

CHAPTER-III

CONTRIBUTION OF SIR SAYAJIRAO TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES IN THE BARODA STATE

Political, Social and Economic Condition of the Baroda State in 1875:

In this period the British Resident, the ruler and the Dewan controlled the administration of an Indian State. The British Resident as the representative of the British Government in India had unique status and powers. The Government of India maintained their control over the Indian states through its Political Department. The Viceroy or the Governor-General of India in a Council was theoretically the head of that Department, but usually the political secretary in charge of the Department, directed the affairs.

In the political Department a cadre of officers known as Agents and Residents¹ was created. The purpose of this was to intimate and to understand the problems of the Indian states. The agent to the Governor General was a political officer over a group of states which had direct political relations with the Government of India. Under him were several subordinate officers known as political agents who were attached to specified divisions of the group of states. The Residents were the officers who were attached to single full-powered states which had indirect relation with the Government of India.

The powers and duties of these political officers were extensive and varied in nature. They were undefined and there was no settled procedure to regulate them. It may be noted here that no attempt was ever made to define them. A political officer might feel himself authorised and certified to intervene in the question of betrothal or marriage of a Prince, his daughter or sister. He had veto over the proposed marriage or betrothal if he chose to do so. Even if it had proved

¹ Chudgar P.L. Indian Princes under British Protection, London, 1929, p-120

that a prince had committed murders, oppressed and terrorised his people and was guilty of gross and scandalous misrule, the resident might refuse to intervene. It all depended on his arbitrary discretion. If a prince was found to be weak, the political agent would consider him free to dictate to him and show how he should conduct his day to day administration. If a prince was strong willed, audacious and occupied an eminent position in the bodies like Chamber of Princes, the political agent would feel powerless to intervene even though the prince might have committed any number of outrageous acts. In this context two cardinal points are worth mentioning: firstly, the policy of the political agent must vary with the ever-changing policy of the imperial Government and Government of India, which depended in one case on the party in power at home and in the other on the temper of a viceroy for the time being; secondly, the powers of these political agents varied according to the class and importance of the state concerned. In case of smaller states they were supposed to be much wider. But the fact remained that nobody knew actually what the powers of the Residents were. Even the political officer did not know in what circumstance he might or might not interfere. Similarly the prince and people also never knew when the political officer would or would not interfere. Everything depended upon his temperament and on what was conducted secretly.

In the Baroda state, the ruler, namely the Maharaja Gaekwad remained the fountain head of all power, authority and justice. He personally directed regulated and supervised the administration of the state. The earlier Gaekwad's proved themselves formidable for the Peshwa and asserted their independence as and when they got their chance. The political situation of the last quarter of the eighteenth century warranted the Gaekwad to enter into treaty relations with the East India Company. Moreover the relations of the Gaekwad with the Peshwa were far from cordial and they deteriorated rapidly.

During 1802 and 1818 the relations between the Baroda State and East India Company developed and took a definite shape. The three agreements (of 16th march, 6th June and 29th July) concluded in 1802, provided for the continuous mutual friendship between the two.² It had been pointed out by V.K. Chavda that in the Marathi counterpart of the original treaty of June 6, 1802, there is no reference to the Company's granting protection and advice to the Gaekwad Government, but it had been mentioned in the English version. This insertion formed a major point for frequent protests by the Baroda Durbar against the British³ in the subsequent period.

In the Definitive Treaty of 1805, the agreements of 1802 were confirmed and were made binding to the contracting parties, their heirs and successors forever. The Gaekwad was recognized as the ruler of the Baroda State and the foreign policy of the state was taken over by the British Government. Under the Treaty of Poona (1817) signed with the company, the Peshwa assumed a status of an independent ruler vis-à-vis the British Government. He was sovereign in the contract of internal affairs of the state.

The Gaekwad was accepted as an independent and a sovereign ruler in the affairs of his state by the British, but the British Government preferred to interfere in the affairs of the Baroda State when the British interests were found to be in danger. They cared little to observe the letter and spirit of the treaties concluded with the state. The British intervention started from the year 1804 itself when the first resident Colonel Walker proceeded to reform various departments of the State. Maharaja Anandrao was weak and imbecile and the British Government set up a commission of the state. During the Regency of Fatehsingh Rao, the Resident was virtually the manager of the State. At the time of leaving Baroda in 1808, Colonel Walker recommended to

² Treaties (1876) VI No. 78, No. 79, IV No. 210

³ Chavda V.K. Gaekwad and the British: A Study of their Problems, Delhi, p-10

continue an active interference in the Vigilant control over every part of internal management” of the state, failing which the British would lose all the political gains.

The Resident’s control over the internal administration of Baroda was withdrawn to a great extent under M. S. Elphinston’s settlement of 1820⁴ in the period of Maharaja Sayajirao II. The Maharaja from the very beginning distinguished himself as a man of exceptional vigour and self-assertion. For this reason he was continuously in clash with the British. On the issue of appointing a Minister of the State and the State’s claims over *Ghasdana* (a levy) from the company in Kathiawad, Sayajirao felt that it was a violation of his rights. His clashes with the Resident reached such a mark that he infringed the septennial leases guaranteed by the British Government and insisted on his right to pay off the guaranteed loan in a lump sum and in his own way. The Bombay Government ultimately resolved to take responsibility of fulfilling the obligations in 1828, and again in 1830.

In 1875, the Baroda State was on the verge of bankruptcy. The state records were in confusion. Even the whole list of palaces and jewelry were not estimated to be worth £40, 00,000. The people were overtaxed and there was no facility of sanitation. Cholera was very common. In Baroda city itself many men, women and children lived together with horses, bullocks and goats in ill-ventilated houses. A lot of money was wasted on charity. 7,000 Hindus and 3,000 Mohammedans at a cost of £2, 00,000 a year used to be fed daily.

There was nothing like established routine in administration. The administrator had to personally attend even to very insignificant matters. In 1882, for example, he had to sanction the expenditure of less than 8 *annas* for candles when he rode one night to the Presidency on an elephant, and had to sanction the expenditure of one rupee and eight *annas* on the purchase of

⁴ Sergeant, P.W. Ruler of Baroda, pp 52-53

gunny bags. In 1883, he had to pass orders regarding the grant of a quarter acre of land for digging a public well. In 1885, he sanctioned a monthly rent of Rs. 4 for a house to be used as a village school. Even he spent his time in disposing of cases; asking for sanctions for door handles and mats. This state of affairs clearly indicated that the powers of the officers were not fixed and principles of Administration were not laid down. This resulted in his firm belief in the 'system'. Later on, he was accused of over systematizing his Government. Even his own life was regulated by the clock.

Arrival of Maharaja Sayajirao:

Her Highness Jamnabai returned to Baroda on the 2nd May 1875. Sir T. Madhavrao came to conduct the administration of the State. The first duty which came on the restored Maharani Jamnabai was, with the advice of Sir. T. Madhavrao and the approval of the Paramount Power, to choose whom she would adopt as her son and consequently as heir to the throne. The direct descendants of Prataprao Gaekwad were five brothers, and two of them, Ukhaji and Kashirao, had sons of their own and among these sons, there were three boys who fitted neatly into the guidelines that Maharani Jamanabai and Sir Richard Meade between them had laid down. The Government of India had already set the wheels of official machinery rolling. A commission was appointed to go into the question of the credentials of the Kavlana Gaekwads. After this the commission had made sure that Ukhajirao and his brothers were indeed the direct descendants of Prataprao Gaekwad, all they had to do was to take the three boys to the family to Baroda for the final selection. The boys were Ukhajirao's son Dadasaheb, who was ten years old and Kashirao's two sons, Gopalrao and Sampatrao, aged twelve and nine respectively. The Indian Government provided a police escort commanded by a senior British Officer, Prescott. When they reached Baroda, the boys were kept in a small bungalow in the Residency, where Sir Richard Meade

himself could keep an eye on them. The palace astrologer, who had been poring over the horoscopes of all the three boys for some days, gave his verdict that the planetary influence as revealed in Gopal's horoscope "Presaged a powerful sovereignty, extension of territories, ever increasing riches and the enjoyment of a rule unhampered by foes."⁵

All disputes having ended, Sir Richard Meade on May 25th 1875 proclaimed the Maharani's choice of an heir, and announced that Gopal, the son of Kashirao Gaekwad, had been chosen as the next Maharaja. After two days early on the morning of the 27th the boy was awakened in his temporary residence in the camp, and with the appropriate Hindi ritual, was handed over by his father and adopted by the Maharani Jamnabai as her son⁶ and placed upon the *Gadi*(throne).

The Life-sketch of Maharaja Sayajirao-III:

The peasant boy originally named Gopalrao was born on 11th March 1863 in the little village of Kavhana in the Nasik District of Bombay state. He was named as the Maharaja Sayajirao III.

When the Maharaja left Kavhana, he was illiterate. He could neither read nor write. His education therefore began at the age of twelve. Sayajirao's education began on 7th June 1875. His teachers were Keshavrav Pandit who remained his responsible Indian tutor during the period of his minority and Vyanktesh Joshi, generally known as 'Bhau Master'. A room on the top floor of the Sarkarwada was made his school room and here both Pandit and Joshi taught him by turns for about five hours a day. Lessons in Marathi and Gujarati were taught and were supplemented by lessons in Urdu. Mr. Melvill, the Agent to the Governor General at Baroda, had to discharge the duty of selecting an English tutor. F. A. H. Elliot was appointed a tutor. Elliot arrived in Baroda on December 10, 1875. A small house near the Moti Bag building was prepared as a temporary school pending the erection of a permanent building, the princes' school of later years. Under

⁵ Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad, Sayajirao of Baroda, The Prince and the man, Bombay, 1989, p-

⁶ Sergeant P.W. The Ruler of Baroda London, 1928.

Elliot's direction the Maharaja and schoolmates, his brother, his cousin, and a few sons of leading men in Baroda, prosecuted studies daily from 10 a. m. to Sunset. The introduction of English into his curriculum gave the Maharaja four languages to acquire; but down to the end of 1876, the study of English was of primary importance. Elliot found him, "apparently dull"⁷. In 1879 Elliot said "he was not quick but very persevering". He learnt four languages and History, Geography, elementary Mathematics and special instruction in the duties of a prince towards his people and laws and canons of good administration. All this had to be got through in six years. And his perseverance helped him to make excellent progress. At the close of the period of his minority, he could read English books and converse in English with ease. Mr. Elliot imparted general and academic education. For his moral character, he was indebted to Maharani Jamnabai "whose superior in sound sense, the recesses of Asiatic Palaces might be explored in vain in discover."⁸

In 1881 "the foundation of his education had been so well and truly laid that his natural intelligence and natural inclination for the acquisition of knowledge was not only brought to bear upon the work of ruling the state, but carried the Maharaja to a pinnacle of popularity in India."⁹ During this period he was warned against the intrigues of selfish men in Baroda and throughout his reign 'caution' had been the special characteristic of the Maharaja.

He got married on 6th January 1880. With this year there came a change. The choice of a bride lay with Jamnabai. The Maharaja carried out her decision. The wedding was celebrated with ceremonies of Hindu ritual and all the splendour befitting an Indian ruler. Sir T. Madhavrao, had strained his every nerve to remodel the state on the British pattern. His first work was the

⁷ Pamphlet on Education, p-21

⁸ Baroda State administration Report of the year 1876-77

⁹ Stanley Rice – Sayajirao III, Vol. I, p-54

reorganization of Justice and the establishment of a sound police. The 'Ryotwari system was introduced to lighten the burden of the Ryot. When Sir T. Madhavrao surrendered the Maharaja the reins of Government, the state had reached "a fair state of preparation for the accession of the young Maharaja to power and for smooth and steady progress thereafter."¹⁰

In the last nine months of his minority, it was decided that a course of lectures on the principles and practice of good Government should begin and accordingly a series of lectures was delivered by Sir T. Madhavrao, Kazi Shahbuddin, Curselji Rustomji, J. S. Gadgil, V. J. Kirtane, Pestonji Jehangir, A. H. Tahmane and C. R. Thanawalla on all sorts of matters connected with the Government. The years of preparation for his office and the restoration of the Baroda state to order was marked by these events:

- 1) The arrival of Prince of Wales (afterward King Edward) on 8th Nov. 1875;
- 2) Great Delhi Assemblage to hear the proclamation by which Queen Victoria assumed the title of "Empress of India" and the bestowal upon the Maharaja the title "Ferzand-i-Khas-Dowlat-i-Englishia (most favored son of the English Empire); and,
- 3) The Maharaja's first travel to Agra, Lucknow and Allahabad.

