

## C H A P T E R - 1

ICHALKARANJI : CENTRE OF CO-OPERATIVE FACTORIES .1. INTRODUCTION

The present chapter deals with location of area under study, the contribution of Narayan Ghorapade in the industrial development of Ichalkaranji. The chapter also takes a sketch regarding emergence and development of co-operative factories in Ichalkaranji.

2. LOCATION OF ICHALKARANJI

Ichalkaranji is situated in Western Maharashtra, 29 K.M. east-way from historical city Kolhapur. This city is situated midway between Kolhapur and Miraj railway line and it is 9.6 K.M. south of railway station Hatakangle<sup>an</sup>, which is also it's taluka place. The location of Ichalkaranji is shown in Figure 1.1.

Ichalkaranji is situated on latitude 16°-40' north and on longitude 74°-32' Ichalkaranji lies in the Panchaganga valley and half a mile<sup>ie</sup> 1.6 K.M. north of Panchaganga river.

The locatioin of Ichalkaranji in the State of Maharasntra and in Kolhapur District is shown in figure No.1.1.

3. ICHALKARANJI : INDUSTRIAL BACKGROUND .

Ichalkaranji had got a tradition of weaving industry long before 1845. The record shows that "in 1845 A.D. in Hatakangle taluka

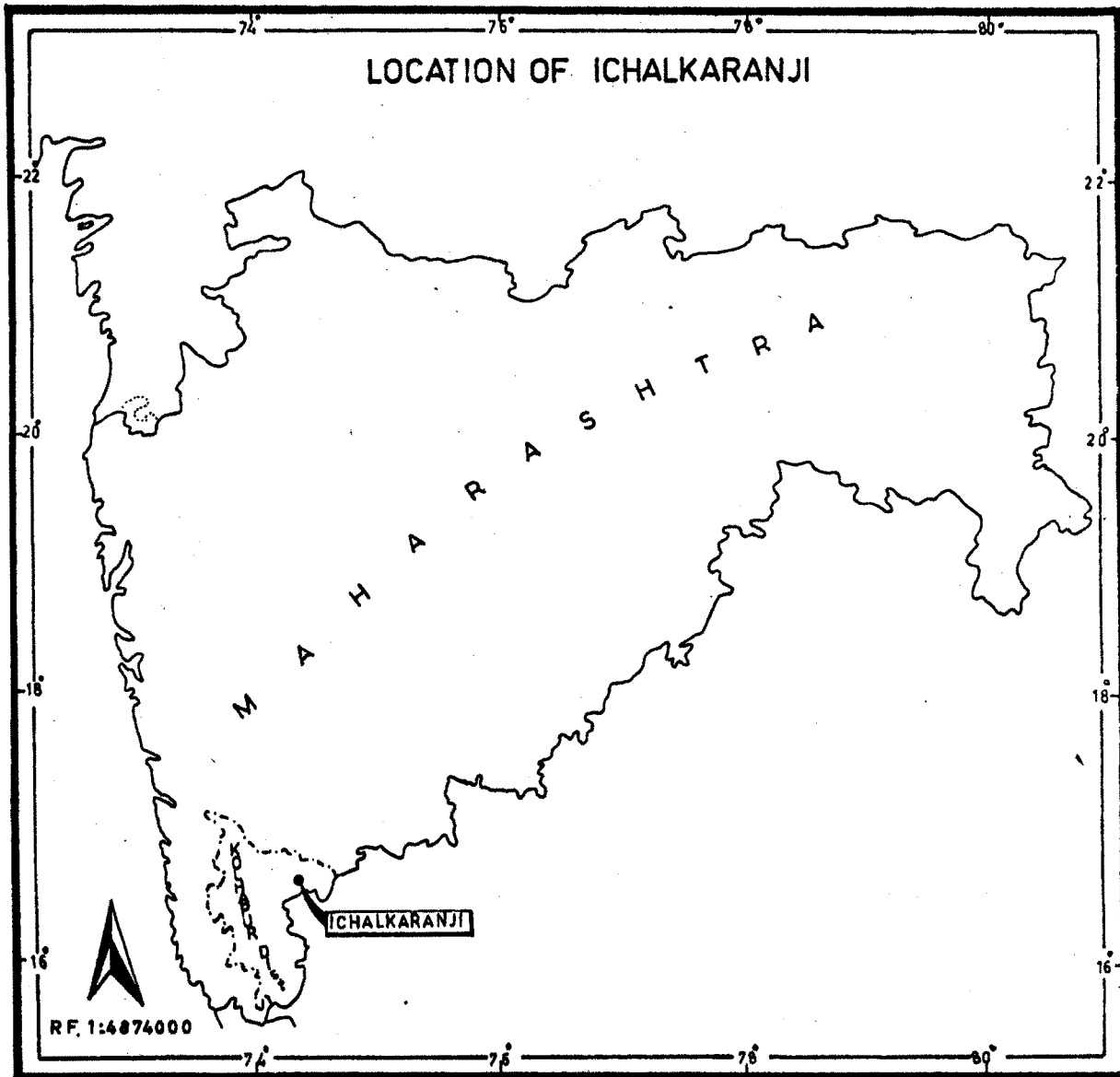


Fig.1.1

of Kolhapur District, there were 636 hand-loom, of which 236 hand-loom were in Ichalkaranji itself".<sup>1</sup>

By 1882 there were 3102 total number of weaving looms and "of those 688 were in Alte, 654 in Gadahinglaj, 236 in Panhala, 179 in Kagal, 422 in Karvir, 397 in Shirol, 350 in Ichalkaranji, 86 in Bhudargad, 58 in Bavada and 32 in Vishalgad besides these 17 looms in Kolhapur jail. Factory weaved all sorts of cloths".<sup>2</sup>

Considering the rise of power-loom industry in Ichalkaranji Late Shrimant Narayanrao Babasaheb Ghorpade was installed on the Gadi of little Jahagir in 1892. The ruler was progressive in out-look and was anxious to foster the growth of the township and its seaving industry. He did his best to encourage and promote the development of the industry by providing all types of facilities such as providing finance, giving tax concessions, making available cheap plots of lands etc." The visible efforts of this policy of active encouragement was seen in the number of looms which stood to 475 in the year 1895."<sup>3</sup>

Under the leadership of Ghorpade, Ichalkaranji became an important power-loom weaving center and later came to be known as "Manchester of Maharashtra".

The first power-loom factory known as Vyankatesh Rangtantu mills was started by Vitthalrao Datar in 1908".<sup>4</sup>

The II World War brought a brief spell of prosperity to the hand-loom as well as to this new infant power-loom industry. The prosperity in evidence many other persons entered in this industry but the progress was rather slow. The owner of power-loom closely

