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CHAPTER FOUR : A FLASH-BACK OF BHAGWANT GROUP

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Chapter - 4

A FLASH-BACK OF BHAGWANT GROUP

4.1 FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY

Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi is the pioneering consumer cooperative society in Barsi town. It is an unique consumer cooperative organisation not only in Barsi town but in the whole of Solapur district also. It has a long and successful history of about four decades. It is known not only as a leading consumer cooperative society but also as the premier cooperative society in the district providing a large and progressively increasing variety of services to the people.

The Bhagwant Society saw the daylight on account of the initiative and efforts of its pioneers B.P. Sulakhe, V.J. Kher, V.V. Divate and V.N. Kothari who were well aware of the benefits of cooperation and had strong faith in the unity of a consumer cooperative society. They had the will and determination to launch the activity in Barsi town. The first meeting of 15 founder members of the 'Bhagwant' was held under the chairmanship of B.P. Sulakhe on 13th May, 1948 and unanimous decision was taken to start a <sup>consumer</sup> cooperative store in Barsi town with a view to protect the interest of the poor and middle class customers by providing

necessary goods. Information about the fifteen pioneers of the Society as given in Table 4.1 will be quite

Table 4.1

Pioneers of the Bhagwant Society

Sr. No.	Name	Age	Caste	Occupation
1.	Sulakhe B.P.	59	Brahmin	Advocate and Businessman
2.	Sulakhe R.B.	28	Brahmin	Advocate
3.	Jayfalkar D.K.	46	Brahmin	Teacher
4.	Vishwarupe M.V.	46	Brahmin	Advocate
5.	Shah H.V.	30	Gujar	Business
6.	Katkar G.K.	24	Kasar	Business
7.	Divate V.V.	46	Brahmin	Advocate
8.	Kher V.J.	36	Brahmin	Teacher
9.	Sulakhe M.B.	22	Brahmin	-
10.	Sulakhe S.B.	20	Brahmin	-
11.	Kothari V.N.	56	Gujar	Business
12.	Karwa S.G.	56	Marwadi	Business
13.	Divate G.V.	36	Brahmin	Service
14.	Javalkar V.G.	36	Shimpi	Business
15.	Abdulgani Ibrahim	66	Muslim	Business

Source : Office records of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Purvatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi.

interesting. The pioneers were an admixture of matured and young by age, of professionals and businessmen by vocation and of Hindus and non-Hindus by ethnic groups. Such a cross-section of persons was bound to inspire confidence among people at large about the new endeavour to be initiated.

An application of the proposed Society was sent to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Central Division, Pune on the very day of the first meeting. The efforts sooner culminated into the registration of the society under the Cooperative Societies Act on 8th March 1949 vide registration number C 1169. Initially it was named as "Sarva Vyavasayee Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi". B.P. Sulakhe became the founder chairman.

To begin with, the Society had the following objectives<sup>1</sup>:

- (1) To run controlled shops by taking licences from the government. To purchase and to sell all sorts of cloths, cotton, foodgrains, dals, medicines, oils, stationery, cement, petrol, iron and iron goods, etc. and other necessary things. To work as a commission agent of other societies.
- (2) To distribute the profit among the members and non-members and to utilise some part of the profit for public services as per provisions of the bye-laws.

In the beginning the authorised capital of the Society was Rs.25,000 which was divided into 250 shares of Rs.100 each. Other sources of finance were loans and deposits. The maximum limit of deposits was upto the amount of paid-up capital and for loans, three times the paid-up capital. It was resolved that loans would be taken from Barsi Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd., Barsi.

