C H A P T E R - 3.

DEVELOPMENT OF DAL INDUSTRY IN BARSI TOWN.

- CHAPTER-3 -

- : DEVELOPMENT OF DAL INDUSTRY IN BARSI TOWN : -

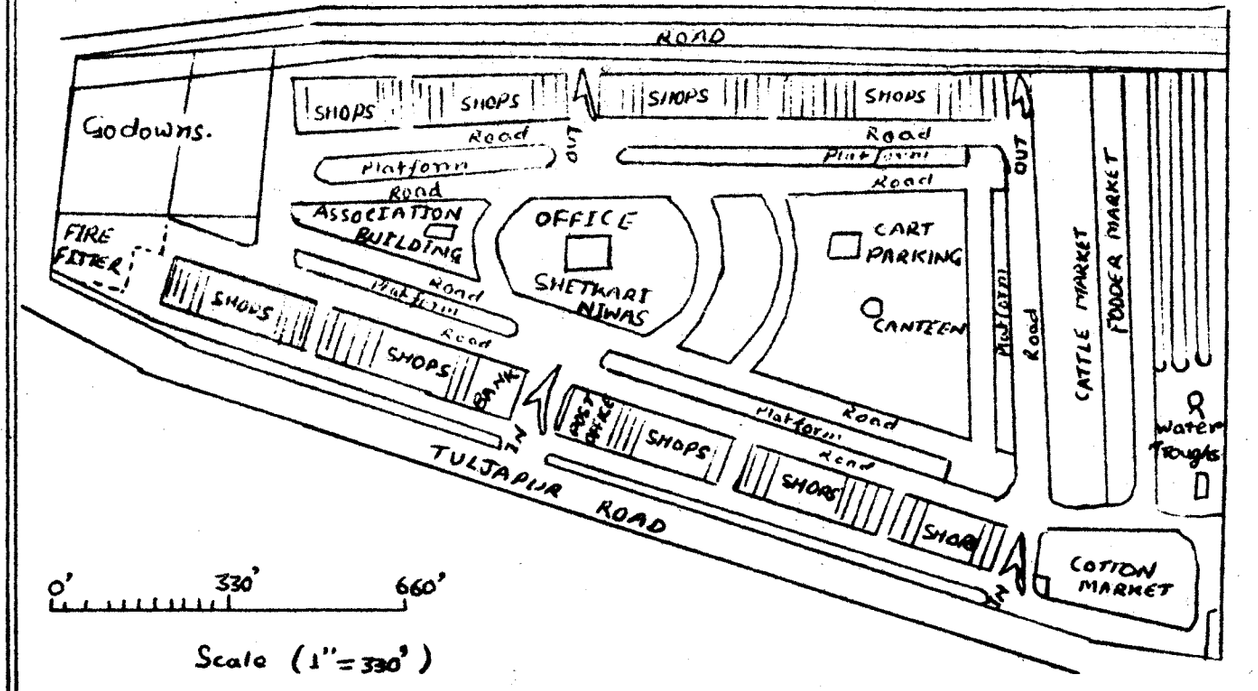
I

CROPPING PATTERN OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

In Solapur district, agriculture continues to be the dominent occupation as 68 percent of the working force is presently engaged in it. Moreover, most of the trade in the district is based on agricultural products. Both Kharif and Rabi crops like jowar, tur, bajra, groundnut, kardi, cotton, sugarcane are grown on a large scale in the district. The main crop, however, is jowar, which is mostly harvested in Rabi season. The area under Kharif crop is predominant. The area cropped was 37 thousand hectares in 1960-61, 33 thousand hectares in 1970-71 and 82 and 86 thousand hectares in 1978-79 and 1980-81 respectively. The scope for increasing the area under cash crop cultivation has been limited by inadequate irrigation facilities. At present, there is no major irrigation project in the district except Ujani Project, which is expected to irrigate 15.60 lakhs hectares, i.e.,13.00 percent of the total cultivated area of the district. So, lack of irrigation facilities and scanty and uncertain rainfall make agriculture an uncertain activity. The high yielding verieties programme and the use of chemical fertilizers have a limited scope in the rainfed area. Actually, it is a drought-prone area. During 1970-71 to 1973-74, almost all the villages in the district were declared as scarcity areas.

