

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Kosha or treasury is one of the seven limbs or *angas* of a state according to Indian political theory, and the royal coffer was filled from income from royal lands, war-time loot, taxes and presents to the king. Tax included land revenue, water (irrigation) levy, house tax, property tax, profession tax (or licence fee), tolls—*sunka* or *shulka* at transit points and market places, sales tax (*Bilkode*), etc. There was a tax on fruit-yielding trees, cattle (including grazing fee or *balavana*), on salt pans, toddy trees, etc. What was true of India was also true of Karnataka. From the times of Manu and Kautalya till the advent of the British, the items taxed remained more or less the same. The Muslim rulers followed the same old pattern with slight changes. Even the Mughuls did not bring about radical changes. The early years of the East India Company's rule saw the strict adherence of the inherited pattern. Only during subsequent decades, changes were witnessed in the fiscal system including assessment of land revenue.

Land Revenue

During historical times land revenue was the major source of income of the government. It was collected even in kind. According to Manu, the king was justified in collecting normally 1/6th, 1/8th or 1/12th of the gross produce, depending upon the quality of land. During the days of war and other calamities, this share was considerably raised. Till recent times, land revenue was the important source of the State.

The system of revenue administration could be traced to the Mauryas. The survey of land and its classification into dry, wet and

garden and fixation of assessment on such lands based on the nature of soil, the sources of water and distance from market was prevalent right from the days of the Mauryas and the Shatavahanas. During the Kadambas, there were two standards of assessment, one for wet and dry lands and the other for garden. The king's share generally was 1/6th of the gross produce. The well organised administration of the Kadambas, Chalukyas of Badami, Rashtrakutas and the Kalyani Chalukyas saw systematised land settlements in Karnataka and the Deccan. We come across land measures like *mattar*, *nivartana* and *kamma*. The measuring rod is called in inscriptions from the district as *koondiya kolu*, *haruvagolu* or *parvaragolu*, *rajahasta*, *navilgunda kolu*, *venugramada kolu*, indicating the place of its use or the people who used it, etc. Boundaries of villages and holdings are clearly defined. An inscription from Deganve (Samggaon taluk) of the 12th century, while defining the boundaries of the village, speaks of 59 boundary points, which though mostly include installed boundary stones (*netta kallu*), also speaks of tank bunds, roads, hills, mounds (*dinne*), streams, etc. Inscriptions also speak of at least four boundaries (*chatussime*) of any land holding while referring to its sale or donation. Lands were classified into *uttama* (the best), *madhyama* (medium) and *kanishtha* (the lowest) elsewhere in Karnataka for assessment purposes, depending upon the fertility, irrigation facility, etc. The land register or *kadita* and officer in charge of it, *kaditavergade* are also mentioned. In addition to *modalu* or *kula*, the original assessment, irrigation cess (*nirukuli*, *katte*, *kaluve*, *kere*, etc, were its names), war levies, fees for crown princes, etc, were also collected. *Tippe sunka* (on manure pit), *balambeya tera* (on haystack), *bandi* (on carts), *kottige* (cattle pan), *aledere* (on jaggery units) were also levied. Certain minor assessments were called *kirukula*.

A part of Belgaum district was under the Vijayanagara rule for some time. The rest of the area of Belgaum was under the Muslims for long. Both the powers continued the revenue principles they had inherited from these earlier monarchs. Under the Bahmanis, Mahmood Gawan rationalised revenue system by regular survey. Mughuls introduced the system evolved by Sher Shah and reformed by Todar Mal. The unit of measurement was a *bhiga* and the standardized instruments of measurement were the *gaj* (rod) and the *tanab* (chain) under them. The aim was to pitch the demand of land revenue at 1/3rd of the crops and assessment was fixed by dividing all the land into three classes on the fertility of the soil. The average

produce for the past ten years was the basis for fixing land revenue. The settlement was fixed for a period of ten years.

The Marathas had two important phases. The earlier system till Nana Phadnavis was the first phase and the latter system in an acute form under Peshwas was the last phase. The settlement of the demand was annual, based on the yield of the preceding year and the prospects of the current year. The village demand was arrived at by the combined efforts of the Mamlatdar and the Patel by negotiation on the basis of the crops raised. The distribution of the demand among the individual cultivators was within the discretion of the Patel. The assessment rate differed from village to village. Besides the fixed assessment, there were extra levies called *pattis* in the days of Maratha regime. In the days of the later Marathas, a new system called the farming system was brought into force. This system postulated the auctioning of the Mamlatdar's job and the highest bidder was made the Mamlatdar. He was free to collect land revenue as he liked. This led to all sorts of tyranny and fraud. In 1793, the Kittur principality had 285 villages under the Peshwas of which 91 were Inam villages and 194 *khalsa* villages. The revenue collection was done according to *karyat*. There were 15 *karyats* including the *kasba hobli*. They were collecting land revenue, custom duties, judicial fees (*khanda gunhegari*), *batta*, *kasar* and *nazarbeth* (presents) and many other levies.

The Maratha rulers were followed by the British who put an end to the farming system. The Mamlatdars fixed the villages *jama* and also the revenue payable by each individual cultivator. This system was called the ryotwari system. The government gave serious thought to survey the land and assess it under fixed principles. For this purpose, Pringle was appointed. He measured all cultivable lands making the cultivable field as the unit. The basis of assessment arrived at was the net produce from the field calculated according to the figures given by the *kulkarnis*. Since the figures were wrong, the system failed. Goldsmith and Lt Wingate were appointed to conduct settlement operations in 1836. They conducted test survey and accepted Pringle's measurements when found correct. The assessment was based on natural fertility. This system was a great success and maps were made to show the relative position of the different fields. The scale map was introduced for the first time in 1839 and official boundary marks were fixed. In 1840, Lt Davidson introduced the Rupee scale of classification based on the order of

soil, depth and inherent defects. A new classification called *tippana* was evolved showing the soil, depth, class of land and conversional faults. The Tippana book enabled check tests by superior revenue officials and necessary corrections were made then and there. In 1847, a conference was held by Goldsmith, Lt Wingate and Davidson to consider the means to achieve a uniform basis of the several revenue surveys that prevailed. The result of this conference was the Joint Report. The fundamental principle laid down was that assessment should be arrived at reasonably, having regard to the relative values of different fields. Another important principle was grouping and fixing maximum rates of assessment. The taluk was divided into groups of homogenous tracts to which a uniform standard rate was applied. The grouping was based on permanent features like climate, markets, communications, standard of husbandry and past revenue history. The aggregate assessment fixed for a taluk had to be distributed over individual survey number by fixing a maximum rate for different classes of lands. This system of survey numbers and the principle of grouping led to the survey and settlement operations.

Original Survey Settlement

In Parasgad taluk, the original survey and settlement was introduced in 1848-49 in two villages, 107 villages in 1849-50 and one village in 1864-65 with an area of 1,20,866 hectares. The maximum rates levied were Rs one to Rs 1.56 paise per hectare for dry crop and the average assessment was 69 paise and for the garden crop, the levy was Rs 2.62 and the total assessment on government occupied lands was Rs 1,20,669. Gokak taluk was originally surveyed and settled between the years 1849-50 and 1871-72 for 86 villages having an area of 97,304 hectares. The assessment rates were Rs 1.25 and Rs 2 for dry crops and the average assessment was from 48 paise to Rs 1.21 paise. The average rates for garden lands were from Rs 2.13 to Rs 4.09 and for rice lands, it was Rs 3 and the total assessment was Rs 75,837. In Athani taluk, the survey was conducted between 1851-52 and 1867-68 in 64 villages having an area of 1,32,026 hectares. The average rates for dry crop was 58 paise, 82 paise for garden lands and for rice lands Rs 2.32. The total assessment was Rs 1,09,982.