#### 4.2 INITIAL BOOSTERS

Since the opening of the store as a primary cooperative society, the promoters were deeply interested in boosting its sales as best as they could by inspiring the confidence of the consumers at large about the bona fides of the society. For the purpose, in the very first year a number of useful measures were taken by the society, some of them were as under :

- (1) home delivery service to the customers by taking a nominal charge of a quarter Ana per Rupee;
- (2) to pay special attention to the grievances of the customers;
- (3) to persuade the members through personal contacts to buy from the store;
- (4) publicity of the store by showing slides in the cinema houses of the town;

- (5) bonus to non-members on purchases of Rs.50 and more;
- (6) facility of one month's credit upto Rs.20 to those who would open their monthly account with the store by paying an advance of Rs.5;
- (7) appointment of a special sub-committee of two members from the Executive Committee to supervise the sales activity and
- (8) incentive payment to the store staff for promoting sales

These measure were helpful to the store not only in making a good start but also in establishing itself on sound footing. The potentialities of the store to grow were reflected in the remarks of the first Audit Report of the Cooperative Department submitted on 30th April, 1950 after checking the accounts till March, 1950. The Report opined that the Society had a very good start and careful nurturing of the Society by its members and office-bearers would surely make the Society progressive and prosperous in the near future.<sup>2</sup>

#### 4.3 WIDENING THE NETWORK

The pioneers of the Society were interested in developing the organisation into almost a monolithic institution after getting well-set into the activity. The history of the growth of the Society till 1986 is

the history of the efforts to bring the dream into reality. As and when the opportunities arose, the Society strove to cast its network wider by developing new organs. In March, 1958 a Welfare Centre was started, in March, 1964 another consumer store by name Barsi Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar was opened and in September, 1971 a milk society named Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Doodh Vyavasaik Sanstha was launched. The year 1974 saw the establishment of Bharatiya Sanskar Kendra in June and a dal mill (Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Dal Prakriya Sanstha) in November. Shree Bhagwant Yantramag Seva Sahakari Sanstha was added in November, 1980. The Society was encouraged to launch this institution in 1980 because in March 1978 it was elevated to the status of a Central Store which can be treated as a mark of recognition of its role and soundness and desire to take benefits of the status of Central Society.

Thereafter the Society entered into new areas. A cooperative housing society came into existence in January 1983 followed within a week by another primary consumer store (Siddhartha Sahakari Grahak Sanstha). In October 1983, a credit society (Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Nagari Pat Sanstha) was opened.

The Bhagwant Society thus began with consumer service at primary level but gradually undertook cooperative ventures in other areas too rising thereby

to a higher status. The monolithic superstructure of a network of cooperative institutions that has emerged as a result is known now as the "Bhagwant Group".

Table 4.2 enlists the institutions of the Group in their chronological order.

Table 4.2  
Institutions of the Bhagwant Group

Sr. No.	Name of the Institution	Registra- tion No.	Date of Estab- lishment	Age of the insti- tution in Oct.1987
1.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd., Barsi	C/1169	8-3-1949	38 yrs.
*2.	Welfare Centre, Barsi	E-C-219	27-3-1958	29 yrs.
@3.	Barsi Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Maryadit	SUR/CON- 105	1) 5-3-1964 2) 1-1-1973 3) 5-1-1977	23 yrs. 14 yrs. 10 yrs.
4.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Doodh Vyavasaik Sanstha Maryadit	SUR/PRD- A-111-2	29-9-1971	16 yrs.
*5.	Bharatiya Sanskar Kendra		-6-1974	13 yrs.
6.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Dal Prakriya Sanstha Maryadit	SUR/PRG/ A-1	28-11-1974	13 yrs.
7.	Shree Bhagwant Yantramag Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit	So D Vi/ Sadhan Sanstha	3-11-1980	7 yrs.
8.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Gruha Nirman Sanstha Maryadit	BRS/HSD/ 1141/83	15-1-1983	4 yrs.
9.	Siddhartha Sahakari Grahak Sanstha Maryadit	SUR/BRS/ CON/1033/ 83	25-1-1983	4 yrs.
10.	Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Nagari Pat Sanstha Maryadit		10-10-1983	4 yrs.

Note : (1) \* Public trust  
(2) @ Established in 1974, appointed administrator in 1973 and returned for democratic administration in 1977.

