

CHAPTER NO. II

CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

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CHAPTER NO. II


CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

2.1 INTRODUCTION :

✓ Consumers' Co-operative Movement was borne in Britain in the later of the 18th Century because of the change in the economic and social system in Britain, under the impact of Industrial Revolution. The development of Consumers Co-operative Stores as an economic system and it is well associated with the name of Rochdale Pioneers. In 1844, a batch of 28 weavers in Rochdale formed a society, that shot into world fame as the 'Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers'. The Movement has achieved a great success in some of the Western countries like Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Britain! Consumers Co-operative Movement played a significant role in holding the price line in food and consumer articles specially during the crucial post Second War era.

Consumer Co-operatives is a reaction against a

Capitalistic Society. Consumer CO-operatives are the Voluntary organisation of consumers, based on Cooperative principles. "It is a business enterprise owned and managed by the consumers association to supply them pure, unadulterated and good quality stuff in correct weight and measures at reasonable prices. The need for the establishment of such societies was felt essential in order to avoid the long chain of middlemen intervening between the Primary Producer and the ultimate consumers who, at each stage, levied a toll on the goods to the doors of consumers ²".



In consumers co-operative societies, consumers come together voluntarily for the equitable distribution of essential goods as well as services on beneficial terms. Consumers Co-operative like other co-operative institutions are democratic bodies and adopt the principle of one man one vote irrespective of the number of stores held by a member. S.B. Rao defines Consumers Co-operative, as follows -

" A Consumers Co-operative Society is a Society established for dependable permanent machinery for the equitable distribution of essential and quality goods at fair prices, to provide services attracted enough to the consumers and to create an agency to brake the monopoly of private traders in the distribution of trade.³"


2.2 CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN WORLD

On 21st December 1844 the Co-operative Movement was introduced in this World in the form of Consumer Co-operative, when twenty eight weavers saved one pound each and started under the Friendly Society's Act. The Rochdale Equitable Society is registered in England, and the Second industrial and Provident Societies Act was passed in 1852, accelerated its growth still further. In the year 1859 there were only 130 stores and the number of these stores had increased upto 971 in 1981, embracing a membership of over half a million.

In the year 1864 the first Wholesale Consumer Co-operative Society was established in England, as Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWC) and in the year 1868 Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society (SCWS) was established and the Co-operative Union in 1869 were further landmark in its history.

Since then Consumer Co-operative Societies have

made good progress in the Western Countries, e.g. Sweden
U.S.A., Denmark, Norway, Germany, France etc. & Consumer
Co-operative Societies have come to occupy an eminent
position in the national economy of these countries.

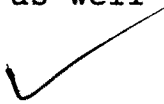


2.3 CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN INDIA :

India is the Second most populous country and seventh largest country in the world. It is one of the famous democratic country. India has accepted mixed economy with Private Sector, Public Sector and Co-operative Sector to achieve a common socio-economic goals. And it helps for systematic economic development of the country.

In India, Co-operative Movement is not new. It has been working since last eighty years. Infact Co-operative movement was started in India by the British Government in 1904. The foundation of Co-operative movement in India was laid by the Co-operative Credit Societies Act of 1904 which was passed with a view to encouraging thrift, self help and co-operation among agriculturist, artists and persons of limited means. In the year 1906, the first consumer co-operative society was established in Madras City.

In India, Credit Co-operative Act of 1904, had not given much opportunities to form other co-operative Societies^{and} did not provide legal protection. So numerous attempts have made to form consumers co-operative societies and distributive functions. This situation has changed by passing the Co-operative Societies Act 1912.⁴ This Act was passed by the Governor General of India and granted legal recognition to productive and distributive societies as well as central organisations.



2.3 (a) PROGRESS DURING THE WAR PERIOD :

Everything was shortage during both these wars. Particularly those of essential commodities of day to day use. The abnormal conditions were created by the First World War, gave great impetus to the consumers co-operative movement. In the year 1914-15, eleven such societies were registered. By the end of 1920-21, there were 103 consumer co-operative societies in the country.⁵

Fillip to consumers co-operative movement was provided by the Montague Chemsford reforms of 1919 under which co-operation became a Provincial (transferred) subject. In this period essential consumer goods were scarce and their prices increased tremendously. Then after consumers co-operative societies were really established and used as agency for distribution of essential commodities to the Public by the British Government.