The Tour of Maharaja Over the State:

In November 1882 he visited Kadi. This was his first visit as the King of Baroda. The tour lasted for two months. It was full of useful work. Records of offices, details of business, inspection of police, schools, public works and even village records were examined. He feely mixed with the people, received the leaders of the communities and advised the local officials. He visited every *Taluka* of every *Prant*. He visited Navsari and Baroda districts in 1884-85 and Amreli District in 1886-87. He invited rural leaders at a *Darbar* and accepted gifts of fruits, flowers and vegetables

¹⁰ BSAR 1880-81, p-115

and listened to complaints which they forwarded. Even prominent local representatives of Arts, Sciences and Crafts were invited. It was his habit to mix and talk with people. He would even welcome a talk with an untouchable. He wished to keep himself in direct touch with his people. These district-tours enabled him to tackle the problems peculiar to each district. The *Kaliparaj* question in Navsari District, the *Waghers* in Amreli districts and the depressed classes in the state stimulated his active mind to devise ways and means for their uplift. His later reforms were the result of his first hand experience during his tours in his dominion.

On 7th May 1885 the Maharani Chimnabai died. The Maharaja felt her loss deeply. The shock told upon his health severally as he was already overtaxed by the cares of Government and strain of work. His temperament also adversely affected his health. Sayajirao possessed great activity of brain. He would debate on important questions for hours and days. The state problems both important and trivial or things affecting the state or the palace were always fermenting in his mind. The result was that he could not sleep. It was thought that he was pining for his wife.

On December 28th, 1885 he married Gajarabai, a princess of the Ghatge family of the Dewas State, and named her as Chimnabai II. But marriage did not cure the Maharaja. He himself was aware that he was a glutton for work. Writing in October 1886, he said, "There is nothing wrong in particular with me and I sleep better than I used to, but what I feel is the after effect of hard work that I took arduously at first start."¹¹

In January 1887, he talked of going to Colombo because, as he said, "of late I have not been able to keep such good health as I consider necessary for a man in my position."¹² He explained to the Maharaja of Dhar that he went to Colombo and Mahableshtar, "more for the sake of rest from

¹¹ Selected letters Vol-I, No. 20, p-15

¹² Selected letters Vol-I, No. 28, p-20

work than for the sake of my health.”¹³ Sir William recommended a trip to Europe and he went to Europe in the summer of 1887. This was a revolutionary idea. The Hindu Maharaja could not think of crossing the ‘Kala Pani’ (Black Water of the Sea) and visiting Europe. Sending Sampatrao, his younger brother as a student to England had been a shock to Hindu tradition. When he resolved to go on foreign travels, his mother and aunts were full of the dread of the voyage. But the maharaja was a man who had the courage to break through such barriers.¹⁴

Tour in European Countries:

Venice was the first place he visited. Later he went to London and thence to Windsor Park and met Queen Victoria. He returned in 1888. In 1889 he went to Switzerland for a short visit. He made Mority his headquarters and stayed there for two months and a half. He recouped his health a little during this long stay. On 7th May 1892 he went to London. He visited Norway, Dresden and Berlin and returned in 1893. At this time his mind was full of plans for the introduction of compulsory education, industrial development and social reforms in his state, but he was still struggling with his ill-health especially gout and was advised to return to Europe and try a cure at Carlsbad. He visited London, Edinburgh, Scottish Highlands, Paris and Nice, Vienna, Munich, various parts of Switzerland, Florence and Genoa. He paid a visit to Constantinople. The duration of his stay in Europe was thirteen months. He returned in January 1895. In the autumn of 1897 he made a visit to Egypt, spending two months. He was much interested in her irrigation work. In May 1900 he went to Europe again. This was due to very unsatisfactory condition of state administration in which he found Baroda. During his absence from Baroda, intrigues had started in the state administration. What is known as ‘Bapat Case’ afforded an opportunity to the

¹³ Selected letter Vol-I, No. 36, p-26

¹⁴ Mehta B.C. Maharaja Sayajirao-III as an educationist, p-15

Residency to poke its nose into the internal administration of the state. The Maharaja was angry because this intrigue culminated in the removal of Elliot and interference of the Residency. In the interest of the state he displaced Dewan Manibhai Jashbhai and his next Dewan was S.R. Iyanger. Added to this, there was the death of the adopted sister Tarabai in June 1897. The second bereavement was through the death of the Maharani Jamanabai. The Maharaja had much esteem and love for her. In 1900, during his European tour he visited the exhibition in Paris, and went to London. In the meantime, there was the 'Curzon Circular' directing that all appeals for leave to visit Europe by Native Chiefs shall be submitted to the Government of India, who will exercise unfettered discretion whether to comply with, or refuse them." "The Times" correspondent added that "the letter should have a good effect on chiefs as the Gaekwad of Baroda and the Maharaja of Kapurthala, who had acquired the habit of constantly visiting Europe and leaving their states in the charge of Dewans."¹⁵ "The Times" itself, in an editorial on August 27th endorsed this criticism. In his letter to Mrs. Kent, the Maharaja wrote, "I do not think the Rajas are well located in the circular" and "we are all supposed to be chiefs, but are treated worse than paid servants."

But this trip enabled him to make acquaintance with Duke of Connaught, Lord Harris, Lord and Lady Relay, Lord Northbrook, Lady Tweeddale, Lord George Hamilton, Sir John Watson, Sir John Puleston, Sir Edward Lawson and Sir James Blyth. He was invited by Queen Victoria to stay at Windsor. In August 1902 he returned to India. In 1905, he departed from Baroda for his European tour. In England, he visited Harrow school, Horticultural College for women at Swanly and Leicester Galleries. Then he went to Dublin. In the spring of 1906, both Maharaja and Maharani visited Territel and Geneva. In May he visited America. All aspects of life in America

¹⁵ The Times of August 25th 1900

interested him. He studied the system of education and secured the services of an expert educationalist. Dr. Cuthert Hall came to India to inspect the schools of Baroda and suggest improvements. In August, the Maharaja was back in England. He met Mr. John Morley, Secretary of State for India and explained to him the desirability of greater authority for Indian states and expressed his approval of the idea of a Council of Princes. On 19th November he returned to Baroda. This period of his reign was marked by the coming into operation of the Compulsory Primary Education Act of 1906-07, Co-operative Credit Societies Act, Religious Endowment Act and the Establishment of Bank of Baroda Ltd. In 1908, a great domestic sorrow fell upon the Maharaja when his eldest son, Prince Fatehsinghrao died. The Maharaja's Far Eastern trip began at the end of March 1910. He visited Hong Kong, Shanghai and Japan. Then he visited America and Canada and arrived in London and returned to India on December 16th 1910. But after four months the Maharaja and Maharani went back to Europe. On June 22nd His Highness attended the Coronation of King George at Westminster Abbey. The Maharaja returned to Baroda in view of the arrival of King George and Queen Mary in India for the Coronation Durbar at Delhi in 1912.¹⁶

In February 1913, he was ill with gout and fever and on 3rd May he left Baroda for Europe. This trip was largely spent at St. Moritz and Evian-les-Bains and Switzerland. In November 1913, he was at home once more. But in April 1914, for reasons of ill-health the Maharaja and Maharani were on their way again to Europe. The trip began with visits to the Riviera and North Italy. For cures he went to Evian and Vichy while the Maharani went to Carlsbad. Thus they were separated when the First World War broke out. It was only after a long and tedious journey that she reached London from Australia. His Highness met their Majesties and offered all the troops

¹⁶ Mehta B.C. Maharaja Sayajirao III as an educationalist, unpublished, pp 15-20

and the resources of his state for waging war with Germany. Baroda contributed all together Rupees 33, 96,000/- to the various expenses of the war. He was back in Baroda on December 4, 1914. There was no trip to Europe until the end of 1919.¹⁷ During this period he paid a visit to Kashmir. In 1917, the honour of G.C.I.E. had been bestowed upon him. Another important event was the visit of Lord Chemsford to Baroda in March 1919. In September 1919, the Maharaja and the Maharani went to Europe for rest-cure recommended for him. At this time, his son Shivajirao died on 24th November. He himself received medical treatment at East Bourne and went to Scotland and Berlin where Prince Jaisingh Rao had been receiving medical treatment. Then he came back to Baroda. During this period the Maharaja was reduced to a state of inactivity on account of his own ill-health, the shock of Shivajirao's death and the anxiety about Jaisingh Rao. In 1920, his European trip was only for 7 months and a half. He returned to Baroda to receive the Prince of Wales on 23rd November 1921. In April 1922 he started again with the Maharani for Europe. It was a long trip. His son Jaisingh Rao died on August 27th 1923. Thus he had lost three of his four sons. Afflicted with Government and these domestic sorrows, the Maharaja set for Europe. He landed at Marseilles and at Paris and crossed to England. He visited Wembley Exhibition. He received medical treatment at Evian for three weeks. Then he went to France and after a little sight-seeing he left for Switzerland in December and stayed at Gstaad till February 1925. He visited France and England again and on 20th November 1925 he returned to India, it being the year of his fiftieth anniversary of his accession to the throne. On 9th April 1927, he went to Paris and London with the Maharani. The trip to Europe had now become almost an annual event. In January 1927 Sir Manubhai Mehta retired from the Dewanship. The new Dewan, Rao Bahadur, V.T. Krishnamachari of the Madras service and the present Day Deputy

¹⁷Nane V.P note on Earlier Europe trips Vol.-II Baroda State Press. 1940 p-74

Chairman of the Planning Commission, took his place on 18th February 1927. The Maharaja visited Paris, London, Scandinavia, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. He returned to Baroda on 16th January 1927. The period after 1927 was that of consolidation. Rao Bahadur V.T. Krishnamachari's administration tended rather to improve the quality than to increase the quantity of institutions.¹⁸ The notable events between 1927 and 1930 were the wedding of Prince Pratapsinhrao, grand son of the Maharaja and his heir with Shantabai, the second daughter of Sardar Mansingrao Ghorpade of Kolhapur; and the visit of Lord and Lady Irvin. Before leaving for Europe, the Maharaja opened the new water-works, the Pratap Sarovar, when in April 1930, the Maharaja set for Europe he was little better than an invalid. He attended the first Round-Table Conference in London on 12th November 1930 and was the first to deliver the lecture. He attended the second Round-Table Conference on 21st September, 1931. In August 1933, he went to America to preside over Conference of the "World Fellowship of Faiths" at Chicago. He returned in October 1933 and went back to Europe in April 1934 and returned in November 1935. He had the great good fortune of celebrating the Diamond Manifestation of joy and loyalty of his people. To commemorate this unique event a memorial trust of a crore of Rupees was set apart by Sir Sayajirao from his private funds for the benefit of his people. Then he set sail for Europe and attended the 11th Olympic Sports in Berlin held from 31st July to 15th August, 1936. He received invitation from Hitler. On 14th may 1937 he attended the Imperial Conference and spoke on behalf of India. He sailed for India from Genoa on 20th October 1938. He was advised by the doctor that he should not take the risk of spending the winter in Europe. When he landed at Bombay on 31st October 1938, he was ill. A committee consisting of Dr. Chandrachuda, Dr. Bharucha, Dr. Ratnakar, Dr. Purushottamdas Patel and many others diagnosed Uranema and

¹⁸ Ibid, p-24

Toxemia. The illness lasted for about two months and 6th February 1939 a long and memorable reign came to an end by his sad demise. His death caused universal sorrow in the state and throughout India and also in other parts of the world, where his great work was well-known.¹⁹

Tours and its effect on Industrial Development in the Baroda State:

During Maharaja's tour in the industrial areas of England he saw how various industries had brought prosperity to the English countryside. With a view to enriching Baroda, he decided to take steps for starting different industries in the State. He had already started Sugar factory in Baroda and had established a technical school to train people in different sciences. During his trips to industries his important orders are summarized below which show the effect of the tour.

1. For the establishment of Industrial Museum on the modest scale at Patan, Siddhpur, Visnagar, Navsari, Amreli and other important talukas towns, Mr. Chishon was asked to prepare a model design for such a museum. It was to consist of six moderate sized rooms and one hall attached for the purpose of public entertainment and its cost was not to exceed Rs.30, 000.
2. The Maharaja wanted to start a Paper factory in the State either as a state concern or quasi-state concern, *i. e.*, one set by the state in conjunction with private capitalists with this objective. He asked the minister to collect statistics regarding the supply and consumption of paper of different kinds in the Baroda State for Government as well as private purposes. He ordered the Minister to enquire as to find the best and most suitable locality in which to establish the factory, the estimate of cost and whether it was useful and practicable to start such a factory.

