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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

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LEVRODUSTICN

If on, looks at his production figures of footwar alone, isolater, the ros other factors, the progress made by India during the 25-year period from 1947 to 1971, will soon (respective)

In 1947, the country produced a ware total of 81 million peirs of foot-wear. The figure for 1971 was 501.5 millions, 5.7 times as much as in 1947. Leather footwear production rose phenomenally from 59.4 million pairs to 215.9 millions. Rubber footcear production more than doubled itself, growing to 43.7 million from 21.6 million pairs. And on top of this in 1971, 42 million pairs of plastic footweer were produced.

all this would appear to represent considerable achievement, something to be proud of. If we see these figures in the correct perspective, setting them against the treatmous growth of population in India and the achievements of other constrist during the corresponding period, there will, however, be little rouse for satisfaction.

During the 25-year period referred to. Indicts population grew from 341 to 546 million. Despite on approximate four-fold increase in production, the annual per depits consumption has gone up to a meagre 0.55 from 0.24. In the U.S.A. and the U.K., the annual per depits consumption is 5 to 6 pairs.

An attempt is ande in this paper to analyse the causes for this poor performance and the means to step up production and ensure efficient distribution. Distribution being largely a marketing problem, this paper will concern itself with the relevant sepects of this discipline as far as footwear and leather goods are concerned.

OTAPTER I

AICH FATHER INDUCTRY IN INDIA

Till India become independent in 1947 and entered on on era of industrial expansion, production of footnear and leather goods was largely a cottage industry. Hardly any machines were used, all the work being done by craftsmen with hereditary skills. The range of manufacture was limited to charpals and boots for the armed forces.

Today the picture is different, but the changes that have taken place are not as radical as one may suppose. The range of production is larger and more varied, and our products are known and accepted in international markets. The bulk of the production, nearly 70% of it, is still accounted for by the small units.

The industry falls into three ostegories:

- 1. The organized, mechanized sector
- 2. The small-scale sector with minimal mechanization
- 3. The Cottage industry sect r

There are 12 major units in the organized sector with a total investment of Rt 1 billion. The investment of the small-scale and cottage industry sectors is Rt 1.3 billion. These two sectors provide employment for over 600,000 people.

The cottege industry units ere, for the most part, scattered around Agra and Kanpur. In Agra alone, over 25,000 cobblers are engaged in this work.

The small-scale sectors are located mainly in Maharethtra, West Sengal, Biber, Gujarut, hadbys Prodech, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradech.

Expension of production capacity is permitted only in the small-scale sector. In the organized sector, new colits and expansion of capacity for the production of leather footnor in existing units are allowed only for export.

[•] See Tables 1 & 2

CHAPTER II

PROBLEMS OF THE POOTSMAN INTUSTRY IN TILIA

It is by no means ersy to generalize on the problems that face the footwest industry in India. The problems of the organized sector are not the same as those that bother the shall-scale sector. The shall-scale sector has its own special healaches.

There are, however, certain difficulties experienced by the trade in general, and it is with these we would like to concern corselves. The organized sector is systematically tackling many of these problems, and it should be said that scientific management and efficient organization are helping to find solutions.

A. Poor Quality of Hides

The fact that about 30% of higes are from fallen atook, added to poor flaying and curing techniques, are responsible for uneven quality unswitches for production of quality-footware in volume.

DMI rates of Mortality and Slaughter (1958-59) for cattle, buff lc s, sheep and goats

(Percentages)

	Cattle	Buffalo		S	iheep	Conts	
Dead	Slaughtered	Dead	Slaughtered	Dead	Slaughtered	Dead	Slaughtered
9.4	0.5	10.1	0.9	3.24	43.86	4.23	43.10
		-					

B. Shortage of Tanning Materials

The problem of shortage of tanning materials is very scute. There is severe restriction on import and local production is entirely inadequate

C. Shortege of Footwear Machinery

Mechanization of the industry is slow owing to the shortage of machines.

India manufactures only machines for splitting leather, rolling and punching,

representing benely 5% of the total requirement.

D. Inadequate Supply of Rubber

The consumption of new rubbers during the year 1968-69 was 115,000 tons, whereas the production was about 97,000 tons, made up of 72,000 tons of natural rubber and 25,000 tons of SER type synthetic rubber.

Here are the details of the shortfall in natural and synthetic rubber over the years.

The inadequacy of supplies of natural and synthetic rubber has resulted in a downward trend in rubber footwear, although there is no slackening in demand.