LAYOUT OF
THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, BARSI.

CITY SURVEY NO. 4067/2.



In view of the agro-climatic conditions of the district, the cropping pattern reflects a strong filt towards foodcrops. Over two decades between 1960-61 and 1980-81 area of cultivated land under food crops went up from 89.79 to 94.11 percent. (Table 3.1). Consequently, area under non-food crops registered a decline, significant within this group was the decline in the area under groundnuts which was prominent crop within this group. Among the food crops, obviously, cereals had a lion's share. Between 1960-61 and 1980-81 area of cereal crops was up marginally from 81.62 percent in 1960-61 to 82.86 percent in 1980-81 while that of pulses hiked from 8.17 to 11.18 percent. Actually, area under pulses had hiked faster during the seventies and slumped to same extent in the eighties.

II

PULSES PRODUCTION IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT

The agro-climate conditions of Solapur district are suited to production of pulses. Most of the pulses are produced both in mixed cropping and monocropping system in which the balance between the useful predominant staple crop and subordinate crops can be varied according to the farmer's needs and physical condition of the land.

Table 3.2 to 3.5 show the area under tur, gram, moong and other pulses respectively in each taluka in Solapur district. Table 3.2 pertains to tur crop over a period of

Table 3.2

Talukawise area under tur crop in Solapur district.

(in hectares)

Taluka	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71	1975-76	1980-81
1. Akkalkot.	7,760 (27.40)	8,529 (17.80)	12,510 (16.80)	12,420 (16.09)	12,987 (16.68)
2. Barsi.	2,200 (7.76)	13,774 (28.75)	25,534 (34.23)	32,520 (42.13)	21,749 (27.94)
3. Karmala.	1,360 (4.80)	3,083 (6.43)	3,607 (4.83)	4,805 (6.22)	628 (0.80)
4. Madha.	2,080 (7.34)	2,317 (4.67)	4,187 (5.61)	3,855 (4.99)	3,308 (4.25)
5. Malshiras.	800 (2.82)	760 (2.05)	616 (0.83)	1,299 (1.68)	1,805 (2.31)
6. Mohol.	2,560 (9.23)	3,997 (8.34)	6,019 (8.10)	4,040 (5.23)	19,749 (25.37)
7. Mangalwedha.	640 (2.25)	607 (1.36)	1,015 (1.36)	1,316 (1.78)	1,627 (2.09)
8. Pandharpur.	720 (2.54)	581 (1.30)	888 (1.09)	1,288 (1.67)	681 (0.87)
9. Sangola.	320 (1.13)	285 (0.69)	363 (.048)	971 (1.25)	627 (0.81)
10. North Solapur.	3,760 (13.27)	6,443 (13.50)	7,997 (10.77)	4,580 (5.93)	4,911 (6.31)
11. South Solapur.	6,080 (21.46)	7,501 (15.11)	11,855 (15.90)	10,056 (13.03)	9,788 (12.57)
District Total	28,320 (100.00)	47,893 (100.00)	74,401 (100.00)	77,192 (100.00)	77,855 (100.00)

Note :- Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to totals for respective years.

Source :- Government of Maharashtra, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Solapur District, for respective years.

Table 3.3

Talukawise area under gram crop in Solapur district.

(in hectares).