¹⁹ Ibid, pp 24-33

3. Rao Bahadur Angre showed a statement Tagavi (loan) advance given for the encouragement of industrial enterprise on the Baroda State. The Maharaja was pleased to direct that the limit 1 ½ lakh of rupees be raised to five lakh.
4. While in Liverpool, the Maharaja saw some rice mills belonging to Mr. Fredric Dreser. Impressed with the usefulness and practicability of constructing a similar rice cleaning mill on a modest scale either at Baroda or some other places in the Baroda State well suited for the enterprise, he asked Mr. Dresser to prepare a scheme. Mr. Dresser wanted statistics regarding the production and consumption of rice at or near Baroda for drafting a scheme. These figures were not available in the Swari and therefore they were obtained from Baroda. Mr. Samuelson, who was very helpful and who knew Baroda well, submitted his own scheme to Mr. Samrth who forwarded it to the minister for consideration.
5. In Mr. Samrth's letter no.10, 1892, some lines are found which indicate that the Maharaja wanted to hand over the management of the spinning and weaving mill to some joint stock concerns. Therefore he asked the minister to formulate a scheme in his behalf.
6. Another industry which attracted Maharaja's attention during his trip was lace manufacturing, so he asked Mr. Fillion to submit to him a scheme on his behalf.
7. The state was maintaining press of its own at that time but it was not in a position to cope with all the work. The work had therefore to be distributed among local or outside presses which used to charge exorbitant rates. Maharaja thought the state of things to be most undignified, therefore he ordered Mr. Joylekar (who was then attending to the selections work) to organize a state press on improved principles in order to cope with the ever increasing printing work of the state. He wanted the press to become a paying concern.

He wanted a number of such artisan boys for lace-making. The lace so spun found a good market in Europe, America and Bombay. It was used for curtains for windows and other tapestry decorations.

This information showed that the Maharaja Tours affected him so much that he thought more about the development of industries in the State. Here only some of his trips are mentioned but later he went abroad so many times. Every time he got some ideas from other countries and he applied them to develop the state. He saw some exhibition there and thought about sending the art ware to exhibit the goods like Patola Saree, Brassware, etc. Because of his tours many benefits came to the state not only to develop the industries but also improve the economic and social condition of the people of the state.

Education in the State:

There were only indigenous schools conducted by Brahmans in the State. In 1871, five State schools were opened: two for Gujarati, two for Marathi and one for English.²⁰ In 1875, a department of public instruction was established and rapid extension and development followed.²¹ The department controlled by the Vidyadikari or Minister of Education. It was divided into two branches, the Anglo-vernacular and the vernacular schools. Education was in Gujarati, Marathi or in Urdu language. First village schools were opened in 1891. At first the progress was very slow. When Maharaja Sayajirao got full powers, there were 180 primary schools. Under his inspiration education developed rapidly. Maharaja was fond of education. He wanted to spread education all over the state. In his words, "Education is the basis of all reforms and is the only way of salvation from our present condition."²²

²⁰ Imperial Gazetteer of India Baroda p-39

²¹ Gazetteer of Baroda State, Vol. II, p-309

²² Speeches and addresses of Sir Sayajirao Gaekwad, Vol-II, p-69

Maharaja Sayaji Rao had introduced free and compulsory education in the State. In 1893, compulsory primary education was introduced as an experimental measure in Amreli district and was rapidly extended and by 1906 it was applicable all over the Baroda State. Education was compulsory between the ages of 7 and 12 for boys and 7 to 10 for girls and all compulsory education up to the class V was free.²³

The Baroda College was founded in 1881.²⁴ In the same year, there were 8 girls schools and a training class for female teachers were opened. It was developed into a female training college under the charge of a Lady Superintendent. Gradually, the number of schools increased²⁵. Special schools were founded for the jungle tribes. They were taught reading and writing and were trained in carpentry and agriculture at Songarh. When Maharaja saw that natural resources were very important to improve the economic condition of the people he promoted the technical education so that the skills of the artisans would help them earn. So investigation and demonstration took place and at last technical education institutes were established in the state.

Technical Education in the Baroda State:

Sir Sayajirao had under consideration the important subject of Technical Education since 1886. A committee was formed under Mr. T. K. Gajjar, an expert on technical education, to consider a report on the measures to be adopted in connection with the establishment of a technical school. After carefully considering the scheme submitted to him, Sir Sayajirao, passed orders on 25th March 1890. These orders clearly described Sir Sayajirao aims and ideals in starting technical institutions. They also described the kind of technical education he wished to give to the people of his state.

²³ Baroda State Gazetteer, Vol. II, p-229

²⁴ Baroda State Gazetteer, Vol. II, p-316

²⁵ Imperial Gazetteer of India Baroda p-26

The Kalabhavan was founded in August 1890. The training school for teachers including the Agricultural class which existed then was amalgamated with it. It became popular even from the beginning. As there was a great rush for admission, an entrance test had to be held. As many as 841 candidates appeared at the entrance examination out of which 242 were admitted. The Sirdar school building with certain additions and alterations was utilized for accommodating the several classes of the institution while Nazar Paga was used for the workshop and the old training school building for the boarding house. All the requisite furniture for the institution was made in the carpentry workshop attached to it. Rao Saheb Khanserao B. Jadhav, M.R.A.C. allowed the free use of his well-arranged private laboratory and all the necessary appliances and chemicals were ordered out from well-known European firms. Kalabhavan was started on the same lines as the Polytechnic Schools of London. In the Kalabhavan there were six branches of study in the beginning. They were as under:

- (1) The School of Art
- (2) The School of Carpentry and Cabinet Making
- (3) The Mechanical Technology
- (4) The Chemical Technology
- (5) The School of Agriculture
- (6) The School of Pedagogy

1) The School of Art aimed at promoting the efficiency and skill of the artisans. In the first grade of this school, the students were taught Freehand Drawing, Geometrical Drawing and Modeling with Mathematics, General Science, English and Gymnastics and auxiliary subjects. In the second grade higher courses of the above subjects were taught in addition to, shading from the round and perspectives were taught. In the third grade the course of Projection, Painting, Artistic

Anatomy and Grammar of Ornament were added. The teachers as well as the students of this school made themselves useful in preparation of industrial designs, plaster-castes and anatomy of models.

2) The school of carpentry and cabinet-making had for its object the training of skilled carpenters and cabinet makers. In the first grade, the students were taught physics, drawing, and carpentry with mathematics, biology, modeling and English as auxiliary subjects. In the second grade, building construction, architectural drawing and mechanical engineering were added to the higher courses of the subjects taught in the first grade. In the third grade cabinet-making and economics were added.

3) At The school of Mechanical Technology, in first grade of this branch the students were taught Physics, Drawing and Mechanical technology, besides, Bionomy, and English as auxiliary subjects. In the second grade, in addition to the higher courses of the above-mentioned subjects they were taught Applied Science, Machine Construction, Drawing, Chemistry and Metallurgy. In the Third Grade Economies was added.

4) The school of Chemical Technology or sometimes referred to as the school of Dyeing and calico-printing had for its object the training of skilled dyers and calico-printers. In the first grade of this school, students were taught physics, chemistry, dyeing besides mathematics, Bionomy, drawing and English as auxiliary subjects. In the second grade Mechanical Drawing and Mechanical Engineering were added to the higher courses of the subjects taught in the first grade. In the third grade, Chemical Technology, Calico-Printing and Economics were added.

5) The School of Agriculture of imparted theoretical as well as practical instruction in agriculture. The subjects taught were Organic Chemistry, Qualitative Chemical analysis, Botany theory and practical, comparative Anatomy and Physiology and theory as well as practice of



Agriculture, besides Mathematics Meteorology, Wood-work and English as auxiliary subjects. It had a farm known as Hina Baugh Model Farm.

6) The school of Pedagogy or the Training School for men did the work of training the teachers.

These detailed courses of study indicated Sir Sayajirao's ambitions and comprehensive programme for providing highly advanced and up-to-date technical education. In 1891-92, the School of Arts was recognized as a centre for the examination of the J. J. School of Art Bombay. In the school of Mechanical Technology, the workshops of the Public Works Department of the state and the Khangi Department were amalgamated with that of the Kala-Bhavan. One noteworthy feature of the year 1891-92 was the establishment of District Industrial Schools at Kathar, Petlad and Patan. Dyeing was taught in these schools. In the year 1892-93 the different schools of the Kalabhavan were fully developed. In the school of carpentry and cabinet-making, skilled cabinet makers were brought from Bombay. For the issue of "Dnyan Manjusha Series", works of psychology, modern geometry, history of pedagogy, arithmetic and machine construction and drawing were ready for publication and work on Agriculture, elementary mensuration, heat and elementary Trigonometry were nearly ready. Mr. T. K. Gajjar the principal of the Kalabhavan contributed a new system of "Chemical Notation and Nomenclature" which had been circulated among scientists. In District Industrial Schools, Dyeing and Drawing section and carpentry section to those courses at Patan and Petlad were added. In 1896-97, an experimental weaving class was opened for improving teaching methods of weaving. The school of carpentry and cabinet-making prepared ornamental and plain furniture. In the foundry department, castings were being turned out for road-rollers, ventilation columns, water-pipes, lamp-posts and railing of all description. Useful work for the ginning factories, cylinder-boring and pump-barrels were also turned out in the metal-turning and machine departments. There

were also a brass-founding department which made hinges, locks, sockets, and such other articles. There was also an electro-gilding and metal polishing department. Petlad industrial school was transferred to a place called Vaso where drawing and dyeing were taught because of insufficient number of students.

In the year 1898-99, the school of Agriculture was transferred to the revenue department from 1st of January 1899 and the school at Patan was transferred to Vadnagar on the 1st June 1899.

In November 1906, an evening school for artisans was started to provide suitable instruction for artisans and craftsmen such as carpenters, potters, blacksmiths, wood-turners and others who were engaged during the day in mills, factories and workshops, the course of instruction comprised and the three R's and Drawing.

The students came from various classes of artisans like carpenters and joiners, wood-turners, gold and silver-smiths, Black-smiths, Brick-layers, Mason, Barbers and liquor-sellers.

The District Industrial School at Navsari was closed on 17th June 1909, because better arrangements were made in the "Tata Hunnar Shala" which was run on grant-in-aid basis.

In the year 1922-23 there was some development in the District Industrial schools. On account of successful experiment at Amreli, Government sanctioned the expansion of four primary schools into primary industrial schools at Patan, Visnagar, Dabhoi and Petlad each at a cost of Rs. 8000/- per year.

In 1923-24, Mr. C. M. Shroff, the Dye-house superintendent and Professor of Chemical Technology was deputed to Europe to work for sometime in the Aniline colour works and to visit institutions and industries in Germany as well as the United Kingdom. Mr. C. S. Patel, B.A., M.Sc., assistant lecturer for soap and oil technology was also deputed to Bangalore for studies at the Tata Institute and for actual factory practice at the Mysore Government soap factory.

In 1925-26, at the Baroda Juvenile Reformatory the boys were taught carpentry and wood-work in addition to standard primary course of studies. Practical instruction in agriculture and gardening was also given.

Maharaja had throughout these years appointed an Advisory Committee for the Kalabhavan and asked the Committee to submit a comprehensive report. The Committee submitted the report and the Government passed orders in 1928-29.

The state took steps to link up the institute with the industries of the state so that the teachers might come into touch with existing methods and assist in improving them. The weaving section worked with the demonstration parties, while the pupils engaged on power-loom weaving were apprenticed to factories in Baroda and elsewhere for their practical courses to revive the dyeing and printing industries of the state. The Government sanctioned four scholarships of Rs. 20 each to artisans to learn improved processes. A demonstrator under the guidance of Prof. Shroff showed the process to printers and dyers in the districts. A trained man from Sankheda was appointed to impart training in lacquer work industry in the Kalabhavan. In the same year the separate schools of Architecture and Electrical Engineering were established. Government sanctioned Rs. 60,000/- for purchasing a new power plant and other machinery and equipment for the use of the Kalabhavan and Rs. 20,000/- for addition and alteration to the workshop building as recommended by the Kalabhavan Advisory Committee. In 1931-32 the Calico-Printing and block engraving class was newly opened on behalf of the commerce and industry and labour department which awarded 7 scholarships for printing and 6 for engraving. A higher diploma course was conducted with instruction in English for a certificate course. Instruction continued to be given in Gujarati. In the year 1932-33 the three district industrial schools at Petlad, Patan and Amreli began to impart instruction in kindergarten to students of lower classes.

