



INTRODUCTION

The Estimates Committee in its report for the year 1958-59 recommended that at the time of the presentation of the Budget for the ensuing year an economic review of the year might be circulated among the Members of the Legislative Assembly along with other Budget papers. This first report is prepared in the Bureau of Economic Studies. Statistics pertaining to the economic conditions of the State during the year usually become available only with the lag of a number of years. It is therefore extremely difficult to make an objective report of the economic conditions of the State during the year at the end of that year itself. What little information could be collected have been analysed and interpreted in chapters II to VI. Chapter I gives a brief general survey of the economy of the State to act as a background to the developments of the year under review. It may be mentioned that for the purpose of this report, the year 1959 has always been taken as the calendar year 1959.

TABLE—1.1
Age Distribution in Kerala & India

Age	India 1961 (Per cent)	Kerala 1961 (Per cent)
0-5	13.4	14.8
5-15	24.9	24.4
15-25	17.4	20.7
25-55	35.9	31.8
Above 55	8.4	8.3
	100.0	100.0

TABLE—1.2
Distribution of population

	All India (in lakhs)	Percentage to total population	Kerala (in lakhs)	Percentage to total population
Total population	3567	100.0	135	100.0
Self-supporting persons	1048	29.4	37	27.4
Earning dependents	384	10.8	8	5.9
Non-earning dependents	2135	59.8	90	66.7

TABLE—1.3
Distribution of Working force

Livelihood class	All-India (in lakhs)	Percentage to total working force	Kerala (in lakhs)	Percentage to total Working force
Total working force	1432	100.0	45	100.0
A. Agriculture	1003	70.0	23	51.1
B. Non-Agriculture	429	30.0	22	48.9
1. Production other than cultivation	167	11.7	10	22.2
2. Commerce	73	5.1	3	6.7
3. Transport	20	1.4	1	2.2
4. Other services and miscella- neous sources	169	11.8	8	17.8

TABLE—1.4

Breakdown of Percentage of Self Supporting persons excluding Agriculture and Government Services into Occupation Groups

	Kerala (percentage)	India (percentage)
1. Plantation Industries	5.99	3.68
2. Forestry	0.93	0.87
3. Fisheries	5.56	1.45
4. Mining, manufacturing, electricity, and gas supply, construction works and maintenance of works	38.05 14.75	37.96 20.53
5. Commerce		
6. Transport (excluding railways and air transport)	6.48	3.99
7. Medical, Educational Service and Sanitary Services	4.92	5.33
8. All other services	23.32	26.19
Total of self-supporting persons excluding Agriculture and Government Services :	100.00	100.00

As can be seen, the Kerala population has got relatively more of young people and less of old people than the population of India. This is primarily due to the smaller rate of infantile mortality in Kerala than in the rest of India (the last named rate is 50 per thousand of live births in Kerala whereas it is 113 in the whole of India) and probably also due to a higher birth rate. The sex ratio shows an interesting characteristic in Kerala. For every thousand males, there are in Kerala 1028 females. For the whole of India and in most other States there are more males than females. Madras and Orissa are the only two other States having the same characteristic as Kerala.

Occupation Pattern :

1.4. Table 1.2 shows the proportions of Self-Supporting, Earning Dependent, and non Earning Dependent persons in the populations of Kerala and the whole of India respectively. It is seen that in Kerala the proportion of Self-Supporting persons to the total population is slightly smaller than in the rest of India. If however one

considers the Working Force, which is made up of Self-Supporting and Earning Dependent persons, its proportion to the total population is very much smaller in Kerala than in the rest of India. Thus, the burden of dependence on the earning members of the Society is heavier in this State than in the rest of India. This cannot be accounted for by the slightly higher proportion of the minor and the aged in the State. It is substantially a reflection of the relatively narrow scope for remunerative labour in the economy.

1.5. Table 1.3 compares the composition of the Working Forces of Kerala and India. It reveals surprising disparity between the two. While for the whole of India as much as 70 per cent of the Working Force belongs to the Agriculture Sector, the proportion for Kerala is only 51 per cent. The proportion of workers engaged in non-Agricultural production is 22 per cent for Kerala and 11.7 per cent for the whole of India. The figures are paradoxical; for one generally associates higher proportion of workers in Agriculture with a less industrialised economy, and Kerala is certainly industrially more backward than the rest of India. This paradoxical statistical feature arises from the exceptionally high population pressure on land. The pressure is so high that it is physically impossible for Agriculture to support more than 51 per cent of the population.

1.6. Table 1.4 shows a breakdown of the Working Force excluding Agriculture and Government Services in terms of the Occupation Group of the workers. It brings out still more clearly the divergence of the employment pattern in Kerala from that of the whole of India. Once more the divergence is in a direction opposite to what one would expect. If one were to judge by this table alone, one would conclude that Kerala is quite advanced industrially. Thus, the workers engaged in Mining and Manufacturing constitute a higher proportion in Kerala than in the rest of India; conversely the proportion of workers engaged in Commerce and Services is lower in the State than in the whole country.