Sampgaon taluk was surveyed and settled between 1852-53 and 1860-61 in 140 villages with an area of 88,261 hectares. The lowest rate for dry crop was Rs 1.12 and the maximum was Rs 2.25 and the

average being Rs 1.06. For garden lands, the average assessment was Rs 3.55. The lowest and the highest rates for rice lands were Rs eight, and the average assessment was Rs 3.20. The total assessment was Rs 1,94,344. The survey and settlement of Chikodi and Hukeri taluks, of 157 villages with an area of 1,28,419 hectares were completed between 1852-53 and 1870-71. The average assessment for dry crop was 75 paise, for garden lands Rs 3.69 and for rice lands Rs 2.40. The total assessment was Rs 1,45,365. The Belgaum taluk comprising of 133 villages then with an area of 68,383 hectares was settled between 1852-53 and 1873-74. The lowest rate for dry crop was from 36 paise to Rs 1.75, Rs 1.75 to Rs 2.50 was the highest with an average ranging from 37 paise to 79 paise. The average rates for garden lands were from Rs 3.50 to Rs 4.50. The lowest rate for dry land was Rs 4 to Rs 8 and the maximum was Rs 8 to Rs 9 and the average rate was from Rs 2.50 to Rs 3.53 and the total assessment was Rs 1,07,228. In Khanapur taluk, the original survey was conducted between 1853-54 and 1858-59 in 224 villages in an area of 67,440 hectares. The lowest rate for dry crop was 50 paise and the maximum was Rs 1.25 and the average was 33 paise. The rate for garden lands was Rs 1.59 and for rice lands the rates varied from Rs 4 to Rs 9 and the total assessment was Rs 85,218.

Ramdurg state was settled in 1890 and the maximum rates were Rs 2.50 for dry lands, Rs 5 for garden and Rs 3.19 for rice lands. Raybag division which was in Kolhapur state, was settled in 1871-72 on the British administrative pattern. It contained 16 villages and they were classed into four groups with highest dry crop acre rates varying from Rs 2.50 to Rs 1.25. In the first class, there was only one village and the highest dry crop rate per acre of Rs 2.50 was levied. Two villages to the east of this formed the second class at the rate of Rs 1.75. Nine villages to the east of this were grouped under third class at the rate of Rs 1.50. The fourth class consisted of the remaining four villages at the rate of Rs 1.25. The highest garden rate fixed was Rs 6.50 and the wet fields were assessed at rates varying from Rs 4 to Rs 5.

First Revision Settlement

In the first revision settlement of Parasgad taluk, 110 villages were settled in 1880-81 and one village in 1903-04. The average rates for 110 villages were Re one for dry crops, Rs 2.35 for garden lands and Rs 2.95 for rice lands. The rate for the one village settled

in 1903-04 was Rs 1.23 for dry crops and there were no wet and garden lands.

In Gokak taluk, 70 villages were settled in 1884-85 and the average rates were 0.56 paise for dry crops, Rs 1.04 for garden crops and Rs 1.59 for rice crops. Fourteen villages were settled in 1886-87 and the average rates were Rs 1.19 for dry crops, Rs 2.24 for garden crops and Rs 2.94 for rice lands. One village was settled in 1895-96 and another village in 1896-97. The average rates were Rs 1.44 and Rs 1.10 for dry crops and Rs 2.37 for garden crops for the last village. Athani taluk with 64 villages was settled in 1885-86. The average rates were 65 paise for dry crops, Rs 1.16 for garden crops and Rs 1.60 for rice lands. Sampgaon taluk with 140 villages was settled in 1885-86. The average dry crop rate was Rs 1.36 and for garden lands Rs 4.73 and for rice, Rs 4.13. The Chikodi taluk including Hukeri comprising of 157 villages was settled in 1886-87, the average rates for dry crops being 0.95 paise, Rs 2.95 for garden lands and Rs 3.11 for rice lands.

In Belgaum taluk, 120 villages were settled in 1888-89 with average rates of Rs 0.50 for dry crops, Rs 3 for garden and Rs 4.07 for rice crops. Three villages were settled in 1886-87, 1896-97 and 1905-06 at one village each year. The average rates were from 87 paise to Rs 1.22 for dry crops, Rs 2 to Rs 2.50 for wet crops and Rs 4.38 for rice crops. The 224 villages of Khanapur taluk were settled in 1888-89, the average rates were 0.42 paise for dry, Rs 1.97 for garden and Rs 2.86 for rice lands.

Second Revision Settlement

The second revision settlement of Parasgad taluk of 111 villages was undertaken in the year 1912-13. The taluk was divided into five groups. One village of the same taluk was settled under Group I. The maximum rates for dry crops were from Re 1 to Rs 3. The maximum wetland and garden rates were Rs 8. Gokak taluk with 86 villages was settled in 1916-17 under five groups. The maximum rates for dry crops were from Rs 1.25 to Rs 2.75 and the rate for wet lands was Rs 8.

The Athani taluk was settled in the year 1916-17 forming 64 villages into eight groups. The maximum rates for dry crops ranged from 87 paise to Rs 2.75. The second revision settlement of

Sampgaon taluk took place in the year 1916-17. The number of villages settled were 140 and were divided into six groups. The maximum rates for dry crops were from Rs 1.50 to Rs 3.50, the rice land rates were from Rs 8 to Rs 9 and the garden rates were Rs 8. The Chikodi taluk with 66 villages forming into 6 groups was settled in 1916-17. The maximum rates were from Rs 1.25 to Rs 3.25 for dry crops, Rs eight for rice and Rs 8 to Rs 12 for garden crops.

Revision Settlement of 1964

The revision settlement of 1964 was based on the zones and not according to taluks or mahals. The zone is contiguous and homogeneous in respect of physical configuration, climate and rainfall, principal crops grown and soil characteristics. All lands falling within the respective zones were brought under different groups to facilitate application of standard rates. The Belgaum district was divided into, zone I comprising of Belgaum and Khanapur taluks, zone II comprising of Chikodi, Hukeri and Sampgaon taluks and 18 villages of Kundarnad of Gokak taluk and the zone III comprising of Athani, Raybag, Gokak (except 18 Kundarnad villages), Ramdurg and Parasgad taluks.