Taluka	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71	1975-76	1980-81
1. Akkalkot.	2,320 (10.14)	942 (5.53)	1,575 (5.84)	3,383 (7.38)	2,653 (7.45)
2. Barsi.	2,720 (11.89)	2,082 (12.23)	3,277 (12.16)	5,444 (11.87)	5,346 (15.02)
3. Karmala.	2,320 (10.14)	1,299 (7.63)	3,751 (13.92)	5,210 (11.36)	4,227 (11.87)
4. Malshiras.	1,640 (7.17)	1,683 (9.88)	1,243 (4.61)	2,244 (4.89)	1,785 (5.01)
5. Madha.	2,680 (11.71)	2,317 (13.62)	2,975 (11.04)	4,068 (8.87)	5,702 (18.02)
6. Mohol.	2,560 (11.19)	1,233 (7.24)	2,571 (.9.54)	5,510 (12.01)	5,346 (15.02)
7. Mangalwedha.	2,360 (10.31)	2,210 (12.98)	3,574 (13.26)	5,463 (11.91)	4,481 (12.58)
8. Pandharpur.	2,040 (8.92)	1,562 (9.17)	2,520 (9.35)	4,469 (9.74)	2,212 (6.21)
9. Sangola.	840 (3.67)	751 (4.41)	1,315 (4.86)	1,461 (3.18)	1,130 (3.17)
10. North Solapur	1,040 (4.55)	620 (3.64)	1,227 (4.55)	1,977 (4.31)	771 (2.17)
11. South Solapur	2,360 (10.31)	2,328 (13.67)	2,928 (10.85)	6,632 (14.48)	1,943 (5.46)
District Total	22,880 (100.00)	17,027 (100.00)	26,956 (100.00)	45,861 (100.00)	35,596 (100.00)

Note :- Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to totals for respective years.

Source :- Government of Maharashtra, Directorate of Economics and Statics, Socio-Economic Review and District Stastical Abstract of Solapur District, for respective years.

two decades since the beginning of the nineteen sixties. An important revealation is that the aggregate crop area increased continuously and shot up from 28,320 hectares in 1960-61 to 77,855 hectares in 1980-81 registering a rise of 174.81 percent over the period.

Reviewing the talukawise details, one notices glaringly that Barsi taluka has remained a principal tur crop cultivating area, during 1960-61 to 1980-81. Its share in the district crop acreage was just 7.76 percent in 1960-61, but in course of time shot up to 42.13 percent in 1975-76 and declined to 27.94 in 1980-81. As against this, Akkalkot taluka tumbled down sooner to the second place. South Solapur, North Solapur and Mohol talukas came next in order. Thus Barsi taluka by itself and its peripherial talukas together enjoyed the bulk of the tur acreage which provided a good grounding for the development of dal activity in Barsi town.

Among pulses in Solapur district, gram follows tur in the aggregate area. Referring to Table 3.3, it can be noticed that the gram crop area registered an increase of 64.24 percent from 22,880 hectares in 1960-61 to 35,596 hectares in 1980-81. The crop showed a concentration in Barsi, Madha, Mohol, Mangalwedha and South Solapur talukas. Their share improved from about 55 percent in 1960-61 to 66 percent in 1980-81. In 1980-81 Madha taluka led with 18.02 percent of gram crop area while both Barsi and Mohol talukas were at second place with 15.02 percent area.

Table 3.4

Talukawise area under moong crop in Solapur district.

(in hectares).

Taluka	1960-61	1970-71	1975-76	1980-81
1. Akkalkot.	15 (0.25)	441 (9.34)	463 (8.86)	574 (7.67)
2. Barsi.	1,854 (31.64)	1,600 (35.34)	690 (13.24)	829 (11.08)
3. Karmala.	2,233 (38.12)	571 (12.62)	480 (9.20)	941 (12.60)
4. Madha.	799 (13.64)	738 (16.29)	1,433 (27.46)	752 (10.07)
5. Malshiras.	228 (3.89)	158 (3.49)	391 (7.49)	190 (2.54)
6. Mohol.	155 (2.64)	92 (2.03)	225 (4.31)	819 (10.97)
7. Mangalwedha.	76 (1.30)	99 (2.18)	182 (3.48)	815 (10.91)
8. Pandharpur.	38 (0.68)	51 (1.12)	114 (2.18)	950 (12.72)
9. Sangola.	91 (9.55)	330 (7.29)	299 (5.73)	186 (2.49)
10. North Solapur.	165 (2.81)	316 (6.98)	163 (3.12)	55 (0.74)
11. South Solapur.	204 (3.48)	132 (2.92)	779 (14.93)	1,368 (18.32)
District Total.	5,858 (100.00)	4,528 (100.00)	5,219 (100.00)	7,469 (100.00)

Note :- Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to totals for respective years.

Source :- Government of Maharashtra, Directorate of Economics and Stastics, Socio-Economic Review and District statistical Abstract of Solapur District, for respective years.