In 1935-36, under the new scheme, the Amreli School continued as a separate industrial school with courses in carpentry, weaving and dyeing. The schools at Petlad and Patan had classes only in carpentry. Donation of Rs. 1, 25,000/- came from Mrs. Hiralaxmi Katawala of Patan in memory of her husband. The scheme for an industrial school at Patan had been worked out and was started on 16th June 1938. 1937-38 dyeing section in the industrial school at Amreli was closed and tailoring was introduced in its place. Another change was the decision of the Government for better vocational training by sending the students to the state furniture factory, at Kalabhavan workshops or some of the local mills. Mr. A. Abbott, formerly the Chief Inspector of Technical schools in England, was invited by Sayajirao to advise the state on vocational education. After visiting all industrial places of importance and schools of technical education, and meeting leading industrialists in the state, he submitted a report. His recommendations were:

- 1) The provision of three stages of technical instruction—post-primary, i.e. industrial schools, post-middle i.e. vocational high schools, and post-high i.e. technical college.
- 2) The provision of alternative industrial courses in high schools in suitable places and
- 3) Making the Kalabhavan more flexible in its aim, organization, working with improved personnel, better workshop accommodation, changes in its curricula, and hours of work and standards of admission. These recommendations were further considered by a committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Uplap and Government finally passed orders generally agreeing in principle, modifying in certain matters calling for detailed proposals on the main suggestion. As a result, improvement in the technical staff provision and provision of other facilities in the Kalabhavan were effected costing an increase of Rs. 13134 in annual recurring charges. Details regarding diploma, certificate and vocational high school were also approved. In last year of Sayajirao's reign, a vocational high school section was started at the Kalabhavan in accordance

with the recommendation of Mr. Abbott.

This institution changed the state. The people who were busy only with their occupation also came out to join the institute learn new art and started the new business. New firms and industries came to be established which improved the economy of the state. As the trade and transport systems developed, mobilization took place. With the increased demand of the product in other countries, export also increased.

Her Highness Chimnabai:

Maharani Chimnabai I was the first wife of Maharaja Sayaji Rao III. She hailed from a well-known Tanjore family. She was selected by the Dewan of Baroda State as a suitable match of Sayaji Rao III. Her original name was Lakshmibai. She was a Princess of the Mohite clan of the Marathas i.e. niece to the husband of Maharani of Tanjore. She was a year and a half younger than Sayajirao. The alliance seemed perfect and the announcement of the choice of the future Maharani was welcomed in Baroda. The Bombay Government also suggested its approval.²⁶

At the same time, a bride-groom was chosen for the young Gaekwad princess Tarabai. It had been decided that she would marry her adoptive brother. The two weddings of Sayajirao and Tarabai would take place simultaneously. Her future husband was Raja Saheb Ragunath Rao of Savantwadi, a small Maratha State in the South of Bombay Presidency.²⁷

If then remained to fix an auspicious date for the Maharaja's marriage. Sir T. Madhavrao described the difficulties which arose. The astrological advisers of both sides were at first seriously divided in their views as to which days the planets were most favorable. The festivities

²⁶ Sergeant P.W., Op. Cit., p-40

²⁷ Ibid

had begun even before the finalization of the date. Sayajirao's wedding took place on December 12th 1879 and that of Princess Tarabai's on 21st December of the same year.²⁸

One of the most urgent needs after Sayajirao's wedding was to provide a befitting residence for the couple. This materialized with the laying of the foundation stone of a new palace, the "Laxshmi Vilas" i.e. "The house of the pleasure of Laxshmi," so named with an allusion to the young Maharani, although her name was changed to Chimnabai (on marriage). Most of the leading British officials were present there, for giving the best wishes for the future welfare of the royal tenants of the Laxshmi Vilas Palace. The building was not completed until 1890 and by that time Her Highness Chimnabai was dead²⁹. The premature death of the Maharani had a considerable effect on the Maharaja as he was strongly attached to his wife, who had born him first a daughter and then a son. In memory of his deceased wife, the Maharaja built the "Chimnabai Nyay Mandir" (Temple of justice- law court) on May 28th.

The memory of his first young wife was not to be so easily effaced from his mind but before the end of the year he agreed to contract a second marriage³⁰ and on December 28th 1885 he took as his wife the princess Gajarabai, one of the numerous daughters of Bajirao Amritrao Ghatge & Kashibai Ghatge³¹. Bajirao Amritrao Ghatge was member of a well-known Maratha family in the Dewas State³². This accomplished lady took on her marriage the name Chimnabai II, thus becoming the Maharani Saheb and the mother of His Highness's surviving son and daughter. She was intelligent and family-oriented besides being a good orator.³³

²⁸ Ibid, p-41

²⁹ Ibid, pp 43-44

³⁰ Ibid, p-76

³¹ S.V. Deshpande, Shree Sayajirao Gaurav Granth Baldivas Mandal, 1933, p-94

³² Sergeant P.W., Op. Cit., p-76

³³ Deshpande S.V., Op. Cit., p. 94-95

Despite coming from a traditional family, Chimnabai II had embraced modern ideas slowly & steadily. The Maharaja who earlier was not able to have ample time to educate his first wife, decided to educate the second so that she could share with him passion for reforms. He was absolutely against the *purdah* system and the best way to oppose was to disallow his own wife from following it. Therefore he had set upon himself to imbue the second Maharani Chimnabai with his views. There was strong opposition from their relatives and the orthodox Hindus but he did not hesitate. Maharani herself was not inclined towards breaking up the traditions. But after making several European trips and with the increasing contact with the western society, the Maharani was convinced. After the Maharani's tenth trip to Europe she sat together on the same sofa with the Maharaja in public, at a prize giving ceremony in the Nyay Mandir in February 1919 where the Maharani abandoned *purdah* (Though this she had done in the foreign countries before 1914). After marriage for nearly 20-25 years, she had observed *purdah* lest she hurt the feelings of the orthodox families of Baroda. This was a sign of superimposition of modernity on a traditional society. As can be seen, it took so long to combat one of the most firmly rooted of Indian social prejudices.³⁴

Contribution of Chimnabai:

Her Highness Maharani had a charming personality and a very impressive look with fair complexion, sharp features and broad forehead. She spoke Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi and English with fluency after taking education.³⁵ Maharaja Sayajirao had employed two lady teachers Gangubai and Nadubai to teach Marathi and English respectively. In the beginning, the Maharani was not interested in learning but after her first visit abroad in 1887, her attitude changed and she

³⁴ Sergeant P.W., Op. Cit., p-76

³⁵ Deshpande S.V., Op. Cit., pp 95-96

had become a keen and enthusiastic student who learnt Marathi, English, Sanskrit and later on even French. She also had studied varied subjects.³⁶

Maharani Chimnabai was known for her personal grace and charm of manner no less than for wit and brilliance of intellect. She was endowed with great force of character and rare distinction of mind.³⁷ Her sweet temper combined with her affectionate nature had added to her immense popularity.³⁸

She had traveled widely both in India and abroad with the Maharaja. These travels widened her outlook and she began to cultivate interest in music, arts, literature, politics and various sports.

Her Highness Maharani Chimnabai was a warm and a hospitable person. She was a loving mother and was extremely concerned about the well-being of her family.

Before discussing the Maharani's contribution to the upliftment of women it would not be out of place to discuss the Maharaja's contributions in the same field.

Sayajirao III, the enlightened ruler of Baroda took keen interest in bringing about social reforms in his state. His attention was mainly focused on two major social issues – the rigid caste system and the status of women. During his lifetime he fought against the evils of the caste system and made it a mission to improve the lot of the *antyajas* or the depressed class. Similarly he made endeavors to improve the position of women by attempting to remove three hurdles in the path of their progress—child marriage, *purdah* and the denial of education. While he was radical in his campaign against the caste system, he was cautious in dealing with social customs such as *purdah*, child marriage, etc. He used the method of social legislation in bringing about social reforms. From 1901, he had implemented various legislations to remove various social evils. In

³⁶ Apte D.N. Shree Maharaja Sayajirao Tisre Yanche Charitra (Marathi) Vol-I, p-320

³⁷ Deshpande S.V., Op. Cit., pp 94-95

³⁸ Panemanglor K.N. The Viceregal Visit to Baroda 1926, p-137

1901-02 he had passed the widow's Remarriage Act and in 1904, he enacted the Child Marriage Prevention Act. In 1908, he passed the Civil Marriage Act and in 1931 and 1933 the Divorce Act and the Widow's Inheritance Act respectively.³⁹

Her Highness the Maharani had taken keen interest in raising the status of women of Baroda. Writing in 1901, her husband bears witness to her conviction that the seclusion of women as practiced in India was bad, though she had realized that at present no one could lift the veil. Subsequently in 1911, Her Highness opined that the failure of many progressive schemes in India might be due to lack of systematic female co-operation. There is no doubt that she was right and her endeavors to remedy the situation in Baroda deserve all praise.⁴⁰

The main contribution of Maharani Chimnabai towards the modernization of the Baroda state through the upliftment of women was the book authored by her and S. M. Mitra "The Position of Women in India Life," dedicated to the Indian Women. It was published in 1911.

Chimnabai had visited Europe, Britain, America and Japan on several occasions with Maharaja and on these visits her receptive mind had learnt and absorbed a great deal from the progressive west. In order to give the benefit of her impression gathered during her travel abroad to her Indian sisters she strongly felt that she should lay before them her observations so that they would learn about some western organizations that might be usefully adapted to the Indian situation.⁴¹ She suggested that the failure of many progress schemes in India might be due to lack of systematic female co-operation.⁴²

³⁹ Fatehsinrao of Baroda: The Prince and Man, p-79

⁴⁰ Seargeant, Op. Cit., p-209

⁴¹ Her Highness The Maharani of Baroda and S.M. Mitra, The Position of Women in Indian Life London, 1911, p-VIII

⁴² Ibid, pp VII-XI

This could be achieved by educating girls and then sending at least a few women scholars to Europe to qualify themselves as teachers of various subjects for the benefit of the future generations.⁴³

She envisages a future in which women will have a greater role to play in nation building in the 19th Century i.e. by applying imperialist yardstick of treating the position of women as an index of civilization.⁴⁴

She gave utmost priority to the education of a woman to fit herself to be the companion and inspiring helpmate to her husband and an able guide to her children. She time and again stresses that the Indian ideal of womanhood differs from the one prevalent in Europe & America and therefore the methods of education to be adopted for our country's women naturally differ accordingly. The highest aim of women's education should be to enable her to work freely and bravely with the man or if not with him then alongside him for the benefit of the human race. The spiritual side of woman's nature is the complement of the material side of man.

She observes that the task of improving women's position must be undertaken by women themselves. If a woman wants to make her career a success, she must pay utmost attention to education and specialization.⁴⁵

In the agricultural sector, she had suggested that dairying can be taken up separately and run at a profit entirely by women (this would not also be a hindrance to carrying on the duties of a wife and mother) i.e. manufacture of Butter and Ghee. Muslim women can add to this the activity of raising fowls & selling eggs and further develop it into professional poultry keeping horticulture as an allied branch of farming to which women can also devote their attentions.

⁴³ Ibid, p XI

⁴⁴ Uma Chandravarti whatever happen to the Veda Dasi, in Kumkum Sangavi & Sudha Ved (ed) Recasting Women Kali p-34

⁴⁵ Maharani Chinnabai and S.M. Mitra, p-33

She also suggested that women could also take up certain home-professions e.g. that of a Domestic Architect (Interior Designer), house decoration, furnishing upholstery and then graduate to becoming a house and Estate Agent. She also questioned the tradition of house designing by men because ultimately it is the woman who renders it habitable. There are certain arts and crafts in which women with an artistic talent and bend of mind could excel (slender fingers) e.g. delicate repose work and jewellery, enameling, book-binding, lace-making, pottery manufacturing and weaving, etc. Women could form organizations around these professions with the village people thereby generating employment and revitalizing Indian handicraft industries.⁴⁶ Women who are intellectually inclined may exercise the powers of their brains by entering into the fields of chemistry medicine and journalism. But one of the fields which may prove highly interesting is lecturing for the intellectual woman, who has a gift for speaking and a love for imparting information. The greatest advantage of this profession is that it will not monopolize the whole time of the woman, thus she will not have to sacrifice her home interests.⁴⁷ She had also found it very peculiar that although women have so much to do with cooking, yet they have never or seldom attempted at large catering enterprise. The Indian women can undertake management of shops and restaurants for different castes and creed⁴⁸ and start co-operative kitchens.

It is the duty of women of all classes to be good house keepers, therefore home affairs must also be managed on scientific principles. To become ideal house wives, women and girls should take instruction in the various branches of Domestic Science Management, Cookery, Needlework, Hygiene, Laundry, duties of servants and managements of business affairs etc. Once trained in

⁴⁶ Ibid, pp 58-74

⁴⁷ Ibid, pp 76-77

⁴⁸ Ibid, p-83

domestic science women can perform better at the jobs of sanitary inspectors, medical inspectors, health visitors, matrons, superintendents and others.⁴⁹

If a woman has an aptitude for business, she can start cooperative societies to ensure a fair distribution of wealth and begin money lending firms, co-operative credit banks, etc. Rich women can alleviate the pain of toiling humanity by establishing charitable organizations modeled on, the National Association for supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India (established by lady Dufferin in 1885)⁵⁰. They can also start collecting banks in poor neighborhoods to help them to become thrifty.

