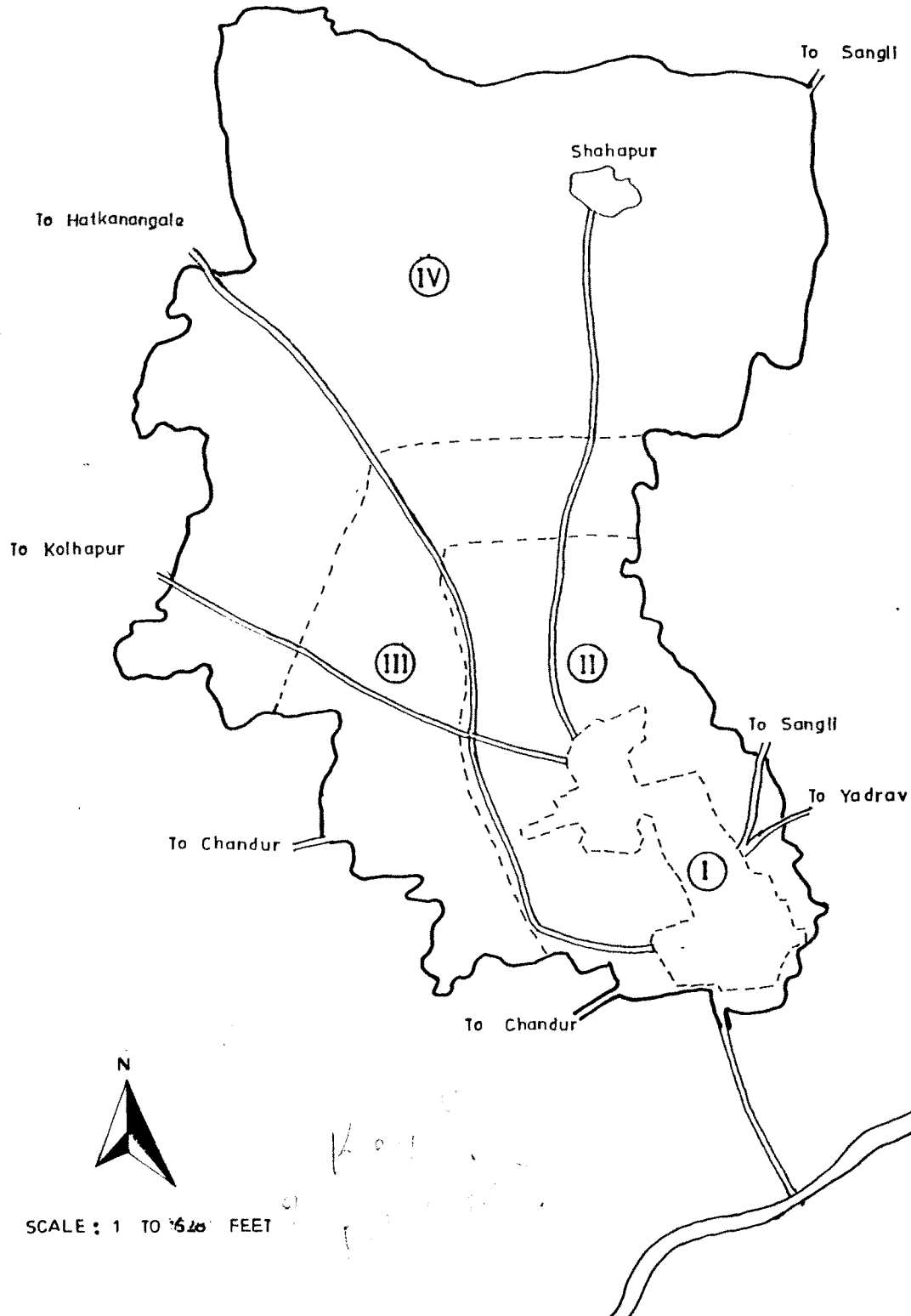


FIG. 2-3(B)

towards S.T. Bus Stand was occupied by the Ichalkaranji city.