Table 3.5

Talukawise area under other pulses in Solapur district.

(in hectares)

Taluka	1960-61	1970-71	1975-76	1980-81
1. Akkalkot.	1,959 (4.12)	2,471 (4.16)	2,640 (2.98)	4,245 (7.51)
2. Barsi.	6,311 (13.28)	4,071 (6.86)	8,449 (9.55)	2,093 (3.70)
3. Karmala.	6,435 (13.35)	7,008 (11.81)	1,037 (1.17)	6,328 (11.19)
4. Madha.	4,812 (10.12)	8,812 (14.85)	15,140 (17.16)	9,430 (16.68)
5. Malshiras.	4,406 (9.27)	008 (0.01)	9,452 (10.68)	8,214 (14.54)
6. Mohol.	4,171 (8.78)	8,997 (15.16)	12,750 (14.42)	363 (0.64)
7. Mangalwedha.	5,075 (10.68)	9,545 (16.54)	10,589 (11.97)	7,545 (13.35)
8. Pandharpur.	2,168 (4.76)	5,194 (8.32)	11,987 (13.55)	10,817 (19.13)
9. Sangola.	6,784 (14.28)	7,570 (12.76)	7,332 (8.29)	6,913 (12.29)
10. North Solapur.	1,040 (2.19)	2,027 (3.42)	1,853 (2.09)	471 (0.83)
11. South Solapur.	4,357 (9.17)	3,623 (6.11)	7,198 (8.14)	114 (0.20)
District Total	47,518 (100.00)	59,326 (100.00)	88,427 (100.00)	56,533 (100.00)

Note :- Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to totals for respective years.

Source:- Government of Maharashtra, Director of Economics and Statistics, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Solapur District, for respective years.

As per the Table 3.4 the district area under moong crop also was on increase and went up from 5858 hectares in 1960-61 to 7,469 hectares in 1980-81. Initially, Barsi and Karmala taluka together commanded, two-thirds of the acreage but by 1980-81 their share dwindled to one-fourth only. South Solapur, Pandharpur, Mangalwedha and Akkalkot talukas emerged as talukas substantially increasing their moong area.

Other pulses crop area stood at 56,533 hectares in 1980-81 (Table 3.5). Barsi taluka shared 13.28, 6.86, 9.55 and 3.70 percents of the crop area of 1960-61, 1970-71, 1975-76 and 1980-81 respectively. Barsi taluka appears to have receded significantly from growing of other pulses. Madha, Malshiras, Mangalwedha, Pandharpur and Sangola talukas were important in growing this group of crops.

In sum, scanning through the data, it can well be recognised that on the whole the pulses potentiality in Barsi taluka has been rather predominant in respect of all categories of pulses crops eventhough the crop area of some declined in course of time. As a result, Barsi happened to be a centre of marketing of pulses. This provided a good base for the dal industry.

III

ARRIVALS OF PULSES IN BARSI MARKET.

Table 3.6 gives the particulars of market arrivals of tur in Barsi market from 1950-51 to 1981-82, of tur had a

lion's share in market arrivals of pulses. This share, however, dropped conspicuously from 83.86 percent in 1950-51 to 26.87 percent in 1965-66. This trend seems to have reversed since mid-sixteas so as to assume 71.49 percent of market arrivals of all kinds of pulses in 1981-82. But it could not match the caveted position of 1950-51.

Table 3.6

Arrivals of tur in Barsi market.

Year	Percentage of tur to total pulses arrivals.
1950-51	83.86
1955-56	61.71
1965-66	26.87
1970.71	58.05
1975-76	66.36
1980-81	78.47
1981-82	71.49

Source :- Annual Reports of the APMC, Barsi, for respective years.

Table 3.7 gives the particulars of market arrivals of tur, moong, udid, gram, hulge and matki. Over the span of three decades since nineteen fifties tur dominated the market for most of the time and moong remained the second best.

Arrivals of udid were quite large during latter half of the fifties to early seventies but thereafter they exihibited a big slump during the seventies. Phenomenal decline in arrival of udid was compensated to some extent by gram since mid-seventies. On the whole tur, moong, udid, gram, hulge and matki was the sequence of pulses in Barsi market on the basis of their market arrivals.

