

## **CHAPTER 5**

# **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN SOLAPUR CITY**

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**CHAPTER 5**

**GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEXTILE**

**INDUSTRY IN SOLAPUR CITY**

**5.1 INTRODUCTION**

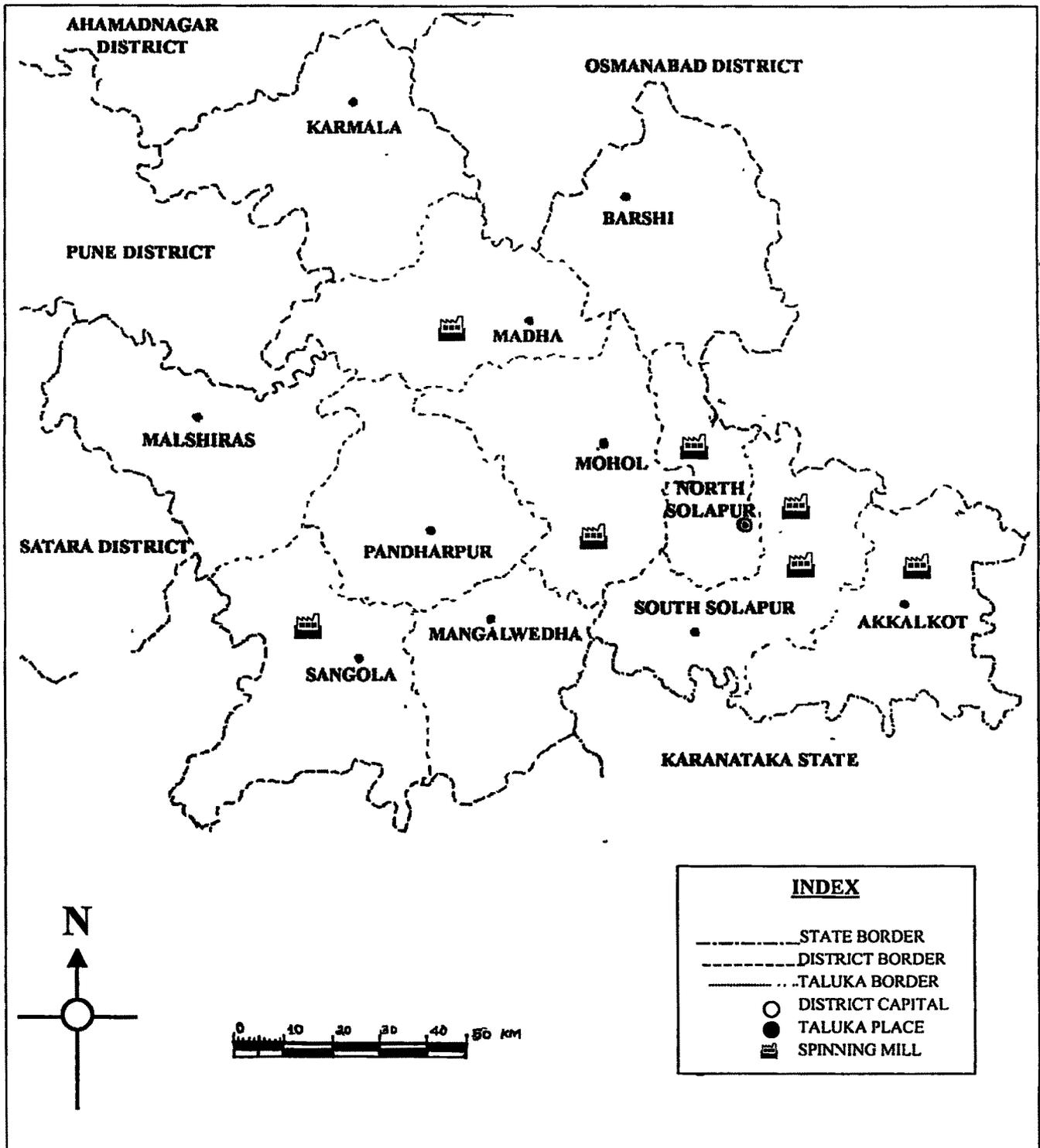
The study of the textile industry in Solapur City is not complete without the review of various textile mills in City. In the present chapter we have presented the case studies of seven textile mills in the City.