Source: Compiled from the records of the 'Bhagwant Group'.



The Bhagwant Group, by end of 1987, thus consisted of in all 10 institutions of which 2 were central consumer stores, a primary consumer store, a milk cooperative, a dal cooperative mill, a housing cooperative, a credit cooperative, a powerloom cooperative and 2 public trusts. Decadewise progress was as shown in Table 4.3. The details point out that the Society

Table 4.3

Decadewise growth of the Bhagwant Group

Period	No. of institutions established	Kinds of institutions established
1941-50	1	Consumer cooperative
1951-60	1	Public trust
1961-70	1	Consumer cooperative
1971-80	4	Milk cooperative Public trust Dal cooperative Powerloom cooperative
1981-	3	Consumer cooperative Housing cooperative Credit cooperative

Source : Annual Reports and office records of the society. was quite active since the beginning of the nineteen seventies as 7 of the 10 institutions were established over a span of 12 years from 1971 to 1983. It is a reflection of the confidence gained by the Society with earlier modest experience. It should be noted that both central/federal stores in Barsi - Bhagwant and

Madhyavarti Grahak - belonged to Bhagwant Group.

All the 10 institutions of the Bhagwant Group had independent statutory existence. But they are working under the directives of the parent body 'Sarvya Vyavasai Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali', renamed in March 1978 as 'Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali'. Thus, the Bhagwant Group has done a pioneering (serving) in building a sound base for cooperative activity not only in Barsi town but also in Barsi taluka.

#### 4.4 FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANS OF THE BHAGWANT GROUP

This section gives in brief the vital details of each of the 10 institutions run by the Bhagwant Group.

##### 4.4.1 SHREE BHAGWANT SAHAKARI PURAVATHA MANDALI LIMITED.

The establishment and growth of this pioneering institution has already been discussed at length. Its present position only can be stated. As a central store now the society undertakes supply of a wide variety of goods for the consumers through its various departments located at different places as also three of its branches. The Departments comprise grocery, kerosene (wholesale and retail), petrol pump, cloth (district distribution) uncontrolled cloth (wholesale), cloth (retail), printing press, foodgrains, other essential goods and rural distribution project. All these departments are working

in a single premise. Besides, the society is running independent sections at five other localities in the town. The society owns two branches, one at Solapur and the other at Paranda, an oil mill at Vairag and gur and Khandsari plant at Pangari. The expanse of the society looks like a banyan tree.

#### 4.4.2 WELFARE CENTRE

##### I. Establishment

It is a public trust registered as a charitable Trust under Charitable Trust and Societies Registration Act, 1960 having registration number E-C-219 of Solapur (Maharashtra), dated 27th March, 1958.

##### II. Main Objects<sup>3</sup>

- (1) To give medical help of all kinds at Barsi and at such other places as the Board of Trustees will determine from time to time.
- (2) To implement the family planning scheme in all its aspects.
- (3) To conduct hospital and dispensaries to give medical help to poor and needy persons.
- (4) To do such other activity conducive to the welfare of the public at Barsi or such other place or places as the Board of Trustees may determine from time to time.

III. Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Centre is of 6 members. They are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Centre and act as such for three years. Three trustees retire every year in rotation. The Chairman is elected by the trustees from amongst themselves. Three is the quorum for a meeting of the trustees.

IV. Progress

The Welfare Centre has a hospital having 10 beds. All 10 beds are free implying thereby free bed and free medical care.

The institution has undertaken family planning sterilisation work since 1974-75 as shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4

Family planning cases of Welfare Centre

Year	Family planning cases
1974-75	280
1979-80	280
1980-81	360
1981-82	360
1982-83	450
1983-84	454
1984-85	270
1985-86	301

Source : Office of the Welfare Centre.

Apart from this, medical services are provided by Health Centre specially to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes people of the slum areas.