Table 3.7

Arrivals of pulses in Barsi market.

(in quintals).

Year	Tur	Moong	Udid	Gram	Hulge	Matki
1950-51	43,542	7,734	741	-	-	-
1955-56	78,074	22,032	10,866	14,832	-	-
1965-66	29,860	53,591	23,005	4,751	N.A.	N.A.
1970-71	67,128	24,137	18,280	4,858	1,333	N.A.
1975-76	68,465	19,197	2,186	11,542	1,881	N.A.
1980-81	94,172	6,292	2,236	13,072	4,730	228
1981-82	70,111	12,492	2,910	9,946	2,029	576

N.A. = Not available.

Source :- Annual Reports of the APMC, Barsi.

IV

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DAL INDUSTRY IN BARSI TOWN.

1. BARSI TOWN : THE PROMINENT MARKET OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT.

Barsi is a very prominent market for agricultural goods in Solapur district. In this behalf, it is noted that Barsi has been famous for the last 40 to 50 years as a good market for agro-production like Jowar, tur, groundnuts, oilseeds and bajra.[1] It is also reported that it also formed a base for the existing industries and almost the entire trade is based on agricultural product.[2] Natuarally, the dal-making industry developed hereby leaps and bounds.

This market is commonly known as 'Gateway of Marathwada' in the field of agricultural trade. The town is linked with Marathwada by convenient means of transport and communication. Latur-Miraj light railway of the South Central Railway and the State highways serve the transport of merchandise. Consequentelly, a large quantity of agricultural produce of Solapur district is brought for sale in Barsi market. Thereby, agriculturists and traders from Marathwada region and especially from Osmanabad, Beed and Nanded districts which are in the proximity of Barsi taluka are in close contact with Barsi market for their sale and purchase activity. Already many

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1. Tata Economic Consultancy service, Industrial Potential of Western Maharashtra, Volume II (District Profiles) Chapter VIII (Solapur), Orient House Bombay-1, p. 140.
2. Ibid. p. 123.

firms in Barsi town were operating as commission agents for the upcountry buyers not only from Maharashtra, but also from other provinces of India. Apart from that the market yard is one of the best constituted in Solapur district. As a result, besides local produce, agricultural produce from part of Marathwada and Vidharbha regions was brought to Barsi market. The arrivals comprised especially groundnuts, tur, moong and udid. In 1980-81 and 1981-82, the total pulses arrival in the market was 1,20,730 and 98,064 quintals respectively. The arrivals included also imports by the traders directly from the markets in Gujarath, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, Barsi has been famous for a pretty long time as a good market for pulses along with other agricultural commodities. Naturally, industry is started and concentrated where the raw material is easily available. At the same time nearness of the dal processing centre and easy access to it were helpful to the farmers in disposing of their produce in Barsi market. Actually Barsi was once a major market for oilseed and cotton, which automatically helped dal mills and ginning and pressing mills.[3] Moreover, earlier it was the only centre for pulse trading in Maharashtra State.[4]

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3. Government of Maharashtra, Diratorate of Economics and Statics, Socio-Economic Review and District Statistical Abstract of Solapur District, 1976-77, p. 33.

4. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, Industrial Potential of Western Maharashtra, volume III, Bombay, 1972, p. 136.

2. AGRO-CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT - AN AID TO PULSES PRODUCTION.

The land of the district is quite suitable for pulses production. Pulses, generally, have a deep root system. In the dry land area, like Solapur district and the surrounding districts (where the rain fails), this helps to tap moisture from the sub-soil layer and this assures yield to some extent. The deep root crop system is also helpful in opening the sub-soil and exposing it to air. These factors favour pulse crops in the dry land areas and under the condition when good rains are not guaranteed. Pulses need water moisture only in the initial stages for seed germination. Once the pulse seed germinates, the pulse plant can survive under relatively drier condition too. For all this, the district has been growing pulses on a large scale. Barsi town being on important region growing pulses, it was obvious that processing of pulses would develop as a separate activity in this region.