Solapur is an important center of cotton textile industry ever since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. At present there are two cotton textile mills and a number of factories manufacturing bed-covers. The Jacquard chaddars and bed-covers manufactured at Solapur are very famous all over India. Solapur is a congenial home of the handloom weaving industry, which provides employment to a considerable number of workers. At present (May 2003) there is only one large-scale unit and 3760 small-scale units registered in the City.

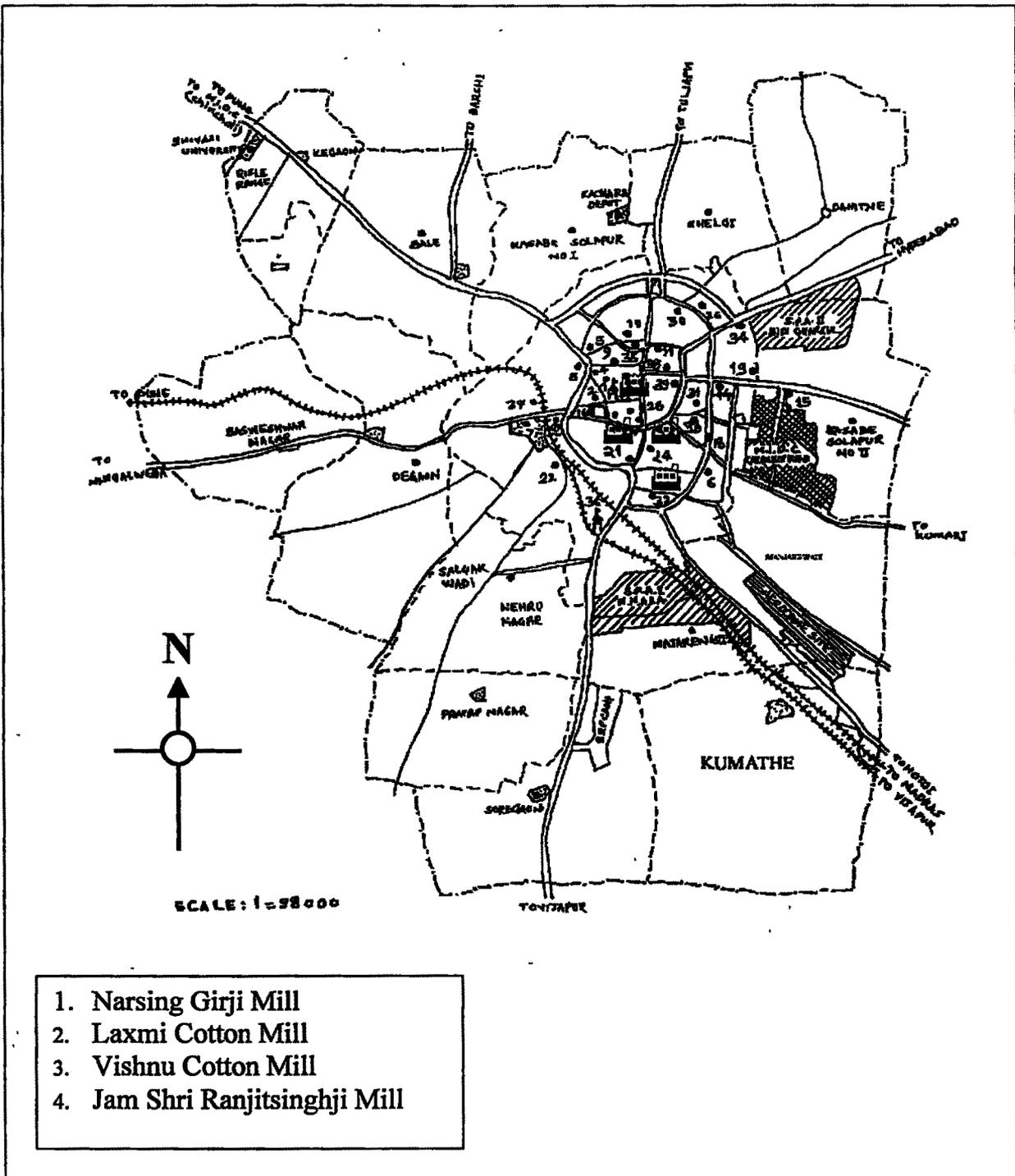
Besides the cotton textile industry has also found a congenial home in parts of the Solapur City. As a matter of fact the textile industry occupies a very important position in the industrial landscape as also the general economy of the Solapur City. The textile industry is concentrated in the