The zone I was divided into six groups totalling 408 villages. The zone II consisted of five groups totalling 485 villages. The zone III was divided into eight groups with 475 villages. The standard rates were recommended by the settlement officer not to exceed 4% of the average gross yield of the principle crops. The standard rates were approved by the legislature and the period of settlement prescribed as per amendment effected in 1965. The rates were as follows:

<i>(in rupees)</i>					
<i>Zone</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Dry</i>	<i>Wet</i>	<i>Garden</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
I	I	43	3.46	9.48	9.48
	II	84	2.40	8.72	8.72
	III	119	2.39	9.72	9.72
	IV	27	1.25	8.58	8.58
	V	91	0.92	9.03	9.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
	VI	44	0.90	6.02	6.02
II	I	126	6.26	7.85	7.85 PB 6.26 MB
	II	34	5.01	7.85	7.85 PB 5.01 MB
	III	101	3.34	7.85	7.85 PB 3.34 MB
	IV	44	2.83	7.85	7.85 PB 2.83 MB
	V	80	2.61	7.85	7.85 PB 2.61 MB
III	I	43	2.66	2.66	7.85
	II	55	2.09	2.09	7.85
	III	53	1.78	1.78	7.85
	IV	153	2.09	2.09	7.85
	V	37	2.13	2.13	7.85
	VI	25	1.75	1.75	7.85
	VII	56	1.78	1.78	7.85
	VIII	57	1.06	1.06	7.85

PB—Pot Bagayat

MB—Mot Bagayat

Land Revenue Accounts

After the village has been surveyed and settlement made, the survey and settlement department prepares a register called the 'settlement register' showing the area and assessment of each number, the uncultivated area and the name of the registered occupant. Another register called *akarband* or register of survey numbers showing the total area under each head, arable and unarable, dry land, wet land and garden land in detail with the rate per acre, assessment of each and the total assessment fixed on the entire survey number.

On receipt of this, the village accountants are required to prepare the *khetwar patrika* or index of lands which is a replica of the *akarband* and settlement register.

On the basis of the *khetwar* register, the village accountant proceeds annually to record the actual state of all lands in the village. This is a very important revenue record as it contains all possible data relating to lands held, area, assessment, water-rate, classification of soil, number of trees, nature of possession of land, tenancy and details of crop grown, etc. The original RTC is maintained by the Village Accountant and its duplicate maintained by the taluk office.

Khata Register which is a basic record containing the entries with reference to the RTC, *khirdi* (day book), receipt book, and debit entries relating to the land holder with the liabilities to pay land revenue, upset price or conversion fine and other fines, etc. The register has to be opened on the 1st of July each year. The Village Accountant has to acknowledge all the amounts realised by him in the receipt book in the authorised form. He has to prepare a monthly demand, collection and balance (DCB) statement in the prescribed form and submit it to the taluk office on the 1st of every month. The register of demand and collection for land revenue, miscellaneous revenue or cesses, etc, had to be closed at the end of the year on 30th June and on the basis of this register the annual accounts of the village under each item of revenue should be finalised.

Patta Books

Patta or a ryots receipt book is kept with him after getting the entries made regarding payment of land revenue and other dues. It furnishes the details of lands held by him. The Village Accountant makes entries in the *Patta* books of all registered transactions as per intimation slips received from the Sub-Registrars, loans due to government and also entries regarding the lands mortgaged, etc. The RR Sheristedar verifies the entries made in the *pattas* with reference to the mutation register and affixes his signature to the correctness of the entries. Assistant Commissioners and Tahsildars examine these *pattas* by comparison with connected ledgers and oral statements made by ryots during the time of their inspection on tours and initial them.

Annual Accounts

After the completion of the collection during the revenue year

ending 30th June of every year, annual accounts (*saljade*) of the said year in respect of each village for each head of account will be prepared. The collections of the whole year under all heads will be reconciled along with the taluk office ledger. The government dues to be recovered in a village as shown in the abstract in the ledger maintained in the taluk office and the actual collections made by the Village Accountant as per his day book and reconciled by him with the taluk ledger striking a balance of outstanding dues constitute the annual accounts for the year.

Jamabandi

The practice of conducting *jamabandi* was in vogue in the district from very early times. The *jamabandi* or annual settlement of accounts comprises of a detailed scrutiny of the village and taluk registers and accounts with the object of overhauling the village accounts and ascertaining whether all items of revenue including the demand for settled villages have been properly determined and brought to account and whether the statistics prescribed for economic and administrative purposes have been correctly compiled, thus giving the Village Accountants an opportunity to rectify omissions and defects and reconcile discrepancies. *Jamabandi* is of two kinds, *dittum jamabandi* and *huzur jamabandi*. *Dittum jamabandi* is conducted by the Tahsildar soon after the annual accounts—*saljade* of the villages are completed by the Village Accountant as on 1st July of each year. It constitutes a preliminary test of village accounts before the *huzur jamabandi* is taken up by the *huzur jamabandi* Officer. It is the reconciliation of the accounts where the demand, collection and balance of the preceding years is thoroughly scrutinized and annual statements are prepared after a detailed scrutiny of registers and accounts of villages in the taluks covering all aspects of the revenue management including crop particulars written by the Village Accountant. The Tahsildars also look into other matters of socio-economic programmes in addition to all aspects of land and revenue matters.

Huzur Jamabandi

The annual *jamabandi* settlement is the most important revenue work conducted by the Deputy Commissioner or the Assistant Commissioner or any other officer appointed for the purpose between October and December to verify and settle the village accounts of the previous year and to determine the land revenue and other

dues for the current revenue year. It is more or less an audit of the account of the previous year and partly an inspection to see whether the accounts of the current year are up-to-date. The ryots are apprised of the date of *jamabandi* so that they can avail themselves of the opportunity to make representations if any to the Jamabandi Officer who can redress grievances of the public then and there.

Realisation of Land Revenue

Payment of Land Revenue was a paramount charge on the land and every holder of land was liable to pay it according to the Land Revenue Act of 1964. In Belgaum district, separate dates were fixed for the recovery of assessment on lands cultivated. Two instalments were allowed in each case earlier i.e., February 15th and March 15th each year prior to 1964. The Land revenue and other dues commenced from the 1st of January and concluded on the 30th of June every year. This period is called the *kist* period or the collection season. Land revenue is payable in four equal instalments in the months of January, February, March and April of each year and it should be paid by the 20th of each month. Any instalment of land revenue or part thereof which is not paid on the date prescribed shall become an arrear of land revenue and the person a defaulter.

The process of recovery begins with the issue of demand notice by the Village Accountant during the month of January each year which will be served on the defaulter and displayed on the village notice board. If after seven days, the amount is not realised, the matter will be brought to the notice of the Tahsildar to obtain orders for recovery procedure.

All rents, royalties, water rates, cesses, fees, charges, premiums, penalties, etc, fines due to the State Government for use or occupation of land, water or any produce of land constitute the public demands and shall be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue. The following table gives the Demand, Collection and Balance of revenue in the district under various heads (45) from 1982-83 to 1984-85.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Balance</i>
1982-83	6,96,13,177	2,31,15,479	4,64,97,698
1983-84	6,15,48,761	2,00,79,598	4,14,69,163
1984-85	5,99,86,111	1,97,44,481	3,62,41,630

Remissions

There were no specific rules for suspension of collection of revenue prior to the introduction of settlement by the British except when the royalty or the administration was convinced about failure of crops and the ryots inability to pay. Under the British, for long, it was considered unnecessary to provide for relief when crops failed or the yield was low. But, on the recommendation of the Famine Commission in 1901, some provision was made for suspension of remission by an order of the Bombay Government in 1907. The grant of suspension depended on the character of the three seasons following that in which the assessment had been suspended. When there was a partial or total failure or destruction of crops throughout any tract on account of drought or any other cause, the relief was by way of suspension (*tahkub*) in the first instance. The full amount of land revenue was suspended when the estimated yield was less than 25% and only half the land revenue was suspended when the estimated yield was less than 37½%. No relief was given when the estimated yield was six annas or more. The normal crop was valued at 12 annas (75%). The suspended amount was remitted when there were successive bad seasons after the suspension of land revenue. No collection of suspended amount of previous years was made in a season for which the estimated yield was less than eight annas.