3. PROGRESS OF DAL MILLS.

As a household activity dal-making has been traditional and age-long. For decades together in the past the activity was pursued simply for, household consumption of the produce and a meagre quantity of dal produce was sold in the market. Women labour, family and hired, was used in the activity and the splitting of pulses was done by operating stone-made, circular type 'jatas' operated by one or two women singly or jointly.

After the evolution of mechanical processing of pulses, the activity was gradually commercialised. The venue was shifted from house to factory and labour work was displaced by machine work. Now, the dal-making as a regular household activity has almost disappeared in Barsi town. Shri. Ramchandra Sitaram Bang was the pioneer of dal industry of the town. He was the person who established the first dal mill of Barsi town as early as 1932 in partnership with Shri. Ganpatrao Vithoba Chavhan. The dal mill was also the first composite dal-making unit of the town. The lead was well taken up in later years and more units gradually made their appearance on the scene. However, the progress of number of mills was rather slow and within two decades of the establishment of the first dal mill, 11 dal mills entered into the arena. Later developments can be seen with the help of Table 3.8. During the fifties the number of dal units fluctuated between 9 and 12 indicating rather an unsteady position; it was an attempt to find strongholds in the activity. Sixties provided a strong impetus to the pulses processing activity so that the number of mills moved within the range of 12 to 23. The highest number of 23 was maintained for three years - 1963-64 to 1965-66. In the background of this encouraging development, the beginning of the seventies was much gloomy as only 9 mills operated in 1970-71 and 1971-72. But the industry recovered sooner and in the rest of this decade again the number of units had an upward movement recording 18 units by 1979-80.

Eighties opened with a higher number of units 21 in 1980-81. However, the trend was halted in latter years and the number of units in the industry, stagnated at 21 till 1982-83 and reached to 22 in 1983-84, one short of the highest number which existed during 1963-64 to 1965-66.

Table 3.8

Progress of dal mills in Barsi town. (1952-53 to 1983-84).

Year	Number of dal mills
1952-53	11
1953-54	9
1954-55	9
1955-56	12
1956-57	N.A.
1957-58	10
1958-59	11
1959-60	12
1960-61	12
1961-62	15
1962-63	22
1963-64	23
1964-65	23
1965-66	23
1966-67	22
1967-68	20
1968-69	12