She praised the various women organisation of many Europeans countries for concentrating on the issues of women's interests. She commends the International Council of Women for extending a feeling of common humanity throughout the world; and providing a link between women of various nationalities, sympathizing and giving them valuable suggestion. She urges it to become truly international by expanding its sphere for a greater interaction, and in all possible fields with women of every nation.⁵¹ She was also highly impressed by the progress of Japanese women, towards a free and socially, useful life by adopting foreign principles and methods to meet the requirements of their culture and heritage.⁵² Thus the well-being of women was the main issue that was close to the heart of Chimnabai.

Her contribution to women's progress in the state of Baroda is seen in the various institutes she had inspired, encouraged and established. The most important women's institute inspired and founded by her was the Maharani Chimnabai Udhyogalay or the Chimnabai Women's Industrial Home. It was established in 1914 with a view to train middle class and working class women

⁴⁹ Ibid, pp 76-77

⁵⁰ Ibid, pp 161-194

⁵¹ Ibid, pp 307-317

⁵² Mitra S.M. Maharani Chimnabai Gaekwad Op. Cit. pp 331-350

especially widows in various crafts and make them economically self-reliant. Classes for sewing, book-binding, calico-printing, carpet making, cooking were opened. She also had encouraged the establishment of Chimnabai Stree Samaj, in 1913, by Shardaben for the middle class women in order to broaden their outlook and to extend their social space. It ran language, nursing, first aid, sewing classes and organized lectures by well known scholars. Chimnabai gave a donation of two thousand rupees to this institute in 1916.⁵³ Chimnabai had taken keen interest in women's education and donated six thousand rupees for starting a women's college in Baroda in 1920, and thus Chimnabai Mahila Pathashala was established. Further, she instituted an Educational Trust with a fund of one lakh rupees to give scholarships to the needy and deserving girls of the Bombay Presidency for higher education. It is apparent that she and the Maharaja took personal interest in the education of the ladies of the royal family.

As a result of the spreading education among women and with the establishment of various women's institutes, women of Baroda became active in public life. Baroda was no more a dull place for women as Shardaben experienced in 1902 when she first came to stay there. Women of Baroda were no more passive. They agitated actively in favour of the Divorce Act and the Widow's Inheritance Act in 1930s.

Her Highness has been both an earnest student all her life and an author. She travelled not only all over India but also all over the world eagerly absorbing new ideas from alien civilizations but adopting only the best of them. She devotedly worked for the betterment of her people and gave an earnest impetus to female education by founding scholarships for the deserving.⁵⁴ The Maharani was a good speaker and was known to impress the listeners by her speech she believed

⁵³ Shardaben Mehta Jeevan Sambarna Vadodara 1938 (In Gujarati) p-156

⁵⁴ Ibid, p 260-262

that the condition of the Hindu Society can be improved upon only through spread of education.

With this belief she helped willingly to many academic organisations.

There were no such social welfare programmes which did not get her support. For many years she shared Rs. 200 from her monthly personal expenses for the scholarship of college students.

For this, she had established a separate credit society with amount of Rs. 1 lakh. There were many organisation started in her name. The four main organizations were:

- 1) Maharani Chimnabai Women's College
- 2) Maharani Chimnabai High School
- 3) Maharani Chimnabai Stree Udyogalay
- 4) Maharani Chimnabai Maternity and Children League

At Maharani Chimnabai Stree Udyogalaya women were trained in stitching, embroidery and other handicraft arts. Many women who were trained from this organization could an independent life.⁵⁵

Shree Chimnabai Stree Udyogalaya:

Shree Chimnabai Stree Udyogalaya which completed 75 years in 1989 has a very interesting history. It all began when Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad of the former state of Baroda was on a world tour with Maharani Chimnabai in 1909. As the Maharani was interested in the well-being of women, she paid visits to a number of institution working for women's welfare in those countries. She inspected them thoroughly and was very much impressed by their operation which was in aid of needy women in the society. The Maharani was thus motivated with the thought of doing something on similar lines for the welfare of women in her own state. These ideas pondered in her noble mind all the while and on her return to Baroda she called a meeting with a

⁵⁵ Shree Sayaji Gaurav Granth, pp 95-96

few progressive minded officers of the state and discussed the issue with them. With a view of initiating some action on this subject they decided to form a committee, which later explored the possibility of setting up of an institution where women could receive vocational training which would help them to stand on their own.

Maharaja Sayajirao was approached for the necessary funds. He, however, directed the committee to first approach the public for funds but assured them that he would later grant them some amount. The Maharani could not rest till her plan materialized. A public fun fare was arranged for the first time in Baroda and this brought in nearly Rs. 3500/- in collection. To this Maharaja gladly added Rs. 6000/- while the Maharani added Rs. 4000/- to the original amount. With the collected amount some beginning was made to set up an institute in 1914. However, women were reluctant to join the institute because of the prevailing social condition of those times and for nearly a span of three years there could be little progress. But Maharani was persistent. She turned to some of the officers' wives for help and they volunteered to go from house to house in the city to convince the people about the safety of the women, viz., the widows and destitute in particulars. The efforts brought a ray of hope and the institution started with three students in the beginning. It was housed at Lallu Bahadur's Hayeli in Mehta Pole near Mandavi Gate. At first training in tailoring was given to students wherein material as well as equipment was supplied to trainees who were also given a monthly stipend of two rupees each. Gradually, the number of women joining began to increase. Classes in embroidery and lace-making were also added. Orders were also taken for the spices, jars and pickles prepared by needy women in the institute.

For a decade since 1927, further developments turned to be eventful. Princess Shankutala Raje Gaekwad was entrusted with the management of the institute and she became its first President,

she took keen interest in the development of the institute and endeavored to secure a permanent place for the institute in consultation with the Dewan Sir V.T. Krishnamachari. They appealed to none other than Sir Sayajirao for a plot of land for the construction of a building. The Maharaja was gracious enough to grant a plot of land near Tarkeshwar temple on the north side of the lake Sursagar. It was on this very plot that the present building of the institute was constructed. During the same period Sir V.T. Krishnamachari diverted the surplus balance of Rs. 14,000/- from the Famine Relief Fund and the George V. Silver Jubilee Fund to provide a capital fund for the running of the institute.

In 1936, the Udyogalaya was registered as a charitable institute; its constitution was formed and approved by a general body. In 1938, a donation of Rs. 30,000/- was received from the amount from Indore Mahraja Yashwantrao. He had contributed towards Sir Sayajirao Diamond Jubilee Fund. After this the State Architect planned and designed the present existing building. It was constructed and opened in the 19th & 20th centuries.

By that time, the institute had earned a name as well as fame. Not less than two hundred girls joined every year. A certificate from the Udyogalaya was recognised by the Government. The Udyogalaya then tried to reach the women from the rural areas. In 1941, Sir V.T. Krishnamachari managed to get a donation of Rs. 7450/- from Shri Satar Sheth for a hostel for girls from rural areas wishing to study in the institution with a strong recommendation from the noble minded Maharaja Pratapsinghrao Gaekwad. It was arranged that an annual grant of Rs. 8000/- would be received from the Sir Sayajirao Diamond Jubilee Memorial Trust for the running expenses of this hostel. These girls were receiving free boarding facilities and also a monthly stipend. There was a full time matron employed to look after the girls and supervise the functioning of the hostel. From the above mentioned Trust an annual grant of Rs. 6000/- was also received for starting and

financing a calico printing section wherein, training was given by a qualified teacher. Trainees were also offered a monthly stipend. Along with this a book-binding section was started under which women were taught book-binding and making office stationery such as portfolios and files etc. This work was carried out under which women were taught book-binding and making office stationery such as portfolios and files etc. This work was carried out under an experienced person who was permanently employed. The workers were paid remuneration fixed for each item. The first three presidents of the institute were Princess Shankuntala Raje Gaekwad, Lady Krishnamachari and Lady Mitter who contributed much towards the progress and the smooth running of the Udyogalaya in the initial years. In 1949, Maharani Shantadevi Gaekwad became the President.

After the merger of State of Baroda in 1949, the capital fund was transferred to the office of the Accountant-General of the Gujarat State. Since then it has been in the form of convertible loan with the Government of Gujarat. Besides the interest earned on this loan, interest earned on this loan, then after sources of income of the institute are as under:

- i) Tuition fees
- ii) Donations
- iii) Profit from the sale of material produced by the Udyogalaya
- iv) Interest on the fixed Deposits with the companies of government undertaking and
- v) Grants from Sir Sayajirao Diamond Jubilee and Memorial Trusts.

Chimnabai wished to start an independent college for women from the very beginning. She desired to plan a syllabus for women which would be different from that for men and would help women in their independent physical and mental growth.

She addressed the audience, in the capacity of the 1st President of AIWC (All India Women's

Council) in January 1927. The Maharaja of Baroda focused on removal of social customs, especially *purdah* and child marriage, which hampered the growth of female literacy. She recognized that this was a time of women's awakening, while noting women's newly founded interest in politics, she called for education compatible with women's nature.

Okha Port:

In 1865 in order to facilitate the working of certain customs reforms and to safeguard the trade of British Indian ports from unfair competition from the ports of Indian states, the government of India offered a customs union to all the maritime state on Indian sea board the term offered were that the state should agree to levy import and export duties not lower than those levied at British Indian ports on the foreign trade of their ports and the British government would undertake to treat the ports of the states as British Indian Ports. Baroda, Bhavnagar and Combay agreed to this arrangement .A accordingly a notification was issued by the government by India in 1866, declaring the ports of Baroda .Bhavnagar and Cambay to the British Indian port for the purposes of certain sections of the sea customs Act.⁵⁶ In 1882, the Maharaja conceived the idea of utilization Okha harbor, improving it and equipping it with a pier. He saw a future port for vessels bringing goods from abroad for northern India cheapening and shorting their transit and yielding at the same time good revenue to Baroda in port dues and freight charges. In 1883, marine survey was carried out which disclosed the potentialities of harbour. It was done by Lient Prassco of Royal Indian Marine. In 1894, the Government of India asked the state having ports in Kathiawad to agree to allow the British government,

(i) to exercise control over the customs houses and the customs staff at the State ports; or

⁵⁶ Desai B.V. Note on the administration of Okhamandal, 1932 p-43
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(ii) to establish a preventive line on the frontier of the last Native State for collecting "revenue due to the British Government on account of import duties".

All the States having ports in Kathiawar declined to agree to the proposal of the British Government that control over the customs administration at their ports should be exercised by the British Government. The Government of India thereupon imposed a customs cordon at Viramgam along the land frontier between Kathiawar and British India in 1903.⁵⁷

In 1919, a survey was done with a view to fixing a suitable site for a pier. From the 1st January 1918, the Government of India removed the Viramgam cordon subject to certain conditions. In 1922-1923 the whole harbour was fully surveyed by Royal Indian Marine and Construction of Pier was undertaken.⁵⁸

The Baroda Government developed the port of Adatra by constructing a pier 400 feet in length with berthing accommodation for two ocean going steamers and an approach viaduct connection the pier to the mainland at Adatra opposite Beyt. These improvements have cost a sum of nearly 37 lakhs of rupees and the State is committed to a further expenditure of 13 lakhs on the port and connected works. A railway has been built from the approach viaduct to the frontier of Okhamandal at Kuranga at a cost of Rs. 36 lakhs. Further, with the concurrence of the British Government the State has lent a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs to a limited company in Bombay for the construction of a railway in the Navanagar State connecting Kuranga with Jamnagar and thereby with the general railway system of India.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Ibid, p-44

⁵⁸ H.P.O. File No. 6, p-2

⁵⁹ Ibid, p-46

Adatra was then known as Port of Okha. It was open to the traffic on 25th October, 1925 for whole year.⁶⁰

In September 1925, the Director of Commerce and Industries of the Baroda State, Suba Excise Commissioner and Sar Suba of Okha Mandal prepared a report on Adatra Harbour as a trade center.⁶¹ The Baroda Government was determined to provide all facilities that were considered reasonably necessary to the shipping company for the establishment of a regular monthly service of liner or steamer from Europe to Okha.⁶²

Okha was nearby land with the producing centres and by sea with European centres. It was the good position for trade with Gujarat, Kathiawad, Central Provinces, Rajputana and Malwa and another Bombay Okha was the most important distribution centre for all those places.