studied the demands and new trends in women fashions and introduced a distinctive type of fabric widely known as "Patal" with the imported mercerised yarn popularised a completely new type of Saree with new border design and colour shades which gave a pleasingly attractive appearance to it.

In the year 1929 the depression period gave an impetus to the power loom industry at Ichalkaranji. Many enterprising persons purchased second-hand power-loom which had been discarded by composite mills in Bombay, Ahmedabad etc."<sup>5</sup>

*Reference : page 71*

Moreover, with support of Babasaheb Ghorpade the first Bank in Ichalkaranji Central co-operative Bank was started in 1929 (now converted into Ichalkaranji Urban Co-operative Bank). The other factors which must be mentioned in Industrial Development of Ichalkaranji are that of services liking and marketing grew up and developed.

The development in power-loom industry can be noted from the fact that in 1950 there were only 2000 power-looms and those increased upto 45,000 in 1984.

Thus we may say that under the guidance of Babasaheb Ghorpade, Ichalkaranji started developing as an industrial center. This development was restricted in the private sector. After independence the co-operative movement emerged and industries were set up in this sector.

*discontinuity*

- growers and weavers in the area and was first of its kind in India. Here also Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar is the man behind the establishment of the Girni.

Apart from these two mills, Sri K.B.Awade took the leading role in establishing Ichalkaranji Co-operative Spinning Mill. It was registered on 18th June 1974 and commenced production on 9th Sept. 1977. The photograph of ICO Spinning mill is shown on page 6.

*recently*  
Again the Nav-Maharashtra Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd. Ichalkaranji which is 100% export oriented unit, registered on 4th December 1979, under the leadership of Shri K.B.Awade and Shri S.M. Bidkar. The photograph of Nav Maharashtra *Co-op. Spinning mill* is shown on page 7.

Thus, it can be noted that the phase of co-operative spinning mills was started at Ichalkaranji and at present there are four mills which are in operation.

Apart from the spinning mills, there are three processing mills in the co-operative sector viz.,

- i) Laxmi Co-operative Processers Ltd.,  
registered on 22nd August 1957.
- ii) Yashwant Co-operative Processers' Ltd.  
registered on 14th March 1963, and
- iii) Vyankatesh Co-operative Processers Ltd.  
registered on 10th March 1975.