Agriculture :

1.7. The following table gives a classification of the land area of the State according to mode of utilization.

TABLE—1.5
Land Utilization in Kerala (1955-56)

Details of utilization	Area in '000 acres	Percentage to total area
Total	9,412	100.0
Forests	2,433	25.8
Barren and uncultivable land	497	5.3
Land put on non-agricultural uses	471	5.0
Cultivable waste lands	406	4.3
Permanent pastures and grazing lands	116	1.2
Land under miscellaneous tree crops	508	5.4
Current fallow	140	1.5
Other fallow	364	3.9
Net area sown	4,477	47.6
Area sown more than once	989	10.5
Total cropped area	5,466	58.1

1.8. The per capita extent of cultivated land in Kerala is among the lowest in India. Already in 1921 it was only 53 cents; now it is less than 30 cents. The extreme pressure on land has resulted in excessive sub-division and fragmentation of holdings. Table 1.6 shows the cumulative percentage distribution of holdings amongst households in the T. C. area and the Malabar area of Kerala separately. (The two parts of the table cannot be combined as the methods of measurement used were different for these two areas.)

TABLE—1.6

Cumulative percentage distribution of number of
holdings and land area of holdings in Travancore-
Cochin area and the Malabar District

Grade of holdings	Travancore-Cochin		Malabar	
	No. of holdings	Area	No. of holdings	Area
1. Up to 1 acre	66.72	16.49	28.91	2.43
2. „ 2.50 acres	86.47	36.96	51.52	8.22
3. „ 5 acres	94.84	57.07	69.55	17.68
4. „ 10 acres	98.35	73.35	83.79	32.30
5. „ 20 acres	99.50	83.59	93.91	52.58
6. „ 40 acres	99.86	90.15	97.88	68.57
7. „ 100 acres	99.62	82.37
8. All.	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

TABLE—1.9

Requirements and availability of selected crops in Kerala

<i>Name of Crop</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Requirement (1960-61)</i>	<i>Production (1956-57)</i>
1. Rice	...Lakh tons	16.50	8.73
2. Tapioca	... "	14.90	14.26
3. Pulses	... "	2.57	0.13
4. Sugarcane	... "	2.16	0.33
(in terms of gur)			
5. Coconut	...Crores nuts	248.00	318.20

1.9. Tables 1.7 and 1.8 show the acreage, per acre yield and production of the principal crops in Kerala. The per acre yield of rice in Kerala is very much higher than that in the rest of India. While it is above 1000 lbs. per acre in Kerala, it is less than 800 pounds per acre for the whole of India.

Area & Yield of Principal Crops in Kerala

Name of Crop	Crop Year	Area (‘000 acres)	Production		Source
			Unit	Quantity	
Rice	1958-59	1899	lakh tons	9.40	{ Statistics Department L. U. S. Estimates
Tapioca	1956-57	515 ✓	”	14.26	
Coconut	”	1136 ✓	crores nuts	318.20	
Arecanut	1957-58	145	lakh maunds	12.51	Indian Central Arecanut Committee
Cashewnut	1956-57	87	000 tons	54.35	{ Statistics Department L. U. S. Estimates
Bananas	”	82	”	213.50	
Sugarcane	1958-59	22	”	350.20	{ Statistics Department Final Forecast
Pepper	”	224	”	25.04	
Ginger	”	22	”	7.66	
Cardamom	1956-57	70	”	1.24	{ Statistics Department Rubber Board
Tea	1957	99	”	34.18	
Coffee	1956-57	37	”	6.61	
Rubber	1958	271	”	22.16	

TABLE—1.8

Average Yield per acre (1956-57)

(based on the Land Utilization Survey of the Department of Statistics)

Name of Crop	Yield per acre	
	Unit	Quantity
Rice	... lb.	1024
Tapioca	... „	6200
Coconut	... No. of nuts	2800
Arecanut	... „	54500
Sugarcane	... lb.	41200
Bahana	... „	5800
Cashewnut (unshelled)	... „	1400
Pepper	... „	279
Ginger (dry)	... „	957
Cardamom	... „	40
Tea	... „	776
Coffee	... „	221
Rubber	... „	235

1.10. Table 1.9 shows the position of a few important crops in Kerala with regard to their availability as compared to their need based on dietary norms for per capita consumption. The scarcity of cultivable land in relation to the size of the population makes Kerala the most deficit of all States in India in respect of rice. The per capita production of foodgrains in Kerala is less than half of that for the whole of India.

Animal Husbandry :

1.11. Kerala is poor in her cattle wealth but rich in poultry. The bovine, ovine and poultry population in 1956 in absolute figures is given in the following table:—

TABLE—1.10

Livestock & Poultry in Kerala and India (1956)

(figures in lakhs)

		Kerala	India
Cattle	...	25.10	1586.51
Buffaloes	...	4.88	449.16
Sheep	...	0.98	392.46
Goats	...	9.56	554.05
Pigs	...	1.14	49.32
Other Livestock	...	0.02	33.54
Total Livestock	...	41.68	3065.04
Total Poultry	...	67.95	946.83

1.12. For every 1000 persons in Kerala there are 210 bovine and 64 ovine. For the whole of India the figures are 528 and 247 respectively. The extent of area ploughed by working bovine in Kerala is nearly 6 acres whereas it is only 5 acres for the whole of India. The number of milch cows and buffaloes ('in milk' and 'dry and not calved') per thousand human population in Kerala is only 76 whereas in India it is 177. The *per capita* consumption of milk and milk products in Kerala is one of the lowest in India. The figures of daily consumption in Kerala and India are 1.2 ozs. and 4.5 ozs. respectively. But the number of poultry per thousand persons in the State is 470 whereas in India it is only 255.