E. Erretic Fluctuations in the Price of Rubber

Erratic fluctuations in price have adversely affected the rubber goods industry. When the ceiling on prices of natural rubber was withdrawn, there was an immediate increase of 44%, from Rs 4150.- a ton to Rs 6000.-. Shortages made the position worse.

F. Poor Prof: Margin for Manufacture &

The footwear manufacturers is indeed in a perilcus position. He is hard put to it to meet the demends from his wholesalers, distributors and retailers. Competition often forces him to trim his profits further.

This is a problem in marketing and does not admit of any easy solution. Franchising may provide the answer and is certainly worth trying.

Franchising, to put it simply, is the permission granted to a distributor to stock and sell the company's products. There are generally certain conditions laid down by the producer to which the distributor must agree before being granted the franchise. These usually include an undertaking not

^{*} See Table 3 & 4

^{**} See Table 5

to sell competitive products. The producer, on his part, may uncortake not to grant a frenchise to another distributor in the same locality.

In the U.K., the U.S.A. and Canado, frombising has paid off for the companies adopting this medium of distribution. It makes for attractive profits with fewer headaches, while ensuring effective control over service and special techniques.

A pleasing feature of frenchising is the opportunity it gives the 'small' businessman to thrive. He can jump abound somebody else's bandwagon without losing his independence and individuality.

Prenchising is most definitely worth exploiting in India.

G. Bewildering Variety of Buyer Characteristics

Selling footweer in India is a marketing man's nightmare. There is no such thing as a uniform pattern or even a few well defined patterns of buying. There is a maddening array of tastes and requirements.

80% of the people in Indie live in villages. Their tastes have often little in common with those living in towns and villages. Here a sin it is difficult to generalize as feshions in footwear in the cities inevitably infect the villages.

The size roll and fitting suitable for Wanipur, Dimapur and Aisal, will not do at all in the Punjab, Haryana or Haharashtra. The fitting again of Khasi and Garo Will tribes and of the Nepalese of Darjeeling are so different from that of consumers in Tamilnadu or Hyderabad.

H. A Perpetual State of Flux

The Indian merket is in a perpetual state of flux. There are so many shifts and changes in the relationship of companies to their markets, and among competing companies.

It may be premature to talk of consumerism in India, but which question, the consumer is coming into his own. In the footwear market, it is the buyer who now decides. He will not be imposed upon. Old selling techniques, the high pressure and the gracious onslaught, have become ineffectual. New marketing strategies have to be evolved. This is vital for survival.

There are enough examples in the footwear trade in India of manufacturers resisting change, and in consequence being forced to close down, sell out or change their line of business. It is dangerous to be out-of-tune with the environment.

CHAPTER III

PROBLEMS RELATING TO EXPORT OF INDIAN POOTWEAT

Steady growth has marked the export of Indian fortness buring the last quarter of a century. In 1947, India exported 1.9 million pairs of rubber footwear and 4 million pairs of leather footwear. In 1971, the figures were an impressive 8.5 million and 7.5 million pairs respectively.

What is now exported is meinly utility items and summerwear. There is a sissable demand also for typically Indian items like Kulhapuri chappals. It is uncertain if this demand will be sustained.

Prom the statistical information presented, it would be seen that, today.

India is able to find a market for its leather footwear even in the most sophisticated countries. In 1970, India increesed her exports of footwear by 26% over the previous year. The 1970 figures were improved by 17% in 1971. Leather footwear represents about half the total export, the other half being unde up by rubber and canvas.

More than 50% of the total expirts from India is from the small-scale sector through the medium of the State Trading Corporation.

The State Trading Corporation which is wholly State owned and State managed, functions as an autonomous commercial organization. It is specially economical with

- a) Trade with Eastern Block Countries
- b) Finding markets for traditional goods as well as new products
- e) Balk contracting and bulk handling
- 4) Export of commodities with high internal costs
- •) Arranging barter deals
- f) Gaining favourable terms, stabilising internal prices and securing benefits from speculative commodities.

g) import and internal distribution of commodities in short supply with a view to at bilizing prices and nationalizing distribution.

Difficulties faced by locann exportors are numerous, and the more importent of these are apothight here.

A. International Competition

The inadequacy of rubber supplies at reasonable prices makes it difficult to compete in the international markets. Prohibitive freight charges are another deterrant. Insufficient financial incentives and subsidies discourage esterprise.

b. Long Truncit Time

The impresentally long time it takes to ship finished leather out of India has always posed a serious problem. Indian exporters are a minimum of three souths away by the sea route.