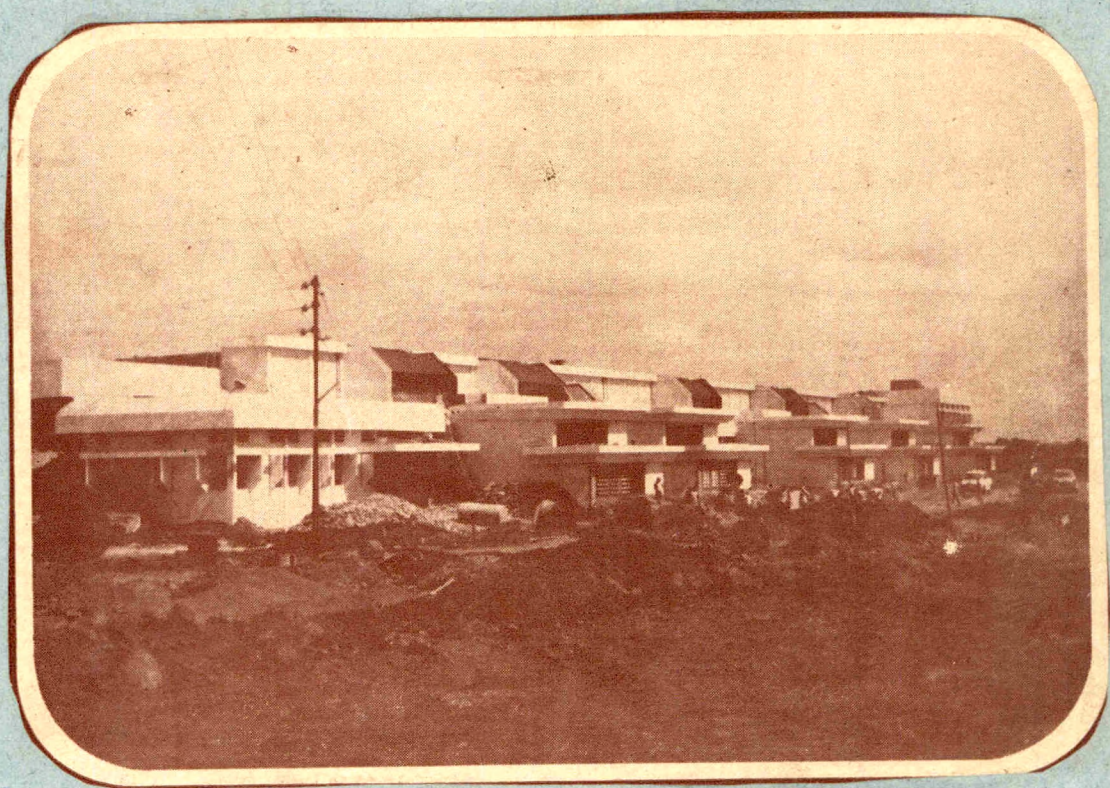
The above noted mills are in textile industry. But the co-operative movement was not restricted *only* to this industry but it spread to other industries also.





THE ICHALKARANJI CO-OPERATIVE SPINNING MILLS LTD., ICHALKARANJI





NAV MAHARASHTRA SAHAKARI SOOT GIRANI LTD., ICHALKARANJI



#### 4. EMERGENCE OF CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT AFTER INDEPENDENCE

In the period of after-independence, Shri Panchaganga Sanakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd. Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji was registered in 1955. The first crushing season was started in 1958-59. There are 102 villages in its area of operation from five talukas viz. Hatakangle, Shirol, Kagal, Karveer in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra and Chikodi taluka from Belgaum district of Karnataka State. The photograph of Panchaganga factory is shown on page 9.

Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar is the founder and President of Shri Panchaganga Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Ganganagar, Ichalkaranji. Thus the co-operative movement in industry was started at Ichalkaranji under the able guidance of Shri Ratnappa Kumbhar and he has been honoured with D.Litt. from Poona University for his substantial contribution in the field of co-operative movement.

The Deccan Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd., Ichalkaranji was registered on 3rd December 1960. The production was started on 18th December 1962. The Deccan Co-operative Spinning Mills was thus vanguard in the spinning activity at Ichalkaranji. It was the first co-operative spinning mills in Maharashtra. The Deccan Co-operative Spinning Mills is having contribution of weavers and it was established under the guidance of Shri A.G.Kulkarni, M.P. and late Shri Dattajirao Kadam, M.P.