In the recent period from the year 1964, the city began to expand towards the S.T. Bus Stand, and Kolhapur road and Hatkanangale road, north and west directions including Gaonbhag, Shivaji Nagar, Javahar Nagar, Vikram Nagar and Shanti Nagar area, this area was developed during first half of the 20th century (Fig.2.3-C). *9 No. (bound)*

At present, after the establishment of municipal council, the city limit has been expanded in the north and west direction. In 1985 the area of city boundary has been expanded. Today, the area of city occupies 18.13 sq.km and after the inclusion of Kabnur and Shahapur area the total area has grown upto 25.67 sq. km (Fig.2.3-D). *4 No. (bound)*

2.4 GROWTH OF FUNCTIONS AND FUNCTIONAL

AREA IN ICHALKARANJI CITY :

The area of Ichalkaranji city is divided into ten wards. Ward No.1 is located around the Rajawada. Ward No.7 is centrally located. It is around the S.T. Bus Stand, Ward No.1 to 8 constitute the municipal shopping zone of the city, several important roads from these wards go into different directions. Ichalkaranji-Kolhapur main road divides the nine and ten number wards. The big industrial units are located in ward numbers nine and ten in zone area. The sugar factory, Shetakari Sahakari Vinkari Sut Girni, The Deccan Spinning Mill, Market Yard etc. are located in the above

wards, some broad functional areas are as follows.

2.4.1 Commercial Area :

The main business area of the city lies from the Rajawada to Shahu Putala. The main road, Gandhi putala, Rajawada chowk, Shivaji Nagar, Kolhapur road side, Gujari peth, Janata Bank, Shahu putala, these areas are the major commercial core of the Ichalkaranji city.

The Shivaji Putala to Deccan Spinning Mill, Janata Bank to Vikram Nagar and Shanti Nagar, Gandhi Putala to Kapad market and Shahapur area. Rajawada to Sangli road, Rajawada to Siradvad road naka, Shahu putala to Kolhapur naka road side, Shivaji putala to Prakash Uttam talkies road side etc. have also commercial activities.

2.4.2 Wholesale and Retail trade :

The main wholesale trade area found in Ichalkaranji city, particularly in Shivaji Nagar, Janata bank area, Gaonbhag, Market yard area, which are located along the important roads.

2.4.3 Industrial area and Industries :

- i) Shetakari Sahakari Vinkari Sut Girni (Spinning Mill) is located in the 9th ward along the Ichalkaranji Sangli-Miraj road.
- ii) The Panchaganga Co-operative Sugar Factory is located in the area of north-west side of the city, which is