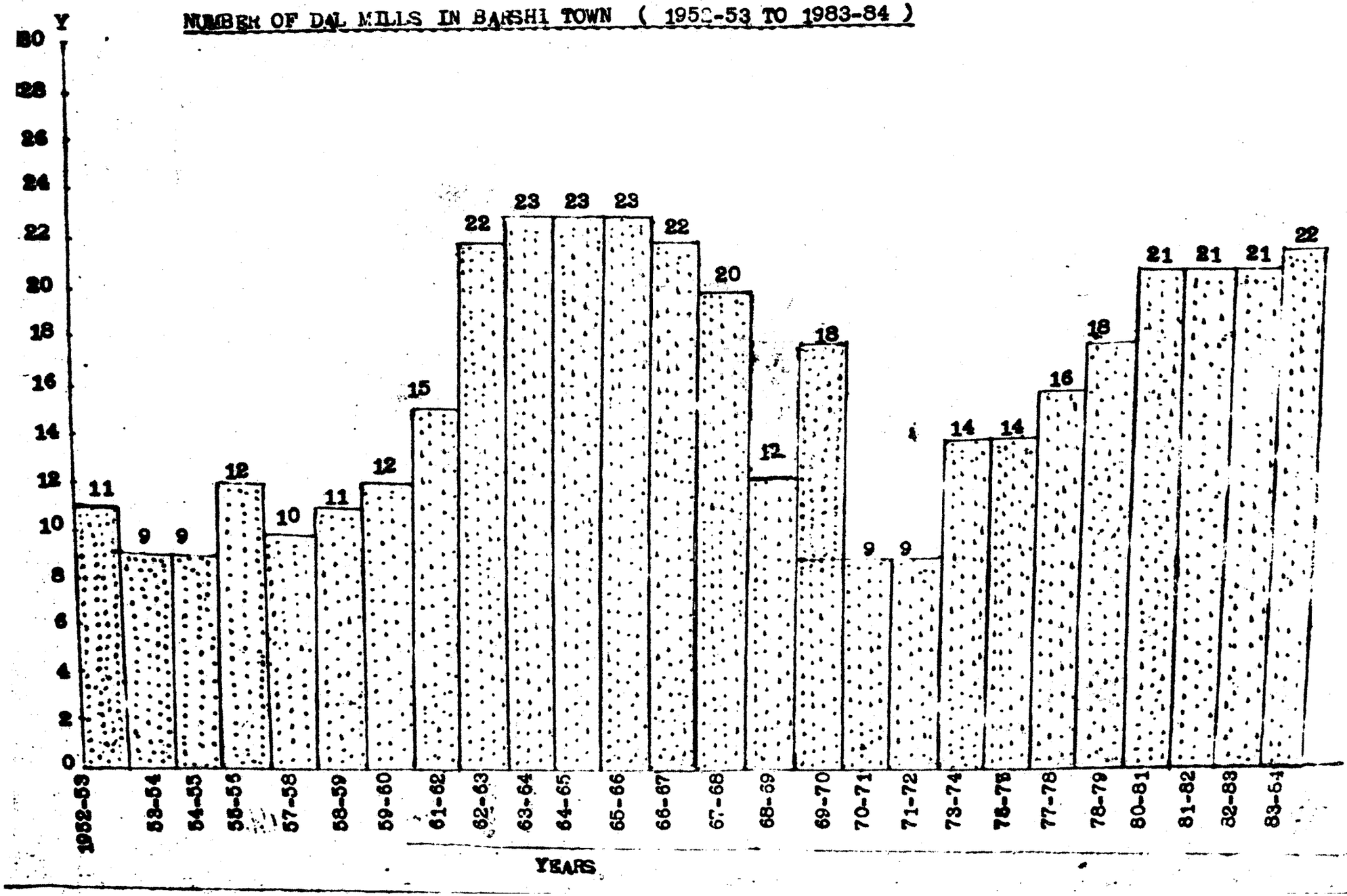
Year	Number of dal mills
1969-70	18
1970-71	9
1971-72	9
1972-73	N.A.
1973-74	14
1974-75	14
1975-76	14
1976-77	14
1977-78	16
1978-79	18
1979-80	18
1980-81	21
1981-82	21
1982-83	21
1983-84	22

N.A. = Not available.

Source :- Annual Reports of the APMC, Barsi for the respective years.

Table 3.9 shows the details of the 22 units as in 1983-84. Except one unit all others were private units adopting either proprietory or partnership, form of organisation. Only one mill, Bandewar Dal and Besan Mill, was a composit unit of dal and Besan manufacturing.