Forests :

1.13. Kerala has got extremely valuable forests covering 25.8 per cent of its geographical area. This is slightly lower than the recommended optimum percentage, but higher than the all India figure which is only 22.4 per cent. Kerala's forests are economically much more valuable than those of the rest of India; while the revenue yield from forests is about Rs. 3 per acre for the whole of India, it is as high as Rs. 10 in Kerala. Kerala's forests have been contributing quite a handsome revenue to the Government every year. In the last two years the annual contribution has been above Rs. 3 crores. The following table shows the yield of timber from Kerala's forests in 1957-58 and 1958-59. It can be seen that the yield has gone up very much during 1958-59.

TABLE—1.12

Fish Landings in Kerala & India

Year	Total landings in India (Tons)	Total marine fish landings in India (Tons)	Fish landings in Kerala (Tons)	Percentage to Indian Marine Fish landings
1955-56	8,39,000	5,96,700	2,12,000	* 35.5
1956-57	10,12,300	7,18,700	2,28,500	31.8
1957-58	12,33,000	8,75,400	3,41,000	39.0
Up to Dec- ember 1958	2,97,000	..

1.16. Only 50 per cent of the present production of fish in the State is consumed fresh while the rest is used for curing and processing. (For the whole of India the percentage is 43 per cent. Another 50 per cent is dried and cured and the remaining 7 per cent used for fish manure, fish oil etc.)

Irrigation :

1.17. The abundant water resources of Kerala have not been made any use of until recently. The only area under controlled irrigation at the commencement of the First Five Year Plan was the Nanjinad area (56,000 acres) which was served by the Kodayar Irrigation system. The Nanjinad area now forms part of the reorganised Madras State. During the First Plan period seven major irrigation projects (including those in the Malabar area started under the Madras Plan) viz., Neyyar, Chalakudy, Peechi, Vazhani, Malampuzha, Walayar and Mangalam were taken up and at the end of the Plan period the Malampuzha, Chalakudy and Peechi schemes benefited an area of 78,669 acres of paddy land. All the seven major irrigation schemes included in the First Plan were carried over to the Second Plan. Besides these, six new schemes, namely Meenkara, Pothundy, Neyyar II Stage, Chalakudy II Stage, Cheerakuzhi and Periyar Valley Project were included in the Second Plan. All these schemes taken together will irrigate a total area of 1.96 lakh acres by 1960-61 and 2.95 lakh acres ultimately. The target for area to be benefited from Medium, Minor and Lift Irrigation works during the Second Plan period is 1.52 lakh acres. In addition, works are in progress for the development of 1,21,000 acres of water logged land in the Kuttanad region making them suitable for a second crop ; also for the improvement of 4000 acres

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of land at Kattampally in the Cannanore District. 45,000 acres of flood affected land is going to be protected from flood and rendered suitable for cultivation.

Power :

1.18. The natural conditions of Kerala make possible hydro-electric power generation at a remarkably low cost, but advantage has not been taken of this possibility until recently. The installed generating capacity available at present is 109,500 K.W. distributed among hydro-electric stations as shown in the table below :

TABLE—1.13

Power Generation Capacity in Kerala (1959-60)

<i>Name of Station.</i>	<i>Installed Capacity (K.W.)</i>	
1. Pallivasal	..	37,500
2. Sengulam	..	48,000
3. Poringalkuthu (1st stage)	..	24,000
		<hr/> 109,500

1.19. Two other projects, namely Poringalkuthu (II Stage) and Neriamangalam will be commissioned by 1960-61. They will increase the available installed capacity by 8,000 K. W. and 45,000 K. W. respectively. The total capacity by 1960-61 will therefore be 1,62,500 K.W. It is estimated that demand for Power will rise to 204 M.W. by 1960-61. There will therefore be power shortage during the next few years. But there are three other projects in execution, namely the Panniar Scheme, the Sholayar scheme and the Pamba 1st stage scheme. They will increase the power generation capacity of the State by 30,000 K.W., 54,000 K.W. and 1,00,000 K.W. respectively and are due to be commissioned in the years 1961-62, 1963-64 and 1964-65 respectively. Table 1.14 shows the pattern of power consumption in the State during the last few years.

Transport :

1.20. Kerala has the maximum road density in India. In 1955-56 there was in Kerala an average of 72 miles of road for every 100 sq. miles of area, as against the all India average of 16 miles. Table 1.15 gives the mileages of roads of different categories as at the end of year 1955-56.

Pattern of consumption of electrical energy by the various classes of consumers

	1954-55		1955-56		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		5
	m. units	%	m. units	%	m. units	%	m. units	%	m. units	%	
1. Domestic consumers, commercial lights and fans and small power	14.95	6.6	15.79	5.8	20.61	6.9	24.50	6.8	29.97	7.0	35.1
2. Public lighting	1.29	0.5	1.42	0.5	2.48	0.8	3.35	0.9	4.43	1.0	5.6
3. Agricultural operation and water works	15.20	6.8	15.26	5.6	17.59	5.9	19.56	5.4	18.78	4.4	13
4. Small and medium industries (Low Tension Supply)	16.79	7.5	19.31	7.1	28.03	9.4	27.25	7.5	30.30	7.1	34
5. Large and Heavy Industries (High tension)	157.32	69.6	201.37	73.4	193.01	64.5	248.60	68.4	297.42	70.0	70.9
6. Bulk supplies to licensees and neighbouring State	20.18	9.0	20.84	7.6	37.53	12.5	40.03	11.0	42.05	10.5	5.7
	225.73		273.99		299.25		363.29		422.95		22.3

TABLE—1.15
Roads in Kerala (1955-56)

Category of Road	Mileage	Mileage per 100 sq. miles of area
All Categories	10739	72
National Highways	276	2
Provincial Highways	1156	8
District Roads	3873	26
Village Roads	5434	36

The Second Five Year Plan has set itself a task of improving and constructing 1147 miles of roads, building 85 major bridges and 95 minor bridges and constructing 1500 miles of Village Roads.