C. Technological Cap

Changes in festion of lasther footwear and plothing, require the manufacture of new types of finished leather. The facilities and material required for these new types are not available in India; and by the time they are imported, fashions change, rendering them obsolete.

CHAPTER IV

THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF THE SMALL-SCALE SECTOR

In Chapter II the main problems confronting the footweer trade in general were discussed. The small-scale sector which accounts for nearly 70% of the production, has some very special problems. It will help in understanding these problems to know how the retail trade is operated in India.

There are three types of retail outlets from which shoes are sold:

- 1. Family Stores
- 2. Specialized Fashion Stores
- 3. Retail Chain Stores

A. Competition from Chain Stores

The trend is generally towards family shoe stores. The 'giants' or chain stores may seem small when related to the entire industry, but they are a force to reckon with because of their relatively large size. They establish patterns in retailing, styling and merchandising.

Inevitably, there is a certain amount of embarrassment in the relations between the large companies and the small retail stores. The large companies can by no means afford to ignore the latter. They are at once their best customers and chief competitors.

The fact has to be faced however, that the small stores are being elbowed out by the large chain 'captive' operations of shoe manufacturing companies.

After registering good progress in the post-war years, many independent

'family stores' were forced to close down as it was impossible for them to

offer demanding consumers, styles and service comparable to the 'giants' in

the trade.

It is not difficult to understand the success of the chain stores. The consumer finds in them plenty of variety and etyles to choose from. The

standard prices are another stanction.

These outlets rate for everier integration and a tronger industry.

Large, well-knit organizations have the resources to invert in research and development so essentially to the testment industry. Most innovations in show manufacturing and retailing and resulting and retailing and resulting and

- a) Butter weening soles and beels
- b) Durable aplea lifts
- c) Plastic patents
- d) Lesther that can be out and gloed to form homogeneous strips for automated machinery
- a) New concepts in comfort and fitting

It does not tollow from all this that there is no faints whatever for independent footwear valuations. In the fiercely competitive market, only those retailers who acquire the necessary knowledge and techniques and can carve the customer, can survive. Independent stores can develop an individuality of their own and specialize in providing paraoralized service. They do not run the danger of becoming acceptately impersonal like the chain stores.

P. Meintaining Melears Supplies

A problem not paculiar to the footwear incontry but affecting the national matchesting of any composity in this country, is maintaining adequate supplies at all selling points. Points from which supplies can emuste may be strategically located, but the logistics will still be frightening. Transportation for allities are inadequate, expensive and time-consuming. Selling points in worst areas particularly may be starved of necessary times during crucial joriods. Advance planning and markstang forethought help to an extent the organized sector. But even they frequently run into difficulties. The small,

independent atoma, is in this respect to no measurable ossition. If a needed style ring one, it may not be able to obtain replenishments from the appliance to meet a seasonal demand

C. Retail Trade of the Mercy of Season and Facilities

Many phases of shoe receiling are highly nemerical. Tozon's and Children's shoes reach their park sales during Page, Marki and Id. It requires great organization and sevence planning to ensure that the necessary styles are evaluable at the required time in all relevant outlets.

The most veratious problem in the footwear industry in India is the clearance of lines made obsolescent by changes in feshion, season and the like. It is not at all unusual for a great deal of the profit to be drained away by stock which has become obsolete.

Here is an eremple. Then the caims are over, only a nominal quantity of waterproof shoes can be sold. 'Chaim' stores can move stocks of such items to cuttete in other ports of the country where they can be sold. If the monsoon fails in Bowbey, rubber footwase can be transferred to the Madras coast where the rains supace letter in the year, or to the Punjab where there is a demand for waterproof shoes in winter. The small retailer is at a disadvantage in these matters.

D. Shortage of Cepital

The greatest handicap to the small retailer in footmace, is inadequate capital. The problem may be considerably eased by a proper implementation of the State Bank of India Aid Plan. The Bank proposes to provide financial assistance by may of looms to small menufacturers, shep keepers, truck drivers and the like. As the Pank operates through a large number of branches, this can prove a real boom to small footwear traders.

A unit with ospecity to produce 500 pairs of leather footweer per day,

will cost a 12 lakes in machinery land. It som be been from this what a huge investment will be necessary in mechanize the 70% of the industry which is as yet unmach nized.

E. Shortage of Trained Parsonnel

The small-scale sector suffers from yet another handicap. Currently, it can meither attract nor afford trained personnel to handle their manufacturing and merketing.