Partition of the country in August 1947 did not have any significant adverse effect on the movement and

a climate which was favourable for the progress of the movement coupled with various other contributory factors such as the preferential treatment etc. continued till 1951-52. In 1952 Government adopted the Policy of decontrol and derationing and forthwith most of the consumers societies which came into existence as "War Babies" had to face a serious competition from private trades.⁶

✓ The Government has applied several controls on the distribution of essential commodities and it was felt that Co-operative society system was the only way out for many problems. In War period, needs for military personnel increased and it was felt that Public servant should be kept satisfied. This would be possible if stores were opened for them in the offices or in the areas in which they were concentrated. In consumer co-operative stores essential commodities were sold at fixed prices and as such it

became possible to control prices to some extent. It also enabled to Government to have some control over distribution system.

Following table shows the progress of consumer co-operatives during second World War and thereafter.

TABLE NO. 2.1

Statement Showing progress of Consumers
Co-operatives during 1938-39 to 1950-51

Year	No. of Consumer Co-op. Societies	Membership (in thous- ands)	Annual Sales (Rs. in Lacs).
-----	-----	-----	-----
1938-39	396	0.43	57.15
1939-40	408	16.00	57.15
1944-45	3539	60.00	2,000
1950-51	9745	1845.00	8,187

Source: Dr. B.S.Mathur "Co-operation in India" IIIrd Edn. P.390

The effects of shortage of goods, high prices, black marketing, failure of internal transportation system, set-back in respect of import trade, introduction of control and rationing system increased the

hardship of common man during the Second World War, and it has given support to the growth of consumer co-operatives in distribution of essential commodities in India. And the Government started to granting licences for stocking of selling the essential goods & extended them financial assistance for expansion of consumer Co-operative societies.

The next important point in the progress of co-operative movement in India was setting up a co-operative planning committee appointed in the year 1945. The committee suggested that conversion of primary societies into multipurpose societies and mentioned that efforts should be made to bring 50% of villages and 30% of rural population within the areas of the reorganised societies within a period of three years. The planning committee also suggested that greater financial assistance to the co-operatives by the Reserve Bank of India. During this period the Consumers Co-operative Movement was entirely supported by the Government.

2.3 (b) PROGRESS DURING FIVE YEAR PLAN :

During first and second five year plans much attention was not given by the planners towards consumer co-operative stores. No precise programme and the target was worked out and no specific financial provisions for consumer co-operatives were made during these two plans. The result was that even the already working stores became economically unviable and position of consumer co-operatives were decreased. Some such societies had to be worked out and thus the number as well as membership of the stores considerably decreased. In the year 1951-52 number of such stores was 9579, which came down to 7359 in 1955-56 and further down to 7058 in 1960-61. Membership of these stores which was 18,37,000 in 1951-52 came down to 14,14,000 in 1955-56 and further down to 13,41,000 in 1960-61. But sales of the stores however showed considerable increase. It was Rs 1448 Lakhs in 1955-56 which went upto Rs 4423 Lakhs in 1960-61

THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN :

✓ Consumer Co-operatives got a special attention in IIIrd five year plan. In the IIIrd Five Year plan, conditions for the development of Consumer Cooperatives were favourable. In November 1960, the National Co-operative Development and Warehousing Board appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. Nateson for the purpose of reviewing the existing position of the consumer co-operatives and to suggest measures for the development of the consumer co-operative movement. The committee submitted its report in May 1961. The committee made a number of valuable recommendations (~~regarding---organisations~~) regarding organisation structure, pattern of consumer co-operatives, need for strong wholesale stores and Government assistance.

✓ In 1962, the Chinese invasion raised new problem of protecting the country from economic crisis. The

setting up of the agricultural and industrial production, alone could not solve the problem on the economic front so a proper distribution of these goods were still more difficult problem, and consumer co-operative societies were found to be very useful. So our Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru introduced a scheme in the year 1963⁷. Under this scheme various provisions were made to revitalise some of the existing stores and for organisation of new stores in urban area. The scheme was to revitalise and organise 2200 primary stores and one opex whole sale stores in each state during the plan period. But the scheme did not receive the needed attention from the Government and as a result the progress of consumer co-operatives was slow.

FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN : ✓

In the IVth Five Year Plan, consumer cooperative movement made satisfactorily good progress. A country-

wide infrastructure have been built up and organised in all the districts having urban population of 50000 and more. In the Fourth Plan, consultancy and promotional cell has been established within the National Co-operative Consumers Federation for providing expert guidance to consumer co-operatives.

A new central sector scheme for the accelerated development of consumer co-operatives with a growth and employment opportunities for the educated unemployed through the expansion and development of selected consumer co-operatives having growth potential. Under the scheme assistance was provided to 57 wholesale central consumer co-operative stores including departmental stores identified as growth centres and for the establishment of an equal number of new retail outlets. These departmental stores and other units which are being set up on the basis of carefully drawn up projects are required to observe approved methods and procedures of management and

business operations and serve as models for other consumer stores.^s

During the Plan period good progress was made in following lines:

In 1968-69 there were 387 wholesale stores. This number continued till 1973-74. Membership of these stores which was 8.31 Lakhs in 1968-69 rose to 10.64 Lakhs in 1973-74. Number of branches in 1968-69 were 2647 but after weeding out some dormant stores, this number came down to 2433. Share Capital of these stores which was Rs 11.36 Crores in 1968-69 rose to Rs 14.00 Crores in 1973-74. Sales of these stores also considerably gone up. It was Rs 163.02 Crores in 1973-74. And sale of primary stores was Rs 139.19 Crores in 1968-69 which went up to Rs 186.69 but in 1973-74 their sales was Rs 64.00 Crores. National Consumer Co-operation Federation had a sale of Rs 2.88 Crores in 1968-69 which went as high as Rs 28.60 Crores

in 1973-74.⁹ By the end of the plan 14 State Federations of Consumer Co-operatives were working.

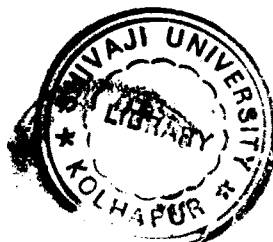
FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN :

The Fifth plan emphasised on the consolidation and strengthening the existing consumer co-operatives rather than starting new ones and it helped to distribution of consumer goods. It was decided that consumer goods. It was decided that consumer co-operatives can play a vital role in the stabilisation of prices in the market. For this purpose, it is decided to organise 50 large departmental stores and 150 small departmentkal stores, as well as 1300 retail stores. During the fifth plan, total sales of these co-operatives were estimated to Rs 600 crores. For the purpose of consolidation and strengthening of the existing consumer co-operatives State Government, made a financial help of Rs 10.91 Crores. In addition of this the Central Government also provided Rs 9 Crores under the centrally sponsored scheme. By the help of the Govt. and NCCF, the share capital of Central Stores increased from an amount of Rs 15.57 Crores in 1974-75 to Rs 24.5 Crores

crores in 1977-78 and volume of retail trade of these stores increased from Rs 400 crores in 1974-75 to Rs 550 crores in 1975-76.

SIXTH FIVE YEAR PLAN :

The Sixth Five Year Plan envisages that there would be a fair price shop in each village or in a group of villages, having a population covered with 2000 or above. Shri Bhagwat Jha Union Minister of Food and Civil supplies has stated in a Conference held at New Delhi sponsored by NCCF of India Ltd recently that, "our endeavour will be that new fair price shops to be opened in rural areas mostly entrusting to co-operative institutions as early as possible"¹⁰. And under the plan, Government of India tried to reach the consumer co-operatives in rural areas. It also envisages to strengthen the State Federation and the NCCF in order to Purchase consumable goods from manufacturer. The Government of



India has an agreement with the manufacturers according to which 20% of the production is to be made available through Consumer co-operative network. The consumer items cover edible oil, kerosene, matches, cycle tyres and tubes, electric lamps, drugs, medicines etc.