Till 1987 there was no ambulance service available in Barsi town. The Centre decided to fill this void in the town's medical facilities and therefore, applied to the Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 15th March, 1985 for a suitable grant. The request bore fruit with a grant of Rs. 1 lakh on 31-3-1986. The Centre purchased an ambulance for the purpose of service to society.

#### 4.4.3 SHREE BHAGWANT SAHAKARI DOODH VYAVASAIK SANSTHA MARYADIT.

##### I. Establishment

The milk cooperative is registered under the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act with registration No. SUR/PRD/A-111-2/71, dated 29-9-1971. This institution completed 17 years on June, 1986.

##### II. Main Objectives<sup>4</sup>

- (1) To encourage thrift, self help and cooperation among the members.
- (2) To purchase and to provide cattle feed, cotton seed, deoiled cake, bran, husk, etc. to the members and non-members and to encourage members to produce milk and milk products.

(3) To protect milch animals from diseases by providing veterinary service.

(4) To encourage the members to develop the dairy activity effectively.

### III. Management

The management of the Society vests in 9 directors elected by the general body for three years.

### IV. Progress

Table 4.5 reveals the progress of the Doodh Sanstha during 1980-81 to 1985-86. The membership has increased from 470 in 1980-81 to 492 in 1985-86 and reserve fund also rose from Rs.34,860 to Rs.40,906. But the paid-up capital and members' deposits show a marginal decrease. Importantly, gross and net profit show erratic fluctuations. The Sanstha suffered a set back in gross and net profit in 1983-84 and 1985-86 so that it experience net loss in the former year and a paltry amount of Rs.801 as net profit in the latter year.

#### 4.4.4 BHARATIYA SANSKAR KENDRA

##### I. Establishment

Bharatiya Sanskar Kendra is established as a public trust in June 1974 vide registration No.F 315/Solapur, 1974.

Table 4.5

Progress of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Doodh Vyavasaik Sanstha  
Maryadit

Item	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1. Membership	470	472	471	473	473	492
2. Paid-up Capital	77,550	76,000	75,450	75,000	74,750	74,750
3. Reserve Fund	34,860	37,203	38,959	40,905	40,905	40,906
4. Members' Deposit	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
5. Investment	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,800
6. Total purchases	3,07,303	2,19,557	89,444	4,28,800	6,51,608	3,95,130
7. Total Sales	3,27,085	2,28,993	1,06,000	4,35,432	6,64,687	4,02,202
8. Gross Profit	19,782	9,435	16,555	6,631	13,079	7,071
9. Net Profit	9,321	8,592	8,735	- 2,520	11,548	801

Note : Figures from the records are rounded.

Source: Annual Report and Office records of the Milk Cooperative, 1980-81 to 1985-86.

## II. Objectives<sup>5</sup>

- (1) To introduce the core of Indian Culture to the public at large through activities such as lectures, meetings, debates, etc.
- (2) To help the institutions working with similar objectives.
- (3) To help the poor affected by natural calamities.
- (4) To help the social workers who are devoting themselves wholeheartedly for social service.

## III. Progress

This trust runs a store of goods required for last rituals (Antyavidhi Sahitya Vikri Kendra) to enable the people to get the necessary material at reasonable price and at one place only. The Kendra provides the material cost free to the poor. To run this store Barsi Municipal Council has provided accommodation at nominal rate.

The Kendra runs 30 classes of Adult Education under the Scheme of Central Government. These classes are run specially for illiterate women.

Since 1974 the Kendra organises the state level 'Paniru' debating competition for college students. It receives encouraging response every year. In addition, it organises annually 'Swami Haridas Music Competition' to develop the skills of classical music among college students.



The Kendra acts as a trustee of other public trusts in the town interested in similar activities.

With the help of Rajya Gramodyog Mandal the Kendra has recently started 'Polyvastra Project'. Under this project the Kendra has acquired 50 Amber charkhas on which 50 women are working. The Chemical and Fibres of India Ltd., Thane has given technical guidance for this project.