INCHALKARNJI CITY FUNCTIONAL ZONES

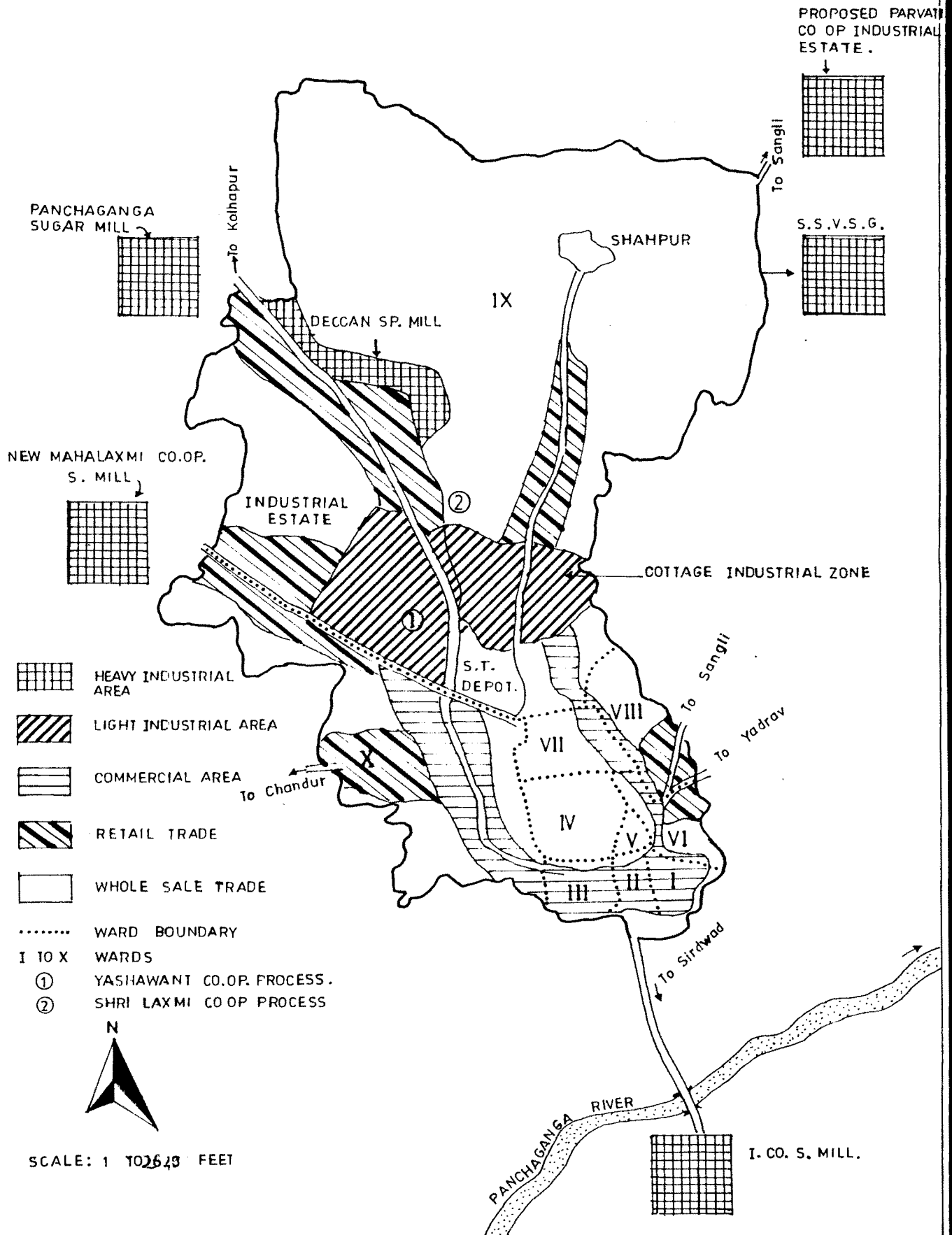


FIG. 2.4

in Ward No.9 in Panchaganga Nagar area.

- iii) The Deccan Spinning Mill and the Nav-Maharashtra Co-Operative Spinning Mills are also located north and west direction of Ichalkaranji city.
- iv) The Ichalkaranji Co-Operative Spinning Mill is located in the southern part and is far away from the city which is in Sivanakwadi area.
- v) The Yeshawant Co-operative process and the Laximi Co-operative process are located in the middle area of the city.

Some of the other industries are like printing and dying on the cloth, printing press, cotton textile industry, saw mill, leather goods, bricks, weavers, cotton and wool, manufacturing of shoes and other footwares, gold and smithy, hardware, medical stores, production of some mills spare parts etc.

2.5 CULTURAL IMPORTANCE :

This Ichalkaranji city is originated as an important settlement from the 18th century. This city was granted by Chh. Shahu to Naro Mahadev Joshi (Ghorpade). So this Jahagiri of Ichalkaranji town has also historical importance culturally. This city was also famous. In this city there are two drama community halls and one public library and one reading room.

2.6 EDUCATION :

Being the centre of textile and weaving industries, this city has also become an educational centre. There are six colleges, these are arts, commerce, science, textile, education, technical colleges, as well as six junior colleges of arts, commerce and science, education etc. The senior colleges are affiliated to the Shivaji University, so Ichalkaranji city is educationally progressive.

2.7 FINANCE :

In 1961 there were ten bank offices in the city. Today there are more than 25 banking offices in this city. Out of them some banks are nationalized and some banks are scheduled banks and some banks are co-operative, one besides there are many Nagari Co-operative Path Sanstha's which have good financial credit. There are also some agricultural and non-agricultural credit societies in the Ichalkaranji city.

2.8 OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE :

In the Ichalkaranji city the population has been growing in every decade. Out of the total population, workers constitute the majority, they are engaged in power-looms weaving industry, trade, commerce, transport, storage and communication, and other services, concerning with main business. There were 19,431 workers in the year 1961. The number increased in the years of 1971 and 1981 respectively

to 28,082 and 43,246 workers. The number of non-workers is greater than that of the workers. There were 31,547 non-workers in 1961; 59,644 non-workers in 1971, and 89,598 non-workers in 1981. The total non-working population is more than the working population.

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