The principal imports were sugar, machinery, chemicals, lubricants, sizing materials, rubber goods, automobiles, irons and steel goods, corrugated sheets, brass and copper sheets, medicines and other articles principal exports were oil seeds, cotton goods, oil cake, cotton salt, cement etc.⁶³

During 1925-26 most of the preliminary arrangements for the working of the port were made steamer service, port equipment, canvassing for business, fixing up of the constitution of the Harbour Board, provision of cargo handling facilities, buoys of channels etc.⁶⁴

In 1927, the Government of India informed the States having ports in Kathiawar that the condition made by them in 1917 to the effect that the arrangements with the States would be reconsidered if the fiscal interests of the British Government became important was amply

⁶⁰ H.P.O. File No. 54, p-26 dated 28-3-1926

⁶¹ Ports of the Baroda State in Kathiawad. H.P.O. File No. 21-B p-2

⁶² H.P.O. File No. 51, p-1 (Port of Okha)

⁶³ H.P.O. File No. 64 (Revenue Department)

⁶⁴ BAR 1930-31, p-169

fulfilled. In the same month, they convened a conference of the States concerned at Mount Abu. At this conference they asked the States to agree to a new arrangement which would provide for the control or inspection of the arrangement by a British officer and a division of the customs revenue between the British Government and the States on the basis of the States retaining revenue approximately equal to their collection in 1925-26 and handing over the rest to the British Government. None of the States invited to the conference agreed to these terms and the Government of India reimposed the Viramgam customs cordon in 1927. In the case of Baroda, the measure was carried out by excepting the ports of the Baroda Government in Kathiawar from the operation of the notification of 1866 which had placed them on the level of British Indian ports.⁶⁵

The functions of the Harbour Board are defined in the Port Okha Rules published in 1926. These rules with commentaries and explanations were incorporated in the Okha Port Manual which was under preparation. The main functions were:

- (i) the Board exercises the powers of the Sar Suba under a special power statement;
- (ii) it determines the strength and salaries of the staff required at Port Okha for various purposes;
- (iii) it has all the rights of ownership over moveable and immoveable properties vested in it with powers to lease, sell, etc., under such rules as may be sanctioned by the Huzur from time to time.
- (iv) it frames schedules of charges for the various services rendered by it;
- (v) it maintains proper accounts and provides for fulfillment of liabilities;
- (vi) it recovers rates due to it and exercise powers to distrain when necessary;

⁶⁵ Ibid, p-46

(viii) it attends to the development of trade at Port Okha and carries on this work through the Department of Commerce, Industries and Labour, the Director of which was a member of the Board, all the propaganda and canvassing work being done by that officer.⁶⁶

The port officer held charge of the chief customs officer also. All orders regarding customs are passed by the Excise Department, but the Harbour Board is consulted in questions relating to customs policy administration, so far as they affect the development of trade. The cost of the customs establishment is debited to the port administration.

The maintenance of all structures and construction of new projects and works is in the hands of the Harbour Engineer, under the direct control of the Harbour Board.

The Naib Suba, Okhamandal, is a member of the Harbour Board representing the interests of the local trade and the Revenue Department. He has to see that the revenue interests of the Government do not suffer. As the head of the district he exercises supervision over the collection of customs revenues at Port Okha. His duties regarding the economic and industrial development of the district are the same as those exercised by the Subas of all other districts.

Baroda had come into prominence in international trade by the opening of a port. Okha port is situated on the north-west corner of Kathiawad 18 miles by rail from Dwarka. It was on the direct sea route between Bombay and Karachi and as an all wealth port with a safe harbour where two steamers of 27 feet draft can safely berth alongside the pier. It was fitted to place amongst Indian ports. The pier was specially designed and constructed for the purpose of a larger volume of trade. The port was served by a meter-gauge line connected Delhi and the north

⁶⁶ Ibid, pp 46-47

besides Central India, Gujaat, Rajputana and the united provinces. It had a jetty 400 feet long connected with the shore by an approach viaduct 500 feet long.⁶⁷

Preliminary arrangement of ports continued with the result that the port had a successful year can be seen in the following table:

Particulars of vessels	No	Cargo brought in (tons)	cargo exported (tons)	Total cargo handled (tons)
Country craft	111	469	2035
Coastal steamer	102	16195
Foreign steamers	18	13691

Source: BAR 1930-31 p-169

In the above table the total number of cargo handled by coastal steamer was 16195 tons. It was good for the trade. In the same year 18 steamers with a total gross tonnage about 1, 20,000 called port from Europe and America and brought 13691 tons of cargo.⁶⁸

At Adatra there were three Channels of entry, two of them good disembarkation can be made by gangway straight on to the pier, alongside which ships of up to 7000 tons can moor. The port is between Bombay and Karanchi, therefore Adatara had great advantages Apart from the necessity of getting steamers to call* a doubling of the railway track and the provision of sufficient trucks costs in formidable .Between Adatara and either Mehsana or Ahmedabad trucks passed through Baroda, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Morvi and British territory.

**Note: In the course of Maharaja Sayajirao's sixteenth European trip he had the satisfaction of arranging for the institute of regular steamers to Adatara or port Okha as it was to be called. In August 1926, and subsequently conferences were held in London with Sir John Ellerman as result of which the Ellerman Company agreed to run a monthly services to port Okha without guarantee or subsidy, but with*

⁶⁷ Ibid, p-47

⁶⁸ BAR 1930-31 p-169

*the condition that if there was no cargo for the outward voyage the company canceled the sailing Further an associated American line had agreed to run steamers from America to port Okha.*⁶⁹

On 28th July 1930, the Bank of Baroda opened a branch at port Okha.⁷⁰ Loans on import and export of goods through Okha could be arranged with Bank of Baroda or central bank of India Bombay. Gradually, the port was provided with good cargo handling equipment and warehouses, banking and other facilities and became chief port in Baroda State on the western coast of the peninsula of Kathiawad. The total income of the port revenue increased day by day. The export and import became easy. Beside the port area the civil station had been laid out. In few years the little fishing village of Adatra had grown into a town. The economic condition of the people improved.

Railways in the Baroda State:

The first railway line Bombay, Baroda & Central India Railway (B.B.C.I. Rly.) Bombay was laid during the reign of Maharaja Ganpatrao. The construction of railway commenced during the years 1853-1860 and ended in 1922. The Baroda district served by 8 railways lines in which 2 are broad gauge and 6 were narrow. All the talukas of Baroda district except Tilak wada *mahal* were served by at least railway line. There were 93 railway stations in the District.⁷¹ The Director of BBCIR authorized by the court of Directors of the East India Company to execute a survey of their projected line of railway on 10th August 1853⁷² and the engineers of B. B. C. I. Rly co. completed survey of the areas between Bombay and Gujarat which was commenced at Surat. Ganpatrao gave land required for railway purpose stipulating only that the private owners should be compensated for the loss of their lands and that there should be adequate guarantee against

⁶⁹ Sergeant P.W. The Ruler of Baroda, pp 232-234

⁷⁰ BAR 1926-27 p-158 + H.P.O. Revenue File No. 64

⁷¹ District Baroda Blue Book Vol. XIII p-75

⁷² Selection from the records of Bombay Government on IX Bombay Baroda & C.I. Railway Company Bombay Government Publication Bombay 1885, p-2

any loss to Baroda on account of transits duties⁷³ at last narrow gauge and broad gauge railway lines laid all over the state. There were many problems while construction of the railway lines. Baroda had to follow the direction of the British government in all matters relating to railway and had to obtain permission for construction a railway line even within the state. The power of the state to construct railway line according to its interest was restricted by the Government of India. Another problem was the claim of the state for compensation for lands given to the British Government for railway purpose. An agreement was signed between Khanderao Gaekwad and the B. B. C. I. Rly co in 1869. Gradually, the railway line expanded. Gaekwad's Dabhoi Railway's first section was opened for traffic on 8th April 1873 and it extended from 1873 to 1922. It was an important mode of transportation in the Baroda State

Before 1880, railway lines in Baroda division were known as "Baroda Railway" but in 1880, those railway lines were given the title by the B. B. C. I. Rly Company as "His Highness, Gaekwad's State Railway."

This expansion of the railway line provided the facility to the passengers for traveling; it was very important to transport the raw and produced goods to the other places. Cotton seed, firewood, morwah, salt, stone, timber, etc., transported to the different part of the state. In 1908, the state took the construction under its own line and a department of its own railway policy was formed. Different lines were constructed in the state. Baroda government also took charge of narrow gauge lines from the B. B. C. I. Rly co in 1921. In 1926, Baroda Government established work shop for repairing locomotives on the modern line.⁷⁴ Gradually, stations and railway line increased. In 1933, the number of the Gaekwad's Mehsana railway was 67. In the year 1935-36,

⁷³ H.P.O. File No. 195/5 P-railway in Baroda Territory

⁷⁴ Ranvir R.K. Sayaji Gaurav Granth, Article Baroda 1933, p-347

total mileage owned by the state was 706.54,21. 24 broad-gauge, 329.55 Meter gauge 355. 75 narrow-gauge. The most important good transported was cotton.⁷⁵

Co-operative Urban Banks in India:

The Co-operative movement in the State owes its inception to the failures of the attempts made by the Government for more than a generation to cope with the serious problems of the deep rooted-poverty and the chronic and growing indebtedness of the cultivators who constituted the bulk of the population. Before the passing of the first Co-operative Societies Act of 1904-5, the Government considered the problem from time to time and tried a number of measures all of which had been declared as failures. At last co-operation came to be regarded as the sovereign remedy and in 1904-5, an Act was passed launching the movement into existence. Hence, two types of organizations came into being: Raiffeisen or village-banks on unlimited liability; and, Schulze-Deslitzsch or Urban banks on limited liability basis. The former are mainly meant for agriculturists living in villages while the latter are mainly for people living in urban areas. The founder of the urban banks believed in thrift, self-help and solidarity but as he dealt with urban population his banks assumed a more business like and less altruistic-form.⁷⁶

The principal features of these banks are as follows:

- (1) Shares are of small denominations;
- (2) Liability is limited;
- (3) Clientele is fairly well to do;
- (4) The Co-operative safe-guards are not generally developed;
- (5) Mutual supervision tends to be less-strict and difficulties occur in realizing loans;

⁷⁵ BAR 1936-37, p-239.

⁷⁶ Baroda Blue Book, 1943, p-16.

- (6) The circumstances of the banks make them to follow purely business methods and to overlook to some extents the moral sanction that should govern their work;
- (7) The accounts are often complicated for the ordinary members to understand;
- (8) The banks were better managed and were better off than the Raiffeisen type of village societies;
- (9) Most of the members were literate;
- (10) The accumulation of saving deposits is feasible;
- (11) Short term loans and repayments by regular installments were easily arranged;

On 31st July 1942, Baroda State had nearly 186 non-agricultural credit societies.⁷⁷

Industrial Policies of the Baroda State:

Industrial development in the Baroda State was largely the result of the active policy followed by the State under the inspiration of Maharaja Sayajirao to promote industrial development of the State. The activities of the Baroda Government in carrying out policy of industrial development considered under four main heads:

- (1) Pioneering efforts to start new industries;
- (2) Scientific investigations and experiments;
- (3) Economic surveys and inquiries;
- (4) Grant of financial help and other concessions to industries.⁷⁸

Early Pioneering Efforts:

In the nineties of the century, Maharaja with his great wisdom and foresight, started several industries as State enterprises, such as a cotton mill, a sugar factory, a brick factory and a leather

⁷⁷ BBB, 1940, pp 60-61

⁷⁸ BBB, 1943, p-61

factory. At the same time, considerable financial help was given to private companies and individuals to start textile mills cement works and other large industries.

Between 1916-20, loans exceeding a lakh rupee in each case were sanctioned to fifteen proposed industrial concerns, the total amount being about eighty lakh of rupees. Although many of these loans were not utilized by the persons concerned, it had its beneficial effect in attracting private capitalists to start industries in the State, and it also showed that the State had followed a bold policy to promote industrial development in the State.⁷⁹

Scientific investigations and experiments:

One of the important functions of all progressive investigations and experiments of the State was to carry out scientific experiments with a view to industrial development and the utilization of its raw materials, minerals and other resources therein. The following list of experiments made in the State makes an impressive reading:

- (1) Experiments on various sands found in the State for glass manufacture in 1887;
- (2) Investigations regarding the oil contents of cotton seed oil;
- (3) Investigation by an American expert regarding the possibilities of oil industry and the manufacture of soap and other products;
- (4) Investigation of salt deposits of Dwarka and Kodinar for the manufacture of various alkalies;
- (5) An experimental station was started at Okha for window-pane and pearl oyster culture and another experimental station was started at Madhavadi in Kodinar for fish curing in 1917-18. Investigation was also carried out as to the value of shells found on the coast of Okha-mandal for making buttons;

⁷⁹ BBB, 1943, pp 61-62

- (6) Experiment in wood distillation was carried out to find out the value of different kinds of wood available in the State forests for this purpose;
- (7) An investigation was also carried out by Mr. C.P. Shah, a pottery Expert in the year 1919-20 to find out the suitability of clays found in the State for the manufacture of potteries;
- (8) In recent years, the work of carrying out scientific investigation had been given a new impetus by the establishment of the Technological Laboratory in the Science Institute which had been started in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Maharaja. Similarly, the Industries Board which was established in 1937 had been carrying out several experiments in the State. The following are the experiments which have been either completed or are being carried out:
- (1) Manufacture of Ultra marine;
 - (2) Manufacture of Dry cell batteries;
 - (3) Manufacture of Lime washes;
 - (4) Manufacture of Lime Juice and lime oil and fruit jellies;
 - (5) Manufacture of Glue;
 - (6) Manufacture of Liquid gold;
 - (7) Experiments regarding uses of lac;
 - (8) Experiments regarding the manufacture of inks;
 - (9) Experiments regarding the polymerisation and sulphonation of vegetable oils.