1.21. The mileage of railways in the State is however quite small in comparison with its area, population and commercial activity. Kerala had 467 miles of railways in 1956 out of the total railway mileage of 34,000 in the whole country. The effects of inadequate railway connections is to some extent attenuated by the extensive facilities for Water Transport that the State is provided with. Water Transport still remains the cheapest form of transportation in the State. The Coastal Canal System and the Inland Cross Canal System connects up most of the commercial and industrial centres of Kerala. There is an uninterrupted water communication from Trivandrum to Tirur over a distance of 220 miles. In the Second Five Year Plan there are provisions for improvements to be made to the present Canal System.

1.22. In relation to population the number of motor vehicles in Kerala is more than the all India average. The number of motor vehicles per lakh of population in India is 89 while that in Kerala is 150. The State Transport Department is operating services in almost all the trunk roads in the T-C area of the State. It operates passenger service on 301 important routes covering a route mileage of 5795 miles.

Social Service :

1.23. Kerala is the most advanced State in India in the matter of Social Services. Literacy among the people here is far ahead of that in any other State. The percentage was 41 per cent in 1951 and must be much higher now in view of the continued progress in the field of education. The following table shows the percentage of school and college going population to the total population in Kerala and in the rest of India. It is seen that the spread of education in all its levels is higher in the State than in the rest of India, though the State is relatively backward in the field of Technical Education.

TABLE—1.16

Percentage of Total Population attending Educational Institutions

	<i>Kerala</i>	<i>India</i>
Primary Schools	13.47	5.96
Secondary Schools	4.27	2.20
Schools for Special Education	0.32	0.46
Colleges for General Education	0.24	0.15
Colleges for vocational Education	0.02	0.03

Again 59 per cent of the population belonging to the age group 5—16 in Kerala went to school in 1955-56 whereas the proportion for the whole of India was only 28 per cent. There were in the State, at the end of 1958, 6973 Lower Primary Schools, 1756 Upper Primary Schools, 826 High Schools, 44 Arts and Science Colleges and 43 other educational institutions.

1.24. Not only in Education but in Health also Kerala is ahead of most other parts of India. In terms of hospitals and dispensaries the per capita facilities available to the people of Kerala are quantitatively more than double the corresponding all India average. Thus, in 1955-56 there were 38 hospitals and dispensaries and 726 hospital beds per 10 lakh population whereas there were only 26 and 320 of them in the whole of India.

1.25. That the general health standard of the people of Kerala is much better than that of the rest of India is attested by the fact that the Death Rate in Kerala is estimated to be about half that in the whole of India. (Thus in 1954 the death rate for the whole of India was estimated at 12.5 per thousand whereas for Kerala the estimate for 1956 is 7.40). The same is indicated by a study of the impact on the State of some of the most important of the fatal diseases affecting seriously other parts of India. Thus, Cholera has been practically eliminated in the State ; while the death from Smallpox was 12 per lakh for the whole of India in 1954, it was only 5 per lakh for Kerala in 1954, and a little over 2 per lakh in 1956. Death from respiratory diseases including T. B. was for the whole of India 110 per lakh in 1954 ; for Kerala it was only 40 in 1954, though it rose to 70 in 1956. Death from Malaria and other fevers was 600 per lakh of population for the whole of India in 1954, whereas for Kerala the ratio was only 60 in 1954 and rose to 80 in 1956. It is however true that while Kerala is saved from the scourges of a number of deadly diseases that afflict certain other parts of India, she has her own share of difficult indigenous diseases like Filariasis.

Export & Import.

1.26. Kerala is an important earner of foreign exchange for India. Kerala's Pepper, Cardamom, Ginger, Tea, Coffee, Lemongrass Oil, Cashew Nuts and Coir Products are greatly in demand in the world market. For many of these products Kerala has got all India if not world monopoly, and for many of these products there are important buyers who pay in Dollars, Sterling and Roubles. Table 1.17 and 1.18 show the value of exports through the principal ports of Kerala during the five years 1953-54 to 1957-58.

1.27. It is seen that the total value of exports from the ports during these years have been just below Rs. 80 crores, of which a little more than Rs. 50 crores is to foreign countries and about Rs. 25 crores to other Indian ports. It cannot be said with certainty exactly how much of the commodities exported are of origin within Kerala. There is of course no doubt that the entire bulk of Pepper, Coir Products, Cashew Products, Fish and Prawn, and Lemongrass Oil come from Kerala, but a part of tea, coffee, cardamom and ginger originates outside. However it is not possible to know definitely how large the part is it without conducting a very detailed investigation into the question. It may not however be far from true to say that Kerala's earnings of foreign exchange during the recent years have amounted to about Rs. 50 crores per year.