The Kendra has given financial help for eye donation and blood donation camps organised by local Rotary and Lions Clubs. Assistance has been extended also to Barsi Education Society Barsi and Public Library, Barsi. Since 1975 it has instituted prizes for decorations at the time of Ganesh Festival as an incentive for artistic and impressive decorations to be done by the organising groups.

#### 4.4.5 SHREE BHAGWANT SAHAKARI DAL PRAKRIYA SANSTHA, MARYADIT.

##### I. Establishment

Barsi is a famous centre for tur dal not only in Maharashtra but throughout India. There are 20 private dal mills in Barsi. But Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Dal Prakriya Sanstha, Maryadit is the only mill in cooperative sector established for giving reasonable rates to farmers for their raw material. It is established on 28th November, 1974 and commenced production from 20th

December, 1974. The activity was begun in a hired dal mill in the town.

## II. Main Objectives<sup>6</sup>

- (1) To accept raw material from members and non-members for further processing, to convert it into final product and also to produce by-product.
- (2) To provide advances against the raw materials accepted for processing.

## III. Management

The Board of Directors of the Society consists of seven members elected at the Annual General Meeting for three years. The Chairman is elected by directors from amongst themselves.

## IV. Progress

This is the first dal mill in Maharashtra on cooperative basis, so the Government of Maharashtra sanctioned Rs.30,000 as share capital. As per Table 4.6 the total membership of the Society has increased from 69 to 76 during the period 1980-85. Paid-up capital and reserve fund show very moderate increase while investment, processing in quintals and income from processing shows declining tendency. Income and Expenditure of the mill shows wide annual fluctuations affecting its profit position. It is a swinging between

Table 4.6

Progress of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Dal Prakriya Sanstha Maryadit

Items	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1. Members	69	69	74	76	76
of which					
(A) Individual	65	65	70	73	72
(B) Society	3	3	3	3	3
(C) Government	1	1	1	1	1
2. Paid-up Capital	64,510	64,700	64,900	64,200	65,200
3. Reserve Fund	26,940	29,021	29,023	31,108	32,108
4. Investment	9,500	9,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
5. Processing (in quintals)	7,145	8,332	8,937	4,243	4,570
6. Total Income	44,019	20,565	59,186	32,455	55,395
7. Total Expenditure	36,090	31,640	40,210	44,695	53,386
8. Net Profit	7,929	-11,075	8,976	-12,240	2,009

Note : Total income = processing income, interest, dividend etc.

Source : Annual Reports and Office records of the mill.

profit and loss almost alternately. The mill suffered loss of Rs.11,075 in 1981-82 and of Rs.12,240 in 1983-84. Profit has remained below Rs.8,000, on the whole during 1980-81 and 1984-85.

4.4.6 BARSII MADHYAVARTI SAHAKARI GRAHAK  
BHANDAR, MARYADIT.

I. Establishment

This consumer cooperative was registered on 5-3-1964 by group other than the 'Bhagwant Group'. In spite of a good beginning the society continued to function with hurdles which culminated into appointment by Cooperative Department of L.G. Deshmukh, Secretary of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Purvatha Mandali Ltd., as an administrator of this society from 1st January, 1973 to 4th January, 1977. An Expert Committee for consumer cooperatives appointed by the Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sangh had visited two consumer societies of Barsi town in 1972, of which one was Bhagwant Sahakari Puravatha Mandali Ltd. and another was Barsi Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar. In their report the Expert Committee remarked about the latter store as under :

"The store is short of fluid funds. The store had a medical shop which had to be closed. There is only limited scope for sales of cereals, pulses and grocery only".<sup>7</sup> The report threw light on the weaknesses of the society. Due to the inability of the present body

to manage the society, it was taken over by the Bhagwant Group and newly elected managing committee came in the Office from 5th January, 1977. Thus, the institution became one of the organs of the Bhagwant Group.