MAP NO. 5.1

DISTRIBUTION OF SPINNING MILLS  
IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT



**MAP No. 5.2**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF COMPOSITE MILLS**  
**IN SOLAPUR CITY**





eastern part of the City. These areas which formerly suffered from the occurrence of frequent famines are now reverberating with economic prosperity<sup>1</sup>.

The first organized industry to be started in the district was the cotton textile mill, which was established in 1877. The establishment of a large number of cotton textile mills in Solapur City marked the subsequent period of 20 to 25 years. The most important textile center in Maharashtra even today. It is noteworthy that person from outside the City owns all the textile mills, powerlooms and handlooms in Solapur City.

The year 1860 marked the laying of a railway line which facilitated the establishment of cotton textile mill at Solapur. While the new railway line provided a convenient means of track port, the Ekruk Lake made available sufficient water supply to cotton crop. It resulted in an increase in the area under cotton cultivation.

Besides hand-spinning and weaving a steam spinning and weaving mill, the property of the Solapur spinning and weaving company limited began working at Solapur in march 1877. This company had a nominal capital of Rs. 8 lakhs in 1884, an actual capital of Rs. 6,78,500 and was managed by Messrs. Moraji Gokuldas and Company of Mumbai. The machinery driven by two engines each of

forty-horse power worked 20,888 spindles and 175 looms and employed some 850 workers at a monthly wage expenditure of about Rs. 7,700. About half of the staff was paid fixed wages and the rest were paid by piece-work of the hands weaver paid by the piece, weaver was paid Rs. 8 to 20 and frame tenders Rs. 8 to 12 of the persons who were paid fixed wages the men earned Rs. 6 to 12 while the women about Rs. 5, and the boys Rs. 4 to 9 a month.

The total amount paid as wages in 1883-84 was Rs. 86,200. The workers worked from sunrise to sunset, half an hour being allowed for rest. Two or three holidays were given in the month. In the 17,58,000 pounds or 784 tons of cotton, the average yearly consumption in the mill, about two-thirds came from Barsi and one third was bought in the local market. The daily out-turn of yarn was 5,500 to 6000 pounds. Most of the out-turn was used locally, bought by local dealers distributed over the chief market towns and used by handloom weavers. A portion was worked into cloth the chief kind being long cloth and occasionally sheets dangri, sail-cloth and towles. Besides being used in Solapur the cloth went to Barsi, Bijapur and the Nizams territory.

In 1903, there were three cotton mills in Solapur town, which employed 4,930 persons. The number of cotton mills at Solapur increased to five in 1911, which absorbed 9,439 workers. There were

1,08,408 spindles and 500 looms in these cotton mills in 1903, which had a paid –up capital of Rs. 29,98,000. The year 1911 witnessed an increase in spindles and looms in these mills to 2,22,724 and 2,890 respectively. The paid –up capital also similarly increased to Rs. 65,78,150.

