

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Agriculture and industries represent productive activities, while banking and other financial institutions facilitate the growth of production by deposit accretion and its proper channelisation for productive purposes. At the same time, trading and commercial activities facilitate proper distribution of goods and services.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Old records attest that in the last century, no class had any monopoly over money lending in the district. All those who had surplus money used to lend it, against security of land, property or ornaments, etc. People even pledged their own selves or members of their own family. This gave rise to bonded labour which was common among the lower castes. Creditors exploiting the debtors by dubious ways and usurious practices taking undue advantage of the helplessness and ignorance of the loanees in the absence of strict regulatory measures by the Government was not uncommon. Periodic famines also forced agriculturists to go in for loans. As a result of this, a large number of families were economically oppressed under heavy debts from generation to generation. This groaning state of affairs called for an immediate intervention of the Government with several legislative measures by the end of the last century and thereafter.

Earlier relief measures

About seven decades before the introduction of Bombay Money Lenders Act, 1946, stringent measures to regulate the money lenders,

the Government used to extend limited financial assistance to agriculturists under the provisions of (1) The Land Improvement Loans Act 1883 and (2) The Agriculturists' Loans Act 1884, to facilitate the purchase of seeds or cattle and to undertake permanent improvement measures to the needy agriculturists. This is described as *tagayi*, a Persian term indicating the existence of such a practice during earlier centuries. The rate of interest on these Government loans was $5\frac{1}{4}\%$ in case of construction of wells and $4\frac{1}{4}\%$ in case of construction of tanks, etc. In course of time, these loans were replaced by regular *tagayi* loans for sinking of wells, purchase of bullocks and other land improvement activities. During 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 the amount of *tagayi* loans granted in the district for construction of wells, land improvement and for purchase of bullocks, etc, accounted to Rs 13.42, Rs 9.83 and Rs 7.74 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs respectively. The total amount of *tagayi* loans granted during the last five years before it was discontinued amounted to Rs 59 lakhs.

Bombay Agricultural Debtors Relief Act, 1939 was another measure of the Popular Congress Ministry to redress the grievances of over-burdened debtors, chiefly aimed at reducing the inflated volume of indebtedness in case of genuine agriculturists so as to reduce the loan amount reasonably within the debtors capacity to repay, restricted to a debt not exceeding Rs 15,000.

Money lending

According to the old records, in the last century (1882-83), in villages about 60% of the affluent class and in urban area 40% of the traders engaged themselves in money lending. Local Lingayats and brahmins dominated in the business of money lending. Money lenders used to pay an interest for deposits at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2%. In the district, the money lenders of Shahapur enjoyed a good reputation and were wealthier than others. The rate of interest charged was generally on monthly basis and not yearly and it varied according to the amount of loan. The rate of interest was between 8 to 12% for Rs 500 to Rs 1,000, 6 to 9% for more than Rs 1,000 in case of bankers, it was ranging between 12 to 24% for traders and craftsmen, while it was 18 to 37% for agriculturists and labourers. When the property was mortgaged the interest charged ranged between 6 to 12%.

Before the establishment of agencies extending institutionalised credit on large scale, the money lenders called by different names

dominated the rural and urban finance in their own way of indigenous banking, combined with trading. The Bombay Money Lenders Act 1946, enforced in the district from 1947 not only prescribed the maximum rate of interest but also enforced certain regulatory measures like licensing, maintenance of accounts, filing of returns etc, to check the illicit practices of the money lenders. The maximum rate of interest prescribed was six per cent on secured and nine per cent on unsecured loans as in 1947. By 1952 July, these rates were increased to 9 and 12 per cent respectively. The loans included trading as well as non-trading purposes, major portion being for trading operations. In 1947-48 and in the next year, the number of licensed money lenders in the district was 182 and 225 and they had issued total loans amounting to Rs 59.90 and 96.82 lakhs respectively. In 1951-52, 201 money lenders in the district together had issued total loans amounting to Rs 15.48 lakhs.

After the Reorganisation of the State, the new Acts viz, the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961 and the Karnataka Pawn Brokers Act 1961 were brought into effect in the district since 1966. These two Acts, and the amendments thereon comprehensive in character, contain several stringent regulatory and punitive measures so as to curb many unscrupulous and usurious practices of money lenders under the control of sub-divisional and district authorities of the Department of Co-operation. Under the Act, the present rate of interest on secured loans is 18 per cent while on unsecured it is 21 per cent. The total number of registered money lenders and pawn brokers in the district in 1985 was 252 and 107 respectively as against 215 and 84 in 1980 and 212 and 88 in 1975. Higher concentration of these agencies is noticed in the taluks like Parasgad, Sampgaon, Gokak, Belgaum, Chikodi and Athani, due to their trading and commercial importance. In respect of pawn brokers, greater concentration is evident in the taluks like Gokak and Chikodi (28 each), Belgaum (19), followed by Athani (13). The total amount of loans advanced by the money lenders and pawn brokers in the district for 1985 amounted to Rs 10.09 lakhs and Rs 73.18 lakhs respectively as against the corresponding figures of Rs 16.55 lakhs and Rs 50.57 lakhs in 1983, and for the year 1981, the corresponding figures stood at Rs 27.85 and 30.46 lakhs respectively.

Finance Corporations

Monetary institutions called as Finance Corporations organised either on partnership or under Companies Act, also play a significant

role in financing local trade and commerce in addition to deposit accretion on their own reputations. They are also governed under the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961. The district has as many as 36 finance corporations, mostly opened during the period between 1979-1985. The total deposits mobilised by these agencies during 1985 and in the previous year amounted to Rs 62.71 and Rs 50.69 lakhs respectively. The loans advanced for these years stood at Rs 97 and Rs 64 lakhs respectively. Greater concentration of these agencies is evident in places like Belgaum (10), Gokak (9) and Bailhongal (8).

Rural Indebtedness

As a part of 1961 census operations, three villages of the district viz, Turnur (Ramdurg taluk), Pant Balekundri (Belgaum taluk) and Umrani (Chikodi taluk) were selected for exhaustive socio-economic survey. These three villages selected represent different geographical and socio-economic background and administrative influence, one common thing being agriculture as the main occupation with very little influence of rural and cottage industries. The nature of rural indebtedness as revealed by the survey has shown similar trends in all the three villages, of course, with little variation influenced by local economic factors. The trends revealed by the survey may by and large hold good even now for the district's rural life unless strongly influenced by the increasing institutionalised liberal credit, rural and cottage industries on extensive scale and other infrastructure facilities. The survey has endorsed that the percentage of households in debt increased in direct proportion with income range, reaching the peak in the highest income level ie, Rs 100 and above per month and the average amount of outstanding loans also increased with the rise in the income level, due to their adequate and economic holdings, and even their spending was more for productive purposes like sinking and repair of wells, development of agriculture, etc. While the households in lower income group were deprived of easy credit facilities and major portion of their loan money was meant for non-productive expenses like marriage, domestic and other social purposes, medical treatment, etc. The popular sources of loans in general were private money lenders, friends and relatives, because of their easy accessibility and free from cumbersome procedures associated with Government and co-operative bodies. The contribution of the latter source was very less to the total loan availed. The rate of interest charged in Chikodi area was

% for secured and 25 to 36% for others, while in Ramdurg area, hand loan was charged 48% of interest. In Belgaum area lending rate varied from 14 to 18% during the season. Land and ornaments were the chief items of security and usufructuary mortgage was prevalent in Ramdurg area.

Commercial Banking

Modern commercial banking activities began in the district in 1867, when the then Presidency Bank of Bombay founded in 1840 had opened its branch at Belgaum. Thereafter, during the third decade of the present century, the Belgaum Bank Ltd., Belgaum began to function in the City from 1930 followed by the Sangli Bank Ltd., Sangli (1916) which opened its first branch in the district at Belgaum in 1931. Thereafter, two branches of the Syndicate Bank were opened one at Belgaum in 1934 (12th branch of the bank) and another at Nipani in 1937. The Canara Bank entered into the banking map of district in 1938 by opening its branch at Belgaum. Later, Central Bank of India and the Imperial Bank of India (present State Bank of India) opened their branches at Belgaum in 1945 and 1946 respectively. Earlier in 1927, pay office of the Imperial Bank was opened in Belgaum. In the meanwhile, Belgaum Bank Ltd., Belgaum which later merged with the Union Bank of India in 1975 had opened eight branches in the district at different places like Nandgad, Nipani, Ramdurg, Sankeshwar, Gokak and Chikodi, etc, before the end of 1945. The new banking companies like the Bank of Maharashtra and the Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad entered into the banking business of the district in 1956 and 1958 by opening their first branch in the district at Belgaum and Kagwad respectively. By 1957, the district had about 37 branches of commercial banks functioning in about 13 centres in the district.