## II. Main Objectives<sup>8</sup>

- (1) To procure in wholesale and to store consumer goods for supply on wholesale or retail basis to consumer members and to other consumers and their organisations.
- (2) To provide for such servicing facilities to customers as may be considered necessary.
- (3) To undertake import of consumer goods and to undertake functions of distribution of controlled commodities, if so required by government as an agent or otherwise.
- (4) To encourage marketing, processing and manufacturing activities as and when possible without adversely affecting the interests of the other cooperative societies doing similar business.

## III. Management

The committee of management consist of 15 members as follows :

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Representatives of individual share holders under class 'A'     | 3 |
| (2) | Representatives of 'B' Class members                            | 2 |
| (3) | Representatives of 'C' Class members                            | 3 |
| (4) | Representatives of the Urban Banks and Salary Earners Societies | 1 |

(5)	Representatives of Central Financing Agencies	1
(6)	Representatives of 'E' Class Members	1
(7)	Members of the Stores, Cooperatives as Experts (of one would be a woman)	2
(8)	Representatives of State Government	1
(9)	General Manager as Ex-Officio Member Secretary	1
	Total	----- 15 -----

Five members of the committee of management form a quorum. The period of the Board of Directors is of five years as per the provisions of the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act, 1960.

### III. Progress

Table 4.7 presents recent information of the Grahak Bhandar. Between 1980-81 and 1985-86, membership of the store showed a negligible rise i.e. from 1,285 to 1,297. Paid up capital too increased marginally from Rs.2,27,795 to Rs.2,36,715. The Store showed a better performance in pushing up its aggregate sales from Rs.24,96,058 in 1980-81 to Rs.37,35,664 in 1985-86 amounting to 49.66 percent increase. This was no doubt, a commendable progress. But profits, both gross and net did not grow commensurate with sales; on the contrary they declined throughout the span. The Store continues to function as a central store with Audit Class 'A'.

Table 4.7

Progress of Barsi Madhyavarti Sahakari Grahak Bhandar Maryadit

Items	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1. Membership	1,285	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,294	1,297
2. Paid-up capital	227,795	2,27,365	2,18,365	2,53,690	2,43,865	2,36,715
3. Reserve fund and other funds	100,318	1,12,679	1,23,648	1,65,127	1,38,852	1,44,616
4. Total Sales	2496,058	29,20,371	32,07,753	35,99,808	35,41,532	37,35,664
5. Gross Profit	125,455	1,43,827	90,892	94,808	78,104	86,969
6. Net Profit	12,125	12,723	11,287	11,119	10,983	7,150
7. Audit Class	A	A	A	A	A	A

Source : Annual Reports.

4.4.7 SHREE BHAGWANT YANTRAMAG SEVA  
SAHAKARI SANSTHA, MARYADIT, BARSI

I. Establishment

Barsi is industrially backward taluka. In Barsi taluka there are 149 villages, which are arid or semi-arid. Majority of labour migrates to Bombay, Ichalkaranji, Bhivandi and such other industrially developed areas or Kolhapur, Sangli etc. which are agriculturally developed areas, in search of employment.

As an effort to provide employment opportunities locally, the Bhagwant Group started Shree Bhagwant Yantramag Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit at Barsi, which was registered on 3rd November, 1980 vide registration No.SO D Vi/Sadhan Sanstha/1186.

The formation of the society has two features. Individual member own the powerlooms and relevant licence and the society provides shed and management while deciding production and sale-purchase policy.

II. Main Objectives<sup>9</sup>

(1) To provide essential services to the members to produce towels and other goods by using their own powerlooms.

(2) To have the membership of other similar and related institutions and to purchase cotton and man-made threads from them for the members.



(3) To give technical knowledge and necessary information about production of all types of cloth.

(4) To provide market information to the members.

### III. Management

As per bye-laws, management committee is of 7 members and the period of the Board of Directors is of three years. There is one president and one vice-president elected by the committee members amongst themselves. Three is a quorum for a meeting.