Geological Surveys

The first Geological Survey of the state was made by Mr. George Foote of the Madras Geological Survey in 1892. Subsequently, further investigations where geological deposits were

made by Prof. Sambash Iyer in 1908-09 and 1921.⁸⁰

Survey of Fisheries:

A survey of marine fisheries was carried out by Mr. James Hornell of the Madras Fisheries Department in 1905. Further survey was carried out by him in 1917 and 1929.⁸¹

Economic and Industrial Surveys and Inquiries:

The first industrial survey of the State was started in the year 1893 and a report was submitted in the year 1896. Subsequently, in 1898, a comprehensive inquiry into the economic life of the State was carried out by the Economic Development Inquiry Committee. several socio-economic surveys of villages, certain important cottage industries like weaving and metal industry and technical and economic survey of the oil crushing industry of the whole State was carried out ,meanwhile a survey of small industries in the State under progress.⁸²

Survey of Forest Resources:

A detailed survey of the various Forest materials, which can be utilised for various industries, is being carried out this year under the Industries Board. This survey will provide useful information as to the possibilities of various industries such as paper making, straw-board making, and other small industries like manufacture of katha, rope making, brush making, etc.⁸³

The very important task done by the Maharaja was to inquire into the natural resources and skill of the state and possibilities of their development for industrial progress on basis of these surveys. After that he decided to promote the older skills of the people and developed the industries by giving them financial help and concessions.

Grant of Financial Assistance and other Concessions to Industries:

⁸⁰ Ibid, p-62

⁸¹ Ibid, p-62

⁸² Ibid, p-63

⁸³ Ibid, p-63

One of the most important features of the policy of the Baroda Government was the grant of financial assistance to the industries. During Maharaja Periods this policy had been followed more actively. These periods saw certain changes as to the form in which and the agency through which loans were granted. The active periods as regards the grant of loans were as follows:

- (i) 1891 to 1894; (ii) 1908 to 1909
- (iii) 1914 to 1920 (iv) 1931 to 1940

During the first period about Rs. 2, 32,000 were advanced to 13 concerns. During the second period loans were granted to 3 concerns to the extent of Rs. 2, 90,000. During this period 1914 to 1920 loans exceeding in all Rs. 80, 00,000 were sanctioned and of this about Rs. 10, 00,000 were availed of by about 15 concerns. During the period of 1931 to 1940 loans to the extent of Rs. 4, 69,100 were granted to 26 concerns. This was over and above the sum of Rs. 2, 50,000 which had been subscribed in share capital for the Tata Chemicals Ltd. Out of these, 22 loans amounting to Rs. 1, 96,100 have been granted. The loan policy of the State not only reveals a marked increase in the number and amount of loans given out but also reveals certain important developments which were particularly helpful for the development of small industries. In the first place these loans were increasing being given to comparatively small industries. Secondly the terms for granting these loans had been more liberalized in respect of the rate of interest, the period for which loans was granted and the nature of security taken.⁸⁴

The economic development of the State in the industrial sphere is mainly represented by the following measures and policies:

- (1) Appointment of the Industries Board and the establishment of the Science Institute, a brief reference to whose activities has already mentioned before;

⁸⁴ Ibid, p-64

(2) The combined Irrigation and Electrification schemes for the Mehsana District. As a result of these schemes, not only certain industries like sugar factory would obtain the necessary raw materials required for their proper working and expansion but also the provision for cheap electric power for industrial purposes. This would tend to promote the development of many small and medium industries;

(3) Cultivation of Virginia tobacco: The scheme which being carried out by the Agriculture Department, cultivation and curing of Virginia tobacco in the Baroda and Mehsana districts is an essential step for the starting a large scale cigarette manufacturing concerns in the State;

(4) The Establishment of Heavy Chemicals industry Mithapur: The importance of the heavy chemical industry at Mithapur can hardly be exaggerated, only because of the association thereby of the forest industrial house in the country with the Baroda state but also because this was basic key industry which products were essential chemicals required for some of the other industries. In other respects also it had great significance for the future industrial policy of the State. Even the British Indian Provinces, which have been following more or less the laissez-faire policy in industrial matters under the influence of the classical school in Economics which had a dominating influence in Great Britain during the 19th century, and in India until recent years, are considering the advisability of adopting this policy in suitable cases. Although there is a certain amount of risk of financial loss, this policy may be adopted in suitable cases, in the larger interests of the State;

(5) Investigation of schemes for new industries;

As already mentioned above several schemes for starting new large industries in the State were under consideration of the Department and without being over optimistic:

(1) Paper and straw-board manufacture;

- (2) Cigarette manufacture;
- (3) Biscuit manufacture;
- (4) Manufacture of electric bulbs;
- (5) Manufacture of Potteries;⁸⁵

(6) The development of Cottage Industries: The Government had taken for developing cottage industries in the State. The establishment of the Diamond Jubilee Cottage Industries Institute and a Sales Depot is of special significance not only because of its great value as an Institution for training in various cottage industries but also because it indicates a new orientation of the policy of the Government for development cottage industries like the leather goods industry, the metal industry and, Metal and wood-engraving industry had been opened in the Cottage Industries Institute and a leather class was started at Ladol in Vijapur Taluka. Two centers had been started for introducing Seri-culture as a cottage industry in the State.

A scheme for introducing manufacture of Glue as a Cottage industry was operating and a scheme for experiments for preparing manure out of the flesh of dead animals and a scheme for making soap from natural soda known as us and Mahuda oil and under consideration of the Industries Board, and the Department. As regards the development of handloom weaving industry, not only new designs were introduced but new kinds of cloth such as table covers curtains and other households textile materials were also being introduced among the weavers.⁸⁶

Maharaja Sayajirao wanted to export the goods in other countries, so he promoted to send the art ware to the London market. The classes of art ware covered by this note included not only brassware, lacquer ware, silver and ivory goods carved woodwork and semi-precious stones but also embroidery, lace, silk work and fancy silk and cotton goods. The object was to arrive at

⁸⁵ Ibid, p-65

⁸⁶ Ibid, pp 19-22

some practical scheme which was enable arts and crafts institutes of the provincial governments to market abroad the best products of local craftsmen's in market abroad the best products better prices. The united Kingdom offers the best market for such goods, partly because they are not liable to import duties- except for silk goods (which get a preference over competing non-empire goods) partly because continental. Canadian and American buyers visit London and buy here freely. It became desirable later to extend operations to the continent and North America, as tariffs permit, but London was the best centre in which to make a start London is not any easy market to survey as the trade ramifications were wide-spread and complex and different system of trade co-exist. Moreover, the trade was largely seasonal. The merchants and dealers roughly grouped as follows:

- (1) The wholesale importer acting on behalf of an overseas consignor;
- (2) The wholesale merchant importing on his own account;
- (3) Some wholesale importers also maintain shops and are prepared to sell their goods either wholesale or also retail according to the class of customer;
- (4) The large retail shops frequently send their own buyers to India and to other countries from which they buy art ware of all kinds;
- (5) A few retail shops were the London offices of firms with head quarters abroad where craftsmen were employed to manufacture artware for the London market;
- (6) Finally, many provincial Governments in India maintain institutes for the display of local arts and crafts and export such goods to London. The Punjab and Bihar and Orissa Government employ their own agents in London.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ File No. 210/M dated 13th April 07, p-109

The Revenue Department:

The Revenue Department was considered the chief executive department of the state. Therefore, the important work of developing commerce, trade and industry was for a very long time carried out by that Department. In 1905, a separate branch was opened in that Department and a special officer was appointed in charge of the commerce, industry, agriculture, customs and a few other allied branches. Soon later it was found that a single officer, however capable, could not cope with the work of all these departments and therefore in 1906, the services of Mr. Whitenack (an American gentleman) was engaged as Economic Adviser; and in 1907, his Department was converted into the Department of commerce and industry. Mr. Whitenack retired from the state service in the year 1909. In the same year, the Assistant to the Director of Commerce was sent to America to be trained in Economics, Finance and Commerce and on his return, he was given charge of the Department.⁸⁸

In order that the work of the Department of Commerce and Industry conducted on well regulated lines, Rules were made in 1915 defining the functions of the Department of commerce and industry and the aid and concessions, financial and other the state is prepared to grant. These rules enable the state to maintain a continuity of industrial policy as well as inform the people as to what concessions the state is prepared to give.⁸⁹

In 1909, the Department of commerce and industry was separated from the Revenue Department and was placed under the Dewan so that industries should come in the direct charge of the head of the administration.⁹⁰

The functions of the Department are defined as under:

⁸⁸ Nanavati M.B. Notes on Industrial Development in the Baroda State, p-15

⁸⁹ Ibid, p-15

⁹⁰ GBS p-407, Vol-II

- a) To study industrial and commercial conditions of the state and to advice Government to lake such measures as may be found necessary and advisable;
- b) To conduct industrial experiments and to give demonstration of successful processes;
- c) To advise manufacturers, merchants and artisans in the development of trade and industry in the state;
- d) To advice Government on measures that effect commerce and industry of the state;
- e) To assist the people in the organization of trade, commerce and industries;
- f) To investigate and recommend applications for concessions to this Highness's Government;
- g) To do all other duties as may from time to time be entrusted by His Highness' Government."

The following the important lines of work at the time were carried on by the Department.

- I. Investigation of and encouragement of industries;
- II. Geological survey;
- III. Handloom demonstration;
- IV. Fisheries;
- V. Regulations of Joint Stock Concerns;
- VI. Administration of the Mining Act;
- VII. Boiler and Factory Inspection;
- VIII. Bureau of statistics and Information;
- IX. Bureau of Commercial Intelligence;
- X. Press and Stationer Department;
- XI. Administration of the Electricity Act.

All preliminary inquiries before concessions were granted and made by the Department and all complaints from and difficulties of the merchants and traders were addressed to it.⁹¹

The staff is constituted as follows:

- 1) Director
- 2) Two Fisher Assistant
- 3) One Weaving Assistant and Four Demonstrators
- 4) Geologist and Mechanical Engineer

Besides, the services of the professors and teaches of the Technical Institute were always available when required for advice, experiments and enquiries. The workshop of the Institute was also utilised for experiments.⁹²

In order to associate the people in the work of developing the resources of the state on proper lines, an Industrial Advisory Committee was appointed by the Maharaja in 1914, the committee, at present consists of 22 members out of whom 13 were official and 9 were non-officials. The non-official representatives are recruited four from each district, two from the legislative council, two from the Baroda City Municipality, one from the Baroda Chamber of Commerce, and one from the Mill Owners' Association. The principal function of the Advisory Committee is to study local needs both as regards industries, agriculture and forests, and advice the Department as regards economic development.⁹³

In order to facilitate promotion of industries and to regulate them on well established principles, the following Rules and Regulation have been passed:

⁹¹ GBS, Vol-II pp 407-408

⁹² Nanavati M.B., Op. Cit., p-16

⁹³ Ibid, p-16

Acts and Rules	Year of passing
Companies Act	1897
Boiler Act	1898
Custom Act	1904
Rules for opening factories and the Acquisition of Lands therefore	1904
Mining Act	1908
Weights and Measures Rules	1904
Factory Act	1913
Rules for the Developments of Commerce and Industries in the State	1915

Source: Nanavati, M. B. Notes on Industrial Development in the Baroda State, 1916, p-17

The most potent means of improving the economic condition of agriculturists was the co-operative movement. For the successful working of the movement, two conditions were essential. Firstly, all those who were in the movement as members of societies, as directors and as managers of co-operative banks must be thoroughly familiar with its principles. Seventy five lakh of rupees belonging to the public are invested in this movement. The Sangh conducts training classes for workers. Secondly, enthusiastic workers familiar with the principles of the movement, conduct propaganda among agriculturists.