The 1921 there were six cotton mills at Solapur City. The mills at Solapur had 17,132 operators during the same year. In 1921, there were 2,44,868 spindles and 4,479 looms in all the cotton mills in the Solapur City. In 1951 there were seven cotton mills at Solapur City. The cotton textile industry provided employment to 40, 922 workers (37,529 males, 3,393 females). The total workers employed in cotton textile industry were 37,375.

In 1961 there were eight large-scale cotton textile units and 100 small cotton textile mills. The eight large units employed 19,651 workers and the small units employed 1,818 workers, Out of these eight mills, two were composite units, four weaving units and the remaining two spinning units. Five mills were located at Solapur, two at Barshi and one at Tikekarwadi a place about five miles from Solapur City.

In 1971, there were 128 registered factories undertaking spinning weaving and finishing of textiles in Solapur City. Their units employed

13,576 persons. The total number of man-days worked by these factories during the same year amounted to 42,57,258.

In 1981, there were four large-scale composite textile mills situated in Solapur City. All these mills together provided employment to about 15,000 workers.

The existence of a number of mills led to the development of Solapur into a very big yarn market. The market gets its supplies from two sources. Of these the most important source constitutes the local spinning and weaving mills. The Vishnu Cotton Mill and Laxmi Cotton Mill have their own guarantee brokers in Solapur City. These brokers guarantee that a particular limit and the mills might deal with him to that extent. The group consisting of Solapur mills, the Raja Narsingji Girjee Mill and the Jam Mill who has no guarantee brokers and were dealing with their customers directly. The other source of yarn supplies from Barshi, Madurai and sometimes Gokak and Coimbtore mills. The goods are imported by rail and wherever convenient by motor trucks. The brief history of some of the textile mills is furnished below<sup>2</sup>.

## **5.2. SOLAPUR SPINNING AND WEAVING CO. LTD, SOLAPUR**

The mill was established in 1877 in the Juni Mill area of the City with a capital investment of rupees Rs. 8 lakhs and employed 350 labourers during the year of establishment. As per the 1961 census, the mill worked in two shifts employing more than 6000 workers. Out of the 2,234 looms and 95,232 spindles installed, 1,772 looms and 82,652 spindles were working. At that time the mill was started employing female workers in the waterwheel section. The mill was closed before independence. Gokul Morarji established the mill from the State of Gujarat who initially started textile mill at Mumbai and afterwards shifted to Solapur due to low cost labour and availability of local cotton at the cheaper rates<sup>3</sup>.

## **5.3 NARSING GIRJI MILL, SOLAPUR**

The mill was one of the oldest and was once one of the biggest textiles mills in the continent of Asia. The four eminent businessmen Viz. Shri. Mallappa Warad, Shri. Govind Abdulpurkar, Shri. Laxmi Narayan Sarada and Shri. Chanbassappa Madki in Solapur came together and established this mill in the year 1898. Up to the year 1905

the mill undertook the production of cotton yarn while in 1906 a number of spindles and looms were installed in the mill.

Bank of Hyderabad and Chief of the Gosavi factory Shri. Raja Harsonggirji and their colleagues from the bank helped a lot to establish this mill in 1898 with the investment of Rs. 10 lakhs from that the production of yarn and cloth was started from the beginning i. e. 1898 to 1957. There were many ups and downs in the history of the mill. In August 1957 due to the Bombay High Court declared it as an unprofitable mill and thus being unable to start again and it was locked forever.

The mill was closed down in 1957 due to losses and about 4,500 labourers lost their jobs. The Government therefore intervened in the management of the mill and administered it with the Co-operation of workers.