Further, Kolhapur Zilla Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girni Ltd., Ratnappa Kumbhar Nagar Ichalkaranji was registered on 17th August 1968. This Mill was the product of the joint efforts of cotton





SHRI PANCHAGANGA CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORY LTD., GANGANAGAR, ICHALKARANJI

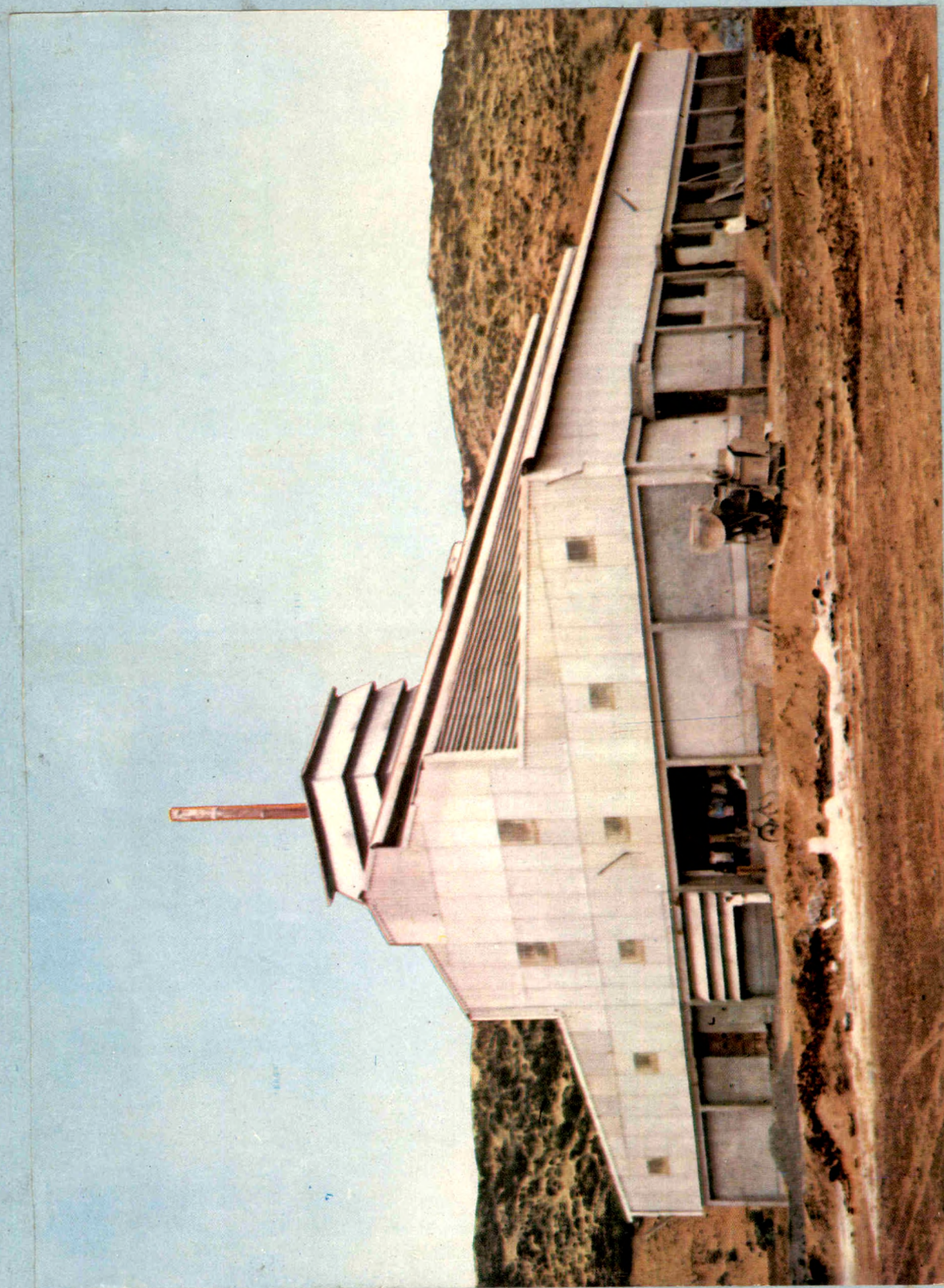


This is evident from the establishment of cement factory in co-operative sector. The Ichalkaranji Co-operative Cement Industries Ltd., Ichalkaranji was registered in 1985 under the leadership of Shri Prataprao Hogade. The photograph of cement factory is shown on page 11.