Valuation of Foreign Exports from the Ports of Cochin, Alleppey and Calicut (Rs. in lakhs)

Serial No.	Some important Commodities of Export	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	*1957-58
1	Cardamom	22.44	32.84	50.17	54.84	55.90
2	Cashew (Kernels and liquids)	927.55	1014.52	1155.12	1112.02	1141.82
3	Coffee	72.39	82.88	93.69	76.50	90.73
4	Coir and Coir products	804.00	731.37	856.86	878.09	704.87
5	Fish and Prawns	102.69	79.34	31.85	123.86	149.33
6	Ginger	27.94	33.24	58.71	61.40	39.23
7	Metals, Minerals, Ores	21.56	22.78	28.93	77.10	60.77
8	Lemon grass oil	72.62	104.73	130.65	147.00	138.41
9	Pepper	962.13	569.81	378.61	341.69	295.67
10	Tea	1912.96	2196.86	1992.17	1974.75	2434.78
11	Others	235.72	443.83	591.64	525.75	491.40
Total Value of Foreign Exports		5162.	5312.	5369.	5343.	5603.
Total value of exports to Ports in India		2238	2193	2489	2404	2318
Value of total exports		7400	7505	7858	7747	7921

* Value of exports from Calicut includes exports to both foreign and Indian ports.

TABLE 1.18

Trade through the principal Ports of Kerala

(Rs. in lakhs)

Port	Year	Export			Import		
		External	Internal	Total	External	Internal	Total
Cochin	1952-'53	4667	1830	6497	2117	2605	4722
	1953-'54	4416	1896	6312	2377	2643	5021
	1954-'55	4698	1925	6624	3005	2057	5062
	1955-'56	4697	2212	6909	2345	2985	5330
	1956-'57	4759	2140	6899	2780	2803	5584
	1957-'58	4715	2318	7033	2575	2725	5300
*Alleppey	1952-'53	442	..	442	25	..	25
	1953-'54	428	..	428	19	..	19
	1954-'55	322	..	322	29	..	29
	1955-'56	288	..	288	23	..	23
	1956-'57	284	..	284	29	..	29
	1957-'58	273	..	273	40	..	40
Calicut	1952-'53	318	310	628	89	338	428
	1953-'54	391	269	660	31	414	445
	1954-'55	292	267	559	62	307	369
	1955-'56	384	276	661	109	265	373
	1956-'57	300	264	564	123	271	494
	1957-'58	N/A	188	N/A	N/A	195	N/A

* Internal trade is insignificant and most of the years Alleppey did not have any internal trade.

1.28. Table 1.18 shows the values of export and import separately for the three principal ports of Kerala namely, Cochin, Calicut and Alleppey. The total value of import through these ports has been of the order of Rs. 60 crores in the recent years. By far the greater part of export and import takes place through Cochin; next in importance is Calicut. But if one thinks of trade with foreign countries alone, Alleppey is more important than Calicut. Alleppey has not got any trade at all with other Indian ports.

Plantations.

1.29. Plantations play an extremely vital role in Kerala's economy. Table 1.21 presents some essential statistics about the three most important plantation industries in the State, viz., tea, coffee and rubber. There are 3.4 lakh acres of land under plantations in the State and they give employment to 1.75 lakh persons. It is seen that the bulk of the acreage under plantation is accounted for by rubber, whereas the largest volume of employment is given by tea. It may also be noted that the average daily wage rates in the plantations are very much lower than the average wage rates obtaining in the industries (see table 1.25). Tables 1.19 and 1.20 show distributions of the numbers and acreage of tea and coffee plantations according to the area under the respective crops. The average size of tea plantations is very much higher than that of rubber or coffee. The average size of a rubber plantation is less than 7 acres, that of a coffee plantation, less than 100 acres, but that of a tea plantation is nearly 350 acres. There are 17 tea plantations in Kerala with more than 1000 planted acres. As a matter of fact, tea gardens are either very large or smaller than 200 acres. It is seen from table 1.19 that those tea plantations that are above 200 acres in size are mostly above 500 acres. But the frequency distribution of coffee plantations according to size conforms more to the regular frequency distribution of this type wherein the lowest or the almost lowest size occurs with the largest frequency.

Industries.

1.30. (Kerala is industrially very backward.) (Her important industries lie very largely outside the boundary of organised industries. As such very little of statistics is collected for them. Even those industries which are factory based are not properly covered by the existing industrial statistics, for they happen to be mostly industries not coming within the purview of the Census of Manufacturing Industries.) There is therefore very little information available as to production or investment in the industries. Some

information about employment alone is available. But even that is very sketchy for all industries which do not come under the Factories Act.

TABLE 1.19

Distribution of Tea Plantations in the State according to area under Tea—1957.

Area under Tea (Acres)	No. of plantations	Acreage
Below 200	141	9569
200—300	24	6081
300—400	14	4679
400—500	13	5857
500—700	36	21854
700—1000	37	30979
100 and above	17	19621
All	282	98640

TABLE 1.20

Distribution of Coffee Plantations in the State according to area under Coffee—1957.