Remission Rules of 1966

As per the Karnataka Land Revenue Rules 1966 when the Deputy Commissioner has ascertained by enquiries that owing to a partial or total failure or destruction of crops throughout any tract on account of drought or any other cause, he shall cause crop cutting experiments to be conducted in all the areas of such a tract to determine the average crop-wise yield per acre. (1) If the average crop-wise yield is less than 25%, there shall be full remission and (2) if the average crop-wise yield is 25% and more, there shall be no remission of land revenue. When the collection of land revenue has been suspended for a specific period and it cannot be collected in the succeeding year on account of the average crop-wise yield being 37% and not less than 25%, the payment of such land revenue shall be remitted in the third year. The suspended land revenue which cannot be remitted in accordance with the sub rule shall be remitted in the fourth year. The Karnataka Government in its order dated 3-10-1977 exempted the land holdings upto two hectares of rain-fed dry lands from payment of land revenue charging a nominal fee of rupee

one towards maintenance of record of rights. On October 18th 1980, exemption from payments of land revenue was extended to the holdings of four hectares of rain-fed dry lands or its equivalent of rain-fed wet land under Land Reforms Act.

Taluk-wise break-up of Demand and Collection under Land Revenue only for the year 1985-86 (Rs in lakhs) were Athani 3.85, 2.90; Belgaum 1.55, 1.55; Chikodi 5.66, 5.56; Gokak 4.02, 2.54; Hukeri 1.38, 1.28; Khanapur 0.33, 0.89; Ramdurg 0.16, .007; Raybag 3.55, 1.45; Parasgad 2.46, 0.71; and Sampgaon 4.41, 0.73.

TENURE AND LAND REFORMS

The tenures of the Bombay Presidency may be divided into three classes viz 1) Survey tenure, 2) Inam tenure and 3) Miscellaneous tenures. The survey tenure is that form which consists of the occupancy of ordinary government land. There are two forms of survey tenures, viz—the old or unrestricted tenure, the difference between them is that under the old form, the occupant had the unrestricted right to alienate it by sale, mortgage or any other form of transfer whereas under the new form the right was restricted and alienation was allowed only by the written permission of the Deputy Commissioner of the district. Miscellaneous tenures were those tenures which were not properly classifiable either under the survey or Inam tenures.

An inam is a special land grant by the government. Lands so granted were free of assessment or subject to 'light assessment' or quit rent. The Land Revenue Code defines the term 'Inam' or 'Alienation of land' as the assignment in favour of an individual or individuals or of a religious or charitable institution wholly or partially of the right of government to levy land revenue. *Kayamgutta* villages or villages granted on a permanent assessment with a view to promote cultivation have also been treated in the same manner as Inam villages since 1877. The kinds of *inam* that existed in the district were personal *inams*, *devasthan inams*, hereditary service *inams* and political *inams*.

The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act

In order to settle landlord-tenant relations, Government enacted in 1948 an omni legislation called the Bombay Tenancy

and Agricultural Lands Act 1948, while repealing the Bombay Tenancy Act 1939, retained some of its useful provisions regarding tenancies maximum rent, conversion of crop share rent into cash, suspension or remission of rent, the rights of tenants against arbitrary eviction, etc. It made a good beginning in the agrarian reform. Its provisions were very comprehensive and its effects far reaching. After settling landlord-tenant relations, it took up the work of settling relations between the government and various tenurial holders of land. It aimed at the abolition of the special privileges and rights regarding revenue and land enjoyed by such holders. But it did not attempt to acquire all lands and interests involved in the tenures. The idea before the government was to liquidate their special privileges and level them down to the position of ordinary ryotwari land holders subject to the provision of the Bombay Land Revenue Code.

The Act recognised three categories of tenants viz., 1) permanent tenants, 2) protected tenants and 3) ordinary tenants for ten years. The maximum rate of rent fixed by the Act was $\frac{1}{4}$ th for irrigated lands and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd for non-irrigated lands. By a notification dated 17th October 1952, the maximum rate of rent was reduced to $\frac{1}{6}$ th of the crop whether irrigated or not. The Act which was amended in 1952 provided for a provision for the purchase of land by the tenant on payment of price in instalments and restrictions of the right of the landlord to evict the protected tenant. The amended Act gave rise to a new concept called agricultural holding which meant 16 acres of dry land or four acres of irrigated land. Since the concept was found impracticable, the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural (amendment) Act 1955 was brought into force.

After the Reorganisation of States, an Ordinance was issued on 11th March, 1957, suspending the operation of the provisions of the Bombay Act relating to resumption by land lords and purchase by tenants and also requiring that all surrenders should be registered in the Mamlatdar's office. This Ordinance was replaced by Act No. XIII of 1957.

At present, according to the Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Act 1973 (Act I of 1974) all tenancies were abolished in the State and there would be no future tenancies except in the case of soldiers, seamen and court of wards.

Land Reforms

The Karnataka Land Reforms Act 1961 came into force with effect from 2nd October 1965. It underwent drastic changes and the amended Act came into force from the 1st March 1974. Under the amended law, popular courts or People's Courts (Tribunals) were created for each taluk during 1975. Land tenure cases pending under the various Inam Abolition Acts were disposed off. Under the provisions of the Act, no tenancy could be terminated merely on the ground that its duration, whether by agreement or otherwise has expired. Tenants who were cultivating the lands prior to the 10th September 1957, but who had also been dispossessed either by surrender or eviction were entitled for restoration or possession. Lands in excess of 27 standard acres in the case of existing holdings were to be treated as surplus lands and vested with the Government. The ceiling area for future holdings was limited to 18 standard acres. The Karnataka Land Reforms Act 1961 also provides for conferment of occupancy right to tenants over land cultivated by them and also on homestead dwellers who have occupied bits of private land for residential purposes. A separate cell to assist tenants legally and financially has also been created wherein a special officer goes around the taluks, hears grievances, collects applications, processes them and entrusts them to the advocates for legal remedy. The Government has also introduced a scheme of financial assistance to grantees of surplus land which is being implemented through the District Rural Development Society.

While the land tribunals constituted under the Land Reforms Act were entrusted with the work of deciding the cases under the Mysore (Personal and Miscellaneous) Inams Abolition Act 1954, the Mysore (Religious and Charitable) Inams Abolition Act 1977, the Land Reforms Bill in the Revenue Department deals exclusively with the writ petitions filed against the orders of the Land Tribunal and writ petitions against the orders of the authorities under the Inams Abolition and Hereditary Village Officers Abolition Act. Land Reforms Writ Petition Cell has made arrangements for defending the interest of the State as well as land tribunals in most of the cases. In addition, wherever the interest of the State is effected, the State itself has *suo moto* filed writ petitions.

Radical Measures

This Act designed to give reality to the slogan "Land to the

Tiller" came into force on March 1st, 1974. The Act has enabled agricultural labourers and landless persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and others to own land. The Act has redefined the term family by reducing its size to include a person, his or her spouse, their minor sons or unmarried daughters which in consequence has also reduced the ceiling limit of the land to be held by each family. Persons with an annual income exceeding Rs 12,000 from non-agricultural sources, companies, associations and co-operative societies were barred from acquiring lands except under specified conditions.

Land Tribunals

The 1974 Act declared that every piece of land which was subjected to lease as on 1-3-1974 stands vested with the Government. Those who had taken land on lease had to make an application to obtain occupancy rights on the land before the land tribunal. On each application, the tribunal was to decide firstly, whether the land was 'tenanted' as defined by the law and for that reason vested in the Government and secondly whether the applicant was eligible to be given occupancy right. The tenant was exempted from paying the stamp duty on the application and affidavit filed by him. Cases are decided by a majority vote and the quorum is a minimum of three but there will be no quorum without the Chairman (Assistant Commissioner). The law declared that the order of the Tribunal was final and that no legal practitioner was allowed to appear in any of the Tribunal's proceedings. Its decision was neither subject to prior approval of any higher authority nor appealable. If any party was aggrieved with the Tribunal's order all that he could do was to approach the High Court. For the convenience of the intending applicants one Tribunal has been constituted for every taluk. This highly decentralised deployment of final authority is a special feature of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act. Presently, Land Reforms Appellate Authority has been formed in each district of the State including Belgaum with effect from 26th May 1986 under Section 116(A) of the Land Reforms Act 1961. It consists of two members, one from the Judiciary and another from the Revenue Department to decide such cases of land tribunals. All cases which were pending in the High Court have been remanded to this Authority. Final appeal lies from this District Tribunal to the High Court.

Special Powers

As per the Acts amended in 1975, the Tribunal has been given

special powers to pass interlocutory orders. Thereby, the Tribunal is enabled without prejudice to its final decision to ensure that the interim landlord will not be able to chase away the tenant from the land. There is an unusual provision in the Act under which the State Government is empowered to provide legal assistance to persons whose pecuniary circumstances warrant the assistance. The Government, has also set up a legal aid cell in each district. In a special Section of the Act (according to an Enactment of 1979), any agricultural labourer residing in a dwelling house on a land not belonging to him is eligible to apply to the Tribunal for ownership of that dwelling and the appurtenant site area (limited to 1/20th of an acre). If the Tribunal decides in his favour, the ownership right is given to him on payment of a premium which is determined in the same case as in the case of tenants.

Rent fixation : Under the 1974 Act, rent is equal to 10 times the land revenue plus the water rate if any payable on the land. For lands taking water from Government source for two paddy crops per year, the maximum rate will not be more than Rs 16.50 per acre. For one paddy crop, the maximum would be Rs 11 per acre. For all other categories of irrigated land, the maximum would be Rs 5.50.

Payments to Landlords : For the extinguishment of the rights of the landlord, the law provides that a sum described as 'amount payable' will be paid to the landlord. It is very different from the market value of the land. The amount payable to the landlord is a multiple of the net annual income from the land which, as has already been described, is the same as the annual rent. The multiple applicable to dry lands is 20 times and for irrigated lands, it is 15 times; that means 200 times and 150 times, respectively. For structures standing on the land and if the landlord is responsible for it, the amount payable will be on the basis of valuation made by the appropriate technical official. Further, if fruit bearing trees have been raised, the land will be assessed as a garden land with reference to the particular tree standing on it, wherein the rate of assessment will be higher. The amount payable to the landlord is paid partly in cash as down payment of Rs 2,000 and partly in bonds covering payment of amount in annual instalments over 20 years period with interest at 5½ per cent. To the landlords belonging to the vulnerable groups such as the minors, widows, women

who have never been married, persons who are subject to physical and mental disability and small farmers, the amount is paid in one lumpsum.

The Ceiling on Land-holdings

The Karnataka Act did not confine only to tenancy matters but imposed an upper limit on the size of land holdings. One unit is one acre of land of the highest value. The ceiling limit applicable to each family consisting of five members or less is 10 such units. For every extra person in the family an extra two units are given subject to an upper limit of 20 units for any single family wherein the Act has clearly defined 'family'. Classification of land for imposing the ceiling limit, lands are simply described with reference to the source of irrigation facilities and all lands are placed in just three categories viz, those cultivated with water from a government source, those cultivated with rain water, and dry lands. Any one possessing more land than ten acres of the first kind, 20 acres of the second kind and 40 acres of the dry land is placed under a duty to file a complete declaration with a time limit. For the lands so taken over, Government compensation is calculated in exactly the same manner as in the case of tenanted land. This surplus land is distributed to displaced tenants, agricultural labourers, landless persons, including ex-service personnel whose gross annual income does not exceed Rs 2,000. Other persons in the villages in the taluk or the adjacent taluk having less than one unit with gross annual income of Rs 2,000 will get land in the order of priority fixed. Fifty per cent of the surplus land is reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Plantations and other special cases

The 1974 Act had made liberal provisions in certain cases of a special nature. All government lands are exempt from the provisions of the Act except the payment of rent. Exemption is also given to the lands where plantation crops i.e, cardamom, cocoa, coffee, pepper, rubber and tea are grown, the exemptions given to these plantation lands relate only to the bar against holding in excess of ceiling limits. These lands have not been saved from the other provisions of the Act like filing of declarations, ownership and abolition of tenancies. The number of cases decided etc, under Land Tribunals are tabulated at the end of the chapter.

Water Rates

Earlier, consolidated wet assessment was levied on all lands that came under irrigation from a government source. Subsequently, wet assessment was levied only on rain-fed wet lands not deriving advantage of water from any government irrigational source, while lands coming under a government irrigational source are liable to a levy of dry assessment in addition to water rate under the Karnataka Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution and Water Rate) Act 1957. Rules relating to water rates were issued in 1965. It was enhanced by 33 1/3 per cent and the revised rates came into force from 1966. Though a committee appointed by the government recommended for scaling down the water rates and discontinuance of maintenance cess, it had to reconsider the issue in view of the mounting expenditure on irrigation projects. As a result, maintenance cess was restored and is being levied in accordance with the Karnataka Irrigation Act of 1965. There were several amendments from 1972 to 1981 and the rates fixed during these periods were as follows :

In respect of water supplied or made available or used from any lift irrigation work and maintained by government for irrigation of any land, water rates shall be levied at three times the rate prescribed in 1979 for sugarcane and paddy and twice the rate for crops other than that. The water rates fixed as per government notification of July 1985 and which are in force at present in the district are (in rupees per acre) sugarcane (12 months) 150, sugarcane (13 to 18 months) 225, paddy 35 for the first crop and 40 for each of the second and subsequent crops, wheat 22, jowar 20, groundnut 24, tobacco 24, cotton 40, maize, ragi, *navane*, *bajra*, greengram, sweet potato, onion, coriander, etc 20, pulses 15, manurial crops eight and garden crops 40.

Taxes other than land revenue

Stamps and Registration: There are twelve registry offices in the district, one each at the taluk headquarter, with two additional offices, one at Nipani and the other at Murgod (Parasgad taluk). Each office headed by a Sub-registrar at the taluk level administers the following Acts and Rules. 1) Registration Act 1908, 2) Karnataka Registration Rules 1965, 3) Karnataka Stamp Act 1967 and Rules 1958, 4) Karnataka Court Fee and Suits Evaluation Act 1958 and Rules thereunder and 5) Indian Partnership Act. At the district level, the Special Deputy Commissioner acts as the (ex-officio) District

Registrar. The Sub-registrar is entrusted with the work of registration of documents relating to immovable properties in his jurisdiction and collection of registration fees. He is also the Registrar of Marriages under the various Marriages Acts that are in force in the district. Figures hereunder gives the revenue and expenditure sub-registry-wise. Office-wise figures for 1983-84 are (income from office given in lakhs of rupees in brackets as against total number of registrations) Athani 3,026 (2.79), Belgaum 4,525 (7.68), Chikodi 1,574 (1.33), Gokak 3,695 (2.57), Hukeri 1,513 (1.00), Khanapur 1,516 (0.68), Murgod 629 (0.49), Nipani 1,888 (0.96), Parasgad 1,109 (1.20), Raybag 1,679 (1.17), Ramdurg 1,262 (0.90), Sampgaon 1,920 (0.22). Table below provides details of revenue and expenditure under stamps and registration.

Statement showing the Category-wise number of registered documents, their income and expenditure in Belgaum District

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1979-80</i>	<i>1982-83</i>	<i>1983-84</i>
No. of offices	11	12	12	12
Total registrations	16,848	18,342	19,651	22,136
a) Immoveable property :				
i) Compulsory	13,167	16,808	19,468	22,410
ii) Optional	209	281	308	274
b) Moveable property	210	253	199	300
c) Wills and adoptions	609	765	822	800
d) Total of A, B & C	19,195	18,107	20,797	23,785
Total receipts (in rupees)	9,08,252	10,93,017	17,76,960	20,13,424
Total expenditure (in rupees)	2,33,778	4,00,513	5,54,642	5,76,587

Sales Tax

After the States Reorganization in 1956, the Karnataka Sales Tax was made applicable uniformly all over the State and administered from 1-10-1957. The Commercial Tax Department in the district has the main responsibility of administering the various commercial tax laws and to ensure the revenue due to the Government are properly assessed and collected. It administers 1) the Karnataka Sales Tax Act 1967, 2) the Central Sales Tax Act 1956, 3) the

Karnataka Agricultural Income Tax Act 1957, 4) the Karnataka Entertainment Tax Act 1958, 5) the Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employment Act 1976, 6) the Karnataka Tax on Luxuries (Hotels and Lodgings) Act 1979 and 7) the Karnataka Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas for Consumption, Use or Sale therein Act 1979. It is also the authority for registering the dealers under the Karnataka Sales Tax, Central Sales Tax and Entry Tax Acts for the purposes of Sales Tax/Entry Tax collections. The registered dealers with tax liability have to remit their sales tax amount collected by them every month and file the declaration of turnover and tax collected. Under the Entertainment Tax Act, the Department affixes the Entertainment Tax seal on the tickets. The Assistant Profession Tax Officer ensures tax collection from self-employed and employees. The Agricultural Income Tax Officer assesses the agricultural income of the assessee under the Act.

The scheme of Sales Tax is a composite single point and multi-point taxation in which the single point predominates. Sales Tax which is a tax on the turnover of goods sold also includes taxes on the turnover of purchases. Tax is levied on the dealer as a seller amounting to Sales Tax. Whereas, purchase tax is a tax with which reference to the same transaction is levied on the purchaser. Sales Tax is collected only if the article is sold while purchase tax is levied without reference as to whether the article purchased is sold or not. There are three varieties of Sales Taxes single point, double point and multi point. A single point levy is imposed at only one stage in the series of transactions through which the commodities pass from the importer, producer or manufacturer to the final consumer. The point of incidence may be either sale point or purchase point. The rate of single point tax ranges from 1% to 4%. A ceiling rate of 4% has been fixed on goods which are declared to be of special importance in the case of inter-State trade and commerce. About 178 goods out of the 293 main goods are brought under the single point while the others are subjected to multi-point. Majority of goods of common use attract sales tax rate of 4% and semi-luxury goods at more than 8% and the more expensive goods (like automobiles, refrigerators, TV, etc) are taxed at 15% and liquors at 25% at present (1986). The rates are subject to either upward or downward revision. To mop up additional revenue recourse is taken to levy surcharge on Sales Tax or Turnover Tax. An additional tax called the Rural Development Cess which was levied at 10% of basic Sales Tax till recently was abolished and instead a consolidated basic rate of tax was introduced.

The Central Sales Tax Act of 1956 has also enabled the State Governments to raise additional revenues by levying tax on inter-state sales. Receipts from KST and CST for some recent years are appended below :

(Rs in lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of assessments</i>		<i>Tax collected</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>KST</i>	<i>CST</i>	<i>KST</i>	<i>CST</i>	
1980-81	11,984	5,276	842	138	980
1981-82	12,016	5,361	1,034	156	1,190
1982-83	12,130	5,489	1,055	176	1,231
1983-84	12,617	5,547	1,374	198	1,572
1984-85	12,814	5,568	1,492	209	1,701

Entertainment Tax: At the time of Reorganization of the States, the Bombay Entertainment Duty Act 1923 (Bombay Act I of 1923) was administered by the Revenue Department and the Cinematograph Act by the Police Department. However, both Show Tax and Entertainment Tax were included in the Karnataka Entertainment Tax Act itself and the administration was entrusted to the Commercial Taxes Department. The Karnataka Entertainment Act 1958 was uniformly applied to the whole of the State from 1-1-1959. It is a tax on cinematograph shows. Since October 1962, a surcharge on Entertainment Tax has been levied in pursuance of the recommendations of the Resources and Economy Committee 1962. On introduction, the surcharge levied was 50% on the rate of Entertainment Tax which later rose to 60% in 1971 and thereafter to 100% from 1-4-1974. Figures of collection are appended here :

(Rs in lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of permanent theatres</i>	<i>No. of touring talkieses</i>	<i>Entertainment Tax</i>	<i>Additional and Surcharge Tax</i>	<i>Show tax</i>	<i>Total</i>
1980-81	30	26	84.50	23.00	0.50	108.00
1981-82	30	28	93.00	36.30	0.70	130.00
1982-83	32	29	101.00	58.30	0.70	160.00
1983-84	32	30	115.00	61.25	0.75	177.00
1984-85	33	31	115.00	65.00	1.00	181.00

Agricultural Income Tax: The Agricultural Income Tax was not levied in Bombay Karnatak before States Reorganisation. A consolidated Act came into force since October 1957 by repealing the old Acts that were in force in different areas. Under the Act, agricultural income derived from 31 commercial crops including seven plantation crops (irrigated) grown as the main crop and timber is made taxable. Tax is leviable only on incomes from land which is more than fifty acres of the eighth class of land. For this purpose, land is classified into eight classes and a formula has been prescribed for determining the equivalent extent of land of different classes. For deriving taxable income, expenses on agricultural operations, depreciation of buildings, machinery required for deriving the agricultural income, crop insurance, etc, is allowed. A ten per cent relief on earned agricultural income was also given. From the financial year 1976-77 onwards, as per the Karnataka Agricultural Income Tax Amendment Act 1976, all agricultural income was taxable but liability arose only if the net income exceeded Rs 8,000. The Karnataka Agricultural Income Tax Act 1957 was amended by the issue of the Karnataka Agriculture Income Tax (Amendment) Act 1983 and only the income derived from plantation crops was subjected to tax from the previous year ending on 31st March, 1982. The exemption limit for taxable income under the Act was also raised from Rs 8,000 to Rs 14,000 per annum. The collection for some recent years in the district with number of assesseees given in brackets is 1980-81 (26,818) 1.64, 1981-82 (26,716) 1.28, 1982-83 (26,353) 1.98, 1983-84 (26,340) 9.70 and 1984-85 (26,306) 0.16, amount being in lakhs of rupees.

Profession Tax: The Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employment Act 1976 which provides for Tax on professions, trades, callings and employments came into force from 1-4-1976. The tax in respect of salaried persons is dependent on their salary and the tax in respect of others engaged in professions, trades, callings is dependent on various criteria viz, the standing in the profession, turnover, number of employees, etc. For this purpose, all salaried persons/wage earners whose income per month is Rs 1,200 and above have to pay Profession Tax at source at the existing slab rates. The self-employed engaged in specific profession, trade and callings have to register themselves under the Act and the Profession Tax has to be paid at the rates fixed annually before 30th September.

The collection in the district during some recent years with no. of assesseees given in brackets and amount in lakhs of rupees had

been 1980-81 (11,998) 39.00, 1981-82 (12,761) 48.00, 1982-83 (13,025) 59.00, 1983-84 (13,416) 30.00, 1984-85 (13,629) 26.00.

Luxury Tax: The Karnataka Tax on Luxuries (Hotels and Lodging Houses) Act 1979 which came into force from 1-6-1979 levies a tax on lodging houses and hotels who charge tariff of Rs 30 per day per person or more at the following rates: where the lodging fee person per day is Rs 20 but less than Rs 50—5% of such charges, Rs 50 but not exceeding Rs 100—7½% of such charges and Rs 100 and above—10% of such charges.

Entry Tax: Octroi levy was abolished from 1st April, 1979 and in place, the Karnataka Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas for Consumption, Use or Sale therein Act 1979 was introduced. Textiles, tobacco and sugar which were outside the purview of the Sales Tax were subjected to additional Excise Duty. These commodities were to pay an *ad volerem* tax on entry to municipal areas for local consumption at the rates ranging from 1% to 2% to compensate the loss of revenue due to abolition of Octroi. The list of commodities included for levy was extended to 13 more items during 1982-83 and the rate of tax also increased from 1% to 2% in respect of tobacco and its products and sugar. Of the 13 new items, six items were taxed at 2% and others at 1% *ad volerem*. Since October 1983, 10 more items have been listed in the Act for levy of Entry Tax. The collection in the district during some recent years was 1980-81 0.80, 1981-82 36.00, 1982-83 86.30, 1983-84 80.00 and 1984-85 79.00, the amount being in lakhs.

State Excise: The State Excise brings a substantial portion of the revenue to the State Exchequer. Revenue from the State Excise is mainly derived in the form of rentals from toddy and arrack shops, duty and price on arrack, tree tax, duty on beer, Indian made foreign liquor (IMFL) duty, licence and other fees, etc. For the realisation of revenue, the following Acts, enactments, rules and orders are in force: *State Acts:* 1) Karnataka Excise Act 1965 and 2) The Karnataka Prohibition Act 1961 and the Rules framed under the above Acts. *Central Acts:* 1) The Medicinal and Toilet Preparation Act 1955, 2) The Dangerous Drugs Act 1930, 3) The Opium Act 1878, 4) Ethyl Alcohol (Price Control) Order 1971, 5) The Molasses Control Order and 6) The Rules framed under the above Acts.

It further exercises control over the distilleries and breweries,

bonded warehouse, pharmaceutical units, etc, relating to the production, procession, purchase and sale of liquor and intoxicating drugs. There is a divisional office at Belgaum headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Excise with jurisdiction over Belgaum, Bijapur and Dharwad districts. The revenue realised out of excise for some recent years is tabulated below :

Excise Revenue collected in the district from 1980-81 to 1985-86

(in lakhs of rupees)

<i>Category</i>	<i>1980-81</i>	<i>1983-84</i>	<i>1984-85</i>	<i>1985-86</i>
Country Spirit :				
a) Duty	59.96	78.80	86.42	99.24
b) Shop rent	34.60	518.18	700.87	619.01
c) Sales of arrack	45.70	43.55	56.22	50.46
d) Licence fee	0.07	0.08	0.02	0.02
Country Fermented Liquor :				
Shop rent	56.86	68.58	346.64	42.72
Malt Liquors :				
Beer duty	8.72	9.95	12.52	15.35
Foreign Liquor and Spirits :				
a) Licence Fee from Distilleries	2.48	2.68	3.70	3.00
b) Licence and other fees on Foreign Liquor	43.35	30.23	29.41	34.52
c) Duty on Indian Made Foreign Liquor	36.61	81.37	97.17	120.03
Commercial and Denatured Spirits and Medicated Wines :				
a) Rectified Spirit	0.20	0.03	2.92	2.07
b) Denatured Spirit	1.29	0.18	0.19	0.09
Service Fees	2.14	2.76	2.23	3.04
Other receipts	2.17	7.96	7.34	9.13

The total revenue for 1980-81 was 6.22 crores and 1985-86, 10.03 crores of rupees.

Electricity Charges : Tax on use or consumption of electricity was introduced in the district from 1-7-1959 by Karnataka Act 14 of 1959). According to the Karnataka Electricity (Taxation on Consumption) Act 1959, a tax on consumption of electrical energy was levied on all classes of consumers—domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural. Under this Act, the consumer or the licensee is bound to pay to the government on the units of energy consumed, a tax calculated at a specific rate and in the manner prescribed. The division-wise figures of income for 1984-85 are as follows: Belgaum Division Rs 4,25,75,798, Ghataprabha Division Rs 4,43,26,638, Chikodi Division Rs 13,50,892, Bailhongal Division Rs 33,74,546 and Hukeri Taluk Rs 6,23,625.

Forest Development Tax : During the erstwhile Bombay Presidency, there was no system of recovery of Forest Development Tax. The present Act of 1975 which is an amendment to the Karnataka Forest Act 1963, introduced the levy of Forest Development Tax. It was levied at 5% initially on all forest produce which was subsequently raised to 8% in 1980 and 12% in 1983 to meet the increased quantum of expenditure on the ever growing plantation schemes. Karnataka was the first State to introduce this levy system. The tax so collected for the past few years in the district amounted to rupees in lakhs 11.47 in 1979-80; 27.50 in 1980-81; 25.64 in 1981-82; 22.04 in 1982-83; and 24.35 in 1983-84.

Motor Vehicles Tax : Prior to the promulgation of the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1957, the right to levy tax or toll was vested with the local bodies. Presently, the Motor Vehicles Department with the divisional office at Belgaum administers the following Acts and Rules: 1) Motor Vehicles Act 1939 (Central Act 4 of 1939), 2) Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1957, 3) The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Rules 1963 and 4) The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation Rules 1957. Two sub-regional offices are at Bailhongal and Chikodi. Motor Vehicles Tax is levied and collected on all Motor Vehicles registered and kept for use in the State of Karnataka. Total receipts for some recent years in the district from these taxes have been (in lakhs of rupees) 1980-81 104.43, 1981-82 170.53, 1982-83 207.41, 1983-84 238.41, 1984-85 786.89 and 1985-86 305.69. This includes driving licence fees, registration fees, fitness certificate fees, permit fees, taxes and sur-charges and fines.

Income Tax

Income Tax which was earlier levied by the State Government was taken over by the Central Government in 1950. Prior to Re-organization in 1956, Belgaum was under the jurisdiction of the Income Tax Officer, Bombay, which was under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bombay. After the States Re-organization, a new charge of Income Tax Officer under the administrative control of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bangalore was created. At present, the authority administering the taluks of Belgaum district in respect of Income Tax, Wealth Tax and Gift Tax is the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax. The Income Tax Act 1961, Act XLIII of 1961 which is in force provides for levy of taxes on income. There have been various amendments to this Act from time to time. The following table gives the number of assesseees and the amount collected in thousands of Rs during 1982, 1983 and 1984.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Business cases</i>	<i>Salary cases</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Amount collected</i>	<i>Fines collected</i>
1982	11,740	2,614	14,354	37,433	360
1983	11,975	2,625	14,200	35,620	352
1984	11,091	2,670	13,761	32,415	1,395

Wealth Tax: The Wealth Tax Act of 1957 provides for levy of taxes on wealth in cases of individuals and Hindu undivided families. Various amendments have been made since commencement of the Act. The number of assesseees (given in brackets) and the amount collected during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 are: (Rs in thousands)—1982 (1,565), 2,460; 1983 (1,664), 2,195; and 1984 (1,712), 2,680.

Gift Tax: The Gift Tax Act of 1958 provides for levy of taxes on gifts made by individuals, Hindu undivided families or a person or an association or a body of persons whether incorporated or not. The amount collected in thousands of Rs in recent years, number of assesseees (given in brackets) are: 1982—(285) 163, 1983—(212) 208 and 1984—(312) 246.

Estate Duty: The Estate Duty Act of 1953 (Act No XXX) levied duty on property other than agricultural land and was collected by the Income Tax Department. The object of this Act was to impose an Estate Duty on property passing or deemed to pass on the death of a person. The Assistant Collector of Estate Duty, Hubli was having jurisdiction over the entire district in the matter relating to Estate Duty. It has been abolished since 1-4-1985.

Central Excise and Customs

Excise was first used as a general word for toll or tax. Subsequently, it was meant to be the price of the article paid by the consumer. Excise as levy whether in the shape of toll, tax or price has been collected from ancient times. The beginning of Excise levy system in India may be said to have been made in 1894 with a levy on cotton yarn and its extension to fine cloth in 1896. In 1917, Excise Duty was imposed on motor spirit and on kerosene in 1922 and silver in 1930. It was only in 1934 that a rationalization in Excise Duty was made as a revenue measure and extended to other commodities like sugar, matches, steel ingots, etc. The Central Excise Duty now extends to about 136 items accounting to nearly 2/3rds of the Central Excise revenue. The various Acts administered by the department are the culmination of the earlier Acts which have been amended suitably. Central Excise duty however is collected under the Central Excise and Salt Act and Rules 1944. The rates of duties on various items are levied according to Schedule I of the Act. In addition to this Act, the Central Excise Offices are administering the following Acts: 1) Gold Central Act 1968, 2) Customs Act 1968, 3) Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947, 4) Export and Import Control Act 1955, 5) Sugar Export Promotion Act 1958, 6) Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act 1958, 7) Khadi and Other Handlooms Industries Development Additional Excise Duty of on Cloth Act 1953, 8) Produce Cess Act 1966, 9) Duties (Additional Excise Duty) Act 1957, 10) Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act 1957 and 11) Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act 1957.

As far as customs is concerned, apart from the Collectorate for Karnataka, there are two Central Excise Collectorates, one at Bangalore and another at Belgaum. Table here provides the revenue realised from Central Excise for the year from 1980-81 to 1983-84.

Collection of Central Excise Duty

(Rs in lakhs)

Commodity	Revenue collected during			
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Aluminium	1,689.54	1,954.70	1,494.59	1,014.85
Sugar	1,078.95	1,057.41	1,137.16	1,498.65
Molasses	16.73	21.47	20.00	20.95
Bidis	21.81	29.55	30.59	34.00
Snuff	0.19	0.65	0.62	0.58
Chewing tobacco	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.03
Paper	5.61	7.24	9.40	9.64
Rayon and synthetic	0.12	0.02	0.02	—
Cotton yarn	30.07	30.68	31.32	43.54
Cotton fabrics	6.02	50.38	53.33	47.14
Copper and copper alloys	0.34	0.63	0.61	0.53
Electric motors	0.65	0.64	0.61	0.97
Wires and cables	13.47	8.26	12.31	8.11
All other goods	62.88	62.82	65.80	75.29
Sodium silicate	6.97	5.77	5.21	4.24
Iron and steel products	—	0.41	0.25	0.52
Metal containers	—	—	—	5.12
Carbon dioxide	0.35	0.85	1.27	1.25

Particulars of Seized/Confiscated Goods Under

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Customs	0.78	12.10	2.38	5.57
Gold control	0.36	0.67	1.50	41.32
Central excise	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.08

Land Tribunal Cases in Belgaum District for 1984-85

Particulars	Athani	Belgaum	Chikodi	Hukeri	Khanapur	Raybag	Bailhongal	Ramduurg	Saundatti	Gokak
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No. of cases admitted	4,659	11,957	12,087	11,105	6,662	4,031	3,724	3,330	4,441	8,026
No. of cases settled :										
a) in favor of tenants	3,981	8,604	10,823	7,931	4,786	2,860	1,332	1,169	2,604	6,136
b) in favour of landlords	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
c) rejected	678	3,353	1,264	3,174	1,675	1,153	—	—	1,834	2,190
No. of cases referred to High Court by :										
a) Land Tribunal	33	NA	—	NA	NA	3	—	—	—	3
b) Tenants	375	NA	319	NA	NA	223	419	203	311	226
c) Landlords	—	NA	—	NA	NA	—	—	55	311	143

1	2	3	4	5	6	6	8	9	10	11
No. of cases pending at High Court	208	938	281	402	784	2	25	—	4	236
Total area of land allotted to tenants (in acres)	4,373.03	39,253.00	98,736.00	48,101.00	38,326.25	26,645.00	7,533	21,224	29,780	45,700
Land allotted to:										
a) Scheduled Castes	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	—	753	—
b) Scheduled Tribes	—	24.07	—	91.08	2,581.29	—	13	—	28	9,140
Surplus land available for distribution (in acres)	2,393.14	637.20	303.36	107.07	6,653.25	1,382.34	209	279	—	357
No. of SC and ST as recipients of surplus land	285	4	27	19	422	1	23	—	—	3,154

BELGAUM DISTRICT

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