Thus, it can be said that in Ichalkaranji, the phase of co-operative industries was started in 1955 with the registration of sugar factory and now there are co-operative factories in Sugar, Textile and Cement industries and on this basis it can be said that Ichalkaranji has become a centre of co-operative factories.

The locations of co-operative factories in and around Ichalkaranji can be seen in Figure 1.2. on page 12.





, ICHALKARANJI CO-OPERATIVE CEMENT INDUSTRIES LTD., ICHALKARANJI



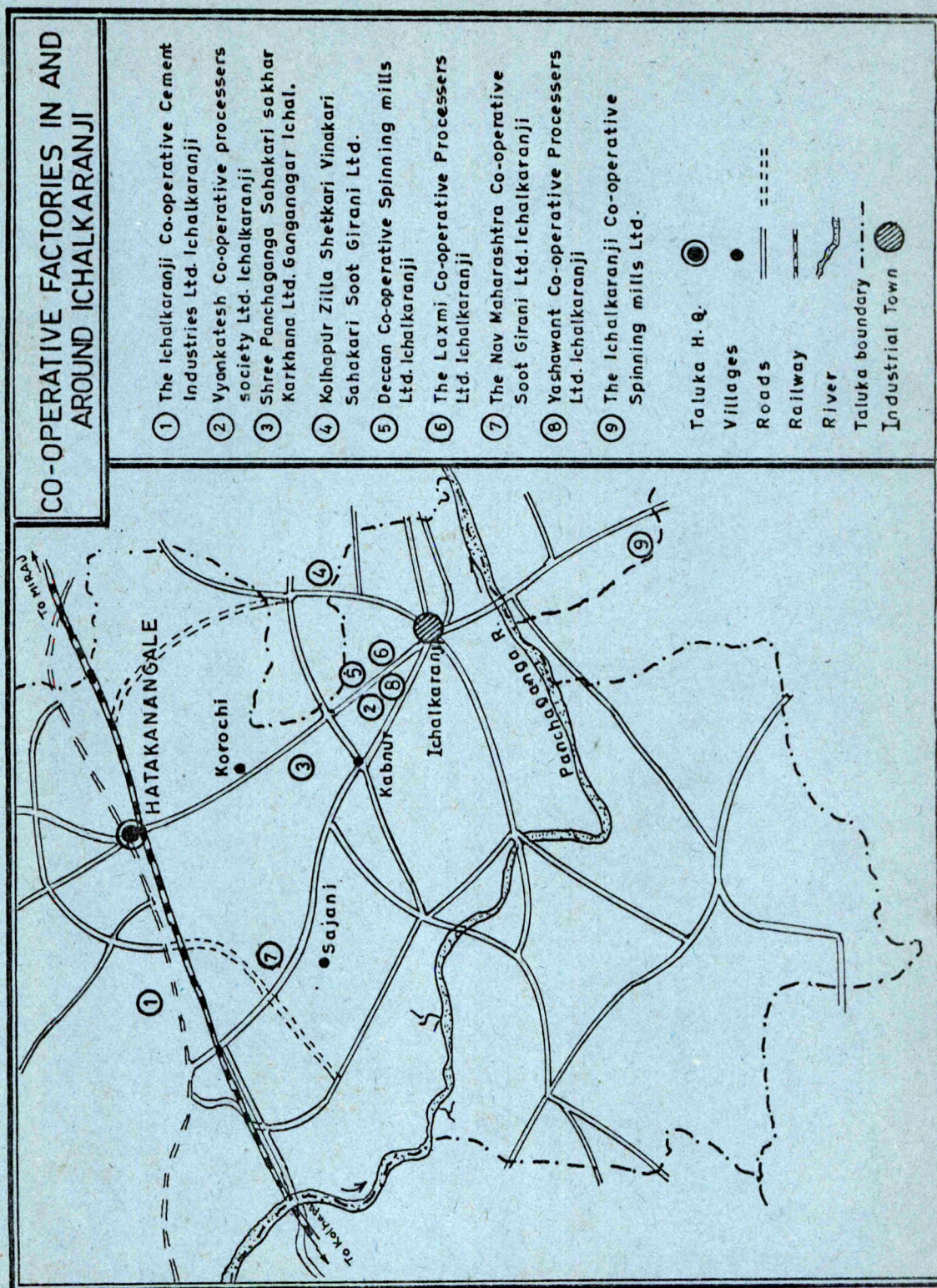


Fig. 1.2



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5           see page no 4.