Area under Coffee (Acres)	No. of plantations	Acreage
Below 25	Not available	17606
25—100	155	7342
100—200	22	2953
200—500	16	5050
500 and above	6	3951
All		36902

TABLE-1.31

Plantation Statistics

Type of Plantations	Year to which the figures relate	Number of plantations as at the end of the year	Total area under Plantations during the year (acres)	Total production from the plantations during the year (tons)	Total persons employed (daily average during the year)		Daily Average Wages (Rs.)	
					Men	Women	Men	Women
Tea	1957	282	98640	34175	97519	1.68	1.51	
Coffee *	July 1956-June 1957	212	36902	6610	18080	1.58†	1.17†	
Rubber	1956	30829	203282	21319	59502	1.76	1.31	
All		31323	338824	..	175101			

* The number of Coffee plantations refers only to those having area 25 acres and above. The data in other columns are however inclusive of small-growers.

† Daily wages for Coffee and Cardamom estates.

1.31. The number of factory workers in the State in 1958 has been estimated at 1.64 lakhs. No direct estimate of the number of workers in the different small scale and cottage industries has been made since the 1951 Census, but using a simple projection the figure may be very roughly put at 6.25 lakhs. The proportion of factory labour to total industrial working force is thus 20.8 per cent. The corresponding proportion for the whole of India, it may be mentioned, is 21.4 per cent. This difference probably reflects the relative preponderance of small industries in Kerala's industrial pattern. The largest employment giving industry in the State is Coir. It was estimated by the Minimum Wage Committee for the Coir Industry that the number of non-factory workers engaged in the industry in 1953 was 2.07 lakhs. It has also been observed that between 5 to 10 lakh people depend on this industry for their living. Handloom is also an important employment giving but economically languishing industry. It is estimated that there are about 1.2 lakh handlooms with a potential to give employment to 2.5 lakh weavers in the State.

1.32. Table 1.22 gives the number of factory workers employed in those industries in the State that give employment to about 2,500 factory workers or more. It is seen that the largest employment giving industry in the State is the Cashew Industry and next in importance comes Textiles. Coir and wood based industries follow closely after. Table 1.23 classifies the industries according to the average number of workers in factories belonging to them. It is seen that the largest number of industries belonging to the group 20-50; also that the group "above 300" account for the largest part in the total employment, though this is entirely due to one particular industry, namely Cashew. Table 1.24 throws further light on the Industrial pattern of the State. It brings out very clearly the preponderance of agriculture and forest based industries as opposed to mineral based industries in the State. (As much as 45.52 per cent of the factory labour in the State are employed in the food processing industries whereas the proportion for the whole of India is only 13.44 per cent.) The proportion of workers employed in industries using metals in Kerala is by far inferior to that in the rest of India. On the other hand, industries using non-metallic products account for a higher percentage of factory workers in the State than in the whole of India.

1.33. Table 1.25 gives the average daily wages in a number of industries. The lowest wage rate is found to obtain in the Cashew industry. The highest rates are found to prevail among the few very modern industries in the State like Rayon, Fertilizers, etc., as well as in the Soap Industry.

TABLE—1.22

Factory Employment in a number of Selected Industries
in Kerala—1958.

Sl.No.	Name of the Industry	Total Employment	Average Employment per factory
1	Cashew	67,278	386
2	Textiles	19,246	82
3	Coir	13,397	88
4	Bricks and Tiles	11,666	75
5	Saw Mills & Other Woodbased Industries	6,825	77
6	Tea	5,920	49
7	Splints and Veneers	4,651	60
8	Printing	3,720	23
9	Beedi	2,929	34
10	Repair of Motor Vehicles	2,785	30
11	General Engineering	2,466	57

TABLE—1.23

Industries in Kerala classified according to the average number of employment in each factory (1958)

Sl. No.	No. of workers	Names of the Industries	Total employment (approximate)
1	1—20	Flour Mills, Rice Mills, Oil, Cigar, Packing Cases, Tyre Retreading, Forgings, Iron and Steel, Cycle, Jewellery, Pencils, Plastics, Dyeing and Printing	5,000
2	20—50	Hydrogenated oil, Tea, Beedi, Knitting Mills, Saw Mills, General Wood works and wooden furniture, Printing, Rubber, Pharmaceuticals, Match, Other Chemical Products, Metal Containers, Cutlery and Locks, Agricultural Implements, Repair of Motor Vehicles, Brushes, Stamp, Vegetable and Animal Oils and Fats, Confectionaries etc.	25,000
3	50—100	Canning of fruits and vegetables, Starch, Salt, Textiles, Coir, Umbrella, Splints and Veneers, Heavy Chemicals, Other Chemicals, Petroleum, Bricks and Tiles, Pottery, General Engineering and Power	55,000
4	100—300	Canning of fish and other sea foods, Coffee curing, Plywood factories, Soap, Glass works, Electrical Machinery and Ship Building and Repairing	6,000
5	Above 300	Sugar, Cashew, Rayons, Paper Mill, Artificial manures, Cement, Aluminium and Bus body building	73,000
Total			1,64,000

TABLE—1.24

Percentage of Employment in Factories in Kerala and India during the half year ended 30th June, 1957.