The value of consumer goods distributed in rural areas in the year 1979-80 was Rs 800 crores and it rose in 1984-85 to Rs 1400 crores. The target of distribution of consumer goods in rural areas valued at Rs 2000 crores in 1984-85, it could not be achieved. Likewise, the retail sales of consumer goods in urban area in 1979-80 was Rs 800 crores against the target of Rs 1600 crores. Evidently, the target could not be achieved. At the end of Sixth Five Year plan the number of departmental stores was 330.

SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN :

The object of the Seventh Five Year Plan is to substantial expansion of the consumer co-operatives. And it was decided to cover all the State Capitals and Metropolitan cities, through Urban Consumer Co-operative societies.

During the plan period, the NCCF as the Apex body of the Consumer Co-operatives, has plan to increase the number of retail outlets from 75000 to 400000 and the annual turnover, which was Rs 160 Crores in 1985 it was expected to be doubled by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, but it could not be achieved.

EIGHT FIVE YEAR PLAN : ✓

The Eighth Year Plan emphasises the need to involve consumers co-operatives in maintaining the Price line and providing quality products to the consumers co-operatives are being promoted and strengthened to supply public distribution system

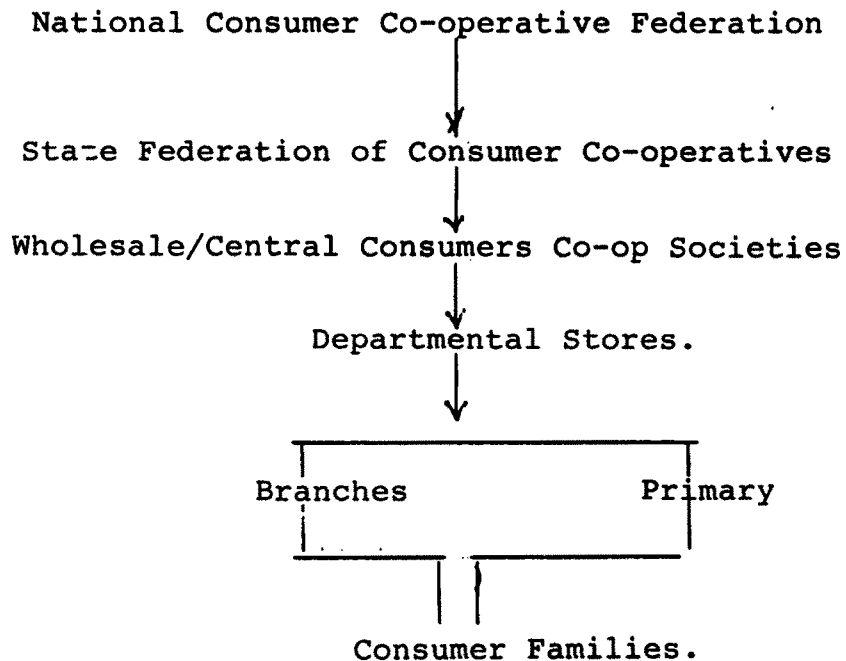
items and to build up a strong consumer protection movement both in the Urban & rural areas.

The Government extends financial assistance to the primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS), Large Sized Multipurpose Societies (LSMS) and Farmers Service Societies (FSS) to undertake distribution of Consumer articles in the rural area. This scheme is implemented through the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)

✓ During the Eighth Five Year Plan period it is proposed to cover 10,000 PACS/LSMS/FSS including new branches and touch an estimated retail rural sales of Rs 4400/- crores by the terminal year of the Eight Five Year Plan. There are 58,147 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies in the rural areas, half of these are actively involved in the distribution of consumer commodities in rural areas. The retail sales of the consumer articles is expected to reach the level of Rs 2875 Crores at an estimated average annual growth rate of 15% by March 1991.¹¹

2.3 (c) ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE IN INDIA :

Consumer Co-operative Stores in India are organised both on unitary and Federal basis. Under the unitary pattern a central store with individual membership is established. In Federal Pattern Primary stores are organised and they ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ turn form wholesale stores. There has been no uniformity in the structure of Consumers Co-operative in India. In some states they are working on an unitary pattern, some states have followed mixed pattern. Following chart shows the organisational structure of Consumer Co-operatives in India.