P. Restricted Marketing Opportunities

Except for the large units in the organized sector, marksting techniques are hardly in use in the footwear industry. The small-scale and the cottage industry sectors, for the most part, seem content with haphasard, time-worn methods of selling. The quality of the products manufactured in these sectors has steadily improved, thanks mainly to the excellent work done by the State Trading Corporation in providing the technical know-how. No attention, unfortunately, has been paid to modernizing their marketing techniques.

It may be worthwhile for the State Trading Corporation to take on in addition to the export trade, the task of distributing through wholesale and retail channels in the home market, the footwear manufactured by these sectors. It should not be difficult for the State Trading Corporation to evolve and build up its own domestic marketing organization, in consultation with experts in marketing and advertising.

CHAPTER Y

THE LEAVEER GOODS INDUSTRY

29% of all finished leather in world markets in 1966 was from India. It was next only to Prance whose overs was 35.5%.

In the same year, India's share in the export of gout skin was the highest.

Today India also exports mylon chords, threads, filements and synthetic repes which are required in the manufacture of leather footweer.

The production of mides and skins the world over being inelastic, and with the growing demand for leather manufactures, it would be economically sound for India to establish large capacity units for the manufacture of leather goods, including leather gaments.

European buyers prefer finished leather goods and garments to leether.

There is a definite swing in fashion to suedes. India can fully explait

these current modes by exporting 'made-up' items. Production facilities should

be geared up for the manufacture of leather garments which are now the rage

in many countries.

Indian raw material is ideal in that it has just the right weight for garment leather.

A. Dyes and Finishing Materials

To produce finished leather, technical know-how and adequate supplies of the right dyes and finishing materials are necessary. Technical know-how does not pose much of a problem. It is the non-availability of the right dyes and finishing materials in required quantities which proves the most serious obstacle.

Till India is able to produce adequate quantities of the required dyes. * See Table 8
** See Table 3 & 10

mumilieries, the process as for apportant these should be made except. At the moment, the formalities involved are cumbrous and discouraging.

There is also a serious less of embellishments and mylon threads necessary for the manufacture of lessery garments.

B. Designing Expertise

Indie lacks expertise in designing leather germants and leather goods.

To make the grade today and became a pace-setter in this industry, it is

essential to have trained designers.

It is of the utmost importance that India should, without delay, set up a Design Centre, where training can be imported to selected candidates in designing leather garments and other goods, including footwear. Initially, the trainers should be brought from other countries for specially contracted periods.

Trained, expert designers will be able to meet the sophisticated and constantly changing describe of expert markets. There is a tremendous potential, as in the more of fluent economics, loss manufacture of leather garments has become prohibitively costly owing to a variety of economic factors. They are now looking to developing economies like India to supply these at responsible prices.

C. Suggestions

If the industry is to survive in the face of international competition, it has to be given immediately all the assistance necessary in the shape of each and incentives. Much can be learnt in this regard from the examples of Spein and Greece.

As the industry in India is largely in the small-scale sector, dynamic and dramatic measures alone will help to build up the necessary infrastructure.

of 10% of the F.C.B. value of exports, the industry can quickly establish itself. This assistance can take the form of vouchers which, accumulated over a period of three years, can be used towards the cost of importing the plants and machinery needed for strengthening the infrastructure.

80% of the leather industry being in the small-scale sector, no large investments have been made by the industry during the last four plan periods. The export earnings from this industry can be reised from present 95 crores to 160 crores by strengthening it by vertical integration.

The following suggestions are made for reaching the desired goal.

- a) Industrial licences for finishing should be issued without delay to issues who are manufacturing tanned leather up to their installed capacity.
- b) The leather industry should be exempted from Sec. 11A of the Industries

 Development and Regulations Act, enabling all tenned leather manufac
 turers automatically to finish leather up to their installed capacity.
- c) Our bilateral trade agreements should stipulate purchase by the respective countries of at least 25% in value of finished leather and leather manufactures, based on their tanned leather buying.
- d) Since import of machinery calls for heavy investment, the necessary assistance should be given to the industry by the Government financial institutions. Fayments should be spread over a long term.
- e) A public notification should be issued by the Ministry of Industrial

 Development for applications to install plants for manufacturing

 finished leather with tanned leather as the basic material.