<i>Factories</i>	<i>Kerala</i>	<i>India</i>
Total employment	100.00	100.00
Electricity, Gas and Steam	0.04	0.98
Transport Equipment	2.85	8.47
Electrical Appliances and Supplies	0.23	1.36
Machinery (except electrical)	2.19	3.99
Metal Products (except machinery and Transport equipment)	0.35	2.47
Basic Metal Industries	0.75	3.60
Non-metallic products (except petroleum)	9.80	4.07
Petroleum and Coal	0.68	0.52
Chemicals & Chemical Products	2.44	3.09
Rubber and Rubber Products	1.39	0.93
Leather & Leather Products (except footwear)	..	0.65
Paper and Paper Products	0.81	1.01
Foot wear, other wearing apparel etc.	0.87	0.48
Textiles	22.17	37.34
Food (except beverages)	45.52	13.44
Others	9.91	17.60

TABLE—1.25
Average Daily Wages in Industries

Sl. No.	Industry	Average Daily Wages (Rs.)	
		Men	Women
1	Rice Mills	1.95	1.20
2	Oil Mills	2.20	1.27
3	Tea Factories	2.01	1.39
4	Cashew Industry	1.55	1.01
5	Beedi & Cigar Factories	2.39	..
6	Cotton Textiles & Knitting	2.67	2.47
7	Coir Factories	2.36	1.29
8	Rayon	5.86	3.28
9	Timber Industry	2.34	1.14
10	Splints, Veneers for Matches	1.58	0.81
11	Paper Mill	2.88	2.38
12	Printing Press	3.04	1.30
13	Rubber Plantation Factories	2.18	1.62
14	Soap Factory	6.22	3.97
15	Bricks and Tiles	2.08	1.23
16	Glass Factory	2.58	1.92
17	Cement	4.42	3.25
18	General & Electrical Engineering	3.45	1.96
19	Automobile Repairing	3.50	..

TABLE—1.26

Statement showing number of industrial disputes
resulting in work Stoppages—1958

Sl.No.	Industry	No. of disputes	Workers affected	No. of man days lost during the year
1	2	3	4	5
1	Plantation	133	76622	745361
2	Cashew	19	10723	56544
3	Coir	14	6348	33874
4	Saw Mills	15	360	4306
5	Textiles	14	10870	109852
6	Tiles	57	6801	46904
7	Others	158	10766	67042
8	Total	410	122490	1063883

1.34. Table 1.26 gives some statistics about the incidence and effects of industrial disputes in the State. It is seen that 77,000 out of 1,75,000 plantation workers and 46,000 out of 1,60,000 industrial workers were affected by such disputes in 1958.

Consumption Pattern.

1.35. Sample surveys conducted recently by the Department of Statistics throw some light on the consumption habits of the people of Kerala. Tables 1.27, 1.28 and 1.29 present some of the interesting findings. Tables 1.27 compares the consumption patterns of three socio-economic classes in Kerala, namely Agricultural Labourers, Agricultural other than Agricultural Labourers and non-Agricultural. The per capita consumption figures differ from class to class due to two reasons : difference in consumption habits and differences in the average levels of income among the classes. Thus, if consumption of most items is lower for agricultural labourers, that is principally because they are poorer than the other two classes. The same reality is reflected in the higher consumption of Tapioca by this class. A comparison of the

TABLE—1.27
Consumption Pattern in Kerala (1958)

Consumption Pattern in Kerala (1950)								
(in rupees)								
Monthly per capita domestic expenditure on								
	Rice	Tapioca	Meat, Egg, Fish	Oil and oil products	Sugar	Clothing	Fuel & light	Milk & milk products
1	4.79	0.73	0.53	0.41	0.14	0.62	0.91	0.13
2	6.58	0.64	0.79	0.88	0.36	1.99	1.40	0.84
3	5.62	0.50	0.80	0.67	0.36	1.19	1.18	0.80
Agricultural labour class								
Agricultural non-labour								
Non-Agriculture								

TABLE—1.28
Consumption pattern: Comparison between Kerala (1958) and India (1953-54)

Consumption pattern: Comparison between Kerala (1958) and India (1953-54)								
(in rupees)								
Monthly per capita domestic expenditure on								
	Rice	Tapioca	Meat, Egg, Fish	Oil & oil products	Sugar	Clothing	Fuel & light	Milk & milk products
Kerala (Rural & urban)	5.44	0.62	0.68	0.60	0.27	1.09	1.10	0.52
All India (Rural)	6.96	..	0.41	0.45	0.49	1.66	1.14	1.31
All India (Urban)	6.33	..	0.84	0.79	0.59	1.68	1.50	2.34

TABLE—1.29

Monthly per capita expenditure of different income classes in Kerala (1958)
(in rupees)

Monthly per capita domestic expenditure (Rs.)	Rice	Tapioca	Meat, Egg, Fish	Oil and Oil products	Sugar	Clothing	Fuel and light	Milk & milk products
0—4	1.16	0.51	0.14	0.09	0.06	..	0.29	..
4—8	3.04	0.60	0.31	0.22	0.07	0.14	0.56	0.03
8—12	4.68	0.63	0.49	0.37	0.14	0.27	0.36	0.13
12—16	5.56	0.68	0.59	0.55	0.22	0.62	1.12	0.36
16—20	6.31	0.65	0.85	0.68	0.36	1.24	1.62	0.56
20—24	6.82	0.63	0.99	0.87	0.39	1.89	2.11	0.50
24—30	7.87	0.65	1.24	1.07	0.59	2.81	1.76	1.21
30—40	9.80	0.60	1.50	1.38	0.62	3.39	2.03	1.50
40—50	8.95	0.49	1.33	1.70	0.70	4.13	2.19	2.79
50—60	9.04	0.35	1.98	2.02	1.07	7.15	2.58	4.31
Above 60	11.18	0.16	2.00	2.34	1.09	9.15	4.99	4.95
All	5.44	0.62	0.68	0.60	0.27	1.09	1.10	0.52