(i) NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CONSUMERS FEDERATION (NCCF)

(i) NCCF is an apex organisation of all consumer co-operatives in India. It was registered in Aug. 1965. All the State Federation of consumers co-operatives are affiliated with NCCF. The main object behind its establishment is to assist, aid & counsel its members, institutions and facilitates their workers for development of consumers co-operative society in India. A review of the working of NCCF in the past few years shows that it has done a little promotional and developmental work. It has set up branches in major cities in the country. It has also started processing & manufacturing units of different places in the country. It also publishes and circulates monthly news, bulletins containing information about market rates, availability of goods, Sales turnover etc.

STATE FEDERATION OF CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES.

State Federation of consumer co-operatives are state level apex bodies of consumers co-operatives and these are affiliated to NCCF. The main objectives are to co-ordinate and facilitate the working of the affiliated wholesale consumer co-operatives and to assist in the promotion, organisation and development of the activities of wholesale consumer co-operative societies. In other

words these federations undertake pooling and purchases of selected commodities on behalf of wholesale consumer stores and place orders directly on manufacturers and suppliers, in order to enable consumer stores to gain the benefit of bulk buying. Some state federations have also undertaken direct retailing of consumer goods.

(iii) WHOLESALE STORES/CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE CONSUMERS

STORES :

Wholesale stores on the city or district level bodies of consumer co-operatives having a population of more than 50,000. The membership mainly comprises primary consumer co-operative stores, the individual consumers and other co-operative societies are also its members. Many of these wholesale societies also submitted individuals as their members and set up retail shops. Under the centrally sponsored scheme in 1962, a number of wholesale consumer stores have been set up in different parts of the country. The main function of a wholesale store is to supply goods to the affiliated primary consumer co-operative societies under their jurisdiction. They provide guidelines to the primary consumer stores.¹²

(iv) DEPARTMENTAL STORES/SUPER BAZARS :

✓ Departmental stores were established in our country in the year 1966. The biggest departmental stores in our country are one is Super Bazar in New Delhi and another is Apana Bazar in Bombay. Annual Sales of these big departmental stores varies from Rs 4.00 crores to Rs 10.00 crores.¹³

Initially departmental stores were established in Metropolitan cities and big towns having the population of more than 2 lakhs, but now, these conditions are modified and in rural areas also departmental stores are established. Departmental store is a big retail stores handling many different lines of Merchandise. It is a large scale store selling almost all types of consumer goods to their customers under one roof and the same management.

The departmental stores often consists of palatial building constructed at central position which is most frequently visited by the public.

(v) PRIMARY CO-OPERATIVE CONSUMERS STORES:-

It is the last in the structure of the consumer's Co-operative movement in India. They are established in the locality or ward of the city. These stores are organised to provide essential consumer goods to consumers and members living in the locality of the city. They make their purchases from wholesale stores and sell them to the ultimate consumers. Such stores are opened in the locality where the population is more than 10,000. These societies are formed by the members residing in the same city or locality.

The following table shows the consumer co-operative societies in various states of India in 1991.

Table No:22.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE STATEWISE NUMBER OF PRIMARY
STORES AND WHOLESALE STORES IN INDIA IN THE YEAR
1991.

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>NAME OF STATES</u>	<u>PRIMARY STORES</u>	<u>WHOLESALE STORES</u>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1026	31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	-
3.	Assam	303	32
4.	Bihar	2900	92
5.	Gujarat	1504	29
6.	Goa	78	-
7.	Hariyana	57	37
8.	Himachal Pradesh	250	1
* 9.	Jammu & Kashmir	174	12
10.	Karnataka	1733	33
11.	Kerala	380	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	766	44
13.	Maharashtra	2789	112
14.	Manipur	215	7
15.	Meghalaya	38	2
16.	Mijoram	6	-
17.	Nagaland	114	-
18.	Orissa	358	40
19.	Punjab	277	16