CHAPTER VI

SPOTLIGHT ON TRENDS

A. The Changing Rural Scene

In the Fourth Five-Year Plaz 24% of the total outlay was earmarked for agriculture and rural development.

a radical change is noticeable in the pattern of consumer expenditure in rural areas.

80% of the people live in the villages of India. Providing the right kind of footwear for the rural population is a challenge the industry has to face.

The industry would do well to remember that in catering to the rural population, it should look for volume sales, whittling the profit per unit sales. This is essential as the purchasing power of the agrarian population in villages is low. It will be taking a short-sighted view of things to boost per unit profits, keeping the volume low.

B. Governmental Assistance to the Small-Scale Sector

The State Trading Corporation is doing commendable work in its Footwear Division by providing information on the latest styles and techniques to the small scale industrialists as well as the cottage industry.

Small tanneries in South India and even in Calcutta are now in a position to manufacture supple buffaloe or cow hide and kid which are used for shoe uppers. The quality has found acceptance even in the most competitive world markets.

C. Styling

There is a healthy trend towards comfort these days. Pointed toes are on their way out. Teenagers refuse shoes that hurt. To the relief of many, men's and women's shoes are less pointed.

Pashion reigns supreme in the shoe business. It can make or mar sales. For volume rales, snoes have also to be comfortable. Durability comes next.

The industry should produce shoes that look better, are soft and comfortable, wear longer and cost less. Comfort, style and low price should be the objectives of any retail merchandising system in this industry.

D. The Synthetic Leather

The moribund synthetic leather industry in the U.S.A. has been resurrected and is now thriving. Mr George Newman who now markets Corfee(the synthetic leather developed by Duponts) reports that 7.5 million pairs of Corfee shoes are expected to be sold in the United States during 1973. Shoes made from porcearies (porous synthetic leather) such as Corfee, Jentra and Clarino are priced nearly 20% cheaper than comparable leather shoes.

What effect these developments in synthetic leather will have on the Indian export of leather, only time can say.

The Puture

In the introduction to this paper, it was pointed out that in 1971, the annual per capita consumption of footweer in India was as low as 0.55.

It is essential to plan for a 10% annual growth. This is certainly realistic and not an unreasonable target.

Year	Terret Pairs
1973	330,000,000
1974	360,000,000
1975	390,000,000
1976	430,000,000
1977	470,000,000
1978	500,000,000

There can be no phenomenal improvement in the shoe industry while India is feeed with the problem of the essentials of life like food and clothing.

With the slowed down growth o' the per capita income and the steep rise in the price of food atuffs, who can forecast when every citizen of India can move about, shod in comfortable footwear.

The industry is poised for a slow but steady growth. The market potential is so west, that it will be no problem for the small-scale sector and the organised 'giants' to co-exist.

Table 1. The Number of Persons by Categories of skill engaged in the Lesther Footwear Industry in Ir 'is

Shoemakers & Repairers		Cutters, La Footweer & Workers	eters, Sewers Related	Total (All (ategories)		
Househol d	Non-House- hold	Household	Non-Rouse- hold	Household	Non-House- hold	
467,381	151,577	14,614	9,750	481,995	161,333	

Source: Census of India 1961

Table 2. Resic Statistics of the Indian Tanning Industry
(By Sectors)

Sec 102	No.of Units	Percent	Labou: Employed (number)	Percent	Capital invested (Rs lakha)	Percent
Large-scale Sector	5 0	0.45	10,296	11.47	578.46	45.36
Small-Scale Sector	695	6.32	14,126	15.73	449.90	35 .26
Household	10,258	93.25	65,383	72.80	246.93	19.36

Table 3. Production of Rubbers in India
(In Metric Tons)

Year	Maturel Rubber	Synthetic Rubber	Total New Rubbers
1966	53,196	15,604	68,800
1967	62,339	21,808	64,147
1968	68,817	25,090	93,907

Table 4. Consumption of Rubbers in India
(In Metric Tons)

Year	Natural Rubber	Synthetic Rubber	Total New Rubbers
1966	66,693	21,947	88, 64 0
1967	72,516	25,247	9 7,763
1368	84,206	24,517	1,08,723

Table 5. Comparison of Production & Consumption
(In Pairs)

Year 1969	Production	Consumption
Mastic	31,600,000	31,600,000
Rubber	49,361,000	43,261,000
Leather	191,683,000	187,001,000
Sotal	272,644,000	261,862,000
Teer 1970	Production	Consumption
Plastic	Production 37,431,000	<u>Consumption</u> 37,431,000
	The control of the co	
Plastic	37,431,000	37,431,000