Amalgamation and merger of banks: The decade of sixties saw the large scale amalgamation and merger of commercial banks in the district and a large number of the weaker banks merged with the stronger banks. The process adopted by the Reserve Bank of India was very effective in providing strong financial base for the banking industry. Several banks that had earlier originated in the district merged with other banks that originated both in and outside Karnataka. The Union Bank of Bijapur and Sholapur (1908) which later merged with the Sangli Bank in 1964, had a branch in Athani. The Ramdurg Bank Ltd, Ramdurg (1944) merged with the present State

Bank of Mysore, in 1963. The Supreme Bank of India, Belgaum (1939) was wound up in 1956. The Bank of Citizens Ltd, Belgaum (1937) merged with the present Corporation Bank in 1961, had seven branches in the district before its merger. All the four banks originated from the district continued to operate during the post-Independence years. The New Citizens Bank of India, Bombay (1937) had a branch at Belgaum City which merged with the Bank of Baroda in 1961. The Bank of Karnataka, Hubli (1946) had one branch at Belgaum opened in 1947, and it merged with the Karnataka Bank Ltd, in December 1966. Of late, Belgaum Bank Ltd, Belgaum (1930) merged with the Union Bank of India (Bombay), in 1975, and at the time of merger it had 23 branches in the district, and the Miraj State Bank Ltd, Miraj, which had opened a branch at Belgaum (1977) merged with the Union Bank of India in 1985.

By the end of 1966, the total number of bank branches in the district increased to 51 as against 43 in 1960. The Nationalisation of the major commercial banks in 1969, and several follow-up measures thereon, the liberal policy adopted by the RBI in geographical expansion of commercial bank branches giving much emphasis on rural, unbanked and growth centres etc, gave a good stimulus to have a network of branches in the district never seen before and as a result, the concept of 'class banking' was changed into 'mass banking'. The Post-Nationalisation period observed conspicuous expansion of branches and banking services even at the grass-root level according to plan priorities in the district. On the eve of Nationalisation (19th July 1969), the district had 63 branches and of them 29 were semi-urban, 19 urban and 15 rural branches. Within a short period of four years, i.e, 1973, there was a spurt in the number of branches increasing to 100 and of them as many as 32 were rural, 38 semi-urban and the rest (30) urban branches. The number of bank centres increased to 47 in 1973 as against 21 in 1969. Of the 100 branches in the district, the 'lead bank' Syndicate alone had 24 branches (as against 18 in 1969) followed by Belgaum Bank Ltd, 19 and SBI 14 and the rest by other banks. There was a spectacular growth (100%) in the deposits also, being Rs 29 crores by the end of 1972 as against Rs 14.95 crores in 1968, which was much higher than the national average of 70%. The total advances by the banking sector also witnessed remarkable increase i.e, Rs 13.32 crores by the end of 1972, as against 5.84 crores in 1968. As a result of rapid expansion of branches in the district, the population served per branch (i.e, 45,000) in 1968 declined to 27,000 in 1972, which was

little higher than the State figure of (23,000), but much lesser than all-India figure (37,000). The deposit per branch was Rs 32 lakhs in 1972 as against 28 lakhs in 1968, while the advances per branch increased to Rs 15 lakhs as against Rs 11 lakhs in 1968. The C D (credit deposit) ratio increased to 46% compared to 39% in 1968. The *per capita* deposit and advances stood at Rs 63 and Rs 25 respectively in 1968 and it moved to Rs 120 and Rs 55 by 1972. The number of operating banking companies in the district increased from 13 to 15 in the above period. In 1976 The Malaprabha Grameena Bank was set up covering Belgaum and Dharwad districts which helped in expanding banking services in the rural area. By 1977 the total number of bank branches in the district increased to 153, of which 67 were rural, 46 semi-urban and 40 urban, reducing the population served per branch to 16,000.

By the end of 1985, the total number of bank branches in the district further increased to 267 including 83 branches of R R B and the number of banking companies operating in the district was twenty eight including the Grameena Bank, of which eight are based in Karnataka. Among the non-Nationalised banks operating in the district, the Sangli Bank Ltd is having the largest number of branches ie, ten, followed by Ratnakar Bank Ltd, eight. Among the public sector banks, Syndicate Bank has the largest number (37), followed by the Union Bank of India (25), State Bank of India (21) and Canara Bank (14). Regarding the distribution of branches, more concentration of branches is found in the taluks like Belgaum, Chikodi and Gokak because of their industrial, trading and commercial importance and the taluks like Khanapur and Hukeri are poorly served. The population covered per branch in the district by the end of 1985 was around 12,000 which was far better than the State as well as the national average.

Malaprabha Grameena Bank

The Malaprabha Grameena Bank, the second R R B to be set-up in the State under the Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976 (first being the Tungabhadra) sponsored by the Syndicate Bank in August 1976 with a view to cater to the financial requirements of agriculturists with special emphasis on small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and other priority sectors, with the area of operation confined to Belgaum and Dharwad districts. The first branch of the Bank was opened at Nesargi of Sampgaon taluk in April 1977 followed by the

second at Hudali (Belgaum taluk) in June 1977. By the year end of 1985, the total number of branches in the district was 83, with total deposit mobilisation and deployment of credit amounting to Rs 1,627.26 and Rs 2,384.68 lakhs respectively, as against Rs 1,159.51 and 1,960.00 lakhs, and Rs 807.63 and Rs 1,463.95 lakhs in the previous two years respectively. The corresponding figures for 1982 amounted to Rs 538.70 and Rs 1,080.41 lakhs respectively. The C D ratio achieved by the bank was the highest i e, 201% in 1982 as against 169% and 181% in 1984 and 1983 respectively. By the end of 1985, the priority sector advances of the bank amounted to Rs 2,245.47 lakhs. The total DIR advances of the bank amounted to Rs 6.53 lakhs as in December 1985. To ensure alround development of the villages the bank has adopted as many as 616 villages in the district. By the end of 1985, the coverage of villages by the bank was about 70% and by 1990, it is expected to raise to 88%. The total number of employees of this bank in the district was 442 as in December 1985.

Deposit mobilisation

Rapid expansion of branches in the district has facilitated more and more deposit accretion as well as deployment of funds with special emphasis on priority sectors and on schemes like IRDP, NREP, Antyodaya, community irrigation, Negila Bhagya, Special Rural Housing Component Scheme, self-employment, farm forestry, etc. The table given below indicates the position of aggregate deposits, gross bank credit and number of branches in the district for some years.

(Amount in crores of Rs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Bank branches</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Advances</i>
1969	64	18	8
1972	94	29	13
1975	125	45	26
1978	173	80	45
1981	217	144	80
1982	234	169	93
1983	241	196	120
1984	254	229	147
1985	267	263	173

Table indicating the bank-wise performance in the district as on 31-12-1985 (performance of 1985) is appended in p 377-78.