Sr No	NAME OF STATES	PRIMARY STORES	WHOLESALE STORES
20.	Rajasthan	624	27
21.	Sikkim	2	-
22.	Tamilnadu	3846	29
23.	Tripura	31	1
24.	Uttar pradesh	1785	64
25.	West Bengal	2710	29
26.	Andaman & Nikobar Dwip Samuha.	39	1
27.	Chandigrah	6	1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	-
29.	Delhi	473	3
30.	Daman Dwip	6	-
32.	Lakshdeip	16	-
33.	Pondichery	68	3
TOTAL:		22,589	659

2.4 CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA :

During the First World War, Government had helped to establish and organise Consumers Co-operative Societies in Maharashtra. The first consumer co-operative store was established in the State in 1913-14 by the help of Late Shri G.K. Deodhar in Pune. The number of consumer co-operative stores were increased from 29 in 1919 to 88 in the year 1921, but these stores could not compete in the open market because of financial difficulties and inability of Management and naturally the number of stores decreased to 25 in the year 1937. During the World War II, shortage of food stuff and essential commodities, and effect of this the prices of essential commodities were increased, the people forced the Government to establish more number of consumer stores and strengthen them. Then the Government provided all types of assistance to the consumer co-operatives to run authorised fair price shops.

In first two five year plans, there was no special scheme of the Government for consumer co-operatives. During emergency in 1962, there was a sharp increase in the prices of consumer goods and also the scarcity thereof. The Government of India launched the centrally sponsored scheme of consumer co-operatives and the present situation of movement in the state is developing gradually. It consists of the State Federation of Central Consumers Co-operative Societies, retail shops in each district and each town with the population exceeding 50,000 and primary consumer co-operatives in towns with the population exceeding 10,000. These stores were provided all types of financial assistance in the form of share capital, working capital, management subsidy as well as loans & subsidies. The State Federation provides all types of guidance, training and information to the consumer stores for their development. The Federation makes bulk purchases and all necessary arrangements to sell goods and services to the Primary Consumer Co-op

Societies. It also sells to wholesale and Primary stores and arranges conference at the state level, reviews the progress of the movement and formulate plans as well as policies for future development.

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE :

The progress of wholesale societies, primary societies and state co-operative consumers federation in the state of Maharashtra is shown in following tables.

TABLE NO. 2.3

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

(RS. IN LACS)

PARTICULARS	1961	1971	1981	1987	1988	1989	1990
No. of Societies	1	43	75	93	103	111	112
Membership (in '00')	2	1350	1232	2513	2747	2747	2854
Share Capital (Rs Lacs)	3	133	249	423	460	478	528
Govt. Contribution	N.A.	97	150	225	244	239	251
Owned funds	3	195	423	678	727	754	797
Borrowings O/s	2	205	283	564	612	659	659
Working Capital	7	463	1100	2802	3162	3279	2327
Purchases	189	2833	5865	10549	12196	12950	13657
S a l e s	187	3031	6396	11525	13491	14201	12932
Societies in Profit	Neg	28	45	53	57	53	65
Amount of Profit	Neg	9	16	37	48	48	49
Societies in loss	1	15	17	33	43	49	44
Amount of loss	Neg	17	25	36	33	38	54

Note: N.A. = Not Available
Neg. = Negligible

Source: Co-operative Movement At a Glance in Maharashtra
1991 - P. No. 24.

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TABLE NO. 2.3

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PRIMARY SOCIETIES IN STATE OF MAHARASHTRA

(RS. IN LACS)

PARTICULARS	1961	1971	1981	1987	1988	1989	1990
No. of Societies	1140	1385	1737	2393	2449	2650	2789
Branches of Wholesale Stores	9	360	461	463	466	454	429
Membership in " 00 "	1752	1835	10062	13194	13903	14063	14199
Share Capital	52	125	345	565	653	697	676
Govt. contribution	N.A.	6	27	55	79	85	73
Owned funds	102	234	710	1103	1212	1275	1306
Borrowings O/s	24	83	306	471	598	570	382
Working Capital	169	355	1685	2788	2913	3118	3569
Purchases	887	3435	9330	14435	16951	17436	15499
S a l e s	931	3544	10103	15373	17200	18489	14723
Societies in Profit	489	781	1051	1355	1416	1492	1509
Amount of Profit	16	35	106	154	190	209	179
Societies in Loss	182	327	419	693	696	797	869
Amount of Loss	2	22	22	52	38	57	42

Source: Co-operative Movement At a Glance in Maharashtra
1991 - P. No. 24.

TABLE NO. 2.5

STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS OF MAHARASHTRA STATE COOPERATIVE

CONSUMERS FEDERATION

(RS. IN LACS)

PARTICULARS	1961	1971	1981	1987	1988	1989	1990
Branch(No)	-	-	7	14	12	11	13
Membership (00)	28	41	192	389	424	454	542
Share Capital (Rs. in lakhs)	3	14	146	228	229	230	250
Govt.Contribution (Rs. in Lakhs)	1	6	96	176	176	176	196
Owned funds (Rs. in Lakhs)	S.N.A.	17	190	280	281	283	304
Borrowings O/s (Rs.in Lakhs)	S.N.A.	18	173	95	142	127	142
Working Capital (Rs.in Lakhs)	6	38	647	702	926	1025	944
Purchases (Rs. in lakhs)	48	313	2078	1383	1212	1812	2224
Sales (Rs.in Lakhs)	46	336	2184	1364	1304	1899	2363
Profit	Neg	0.08	1	-	-	-	-
Loss	-	-	-	35	27	45	53

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Source: Co-operative Movement At a Glance in Maharashtra
1991 - P. No. 24.

CONSUMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT :

Kolhapur District is located between 15.43° to 17.10° North latitude and 74.40° to 74.42° East Longitude. Kolhapur district is bounded by Sangli district East and by Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district at the West.

According to the 1991 census the total area of Kolhapur District is about 8069 Sq.Km. The total population of the district is 29.74 Lakhs, out of which 7.85 Lakhs lived in Urban area and 21.89 Lakhs lived in rural area.

The district is divided into 12 talukas for administration purpose, namely, Karveer, Kagal, Bhudargad, Ajara, Gadhinglaj, Chandgad, Radhanagari, Gaganbawada, Shahuwadi, Panhala, Shirol, and Hatkanangale.

The world war II give momentum to the development of the consumer co-operative societies in the district. The Shetkari Sahakari Sangh came into existence in the month of Oct. 1939, to protect the consumers. Since then the consumers co-operative movement spread all over the district. Today in Kolhapur district Shetkari Bazar, Warana Bazar, Janata Bazar, and Datta Bazars are the leading consumers co-operative societies.

The consumer co-operative movement in the district includes Organisation of Wholesale stores and primary Co-operative societies.

Following table gives the necessary information about consumer Co-operatives in the district.

TABLE NO:2.6


Growth & progress of consumers Co-operatives in Kolhapur District.

YEAR	NO. OF SOCIETY	MEMBERS	(Rs. in Thousand)	
			SHARE CAPITAL Rs.	WORKING CAPITAL Rs.
1963-64	41	10,225	669	2,211
1964-65	42	16,310	830	3,228
1969-70	44	26,299	1,556	7,743
1970-71	45	28,651	1,601	8,807
1975-76	55	32,630	2,496	15,414
1981-82	70	59,294	6,182	27,876
1982-83	79	65,105	7,006	27,876
1983-84	90	70,239	8,281	29,073
1984-85	95	78,155	12,258	38,054
1985-86	103	98,481	14,740	42,267
1986-87	108	1,05,675	14,740	1,42,805
1990-91	159	1,98,216	15,351	1,80,262
% of growth rate	287.80	1838.54	2194.61	8052.96

Source: Socio economic review and District Statistical Abstract - Kolhapur District - 1961-62 to 1990-91

As the table 2.6 shows that the consumers co-operative movement had made a rapid progress in Kolhapur District. The number of consumer societies increased from 41 to 159 and membership increased 10,225 to 1,98,216. The growth rate of number of societies and membership was 287.80 percent and 1838.54 percent respectively. The total working capital increased from 22,11,000 to 18,02,62,000. The growth rate of working capital was 8052.96 percent. The share capital increased from Rs.6,69,000/- to Rs.1,53,51,000 & the growth of share capital was 2194.61 Percent.

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