Table 6. Production & Export Figures of Footwear (In Thousand Pairs)

le nr		Prod	uetio	n	Fxport				
	Plestic	Rubber	Leather	Total	Plastic	Rubber	Lenther	Total	
947	-	21600	59400	81000	•	1912	474	2386	
952	•	21500	75690	97190	-	1135	1055	2190	
957	-	36892	77416	114308	-	2086	2631	4717	
962	-	49750	122500	173050	~	2837	2560	5397	
963	•	46600	134174	180774	•	2652	3043	5700	
964	•	46890	143353	190743		3715	3936	7651	
1955	•	53070	155447	208517	-	3901	3672	7573	
1966	1510	52150	158859	222519	••	6483	50 0 6	11489	
1967	4102	54557	177908	236567	•	5500	5127	10627	
1958	22720	57760	168400	268900	-	6847	5729	12576	
1959	31600	49361	191503	272644	•	6100	4682	10792	
1970	37431	44400	205479	287310	-	7000	6816	13816	
1971	42000	43700	215905	301685	-	8521	7625	16146	
1972	40000	43820	223063	307783	-	8673	7755	16429	

Table 7. Export of Leather and Leather Manufactures to Various Markets during April 1969 to March 1970

Countries	73.03%
•••	11.23%
•••	o.88,¢
n Countries	1.14%
Countries	5.34*
st Indies	0.53≰
***	7.8 5 %
	n Countries Countries

Table 6. World Exports of Pladshed Losther (SITC 611)

Table 9. Barerts of Coat Skins (Tons)

1966	9,273	1,306	2,710	850		2,268	912	2,388		2,262
Prom Country	1. Indla		3. Ebencha		4. Paint stem	5. South Africa	6. Greece			6. Brasil
3	3-8	8 (29-0	8.6Z	D.		40.6	•	. 20.9	15.0
Counting	Austral in	Cameda	Della	U.K.	Belgium	France	Italy	He ther lands	West Cerseay	4 0 ₽

Source: "Hides and Skins Quarterly", 1967, Commonwealth Secretarist, Commodities Marislon, London

Source: "Hides and Skins Generally" 1967, Commonwealth Source: 10 Carlton

House Berrade, London

Table 10. Export of Hides & Skins

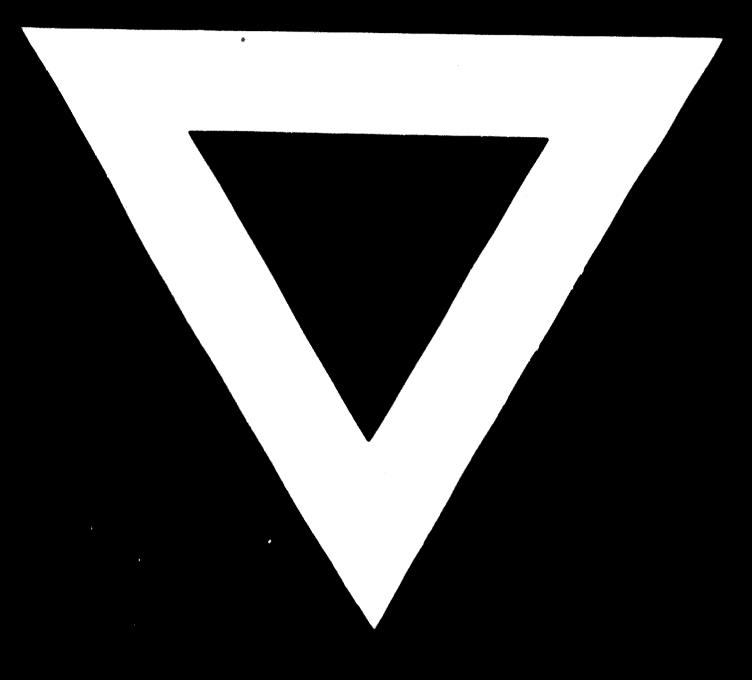
and Finished Leather

(Figures in lakes)

E. I. Tanned Hides & Skins

1970-71		1971-72		1972-73	
My-la_	Value Rs	Qty-Kg	Value Rs	Qty-Kg	Value
193.21	4440.00	251.52	6356.88	258.39	9481.00
	brose Tanned Hid		2,04,00	254 50	ec40 28
	2449.60	143.76	2176.88	351.50	556 0.35
137.90 Pinished L	2449.60		2176.88	351.50	55 6 0.35





3.8.74