consumption patterns of the class Agricultural other than Agricultural Labour with non-Agricultural reveals that the average overall consumption level of the former class is higher than that of the non-agricultural class, indicating that the former class in Kerala is more prosperous than the latter. The differences between Kerala (all classes) India (rural) and India (urban) shown in Table 1.28 also are due to differences in habits as well as in levels of income. No very serious comparison of the per capita income levels in Kerala and in India is possible with the scanty material available on the subject. But it may be assumed that overall per capita personal consumption is lower in Kerala than in the rest of India. This, coupled with the differences in habits and local non-availability of certain consumer goods, account for some rather startling differences in their consumption patterns. Thus, the per capita consumption of milk and milk products in Kerala is less than half of the all India rural consumption rate and less than a fourth of the all-India urban consumption rate. Similar differences are observed in the cases of sugar and clothings too. The fact that the consumption of rice also is lower in Kerala is a sure indication of the lower standard of living of the people of Kerala.

1.36.* Some very interesting facts are revealed by the concentration curves for Kerala and for India shown in diagrams 1.1 and 1.2. Along the X-axis of such a diagram is measured the proportion of consumers below a certain income level to all consumers; along the Y-axis is measured the proportion of a certain consumer commodity consumed by consumers below a certain income level to the total consumption of that commodity. If a society is egalitarian, if income is distributed among all equally, then any 30 per cent of the population will consume roughly 30 per cent of any commodity; for such a society the concentration curve for every commodity will follow a straight line shown in the diagrams as the Egalitarian Line. But as soon as a society departs from the principle of egalitarianism, the poorer 30 per cent of the population will consume less than 30 per cent of most commodities and as such their concentration curves will lie to the right of the Egalitarian Line. But in case there is some inferior food (like tapioca in Kerala) which is consumed more by the poor and less by the rich, the curve for such a commodity will be on the left side of the Egalitarian Line (See Diagram 1.2.) The poor will require the essential goods as much as the rich. Hence the curve for essential commodities will be less removed from the Egalitarian Line than those for luxury goods. Hence the amount of curvature is an index of the degree to which a commodity is non-essential.

Diagram 1.1 compares a number of curves for Kerala with those for India. From the two diagrams the following valid conclusions can be drawn.

(1) There is more of inequality in the Kerala society than in that of the whole of India. This is made clear by the fact that the curve for Total Expenditure (numbered 2 in Diagram 1.1) for Kerala is on the left of that for India as well as the fact that almost all the other curves for individual commodities show the same pattern vis-a-vis Kerala and India.

(2) To Kerala consumers tapioca is an inferior food, whereas rice is more essential than the meat, fish, and eggs group, the latter group more essential than the oil and oil products group, the latter group in its turn more essential than sugar; finally, clothing are considered a luxury item more than all the other items mentioned.

1.37. If unemployment is a serious and growing problem everywhere in India, Kerala is one of these regions where it has reached menacing proportions. It is not at all surprising that it should be so, for Kerala is the most densely populated State in India and it is at the same time among the few really depressed regions of India where there is little of discernible economic growth.

1.38. An unemployment survey was conducted in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State in 1954. The tables below summarise the most important of the findings of the survey.

TABLE—1.30.

Disposition of working force

(Numbers in lakhs)

	Males	Females	Total
Pensioners, rentiers etc.	0.54	0.44	0.98
Regular employment	15.56	4.15	19.71
Casual employment	5.86	2.19	8.05
Household workers	0.86	18.30	19.16
Seeking employment	2.58	1.07	3.65
Total working force	25.41	25.15	51.56

TABLE—1.31.
Disposition of working force.

(Proportions)

	Males	Females	Total
Pensioners, rentiers etc.	2.1	1.7	1.9
Regular employment	61.2	15.2	38.2
Casual employment	23.1	8.4	15.6
Household workers	3.4	70.6	37.2
Seeking employment	10.2	4.1	7.1
	100.0	100.0	100.0

It is seen that 10 per cent of the adult and able bodied male population is actively in search of employment. It is a staggeringly high proportion, considering that the above table refers not to the educated public or even to the urban public, but to the entire population of the State, including those dependent on Agriculture. In Agriculture in particular, and rural areas in general, one usually does not expect to find too many persons actively seeking employment; what one finds there is underemployment as well as employment in unremunerative and decadent industries. The survey further revealed that among the 3.65 lakhs unemployed persons there were 48,000 who might be described as educated unemployed, for they had education of the standard of the S.S.L.C. and higher. As to those described as casually employed—who cover those described as 'underemployed' in the economic literature—it was revealed that they had on the average employment for 3.62 days in the week.

The above figures should not be taken to signify very much more than underlying the extremely acute character of the unemployment problem of the State. The value of the figure is considerably reduced by the fact that the investigation treated all occupation groups in the same way without distinguishing between even such broad and fundamentally different categories as agricultural and non-agricultural occupations.