### IV. Progress

The progress made by Shree Bhagwant Yantramag Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit is shown in Table 4.3. The Society succeeded in increasing its membership from bare 40 in 1980-81 to 93 in 1984-85. It is an indication of the confidence the Society is creating amongst its members and non-members. This led to growth of paid-up capital from Rs.49,400 in 1980-81 to Rs.80,300 in 1984-85. Reserve Fund was only Rs.39 in 1980-81, which increased upto Rs.32,791 in 1984-85. Working looms of the members were 120 in 1980-81 and ~~X98~~ 182 in 1984-85. Growth of membership, reserve fund and working looms are indicators of a healthy progress of the Society.

Table 4.8

Progress of Shree Bhagwant Yantramag Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit

Items	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1. Members	40	91	92	94	93
2. Authorised Capital	50,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000
3. Paid-up Capital	49,400	79,300	79,400	80,400	80,300
4. Reserve Fund	39	890	13,950	32,791	32,791
5. Members' Deposits	-	90,000	90,000	40,000	40,000
6. Working Looms	120	120	158	182	182
7. Gross Profit	13,115	69,636	1,04,278	23,470	3,67,506
8. Net Profit	3,021	13,058	18,839	-1,13,864	13,837

Source : Annual Reports and Office records of the Society.

4.4.8 SHREE BHAGWANT SAHAKARI GRUHANIRMAN  
SANSTHA MARYADIT.

I. Establishment

This institution is registered on 5th January, 1983 vide registration No. SUR/BRS/HSG/1141-83.

Shelter is (the) one of the basic necessities of life. The Bhagwant Group paid attention to this need and has made efforts to provide a suitable living accommodation to people through this cooperative.

II. Main Objectives<sup>10</sup>

- (1) To provide houses to the members of the Society.
- (2) To do all those works which are necessary to fulfil the aims as per the bye-laws of the Society.

III. Management

Management Committee is of minimum 5 and maximum 7 members, elected by the General Body for a period of three years. One Chairman and one Secretary are the office-bearers.

IV. Progress

The Society has purchased two plots for construction of houses one plot is by the side of Barsi-Kurduwadi road (agricultural land Survey Nos. 480 and 481) measuring 7,900 square meters. Another plot is near Bhogeshwari temple quite near the first site. This is also agricultural land measuring 3,900 square meters. The minimum size of every plot is 150 square meters,

out of which 75 square meters would be used for actual construction. There would be a public hall too in the premises which would be rented on nominal rent to Bhartiya Sanskar Kendra, a sister institution in the Bhagwant Group. Plans of the complex are ready but construction work has not yet started. The housing complex would be named as Dindayal Nagar.

#### 4.4.9 SIDDHARTHA SAHAKARI GRAHAK SANSTHA MARYADIT.

##### I. Establishment

This Society is registered on 25th January, 1983 vide registration No.SUR/Brs/Con/1033/83. Special feature of this society is that its membership consists mostly of backward communities, since they normally get less opportunities to participate in cooperative ventures. The Bhagwant Group took initiative in forming a consumer cooperative with the membership of backward classes such as Mahar, Mang, Chamar, Kekadi, etc. The Society has started one shop in backward area of Barsi town. Since 5th December, 1983.

##### II. Main Objectives<sup>11</sup>

- (1) To provide necessaries of life to the members and non-members.
- (2) To distribute or sale goods assigned by the government or local authority.

(3) To encourage thrift, self-help and cooperation among the members.

(4) To encourage processing and manufacturing activities as and when possible.

### III. Management

There are 9 members in Management Committee; out of this 3 members will retire every year. Five members will form quorum for a meeting of the Society.

Besides this committee there is a control committee of 3 members. This committee controls and checks financial matters and documents of the Society.