Fall in agricultural prices had affected the movement and it needed hard and sustained work to rehabilitate the societies. The names of the two Sangh are mentioned below:

- Sahakar Sevak Sangh at Baroda
- Shree Sayaji Sahakar Sevak Sangh

In addition to the above Sanghs, the Rural Reconstruction Centre at Kosamba started under experienced worker Mr. Jacobi also worked in the same direction.

Maharajas' deep interest in all movements for the betterment of the condition of agriculturists in the State. When prices of agricultural produce began to fall, he held in abeyance the resettlement of a talukas which had been sanctioned and he also ordered that all resettlements falling due

postponed till better times. This included organization, The Agriculturists' Co-operative Ginning and Pressing Society Ltd., Samlaya, the factory of the Samalaya Agriculturists' Co-operative Ginning and Pressing Society, Limited. This backward area starts the first ginning factory on a co-operative basis in the Baroda district.

In Baroda as elsewhere in other parts of India much attention was paid in the past to the credit side of the co-operative movement. This indeed was inevitable. The credit side was a very necessary part of the movement. Loans were required by the agriculturists for sowing and other agricultural operations, before marketing the crops and for other purposes. This movement was useful, made every effort to develop non-credit activities to fulfill the varied needs of rural economy.

The Maharaja took the keenest interest in the co-operative movement and was also most anxious to foster the growth of the movement. All these development took place as a result of efforts made by the Maharaja to change economic condition of the State.

The Bank of Baroda:

Under the aegis of Maharaja, the state had experienced expansive progressive changes. To facilitate smooth progression, an attempt was made to revive a few institution. One such attempt was the establishment of the Baroda Pedhi company by the state. However, the internal as well as the external factors had rendered it almost impossible to succeed. Its failure brought the indigenous banking to the threshold of establishing a new banking institution. This modern institution could either have been a branch of another bank or a formation of a new bank of the state. The choice was with the Maharaja and the elite sector of the society. They decided in favour of a new bank and as a result. The Bank of Baroda was established in July 1909. However the process of the formation of the bank was not a smooth and easy one. It had required a lot of

convincing especially to the traditional order of the bankers. The state had accumulated a large surplus, a part of which was invested in the security of the Government of India. The balance had remained idle on the investment opportunities in Baroda were extremely limited. This had resulted in a decline in the value of Babashi respect. To look into the economic progress, an industrial commission was appointed in 1894. It consisted of three officials and one non-official. This proved to be an important stage in the history of Banking. It recommended that the opening of a government bank in each *mahal* would create efficient credit facilities. The first step towards implementation this recommendation was taken in 1899-1900, when two agricultural banks were started in Navsari. Between the years 1890-1900, seed-depots were organised all over the state. But due to their unsatisfactory performance they were closed down one after the other. Some of these were converted into Sadai or chief banks with the clientele of old ones as their members. These were subsequently transformed into *pedhis* or agricultural banks or *Khetivadi Pedhis*.⁹⁴ In order to support them, the state had granted them a few concessions. But before these institutions had a chance to prove their worth a severe famine had swept Gujarat and had thrown the state in total disarray.

As the *Khetivadi Pedhis* were found insufficient to give relief to the farmers, it was decided that the peasantry should be made self-reliant to confront such crisis. This could be done through exertions and savings by its own members. Therefore, a co-operative bank was started at the initiative of some enthusiastic officers. In 1905, the co-operative society Act was passed which allowed only the credit giving activities. In 1913, another act was passed which allowed the non-credit work.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ Baroda Banking Inquiry Committee, pp 46-47

⁹⁵ Ibid, p 50-51

Maharaja then renewed his attempts to institute a banking agency which would enable an easy availability of finance for the industries development of the state. Meanwhile, a proposal was made by the Bank of Bombay to open its branch at Baroda. But it was rejected, as they had made a demand for unreasonable concessions. Having heard of the failure of these negotiations, to avail the financial opportunities in the state, another Bombay based institution – The India Specie Bank – had come forward with a proposal to open a branch of its own at Baroda with one modest demand, i.e. the freedom to move its funds between the proposed branch at Baroda and its offices elsewhere. The state had no objection, to opening of its branch, but the banking community had serious objection. So it made the proposal that a bank should be started by local men out of the local resources and aided by the state. This bank would then take the shape of national bank.

In 1906, during his trip to the United States, Maharaja Sayajirao picked up Ralph C. Whitenack (an American). He was appointed as the Economic Advisor of the state. In his capacity, he was to act as an expert in matters relating to the industrial development of the state and he was authorized to report directly to the Maharaja. Thus, the Maharaja had eliminated the possibility of mediatory forces and obtained direct control.⁹⁶

Ralph C. Whitenack had developed very close contact with the gentry of the city including the Shroffs who were opposed to the Indian Specie Bank's proposal. On 29th January 1907, a meeting was held at the office of the Economic Advisor in which the banking community passed the resolution that a Native State Bank of the Baroda State was required. This bank, if allowed and supported by the state, might meet with success. The Bank started with a capital of 10 lakh, of which 5 lakh to be subscribed by the public. Fifty percent of the capital should be used at the

⁹⁶ Dwijendra Tripathi & Priti Mishra, Towards a new frontier, History of Bank of Baroda 1908-1983, 1985 p-47

time of the opening of the business in Navsari, Kadi and Amreli districts and at Bombay and Ahmedabad. The Board of Directors should consist of seven members of which three were to be appointed by the state.

On 3rd February 1907, Whitenack wrote to Haribhakti who was the representative of the citizens of Baroda that he had obtained a permission to draft a bill for the organization of a bank. But for that he had desired to confer with a committee of at least four or five members, who had been appointed by the bankers. He had intended to discuss the moderate terms, which would be highlighted to them. He insisted that only if the banking community was willing to take an steps, they would obtain the support of the state. He had assured them of the interest of the Maharaja in project.⁹⁷ However, the state was not yet willing to bind itself in any way, till the terms were settled and discussed.⁹⁸ This was perhaps because the state had still not recovered from the bitter failure of the Baroda *Pedhi* Company. Whitenack was in favour of the establishment of a native bank instead of opening a branch bank. He had strongly believed that with the support of the state, the business and banking community would have more faith in institution.⁹⁹ A meeting was held on 11th August 1907, attended by the promoters and organizers.

The Maharaja approved the draft of a detailed prospectus at this stage. Both, the local promoters and the government of the state thought it appropriate to expand the promoting group, with a view to associating with the scheme. Some competent people from outside the state, Sir Vithaldas Damodra Tackersey and Sir Lallubhai Samaldas both of Bombay and Ambalal Sakerlal Desai and Chimanbhai Nagindas of Ahmedabad were invited to assist. All of them were

⁹⁷ Selected from records of the Baroda Government. The Bank of Baroda Op. Cit., letter to Seth Hari Bhakti re: term on which Financial Community would co-operative Baroda 3rd February 1907 p-3

⁹⁸ Ibid Permission received from H.H. Dewan Saheb to Continue regulation for Bank in Baroda, 6th February 1907, p-4

⁹⁹ Ibid, Memerandan by Whitenack Baroda, 28th February 1907, p-13

Gujaratis, where in Lallubhai, in fact hailed originally from Baroda. They had strong business interests. They were closely associated with the rulers of Baroda and besides supporting the interest of the State, they also had intentions of boosting the spirit of economic nationalism.¹⁰⁰ A committee, consisting of Vithaldas Samaldas and Whitenack was appointed to draft the prospectus. Many of Baroda Bankers were included in this group. Though they had taken a back seat, they continue to submit their valuable opinions in favour of the bank.

On 7th March 1908, a meeting of the provisional Board of Directors was held, which was attended by the body of the Sahukars and Whitenack now the Director of Commerce and Economic Advisor. It was decided that the company should be registered after the minute details were settled upon. Amongst these Thakersey, Samal Bechar, Magan Purshottambhai, Haribhakti and Chunilal Nagindas proposed that Whitenack be made the Directors of the Bank. It was approved by Maharaja on¹⁰¹ 19th July 1908, such a meeting was held, which was attended by prominent saukars, financiers, industrialists and government officers. Maharaja Sayajirao was present in person as the most conspicuous symbol of his government's support to the new venture.¹⁰² On 20th July 1908, the Bank of Baroda Limited was formally registered under the Baroda companies' act of 1897. According to the prospectus issued, the bank was to operate throughout Gujarat, Kathiawad and Bombay. The Bank of Baroda was successful and established its branches at a lot of places within Baroda State and even outside it.

The Baroda Bank operated in Gujarat and Kathiawar, and as a matter of fact, in Western India. The Bank of Baroda was fittingly described as the premier financing house functioning in Gujarat and Kathiawad.

¹⁰⁰ Dwijendra Tripathi, Op. Cit., pp 52-53

¹⁰¹ Ibid, Tippan regarding permission to Mr. Whitenack to Serve as Private Director in the Bank of Baroda Ltd. and Heizur order passed there on Baroda, 3rd March, pp 130-134

¹⁰² Dwijendra Tripathi & Priti Mistra, Op. Cit., p-57

It opened fifteen branches, four outside the Baroda territory, namely at Bombay, Surat, Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar and eleven in the dominions of His Highness, namely at Navsari, Mehsana, Sidhpur, Petlad, Dabhoi, Patan, Kadi, Karjan, Kalol, Amreli and Dwarka. No joint-stock concern in Western India has such wide-spread branch-banking as the Bank of Baroda. It has increased its paid-up capital from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 30 lakh. It had a reserve fund of Rs. 23, 50,000 by the end of 1929 and its total working capital was nearly Rs. 6,31,41,000. It has succeeded in attracting deposits, current, fixed, and savings totaling Rs. 5, 73, 78,640. By the end of December 1929, the total amount of deposits, current and savings bank at the head office at Baroda and at branches within the State stood at Rs. 3, 39, 84,894.¹⁰³

The Bank had entered into special arrangements with a few Shroffs of the State whereby it would discount bills and transmits funds and this business was slowly increasing. Its business in long-term *hundis* at Ahmedabad was known to be fairly good. It advanced loans to merchants, who were accommodated on their giving endorsement of approved parties. It is known to have financed a few cotton mills both in and outside the State. Once it invariably financed cotton to the extent of Rs. 17 lakh a year. It did a running business in foreign drafts especially at who had gone there. It had been doing an increasing business in giving credits for import trade to mill owners and merchants. It did exchange business in general for its clients. Several credits had been opened by it in London on account of the Baroda State and a number of drafts were drawn on London on its accounts. The Bank sometimes affords accommodation to the Central Co-operative Bank, Baroda, which finances the co-operative societies in the district of Baroda. It has popularised the cheque even in the vernacular. Lastly it encourages thrift by allowing savings bank accounts. Much of this progress of the Bank is due to assistance from Government.

¹⁰³ Baroda banking Inquiry Committee, 1929-30, Report Baroda State Press, 1930, p-200
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The Bank of Baroda played a very important part in the regulation of foreign business in the State. Port Okha opened up a promising and a very lucrative business to the Bank if it attends to it with zeal and earnestness. The port connects Kathiawar with North Gujarat and North India on the one side and the rest of the world on the other and there was every possibility for the Bank developing a large trade in exports and imports. The Baroda Government had accorded warehousing, unloading, loading and clearing facilities to merchants. They have also arranged for them financial accommodation with the Bank of Baroda by allowing to the latter a small commission out of the moderate interest charges.¹⁰⁴

Under these circumstances when the Bank of Baroda opened a branch at Okha, it is hoped that the management of it entrusted to the care of a man who has knowledge of produce and import business and who is capable of taking initiative.¹⁰⁵

But the branch bank did not improved because the current and other deposits of the branches were insufficient to meet the needs of the merchants of Amreli, Dabhoi, Mehsana, Kadi, Navsari, etc. during busy seasons. In old days when the treasury work of the State was not transferred to the Bank of Baroda, the funds there were more easily available to the businessmen. As there is no demand for money from trade at the time of the receipt of the funds, they are immediately transferred to other centres where they can be made to earn interest. Soon after that, however, there is demand for money from traders. But at that time the funds with branches are very inadequate and to bring them from outside would be costly to the Bank.¹⁰⁶

Government had taken a keen interest in the development of trade, industries and agriculture and it always was prepared to find funds to meet their requirements for long or short-term credit. It

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, p-205

¹⁰⁵ Ibid

¹⁰⁶ Ibid, p-206

also recognised that industrial credit should be given as far as possible through the Bank of Baroda. It have several schemes for the economic development of the State, for instance, the scheme for land mortgage which would include in its scope the liquidation of the old debts of the cultivators, the financing of agricultural improvement, and the expansion of public utilities. All these schemes would materialise because the Bank of Baroda took a more intelligent and sympathetic attitude.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁷ Ibid, p-211