

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

2.1 Introduction

Bathinda is one of the historical and important towns of North India. It is associated with the imprisonment of Razia Sultan in the Fort, which is more than 1800 years old. It was also called Wahtinda and Bitunda which finally become known as Bhatinda. But its name was changed to Bathinda on the authority of Survey of India to conform to the phonetical expression as locally pronounced. Bathinda district is situated in the southern part of Punjab State in the heart of Malwa Region, and is located between 29°-33' and 30°-36' north latitude and between 74°-38' and 75°-46' east longitude on the globe. The district is surrounded with Sirsa district of Haryana state in the south, Barnala and Mansa district in the east, Moga in the north and Faridkot and Mukatsar in the north-west. The district has eight towns, namely Bathinda, Rampura Phul, Maur, Raman, Bhuchu, Goniana, Kotfateh and Sangat and one census town (Bhisiana). The district has been divided into 3 sub-division at Bathinda, Talwandi Sabo and Phul, which are further sub-divided into 8 development blocks namely Bathinda, Sangat, Talwandi Sabo, Nathana, Rampura, Phul, Bhagta Bhai Ka and Maur. The district comprises of a total of 292 villages (includes 7 Municipal Councils Sangat, Raman mandi, Maur, Kotfatta, Rampura, Bhuchu Mandi, Goniana and 1 Municipal Corporation Bathinda and 5 uninhabited villages) 305 Gram Panchayats and 9 Market Committees operating in the district. The headquarters of the district are located at Bathinda. Map of district Bathinda is shown in figure 2.1.

2.1.2 General Statistics

1. Socio- Economic & Demographic Information

Social and economic profile of households of different blocks in the district The data related to socio-economic and demographic features as given in the table 2.1.2.1 indicates that the total population of the district is 871652 as a whole. The Maur block has a minimum population i.e. 81782 whereas the maximum is accommodated in the Bathinda block which is 171499. This population is residing in 140380 houses out of which 50769 houses are occupied by scheduled castes and 51163 houses by landless labourers. The total farming families are 86167 and out of these 4860 farming families are marginal and small having less than 2 hectare land holding, which indicates the dire need for making efforts for cooperative farming to make agriculture a profitable venture.

	Black smith	35	101	78	392	3	156	59	824
	Carpenters	195	304		368	49	204	242	1362
	Masons	287	196	171	414	156	207	341	1772
	Weavers	26	71		70	19	20	Nil	206

Information about poverty status in GPs in the district. Table 2.1.2.2 exhibits the poverty status in the district Bathinda. 32141 families are living below poverty line in addition to 6491 families in even more miserable conditions i.e. having income equal to half of the BPL families thus making a total of 38632 families in all in the BPL category. The facilities given to these indicated in the form of ration cards under PDC system account to be 166919. The Annapurna cards issued in the district are 12660 where as the no. of persons getting the old age pensions is 54374. These figures focus our attention for speedy efforts of income-generation for the people to prevent them from committing suicides occurring now and then due to poverty and inability to repay credit.

Table 2.1.2.2 Block wise information about poverty status in GPs in the district.

Sr. no.	Particular category		Blocks							Total
			Rampura	Phul	Nathana	Bathinda	Maur	Sangat	T/Sabo	
1	SC	Poorest of poor	413	858	492	958	515	879	1101	5216
		Poor	3711	4929	4296	3809	2656	3926	3527	26854
		Non poor	1402	4208	3413	7798	1057	3920	5228	27026
		Total	5526	9995	8201	12565	4228	8725	9856	59096
2	BC	Poorest of poor	50	158	18	135	162	163	589	1275
		Poor	834	1209	577	275	545	782	1065	5287
		Non poor	531	999	1344	2415	704	2194	1774	9961
		Total	1415	2366	1939	2825	1411	3139	3428	16523
3	Ration	SC	6664	9655	8554	14060	3655	7516	10292	60396

	cards									
		BC	1446	2447	1935	2993	1254	3014	2990	16079
		Others	15002	16412	11434	22579	7076	10327	7557	90387
		Total	23112	28566	21923	39632	11985	20857	20844	166919
4	Annapurna card	SC	236	758	1757	3743	474	1019	953	8940
		BC	19	165	139	333	414	173	108	1351
		Others	27	109	178	1769	65	150	70	2368
		Total	282	1032	2075	5845	953	1342	1131	12660
5	Old age pension	SC	3713	6565	4610	6181	2146	3965	3569	30749
		BC	854	1192	768	1418	565	953	1020	6770
		Others	3383	3143	1888	2152	1447	2108	2714	16835
		Total	7950	10915	7266	9751	4158	7026	7308	54374