Graph


NUMBER OF DAL MILLS IN BANSHI TOWN (1952-53 TO 1983-84)
Y
30
28
26
24
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
11
9
9
12
10
11
12
15
22
23
23
23
22
20
12
18
9
9
14
14
16
18
21
21
21
22
1952-53
53-54
54-55
55-56
56-57
57-58
58-59
59-60
61-62
62-63
63-64
64-65
65-66
66-67
67-68
68-69
69-70
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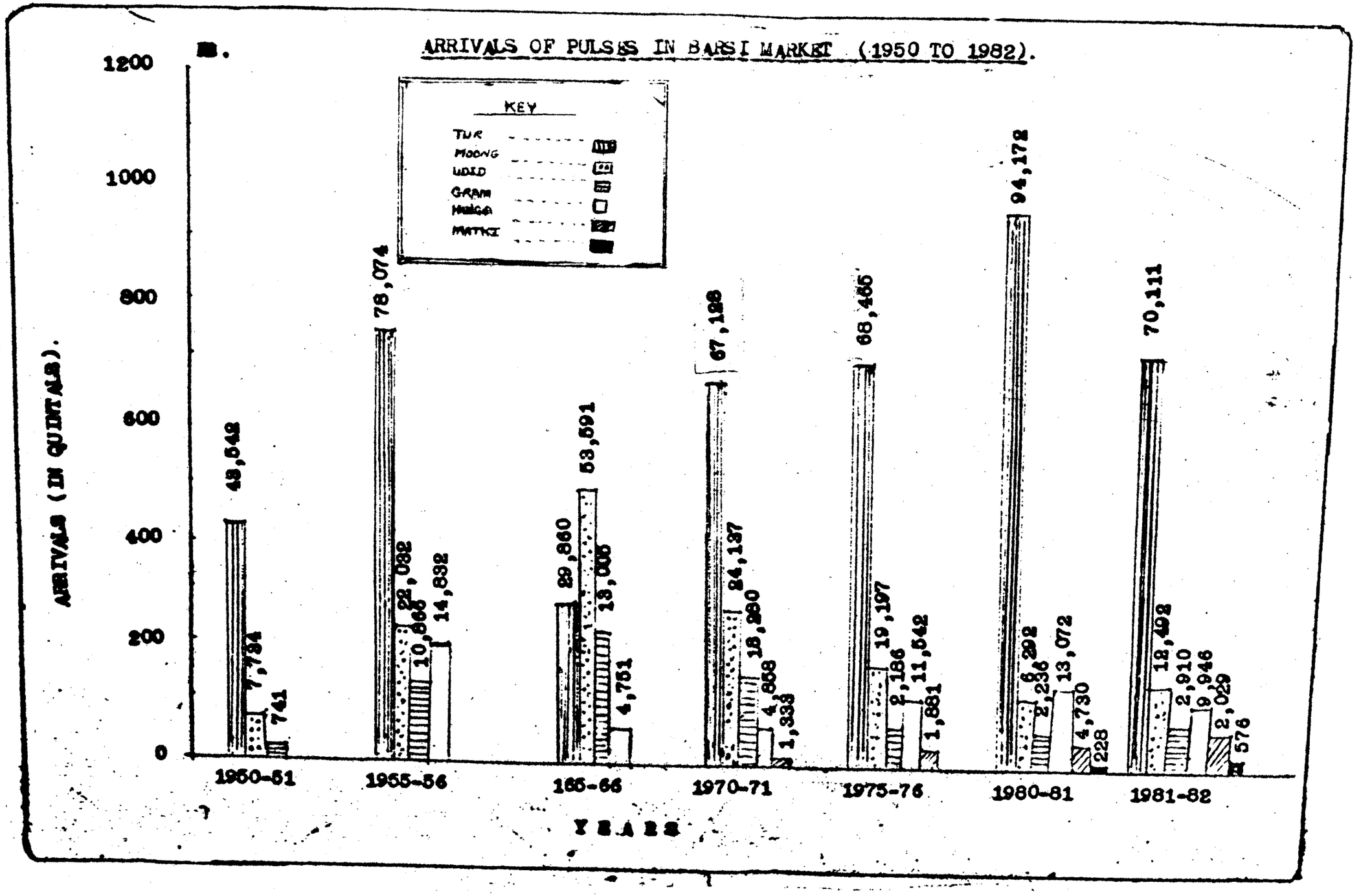
71-72
73-74
78-75
77-78
78-79
80-81
81-82
82-83
83-84
YEARS


ARRIVALS OF PULSES IN BARSI MARKET (1950 TO 1982).
KEY
TUR
MOONG
UDID
GRAM
MATKI
ARRIVALS (IN QUINTALS).
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
49,542
7,184
741
78,074
10,868
22,032
14,832
29,860
53,591
13,005
4,761
67,128
24,127
18,280
4,868
1,333
68,485
19,197
2,186
11,542
1,881
94,172
2,236
13,072
4,730
228
70,111
12,492
2,910
9,946
2,029
576
1950-51
1955-56
1965-66
1970-71
1975-76
1980-81
1981-82
YEARS

In the light of the age of the existing units, 18 out of 22 units were established after 1961. Of the remaining 4 units, 3 were born between 1932 and 1939 and the remaining one in the nineteen fifties. Two of the 24 units saw light after 1980. This indicates that there were ups and downs in the industry since the establishment of the first unit. In the upheaval some units were closed and subsequently new units appeared on the scene. On the whole, though the industry has survived for about 50 years in the past, most of the units comprising the industry at present are of recent units. The industry is old but the units are young.

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