### IV. Progress

The progress of the Society is shown in Table 4.9. The Society has been able to build a sizable membership which has, however, stagnated at 443 during the years under reference. Of these members 87.35 percent are from backward classes. Paid-up capital has increased from Rs.34,200 to Rs.44,300 during the same period. Total sales increased from Rs.63,000 in 1983 to Rs.64,420 in 1985-86; they were far higher than this in 1983-84 and 1984-85. Eventhen the Society is sailing in hot waters. It made a good profit of Rs.2,545 over six months of the first half of 1983 but in the succeeding year (1983-84) net profit dwindled to a small sum of Rs.403. Last two years under reference 1984-85 and 1985-86 - have led the

Table 4.9

Progress of Siddartha Sahakari Grahak Sanstha

Items	25-1-83 to 30-6-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1. Total members	342	443	443	443
2. Out of which backward members	287	387	387	387
3. Paid-up Capital	34,200	44,300	44,300	44,300
4. Out of which govt. capital	28,700	38,700	38,700	38,700
5. Reserve Fund and other funds	428	1,691	1,691	1,691
6. Investment	50	50	50	50
7. Total purchase	60,000	88,304	93,090	83,818
8. Total Sales	63,000	88,504	94,208	64,420
9. Total income (Gross Profit, Interest & management subsidies)	3,313	6,510	4,231	863
10. Total Expenditure	767	6,106	8,627	24,433
11. Net Profit	2,545	403	- 4,396	- 23,570

Source : Annual Reports and office records of the  
Society

Society into increasing losses. If quick measures to prevent this state of affairs are not taken, the Society will be in danger. Lower sales in 1985-86 too are a cause of concern which too must be looked into.

4.4.10 SHREE BHAGWANT SAHAKARI NAGARI  
PAT SANSTHA MARYADIT

I. Establishment

The credit cooperative is registered on 10th October, 1983. This is the last institution in the series of the Bhagwant Group.

II. Main Objectives<sup>12</sup>

- (1) To accept deposits of money from the members, repayable on demand or otherwise, for the purpose of lending or investment.
- (2) To lend or to advance money either upon or without security to members and others as permitted by the Registrar.
- (3) To provide financial and technical assistance to self-employed persons for setting up their own business.
- (4) To undertake any other form of business which the government may satisfy as a form of business in which it is lawful for a cooperative credit institution to engage.

III. Management

The Board of Directors consists of not more than 6 directors to be elected from amongst the shareholder members of the Society. In addition to elected and nominated directors, the Board of Directors may, if it so desires, co-opt not more than two directors from among persons connected with Small Scale and Cottage industries,

economists, financial and banking experts and experienced cooperators. Such directors, however, are not entitled to vote at the meetings of the Board of Directors.

IV. Progress

As per Table 4.10 the Pat Sanstha during 18 months from its inception shows signs of healthy development

Table 4.10

Progress of Shree Bhagwant Sahakari Nagari Pat Sanstha Maryadit

Items	10-10-83 to 30-6-84	30-6-84 to 30-6-85
1. Total Membership	142	233
2. Paid-up Capital	39,040	58,470
3. Reserve Fund	1,473	3,912
4. Deposits	9,10,838	19,95,048
5. Loans	7,32,512	17,77,423
6. Total Income	37,775	1,98,866
7. Total Expenditure	40,919	1,79,557
8. Net Profit	- 3,143	16,165

Source : Annual Reports

in respect of membership, paid-up capital and reserve fund. The amount of deposits has more than doubled while amount of loans has increased pari passu. In the initial year of its existence, the Society sustained loss of Rs.3,143. However, it could set its house properly in



the next year to earn a profit of Rs.16,165. This change is like a ray of hope that in future too the Society will keep up its tempo for better prospects.

#### 4.5 CONCLUSION

The Bhagwant Group has through its existence of 38 years strove to build up a complex of institutional structure under its aegis by diversifying its avenues. Overall performance of the individual economic societies differed from each other. Some of the societies have to be on their toes to improve their financial gains if they desire to contribute their mite to provide a strong cooperative movement under the banner of the Bhagwant Group. They should not remain content beneath the shelter of the parent body irrespective of their weaknesses. The Group as a whole has to remain strong all the while.

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