As said earlier Solapur has been a prominent textile center in India around the time of Independence majority of population of Solapur was depending on the mill for its livelihood i. e. Laxmi-Vishnu mill, Juni mill and N. G. mill. When Juni mill was closed down at the same time The Solapur Spinning and Weaving (Juni) mill of Solapur was also closed down due to its bad economic condition. One of the eminent journalist of Solapur Shri. Raman Gandhi wrote an article in daily

Loksatta of Mumbai Stressing the need of taking over the mill by the government with immediate effect.

Then chief minister of Maharashtra Shri Y. B. Chavan, Labour Minister Shri, Shantilal Shah and Shri S. M. Joshi came together and the government took over the management of the mills from the Bombay High Court under the “Unemployment Relief Scheme”, on lease of nominal rate of Rs. 1 per month, thus the mills was reborn in 1957.

With the sanction of the High Court Mumbai, the Government of Maharashtra purchased the mill for Rs. 50 lakhs and thus became the owner of the mill since February 1966. Even though the government tried hard to save the mill, it was closed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002. Thus the efforts of the governments failed to save the mill<sup>4</sup>.

#### **5.4. LAXMI COTTON MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.**

##### **SOLAPUR.**

This was the only textile unit manufacturing cloth of fine texture and was the biggest of three composite units in the district. Established in 1898, by Shri. Sheth Laxmidas Khimaji in Southern part of the City, the mill was under the managing agency system since 1901. As per the 1961 there were 1219 looms and 56,272 spindles and over 4,200 workers were employed in this among the three composite mills.

Laxmi–Vishnu is the only mill undertaking modernization of machinery and production with the help of medium term finance from Maharashtra State Industrial and Investment Corporation. At present the mill was equipped with ninety automatic looms.

All required physical features facilities were available, but due to economic crises the mill was closed since 1995<sup>5</sup>.

#### **5.5 VISHNU COTTON MILL LTD. SOLAPUR**

The Vishnu cotton mill was established on First July 1910, under the management of M/s Bombay Co. Pvt. Ltd. in the Southern part of the City. There were 1,495 looms and 54,280 spindles and over two thousand workers were working in this mill. It was one of the successful mills. But due to economic crises it was also closed down since 1995<sup>6</sup>.

#### **5.6. JAM SHRI RANJITSINGHJI SPINNING AND WEAVING MILL, SOLAPUR**

Lalaji Murarji & Co. established the mill in 1909, in the Damani nagar area of the City. This is a composite unit. In 1961, it operated 512 looms and 22,132 spindles and 1800 workers are employed. The production of the mill was confined to cotton yarn till 1926. Since 1955 Seth P. R. Damani became the Managing Director of this mill. The mill

is having 30,000 total spindles and 512 looms (300 auto looms and 212 plain looms). The mill produced beam product, yarn cones and cotton cloth, polyester cloth etc. The modernization of the production process i. e. from spinning to processing had been completed in 1986. The mill provides employment too nearly to 13,000 workers. The mill produces superior quality products<sup>7</sup>. At present Jam Shri. Ranjitsinghji spinning and weaving mill is the only surviving composite textile unit in the city<sup>7</sup>.

Table No. 5.1

**Jam Shri Ranjitsinghji Spinning and Weaving Mill at a Glance  
(May 2003)**

Name	Jam Shri Ranjitsinghji Spinning and Weaving Mill Pvt. Ltd.,
Location	Damani Nagar, Solapur
Establishment	1909
Constitution	Public Limited Company
Number of Staff Member	170
No. of Workers .	1800
Required Raw Material	Cotton
Availability of Raw material	Maharashtra, Karnataka
End Product	Cloth
Manufacturing Process	Spinning, weaving and Processing
Licensed Capacity	30,000 Spindles
Installed Capacity	30,000 Spindles
Mode of Payment	Wages paid monthly in cash
Labour Relation	Good

(Source: Compiled by the Researcher, May 2003)

## **5.7 SOLAPUR SAHAKARI SOOT GIRNI NIYAMIT, SOLAPUR**

The Solapur Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit has been established in the year 1964. The main object of it was supplying good quality of yarn of fine and superfine counts at the reasonable rates to old and famous handloom and powerloom industry in Solapur. The work of erection of plant and machinery, which was started in the year 1965, was completed within a period of 1.5 years i. e. in January 1967. Full-fledged commercial production on licensed capital of 12,000 spindles was started in the month of July 1967. In order to supply yarn to the members and also in order to make the mill viable the expansion programme of additional 18,000 spindles was taken up into the hands and was completed in a period of nine month.

The handloom weavers co-operative Societies in Solapur district organize the mill. Formerly there were 206 members of handloom weavers co-operative societies on the mill roll in the year 1975-76. In 1976-77 these primary societies have been amalgamated and reorganized in order to bring them on sound footing. This yarn mill was closed on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000<sup>8</sup>.

Table No. 5.2

**Solapur Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit, Solapur**

Name	Solapur Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit
Location	Gangadhar Nagar, Akkalkot Road, Solapur
Establishment	1964
Constitution	Co- Operative
Number of Staff Member	65
No. of Workers	1,128
Total Salaries & Wages	72,00,000
Required Raw Material	Cotton
Availability of Raw material	Maharashtra, Karnataka
End Product	Yarn
Manufacturing Process	Spinning
Licensed Capacity	50,000 Spindles
Installed Capacity	39,472 Spindles
Average Production Per Month	1,50,000 Kgs.
Average Sales (in Kgs)	1,40,000 Kgs

Sales Arrangement	Through own sales Department to members of Company only.
Total Turnover	Rs. 459.67 Lakhs
Gross Profit	Rs. 45.37 Lakhs
Net Profit/Loss	Loss – Rs. 39.02 Lakhs
Mode of Payment	Wages paid monthly in cash
Labour Relation	Good
Market Area	Local
Initial Capital	Rs. 299.50 Lakhs
Borrowed Capital	Rs. 150.95 Lakhs
Loans Supplied Financial	State Government, Maharashtra
Institution	State Co-Operative Bank, Solapur District industrial Co-Operative Bank.
Planned Project	Remaining licensed Spindles to be installed
Remark	Closed down in the year 2000

**(Source: Textile Association of Solapur, 2000)**

## **5.8 YASHWANT SAHAKARI SOOT GIRNI NIYAMIT SOLAPUR**

The Registrar of co-operative societies Maharashtra State, Pune, registered the Yashwant Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit, Solapur on 10th April 1907. The membership was open to power looms and handloom weavers co-operative societies and industrial powerloom and weavers. Thus the Yashwant Sahakari Soot Girni was a co-operative spinning mill owned by consumers of yarn.

In 2001-2002 the installed capacity of the mill was 30,352 spindles. The mill is producing 2/20 and 2/14 count of cotton yarn which is required by the above consumer members for their production of famous Jacquard chaddars and towels. As stated above most of the powerlooms were famous for the production of Jacquard chaddars. In view of the favorable market trend in Solapur for the said yarn the mill was started. The company has been appointed since the beginning of the Solapur District Powerloom Weavers Co-operative Federation Ltd, (SDPWCF) Solapur as its wholesale agent for the distribution of yarn to its members on fixed on the number of powerlooms owned by the members and at the fixed rate. The surplus yarn was sold in the open market at the fixed prices. This spinning mill also closed on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2000<sup>9</sup>.

## **5.9 SUMMARY**

Solapur is an important center of cotton textile industry ever since the third quarter of the nineteenth century. At present there are two cotton textile mills and a number of factories manufacturing bed-covers. The Jacquard chaddars manufactured at Solapur are very famous all over India. Solapur is a congenial home of the handloom weaving industry, which provides employment to a considerable number of workers. At present (May 2003) there are only one large-scale factories and 3760 small-scale units registered in the City.

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2. Ibid, PP- 383-384.
3. Ibid, P-385.
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5. Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State, Solapur District, (Revised Edition), 1977, P- 385.
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