Banking Statistics as on 31-12-1985 (for 1985)

(Rs in lakhs)

	<i>Branches</i>	<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Advances</i>	<i>C D Ratio</i>	<i>% of priority sector Advances</i>	<i>DIR Loans</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Syndicate Bank	37	6,608.96	4,370.64	66.13	76.36	64.59
Union Bank of India	25	3,088.55	1,337.14	43.29	69.65	27.45
State Bank of India	21	3,413.00	3,068.00	89.89	83.44	101.00
Canara Bank	14	2,650.00	1,182.00	44.60	72.00	36.00
Corporation Bank	12	1,466.33	791.92	54.00	79.71	6.86
Bank of India	11	1,180.00	752.00	64.00	76.00	12.00
Sangli Bank Ltd	10	1,322.43	728.51	55.08	43.41	2.78
Vijaya Bank	9	690.00	361.00	52.32	72.30	5.00
Ratnakar Bank	8	342.90	216.33	63.09	61.78	0.07
State Bank of Mysore	7	535.86	612.51	114.30	36.55	5.44
Bank of Maharashtra	7	1,070.56	426.34	39.82	59.50	—
Karnataka Bank Ltd	3	244.44	80.95	33.12	54.09	0.30
Central Bank of India	2	444.97	253.70	57.01	83.00	3.47
Bank of Baroda	2	438.96	204.97	46.70	88.75	7.56

BELGAUM DISTRICT

377

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vysya Bank Ltd	2	200.62	113.13	56.41	54.84	0.54
Indian Bank	2	155.02	184.12	118.77	92.36	0.77
Ganesh Bank Ltd	2	43.19	21.77	50.40	72.02	—
Punjab National Bank	1	187.69	70.17	37.39	35.46	0.33
United Commercial Bank	1	167.27	20.30	12.13	73.41	0.11
Indian Overseas Bank	1	129.00	46.00	36.65	75.00	0.94
United Western Bank	1	85.18	29.75	34.92	50.42	0.28
Dena Bank	1	84.12	14.31	17.01	67.92	0.65
State Bank of Hyderabad	1	44.52	21.68	48.69	91.40	0.33
Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd	1	32.05	34.00	106.08	64.45	0.07
South Indian Bank Ltd	1	30.18	9.02	29.88	29.16	—
Andhra Bank	1	23.42	25.95	110.80	95.00	0.12
Bank of Karad	1	5.90	1.41	23.89	68.79	—
Malaprabha Grameena Bank	83	1,627.26	2,384.62	146.54	94.16	6.53
Total	267	26,306.39	17,360.89			283.19

Lead Bank Scheme

The scheme ushered in 1969 envisages several remedial steps for correcting the regional imbalance in respect of availability of banking services with area approach and ensures of the bridging credit gaps among various sectors of the economy through active involvement of banks in the rural development in a planned and co-ordinated manner. Syndicate bank being the 'lead bank' for the district with 37 branches (1985) co-ordinates in preparation, implementation and monitoring of all the developmental bankable schemes in the district.

The evaluation of annual action plans (1980, 1981 and 1982) revealed that banks in the district in general had exceeded the targets of lending allotted to them. By the end of 1982 lending of priority sector advances was 72% as against 33.3% fixed. The share of small and marginal farmers in the direct credit of agriculture was 57% as against 50% fixed. The credit deposit ratio of rural and semi-urban areas was 60% more than the target fixed, the C D ratio in respect of rural branches was 79% and in respect of semi-urban branches was 59%. In 1983, the Banks in the district were able to achieve record performance of 136% in their lending operations. For 1984, the total credit disbursement accounted to Rs 74.48 crores (140%) as against the target fixed for Rs 53.20 crores. In 1985 also the banks had deployed the credit to the tune of Rs 111.67 crores as against a target of Rs 60.26 crores, the achievement being 185%. The flow of credit to the Government Sponsored Scheme was Rs 8.47 crores.

D R I Scheme

The Differential Rate of Interest Scheme was introduced by the Central Government in 1973 with the main objective of extending financial assistance to the specified weaker sections of the society including the S Cs and S Ts Under this scheme, both the nationalised and non-nationalised banks including R R Bs are granting loans. Certain requirements are to be fulfilled to avail loan under this scheme. By the end of December 1985, the total D R I advances in the district by 28 banks accounted to Rs 283.19 lakhs. The corresponding amount for 1982 and 1980 amounted to Rs 288.18 and Rs 186.56 lakhs respectively.

Karnataka Debt Relief Act 1976

This Act mainly aims to extend material relief to certain

recognised categories of labourers and other economically weaker sections whose annual income does not exceed Rs 4,800 (initially it was Rs 2,400). According to the provisions of this Act, debt including interest outstanding on the above categories of debtors are not recoverable from any immovable or moveable properties belonging to the debtors and all decrees obtained by the creditors were declared as annulled and goods pledged are to be returned. This relief is not applicable to the loans secured from the Central and State Government, Co-operatives and Companies, etc. By the end of March 1985, the total number of applications received seeking relief in the district was 8,216 involving an amount of Rs 11.88 lakhs and of them, 8,104 applications were disposed off involving an amount of Rs 10.16 lakhs.

Abolition of Bonded Labour

The Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 1976 (Central Act), mainly aims at abolishing the age old evil practice evident in the State as in other parts of the country. According to the Act, the bonded labourers who were in debt are deemed to have been extinguished and the debt payable to the landlords together with interest outstanding are deemed to have been discharged. Government have launched various rehabilitation schemes for the released labourers. Since inception, upto the end of March, 1985, the total number of bonded labourers identified and released in the district was 19 .

INSURANCE

Life Insurance Corporation of India

Life Insurance and General Insurance business of the district was managed by many private companies based from Bombay, Udupi, Dharwad, etc., prior to the Nationalisation of Life Insurance business in 1956. Since 1970, the district has come under the control of Dharwad Division of L I C. The Belgaum main branch of L I C was established in 1957. In 1962, a branch office at Chikodi and in 1981, a direct agents' branch for Belgaum city and in 1983, branch at Gokak were opened. (There is a proposal to open a branch at Saundatti). By 1985 March, the total number of policies in the district was 1,29,422 and the sum assured was more than Rs 1,779.47 lakhs. The number of agents and development officers

working in the district was 675 and 22 respectively. The total financial assistance extended by the LIC in the district by way of loans to four Municipalities, viz, Athani, Bailhongal, Belgaum and Gokak amounted to Rs 112.36 lakhs. Under 82 Group Insurance Schemes the total number of persons covered was 5,984.

Postal Insurance: There is also a scheme called Postal Life Insurance meant for the employees of the State and Central Government including public undertakings, etc., in respect of which the district figures are not available.

K G I D

Karnataka Government Insurance Department is also engaged in promoting insurance business in the district both in life and vehicle confined to the employees of the State Government and the vehicles of the State Government including State Undertakings. The District Insurance Offices at Belgaum was opened in June, 1976. The total number of policies in the district by the end of March 1985 was 22,192. The total annual premium income for the district was about Rs 85.85 lakhs during 1984-85 as against Rs 59.32 lakhs during 1981-82. During 1984-85, the number of new policies issued in the district was 2,869, covering an assured sum of Rs 191 lakhs, fetching an annual premium income of Rs 81,869.

Asha Kiran

Asha Kiran is a social security oriented welfare measure extending a scheme for group personal accident insurance for the agricultural and other labourers of unorganised sector. The scheme at present covers as many as thirty distinct categories of workers such as agricultural labourers, fishermen, beedi and cigar workers, toddy tappers, barbers, tailors, etc. The accidents covered under the scheme are rail or road, those caused by snake bite, attack by wild animals, electric shock, fall from tree, etc. The relief given under the scheme will be Rs 5,000 in case of death, Rs 4,000 in case of loss of two limbs/two eyes or one limb and one eye and Rs 2,500 for loss of one limb or one eye (since 1-1-1985). The scheme extends the benefit only to those whose annual income does not exceed Rs 6,000 in the case of both the deceased and the claimant. The persons who have received the compensation from other agencies, schemes, etc., are not eligible for the relief. By the end of March 1986, the total claims settled in the district was 17 involving an amount of Rs 32,000.

State Lottery

There is a considerable response in the district to the Karnataka State Lottery scheme being conducted by the Government since 1970 as one of the measures to mop-up small savings. Lottery money amounting to more than Rs 10,000 is subjected to income tax and compulsory investment in N S C ranging from 10 to 25 per cent. The lottery tickets of other States are also being sold in the district. During 1984-85, the total number of lottery tickets sold in the district was Rs 33.93 lakhs valued at Rs 34.14 lakhs as against 18.02 lakh tickets valued at Rs 19.30 lakhs in the previous year. In 1984-85, there were 85 sub-agents in the district.

National Savings

Accretion of small deposits through the post offices was introduced in the district as early as in 1873 through the Government Savings Banks. In 1876, the limit on savings bank account was put at Rs 3,000. According to old records, in 1882, the investments in S/B accounts in the district was Rs 90,670 and in the same year Rs 1.62 lakhs was invested in Government Promissory Notes in the district. During the First World War the Government had started the issue of Post Office cash certificates of different denominations to mobilise small savings. There were also certificates called defence savings certificates issued during the Second World War having a maturity period of ten years. The National Savings Scheme in Bombay-Karnataka area including Belgaum district was introduced in 1948. Prior to this, Treasury Savings Deposits (income tax-free) with annual interest of 3½% were very popular in the district. At present National Savings Certificates and Social Security Certificates are very attractive from the point of the investor apart from S/B account, C T D, R D, T D, and Public Provident Fund (PFF) for regular wage earners and others managed by the post offices. National Savings Organisation (NSO) arranges several special savings drives at the district and taluk levels. The total number of post offices in the district with savings bank facilities as in 1984-85 numbered 694, and of them 315 are in Belgaum division, 208 in Chikodi division and the rest (171) in Gokak division. There are 524 agents working in the district under various schemes of small savings. It is reported that there are as many as 446 "pay-roll savings groups" comprising of 36,567 persons covered under small savings, mobilising to the tune of Rs 93.44 lakhs per year. The biggest pay-roll savings group in the district is the Gokak Mills with

a membership of 4,250 and all the employees of Indian Aluminium Company Ltd, of Belgaum numbering 1499. The members of six sugar factories numbering about 32,000 have also been covered under N S S Scheme.

To co-ordinate the activities the office of the Assistant Regional Director, National Savings (Central Government office) was opened at Belgaum in 1976 covering Belgaum and Bijapur districts. The table given below indicate the total amount collected (Gross and Net) under different schemes including the Post Office Savings for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

(Amount in lakhs of rupees)

Name of Scheme	1983-84		1984-85		1985-86	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Post Office						
S/B.A/C	335.95	36.91	641.15	278.43	817.09	68.75
R B	137.05	59.68	166.43	59.92	227.63	83.14
C T B	32.77	11.88	33.97	13.59	33.85	12.24
T D	255.35	175.03	320.92	132.25	664.98	419.67
N S C VI	471.86	471.01	657.62	646.02	820.46	761.33
N S C VII	43.04	42.64	17.08	46.18	48.40	44.24
S S C	00.94	00.94	00.20	00.15	—	—
N S C II	18.14	00.43	24.59	5.50	23.98	11.43
P P F	29.10	29.09	10.72	10.47	24.44	22.26
Others	—	67.64	—	39.91	—	51.91
Total	1,295.13	731.91	1,891.99	1,144.16	2,636.43	1,211.42

Coinage and Currency

Through the centuries, many changes have been noticed in the currency and coinage system along with the rise and fall of the dynasties that ruled over the district. There appears to be conspicuous variations in contents, designs, size and weight, etc, in the numismatics which were in vogue in the district. Punch marked coins found all over India are generally dated from the fifth century

B C to second century B C or even earlier. Recent excavations at Vadagaon Madhavpur in Belgaum have also revealed the existence of punch marked coins. The Kadambas of Banavasi are considered as originators of the coins known as 'Padma tankas'. The Chalukyan coin *varaha* or *gadyana* was in circulation for many centuries. During the Vijayanagar rule, coins of gold and copper were in wide circulation comprising the important denominations like *varaha* or *gadyana* (about 52 grains, also called *pagoda* or *pon*), *pratapa* (*kati*), *pana* (one-tenth of *gadyana*), *haga*, *tara*, *jital* and *kasu*. Under the Bahmanis, Hukeri had a mint which continued under the Adilshahis. The Adilshahis had a mint at Shahpur too. The *tankah* of Delhi Sultans (170 grains) and *dinar* (197) were Bahmani gold coins. They also issued silver and copper coins. The Adilshahi gold coins were also 52 grain *hon* and *dharna*, its half. Shivaji introduced gold *hons* and copper *shivarayis*. Haider had introduced *honnu* in continuation on the Mysore currency which had inherited Vijayanagara coinage. In the beginning of the British rule, the region south of the Malaprabha had as many as 18 varieties of *varaha* or *honnu* in circulation. Before Belgaum became a Military Station in about 1818, ordinary business here was carried on either by Shahapur or by Shambhu rupees coined at Sawantwadi in South Konkan. Shahapur rupee minted at Shahapur was made of silver and alloy. The establishment of Divisional Pay Office in 1822 at Belgaum made the circulation of other coins like Madras rupee, Bagalkot ruppe, Nasik rupee, etc, with different intrinsic value in circulation due to heavy Military expenditure. Till 1840, silver rupee coins of 16 different varieties were in circulation in the district and of them, Shahapuri, Kittur-Shahapuri, Dharwadi and Hukeri named after the mint were prominent. In 1822, among the copper coins of the district, was Shahu *paisa* coined at Satara which was in large circulation and was popularly called *duddu*. There was another *duddu* called Shahi *duddu* or *kare duddu* (black *duddu*) equal to four pies also called *gatti duddu*. The lower denomination coins issued by the British Government were copper, nickel and silver in the denomination of *ane* (one anna), *chavali* (two annas), *pavali* (four annas), *ardha rupayi* (half rupee), etc. Rupee comprised of 16 annas and one anna 12 *pies*. Copper three *pies*' unit was called *duddu*, two *pies*' unit *tara* and one *pie* called *dhamdi*. There were six *pies*' units both in nickel and copper. After Independence, the different currencies which were in circulation were replaced by the Government of India currency and coins with new emblem of the Government of India. An

amendment to the Indian Coinage Act 1956 was passed by the Parliament in August 1955 for bringing into force the decimal coinage system with effect from 1st April, 1957 in all parts of India including this district.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Co-operative movement as peoples' movement is much ahead and deep-rooted in the district which is evident in many spheres of co-operative activities of the district. The movement in the district was launched along with the passing of the Co-operative Societies Registration Act III of 1905, giving much emphasis to extend institutionalised agricultural credit to a certain extent. The first primary agricultural credit society to be promoted in the district was at Bellada Bagewadi of Hukeri taluk in 1905, followed by similar societies, later on categorised as large sized credit societies, Grama Seva and multi-purpose societies, etc, founded at Chikodi, Manoli, Hosur, Gotur (all in 1912), followed by similar societies at Yadwad, Konnur, Kalloli, Inamhongal, Tigadi, Mamadapur and Karikatti in 1913 and at Sirsangi and Soppadla in 1914. The enactment of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912 envisaged the need for establishment of non-agricultural credit and non-credit co-operatives. Consequence of this the orbit of co-operative movement began to widen with promotion of many different categories of societies to cater to the local needs of the people persueing other than agricultural occupations. By this time, many non-agricultural credit societies like urban credit societies, the one at Gokak (1906), the weavers society at Belgaum (1912), District Police Employees and Postal Employees Credit Society at Belgaum (1920) had emerged. The DCC Bank founded in 1918 started catering to the requirements of the long persisting need for monitoring the central financing agency. This strengthened and pervaded the base of co-operative movement in the district.

The transfer of the subject co-operation from the Central list to the provincial list under the charge of a minister in 1919 went a long way in promoting the interests of the co-operative movement involving the financial participation of the State Government. As such, agro-based co-operative units like cattle breeding at Sadalga (1918), and Ainapur (1920), poultry farming at Belgaum (1926), Taluk Development Associations for Athani (1923), Gokak and Murgod

(1928), and taluk supervising unions were also registered. There was also a society for cattle insurance by about 1925-26. In the meanwhile in 1926, the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act was passed to regulate the movement, classifying the societies into four broad categories. By the end of March 1926, the number of Co-operatives in the district was 227, of them 194 were agricultural societies, 24 non-agricultural 8 taluk supervising unions and one cattle insurance society. The total membership of all these societies was about 30,000. During 1930-40, P L D banks and T A P C M Ss were promoted in the district to facilitate long term finance and better marketing for the development of agriculture with improved infrastructure at several places in the district. The prominent co-operatives that emerged during this period are TAPCMS at Gokak (1931) and Belgaum (1935). In the meanwhile a special purpose marketing society to facilitate marketing of vegetables, a gardeners' society at Belgaum was registered in 1933. Labour oriented manufacturing co-operatives were also established in this period viz., Co-operative Industrial Estate at Belgaum (1930) Labour Society at Galatga (1931) and Kajgar Society at Ghodgeri (1938). The establishment of the present district co-operative union in 1937 served as a stimulus in promoting co-operative education, leadership and training, etc.

Though during 1929-30 the co-operative movement received a temporary set-back due to economic depression, the position began to improve gradually after the out-break of the war in 1939 due to raising trend shown in the prices of agricultural commodities which was a boost to the movement. As a result of this, not only agricultural credit societies improved economically but undertook many non-credit and multi-purpose activities on a large scale. During and after the war period, a number of consumer co-operatives were promoted. The first such societies being Bhagatsingh and Vijaya Singh Societies at Belgaum in 1943. By March 1941, the number of co-operatives increased to 286 and of them 236 were of agricultural and the rest (50) non-agricultural including eight Unions. The total membership of all these societies together was about 28,000. During the next decade i.e., 1940-50, new categories of co-operatives like housing, processing, all types of farming, forest labour, general engineering, khadi and village industries including weaving, cotton, silk and woollen came into being. In 1948 a society was organised at Khanapur with the objective of generating and supply of electricity for lighting and irrigation at an investment of Rs 2.45 lakhs. Before it was liquidated in 1964, it had undertaken electrification work

in the taluk. By 1949-50, the number of all categories of co-operatives in the district increased to 763, mainly comprising of 525 agricultural credit, 178 non-credit and the rest being others with a total membership of 1.30 lakhs. The share capital and working capital held by them was Rs 36.72 and Rs 246.52 lakhs respectively. The establishment of industrial co-operative bank for the district in 1950 facilitated the flow of finance to all categories of industrial co-operatives with special emphasis on weaving societies.

Launching of economic development plans in 1951 and the successive plan priorities increased the financial participation of the Government in the movement by providing share capital, loan and subsidy, etc. This helped the promotion of many capital oriented industries in the district like sugar factories (1956), cotton spinning mills (1961) rural electrification (1963) in addition to the promotion of educational, medical aid and processing of tobacco societies, etc, in the district. To ensure an effective administration of the department, the office of the Assistant Registrar was set up here, prior to 1918. After the reorganisation of the Department in 1966, the office of the Deputy Registrar was opened at Belgaum in 1966 and also the offices of three Assistant Registrars, one each at the Sub-divisional level.

In 1956, the number of societies in the district increased to 1,020 with a total membership of 1.25 lakhs and had a share capital and working capital of Rs 71.59 and 418.79 lakhs respectively. The deposits held by them was Rs 222.70 lakhs and loans advanced amounted to Rs 355.93 lakhs. The break-up of 1,020 societies was as follows. PACSs (597), weavers (98), employees credit (55), industrial (47), other types (53), consumers' (24), housing (17), urban banks (17), grain banks (13), marketing (9), irrigation (13), farming (8), fisheries (5) in addition to four each milk and livestock and one land development bank apart from the DCC and industrial co-operative banks. The number of societies under liquidation was 56. In the above year, number of societies per lakh population was 64 and number of members per thousand population was 76 and the average working capital per member was Rs 335. By 1981, the total number of societies in the district increased to 2,129 with a total membership of 6.52 lakhs. The share capital and working capital held by these societies in the district amounted to Rs 2,381.45 and Rs 16,216.65 lakhs respectively. The total advances made amounted

to Rs 6,996.42 lakhs and their deposits amounted to Rs 5,597.94 lakhs. In the same period, some selected key indicators of the co-operative movement for the district were as follows: Government share capital to the total share capital was 23%, overdue outstanding 28%, borrowing members to total members 17%. Number of societies per 100 sq km 16, membership per society 306, share capital and deposit per society Rs 1.11 and Rs 2.62 lakhs. There were 88 societies per one lakh population and the ratio of membership per 1,000 population was 259. The working capital per member was Rs 2,488 and almost all villages of the district were covered by the co-operative movement.

Agricultural credit

By June 1983, of the 2.98 lakhs agricultural families in the district, the movement had covered 2.57 lakhs (87%) families including 1.34 lakh families of SF/MF and 19,000 SC and ST families. The total agricultural credit extended by the concerned co-operatives of the district for 1984-85 amounted to Rs 2,409.33 lakhs, mainly comprising of Rs 1,885.17 lakhs short term loan, Rs 299.63 lakhs medium term loan and Rs 224.53 lakhs as long term loan spread over to more than one lakh beneficiaries as against the total credit of Rs 2,539.85 lakhs comprising Rs 2,013.79 lakhs short term, Rs 271.97 lakhs medium term and Rs 254.09 lakhs long term during 1983-84.

In order to gear up the recovery performance of the PLD banks in the district, the Government declared some concessions for waiver of penal interest on principle and interest accrued on overdue instalments on all types of loans in respect of small and marginal farmers. The interest subsidy given to the farmers in the district during 1983-84 was Rs 4.84 lakhs extending the benefit to 962 persons as against Rs 5.35 lakhs covering 1,469 persons in the previous year. The co-operative sector in the district had created an employment opportunity to nearly about 9,905 people of all cadres by June, 1983. It is reported that there were as many as 210 societies in the district involved in the mis-appropriation amounting to Rs 51.65 lakhs by the end of June, 1983.

Growth of Co-operative Movement

The number of co-operatives and the total membership in the district for some years from 1955-56 to 1984-85 is as follows; 1955-56—1,020 (125); 1960-61—1,214 (173); 1965-66—1,543 (221); 1970-71—

1,730 (346); 1975-76—1,951 (444); 1980-81—2,129 (652); 1981-82—2,189 (751); 1982-83—2,233 (773); 1983-84—2,270 (807) and 1984-85—2,341 (858). (The number of societies also include the societies under liquidation, the figures in brackets indicate the membership in thousands).

The table given below indicates the progress of co-operative movement in the Belgaum district during the years 1973-74, 1978-79 and 1984-85.

(Amount in lakhs)

	1973-74	1978-79	1984-85
No. of Societies	1,620	1,755	1,866
Membership	3,64,459	6,16,549	8,58,732
Share capital	1,127.08	1,864.94	4,487.74
Reserve and other funds	706.85	1,926.52	5,057.62
Deposits	1,250.02	3,408.31	10,404.99
Borrowings	2,229.77	3,874.67	9,246.97
Working capital	6,216.30	12,195.82	30,623.56
Loans advanced	2,893.50	5,723.85	15,154.16
Loans recovered	2,714.12	6,191.07	13,843.37
Loans outstanding	2,907.90	4,943.66	13,251.11
Loan overdue	666.11	1,485.98	1,270.45
Purchases	801.96	2,999.10	8,923.35
Sales	1,854.45	4,499.35	11,471.00
Net profit	92.47	194.32	360.87

The taluk-wise distribution of co-operative institutions as in 1984 June was as follows: Belgaum 473, Chikodi 330, Hukeri 235, Gokak 232, Sampgaon 225, Parasgad 183, Athani 169, Ramdurg 164, Khanapur 135, Raybag 124. The total number of societies under liquidation was 462 and the largest number (80) was from Belgaum taluk followed by Chikodi (72) and Hukeri (57). The least number of societies under liquidation is reported from Khanapur (27).

The details about the working of some important categories of co-operatives is illustrated in the following paragraphs.

D C C Bank Belgaum

The incorporation of the Bank (1918) and the commencement of business in 1923 catered to the long felt need for an apex institution to monitor, expand and to strengthen the base of co-operative movement at the grass root level in the district. The main objectives of this apex body at the district level include to finance co-operative organisations, to act as balancing centre and to arrange for the supervision and inspection of the constituent societies apart from doing regular banking business. The membership of the bank in the year of inception was 35 comprising of 26 individuals and nine societies with a share capital of Rs 5,170 and had mobilised the deposits of Rs 8,233. During the period from 1923 to 1950, the activities of the bank gained momentum, geographical expansion and diversification in the banking activities were observed. By 1958-59, membership increased to 2,949 majority being (2,135) individuals with a share capital of Rs 15.91 lakhs. To strengthen the capital structure of the bank, the Government invested in the share capital of the bank for the first time in 1977. The total financial participation of the State Government in the form of share capital during 1982-83 when it was repaid was Rs 21.45 lakhs.

By the end of June 1985, the membership of the bank was accounted to 1,540 comprising of 1,236 co-operatives and 304 individuals with a share capital of Rs 438.46 lakhs and it had held a deposit liability of Rs 4,492.53 lakhs comprising of Rs 2,812.54 lakhs held by societies and the rest (Rs 1679.99 lakhs) owned by individuals. The total deployment of credit made by the bank for various agriculture development purposes like raising crops, medium term loans, cash credit including M T conversion and gold loan, etc, accounted to Rs 5,411.95 lakhs of which, the share lent to small and marginal farmers, and SC and ST members was to the extent of Rs 850.03 lakhs and Rs 34.43 lakhs respectively (1985). The financial assistance rendered by the bank to ameliorate weaker sections of the society under DIR was Rs 25.21 lakhs during 1984-85 as against Rs 22.70 and Rs 41.66 lakhs in the preceding two years respectively. The amount lent by the bank during 1984-85 under IRDP, Antyodaya, rural artisans, etc, amounted to Rs 51.90 lakhs benefiting 1,333 persons. During 1983-84, and in the next year, the total borrowal

of the bank from NABARD accounted to Rs 1,835.30 lakhs and Rs 1,302.18 lakhs respectively and major portion of this amount was channelised to finance seasonal agricultural operations and cash credit loan to sugar factories and to meet industrial credit. The total deposit accretions of the bank accounted to Rs 3,705.11, Rs 3,148.20 and Rs 2,705.15 lakhs during 1983-84 and in the preceding two years respectively. The bank has a network of 88 branches at present. The first branch of the bank was opened at Bailhongal in 1925, followed by Chikodi in 1928. The bank has a credit of sponsoring seven FSS (1976) at different places in the district with a capital investment of Rs 22.94 lakhs including the Government share of Rs 5.39 lakhs. The profit earned by the bank during 1984-85, 1983-84, and 1982-83 was accounted to Rs 3.35, Rs 25.28 and Rs 54.39 lakhs respectively. The present office building of the bank was constructed in 1969-70 at a cost of about Rs four lakhs and a guest house in 1982 at a cost of Rs 3.53 lakhs. The bank had a staff strength of 703 as in June 1985. Its diamond jubilee was celebrated in 1979. The table given below indicates the periodical progress of the bank for some years i.e, 1928-29, 1968-69 and 1984-85.

(Amount in lakhs of Rs)

	During		
	1928-29	1968-69	1984-85
Membership :			
a) Societies	209	972	1,236
b) Individuals	310	568	304
Share capital	1.73	77.29	438.46
Reserve & other Funds	0.32	23.82	246.47
Deposits	10.39	489.24	4,492.52
Working capital	13.10	800.44	6,759.07
Loans :			
a) Societies	11.45	490.43	5,131.05
b) Individuals	0.12	6.48	280.89
Net profit	0.31	7.46	3.35

Industrial Co-operative Bank, Belgaum

This is one of the three banks set up by the erstwhile Government of Bombay (1949-50) under the Pilot scheme to facilitate the development of rural and small scale industries, and to assist artisans and others engaged in the cottage and village industries. The bank having jurisdiction over the district had 205 members comprising of 173 individuals and 32 societies, and a share capital of Rs 18,000 in the beginning. Two decades thereafter, in 1974-75, it had a membership of 1,740 mainly comprising of (1,380) individuals, with share capital and deposits of Rs 8.87 and Rs 43.26 lakhs respectively; the amount deployed by the bank in the above year was of Rs 129.05 lakhs and had earned a profit of Rs 1.15 lakhs.

It was recognised bank by the RBI to provide financial assistance to the primary weavers' co-operatives in the district and accordingly the bank did good service till 1980-81. Due to the change in the policy of the Government, the bank was converted into Urban Industrial Co-operative Bank since January 1980. Consequently the bank advances are confined to individual industrial units only. By the end of June 1985 the paid-up share capital of the bank stood at Rs 14.12 lakhs comprising of Rs 10.56 lakhs of individual members (2,579) and a Government share of Rs 3.56 lakhs. The deposit accretion made by the bank by the end of June 1985, 1984 and 1983 were of the tune of Rs 152.14, Rs 126.20 and Rs 99.84 lakhs respectively. The total loans and advances granted by the bank for individuals, firms including short term loans under Reserve Bank of India Scheme (at concessional rate of interest), and other schemes and medium term loans together accounted to Rs 171.82 lakhs by the end of June 1985 as against Rs 150.99 lakhs, and Rs 113.60 lakhs in the previous two years respectively. While the total borrowings of the bank under the RBI Scheme accounted to Rs 74 lakhs for 1983-84, for granting loans to approved industrial units outside the orbit of co-operative sector at concessional rate of interest. The profit earned by the bank during 1984-85, 1983-84 and 1982-83 accounted to Rs 5.02, Rs 3.09 and Rs 2.02 lakhs respectively. The bank has opened two branches, one at Gokak (1962) and another at Khasbag (1979). The present office building of the bank was constructed in 1977 at a cost of Rs 3.90 lakhs. The bank celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1974.

Agricultural Credit Societies

The primary agricultural credit societies have a vital role to

play in catering to the credit and other requirements of the agriculturists. They also mobilise deposits and link credit with marketing and extend storage facilities. From the beginning, the district has a network of these societies categorised in to Vyavasaya Seva Sahakari Sangh, Large Sized Multi-purpose Societies, Grama Seva Sahakari Sangha, Farmers Service Societies, etc. Some of these societies have started their services as early as in 1905 when the co-operative movement was launched. In 1956, the district had 597 such societies and by 1966, the number was increased to 670. By 1978-79 the number of these societies decreased to 528 due to re-organisation and restructuring of some of the weaker societies by the process of amalgamation, under the provisions of Sec 14 A of Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act 1959 to make them economically viable. In 1978-79, the total membership and share capital of these societies was 2.66 lakhs and Rs 4.47 crores, and they had mobilised the deposits amounting to Rs 50.96 lakhs. The loans advanced by these was accounted to Rs 9.42 crores for various agricultural operations and other allied activities. The coverage of agricultural population was 89% and coverage of villages in the district was cent percent. In 1980, the district had the 2nd place in respect of number of primaries among the districts in the Division i e, 506 in Belgaum, Dharwad having 734. The percentage of borrowings was highest in the district i e, 27% followed by Uttara Kannada (25%). So also it the was first in average share capital per society being Rs 92,492 for Belgaum, followed by Uttara Kannada (Rs 85,152). On an average, the loan issued per borrowing members by these societies in the district was Rs 1,228 which was less than other three districts and the highest being in Uttara Kannada (i e, Rs 1861). The taluk-wise distribution of these societies in June 1985 was Chikodi 70, Parasgad 66, Athani 63, Sampgaon 59, Gokak 56, Hukeri 54, Belgaum 35, Khanapur 35, Raybag and Ramdurg 29 each (total 496, including DCC Bank, PLD Bank and FSS), and all together they had a membership of 3.27 lakhs with a share capital of Rs 7.45 crores of which the share of the Government was about Rs one crore. The deposit mobilised by these societies was Rs 1.03 crore as in 1984-85. The total amount of short and medium term loans granted by these co-operatives was accounted to Rs 24.13 crores during 1984-85 as against Rs 23.47 and Rs 14.16 crores in the preceding two years respectively. The agricultural requisites supplied by these societies was 31,330 tons of fertilisers valued at Rs 7.95 crores, seeds worth Rs 17.53 lakhs, pesticides valued at Rs 24.54 lakhs during 1984-85. Of these societies, it is reported that

290 primaries together had earned a net profit of Rs 68.25 lakhs during 1984-85. The number of societies under liquidation was reported as 47 as in 1984-85.

Farmers Service Societies

This new breed of societies came into being in the district in 1976-77, in order to extend integrated credit service facilities with special emphasis on small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections. At present (1985), the district has seven such societies all sponsored by the DCC Bank in October 1976, with financial participation of the Government. These societies are located at Hirebageswadi, Belgundi, Yeli Manoli, Arabhavi, Manihal-Sureban, Kerur and Raybag. The total share capital of these societies during 1984-85 was Rs 29.93 lakhs including Government share of Rs 5.61 lakhs with a total membership of 10,481. These societies had advanced agricultural credit to the extent of Rs 95.50 lakhs and had mobilised deposits of Rs 1.05 lakhs. The total borrowings of these societies from the central financing agencies was of Rs 101.29 lakhs. The purchase and sale of agricultural requisites effected by these societies amounted to Rs 56.81 and Rs 56.37 lakhs respectively. Of these societies, six together had earned a profit of Rs 2.97 lakhs.

A R D Banks

Formerly known as land mortgage and land development banks are renamed as Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (1985) in view of their diversified and development oriented lending operation so as to achieve integrated rural development at the grass root level by providing long and medium term credit for agriculture and other allied services. The first such bank for the district came into being in Belgaum in 1935. During the period from 1960 to 1968 all other taluks of the district got similar banking facilities. The Karnataka State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd., Bangalore, being the central financing agency for these banks, opened its district branch at Belgaum in 1968-69 to facilitate the co-ordination and effective administration of its branches in the district. In 1972-73, all the ten branches together had 27,400 members with a share capital of Rs 25.50 lakhs and had advanced more than Rs one crore. By 1984-85 these banks had a membership of 77,251 with a share capital of Rs 91.16 lakhs including the Government share of Rs 2.94 lakhs. The total borrowings of these banks stood at Rs 929.74 lakhs and they had advanced Rs 186.32

lakhs. The working capital of these banks stood at Rs 1,120.92 lakhs. Of these banks, five together had earned a profit of Rs 2.60 lakhs while the remaining together had incurred a total loss of Rs 8.52 lakhs. During 1984-85, the total financial assistance rendered by these banks comprising of 16 different schemes amounted to Rs 186.32 lakhs mainly comprising of Rs 52.72 lakhs for sinking of wells (465), Rs 32.01 lakhs for IP Sets (498), Rs 27.77 lakhs for purchase of tractors (28) and Rs 14.31 lakhs for repair of old wells (331). The banks had also financed special schemes like development of horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry, purchase of bullock carts, etc. These banks in the district have undertaken intensive lending activities under the development schemes of the Malaprabha and the Ghataprabha Projects. By way of illustration the A & R D Bank, Saundatti has been dealt with in the proceeding paragraph.

A & R D Bank, Saundatti: This co-operative body came into being in 1960 with an area of operation extending over the taluk, with the catering to the main objective of medium and long term credit needs of agriculturists for various productive purposes. The present lending activities of the bank have been diversified as per the norms and guide lines of NABARD giving priority for dairy development, sheep-rearing, horticulture, installation of *gobar* gas plant and extending credit to the tenants for confirmation of occupancy rights etc, apart from general schemes. In 1960 it had a membership of 239 and a share capital of Rs 28,000 which increased to 1,175 members and Rs 1.98 lakhs by the end of June 1974. In the next decade, i.e., by the end of June 1985, membership increased to 5,812 comprising of 3,834 small and marginal farmers and 330 SC and ST members together with a share capital of Rs 11.04 lakhs including Government share of Rs 50,000. By the end of June 1985, the total credit deployed by the bank under 14 different loan portfolios was accounted to Rs 143.09 lakhs mainly comprising of Rs 93.69 lakhs for purchase of tractors Rs 18.96 lakhs for wells, Rs 5.09 lakhs for installation of IP Sets, while the money lent on general schemes, cultivation of grapes, and for purchase of bullocks and carts, was accounted to Rs 4.93, Rs 4.48 and Rs 3.15 lakhs respectively. In addition to this the bank had also granted credit of Rs 4.67 lakhs under the Malaprabha Irrigation Project Scheme, and Rs 4.57 lakhs for confirmation of land ownership rights, etc. During 1984-85, the percentage of recovery of arrears of loans effected by the bank was about 80% as against 86% in the previous year, and had earned profit

of Rs 49,458 (1984-85). The new office building of the bank was constructed in the Silver Jubilee year (1985) at a cost of Rs 1.16 lakhs.

Industrial Co-operatives

Industrial co-operatives of the district are mainly categorised into two groups viz, weavers and non-weavers. It is found that the Belgaum Nekar Sangh Ltd, Vadgaon, was the first to be registered in 1912, followed by similar societies at Gokak and Bailhongal in the next year and one more at Kittur in 1916. Among the industrial co-operatives other than weavers, the societies known as Mugalkhod Tanners Society and Nipani Charmakar Society registered in 1926 seem to be the earlier societies.

During 1974-75 the district had 161 weavers' societies with a total membership of 12,357. The share capital and deposits held by them stood at Rs 11.78 and 7.46 lakhs respectively. They had in all 6,017 looms and had purchased raw materials worth Rs 61.40 lakhs for production and had sold product worth Rs 77.16 lakhs. These societies had created employment opportunities to about 3,300 persons. Of these societies 47 were dormant and only 73 had earned a profit of Rs 73,300.

In respect of industrial co-operatives other than weavers' categorised into as many as 13 groups like flaying and tanning, coir, pottery, oil producing, gur and khandasari, carpentry and smithy, khadi and village industries and some miscellaneous together accounted to 197 and of them only 73 were working. The membership and share capital held by them was 11,763 and Rs 10.57 lakhs. They had produced goods worth Rs 28.81 lakhs during the year 1974-75 and had effected sales worth Rs 45.22 lakhs. The profit earned by some of the societies was Rs 2.21 lakhs and they had created employment opportunity to about 700 persons.

By 1984-85, there were 118 weavers and 120 other than weavers societies with a membership of 16,061 and 12,839 respectively. The total share capital of weavers societies including Government share of Rs 6.34 lakhs amounted to Rs 28.57 lakhs. In respect of other than weavers societies, it was Rs 19.26 lakhs including Rs 1.79 lakhs contributed by the Government. The total borrowings of the weavers societies amounted to Rs 100.54 lakhs and that of other than weavers

amounted to Rs 127.34 lakhs. The working capital of these two main categories amounted to Rs 232.05 and 291.36 lakhs respectively. The weavers societies had advanced loans amounting to Rs 41.71 lakhs. Among the weavers societies, if 58 had earned a profit of Rs 3.22 lakhs, 44 had incurred a loss of Rs 1.06 lakhs. The corresponding figures in respect of societies other than weavers' was 45 with Rs 5.96 lakhs and 25 with Rs 43,000. The bulk of 118 weavers' societies comprised of 79 handloom cotton, 29 blanket weaving, five each powerloom, wool and silk weavers. During 1984-85 khadi and village industries board had extended loans and subsidies respectively, amounting to Rs 4.44 lakhs and Rs 69,850 to six industries for the purposes like oil producing, tanning, pottery, cotton khadi, coir and rope making, etc. In addition to the industrial co-operatives, the district has two co-operative industrial estates, one at Belgaum (1930) and another at Nipani (1969). The total membership of these two industrial estates in 1985 June was 584 with share capital of Rs 2.53 lakhs and working capital of Rs 31.64 lakhs.

Khadi and Gramodyoga Sangh, Hudali: The Khadi and Gramodyoga Sahakari Utpadaka Sangha, Hudali registered in 1954 under Co-operative fold, had initiated its Khadi and Village industrial activities as early as in 1936 in the name of 'Akhil Bharat Charaka Sangha' and later in 1944 under 'Samagra Grama Seva Samiti' under the able guidance of the late Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Pundalikji Katgade and others on the lines of Sabarmati and Vardha Ashrams. This unique Society started, with 11 members and share capital of Rs 500 in 1954 has grown in many dimensions over the years and has obtained the distinction of being one of the best societies in the State. The chief objectives of the society are to foster Khadi and village industries. The area of operation of the society is confined to Belgaum, Hukeri, Sampgaon, Gokak, Khanapur and parts of Chikodi taluks of the district. At present (1985-86) the total membership of the society of all categories together is 255 mainly comprising of 187 producers, 41 *karyakartas* and the rest 27 sympathisers, with a share capital of Rs 22,752 and a working capital of Rs 93.95 lakhs, as against 142 members and share capital of Rs 10,350 in 1974-75. Apart from producing Khadi, the society runs different sections, viz, saranjam (1954), soap manufacturing (1967-68), fruit and vegetable processing (1971-72) and *gobar* gas (1974-75).

The total investment made by the society during 1985-86 in

different branches of production together accounted to Rs 72.28 lakhs while the volume of production in the above year was valued at Rs 42.12 lakhs, comprising of Rs 21.33 lakhs (Khadi), Rs 10.58 lakhs (Saranjam), while fruit and vegetable processing and soap production was valued at Rs 8.65 and Rs 1.56 lakhs respectively and the total sales effected in the year was Rs 34.67 lakhs. The total financial assistance availed by the society from Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the Khadi Board was of the order of Rs 48.88 lakhs in 1985-86. The total investments made by the society towards building, machinery, vehicles, equipments, etc, have amounted to Rs 34.73 lakhs as in 1985-86.

The Saranjam division of the Society manufactures ambar and muslin charakhas in addition to agricultural implements and improved looms. The society manages ten spinning centres, five khadi production centres and four sales depots. The total employees of the society in 1985-86 was 896. The profit earned by the society for 1985-86, 1984-85 accounted to Rs 1.85 and Rs 1.42 lakhs respectively. The head office building of the society was constructed in 1980 at a cost of Rs 1.27 lakhs followed by Gandhiji Gangadhar Rao memorial and exhibition building in 1981 at a cost of Rs two lakhs. The society has secured many awards in spinning competition on ambar charakha on all-India level and also for its fruit products. The Silver Jubilee of the society was celebrated in 1982.

Co-operative Sugar Factories

The district has the credit of having nine Sugar factories and of them eight are in the co-operative fold. The first co-operative sugar factory to be registered in the district was Hiranyakeshi at Sankeshwar in 1956, followed by the Malaprabha at M K Hubli in 1961. The latest to be registered is Bhagyalakshmi at Khanapur in 1982. Of these sugar factories, only five co-operative sugar factories are actually working and of the remaining, the one at Nipani started production in 1986. In 1974-75, there were five registered co-operative sugar factories with a membership of 24,476 and share capital of Rs 424.56 lakhs, and had borrowed Rs 854.37 lakhs from the central financing agencies. The total quantity of sugar produced by the three working factories was 73,239 metric tonnes by crushing 6.71 lakh tonnes of sugarcane. By 1980-81 the number of registered co-operative sugar factories increased to seven with total membership of 33,571. The share capital and working capital was Rs 932.14 and 5,367.17 lakhs

respectively and they had borrowed Rs 1,532.92 lakhs. The quantity of sugar produced by five working factories was 1.20 lakhs tonnes, crushing 10.82 lakhs tonnes of sugarcane. In 1984-85 all the eight co-operative sugar factories together had a total membership of 55,545. The share capital and working capital of these factories amounted to Rs 1,334.00 and Rs 8,205.00 lakhs respectively and their total borrowings amounted to Rs 2,632 lakhs. The total quantity of sugarcane crushed and sugar produced was 11.97 lakh tonnes and 1.26 lakh tonnes respectively. Of these five sugar factories, three are also manufacturing by-products like spirit and alcohol. The profit earned by five sugar factories amounted to Rs 52 lakhs and the loss suffered by three sugar factories was Rs 250 lakhs. Sugar factories are playing key role in linking of credit with marketing through the primaries and TAPCMs in the district. By way of illustration the sugar factory of Sankeswar is discussed in the following paragraphs.

Shri Hiranyakeshi Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane is considered as one of the best co-operative sugar factories in the State, being the first to be incorporated under co-operative fold in the district in 1956 with 105 members and share capital of Rs 19.07 lakhs. The area of operation of this multi-unit comprises of 141 villages of the district, Hukeri (103) and Chikodi (38), and 77 villages of Gadhinglaj and Ajara mahal of Kholapur district. When the Society started its crushing activities (1961) it had a membership of 990 with a share capital of Rs 27.39 lakhs. The earlier share capital contribution by the State Government to the tune of Rs 25 lakhs has been returned by the factory in 1979. The present (1984-85) membership (producer members) of the organisation was 6,669 with a share capital of Rs 92.03 lakhs. The total area under sugarcane in the jurisdiction of the factory during 1984-85 was 24,779 acres. The present crushing capacity of the factory is 3,500 MTs per day during the seasons and there is a proposal to increase it to 5,250 MTs.

The total quantity of sugarcane crushed during 1984-85 was 5.35 lakh MTs producing sugar of 5.69 lakhs quintals valued at Rs 24.17 crores. The factory has undertaken five lift irrigation schemes covering an area of about 300 acres to facilitate its members on condition to ensure regular supply of cane to the factory. Since inception, total capital investment made by the factory towards plant and machinery, land and building etc, amounted to Rs 13.39 crores. The factory has set up its distillery in 1972 at a cost of Rs 70 lakhs

and the total investments made on it upto 1985 accounted to Rs 1.36 crores. During 1984-85 the distillery produced 87.26 lakh litres of M G alcohol and 680 litres of denatured spirit, all together with a sales value of Rs 2.15 crores. The daily capacity of the plant is 12,000 gallons of R S. The total deposits mobilised by the organisation during 1984-85 accounted to Rs 65.48 lakhs. It has a distinction of paying the highest cane price to the growers on all-India level, being Rs 210 per MT in 1968-69 and Rs 330.20 in 1980-81 and it has won an award during 1976-77 for highest export of sugar. The cane price offered to the growers during 1984-85 was Rs 335 per M T. The net profit earned by the organisation during 1984-85 was Rs 7.21 lakhs as against Rs 8.72 and Rs 9.42 lakhs in the preceding two years respectively. As in June 1985, the factory had 630 regular employees.

Co-operative Spinning Mills

The district has seven cotton spinning and yarn mills and of them five are registered in the co-operative sector, and the other two are in private sector. Co-operative spinning mills are situated at Panth Balekundri (Belgaum Taluk), Bedkihal (Chikodi taluk), Chikodi, Saundatti and Raybag. Of these, the first one has gone into production since August 1983 and the rest are in different stages of execution. Total Government share capital invested in these co-operatives by June 1985 was Rs 739.90 lakhs.

The Belgaum Co-operative Cotton Spinning Mill, Pant Balekundri, registered in 1961 started actual production in August 1983 with an area of operation covering the entire district. Among other things, this co-operative mill chiefly aims to provide better and remunerative prices to its cotton growing members and to supply yarn to co-operatives and others engaged in weaving in the district apart from providing rural employment. The membership (389) and share capital (Rs 1.94 lakhs) in 1973-74 has risen to 6,749 members comprising of 2,365 growers, 3,841 individuals, 541 co-operatives and one each of Government and D C C Bank with a total share capital of Rs 356.24 lakhs by June 1985 including the Government share capital of Rs 317.70 lakhs. At present, the utilised capacity of the Mill is 25,000 spindles. Expansion programme of the mill includes doubling the spindlages and setting up ginning and pressing unit of its own. The total capital investment of the mill on lands, building, plant and machinery, etc. amounted to Rs 706 lakhs by the end of June,

1985. The total production of yarn by the mill for 1983-84 was 4.59 lakh kg, which was increased to 11.60 lakh kg for 1984-85 valued at Rs 308.17 lakhs and the quantity of yarn sold was 11.49 lakh kgs valued at Rs 339.51 lakhs. The total working force of the factory was about 1172 as in March 1986.

Marketing Societies

Marketing of agricultural produces in the district entered into the arena of co-operation as early as in 1931 when the Taluk Agricultural Produce Co-operative Marketing Societies were established at Gokak, followed by a special purpose marketing society viz, Belgaum Gardeners Co-operative Production Supply and Sale Society at Belgaum in 1933. T A P C M Ss for Belgaum and Hukeri taluks were organised in 1935 and 1936 respectively. At present, the district has 20 marketing societies and of them 12 are General Purpose Marketing Societies including ten TAPCMS one each for a taluk. Of the eight special purpose marketing societies, six are for tobacco and two for garden produces. Of the six tobacco marketing societies the Hebbal (Hukeri taluk) Tobacco Growers Purchase and Sale Society established in 1975 March was the first such society followed by a similar one at Nipani in 1975 July. These societies are engaged in the sale of fertilisers, seeds, controlled goods etc, in addition to agricultural produces. Some of the T A P C M S (Belgaum and Khanapur) are acting as agents of the Karnataka State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, Bangalore, for procurement of levy paddy in the district.

By June 1985 eight special marketing societies together had a share capital of Rs 84.96 lakhs including Rs 70.75 lakh Government share, with a total membership of 17,454. The agricultural produces handled and consumer goods sold by these societies amounted to Rs 70.02 lakhs and Rs 538.86 lakhs while the agricultural requisites sold amounted to Rs 131.99 lakhs. At the same time, 12 general purpose marketing societies with a total membership of 7,031 and share capital of Rs 163.09 lakhs including the Government share amounting to the tune of Rs 142.65 lakhs were functioning in the district. The agricultural produces handled, agricultural requisites and consumer goods sold by these societies amounted to Rs 88.90, Rs 15.32 and Rs 7.81 lakhs respectively. The TAPCMSs of Khanapur and Belgaum had procured levy paddy worth Rs 69.91 lakhs during 1984-85 on behalf of KSFCSC, Bangalore. Some of these marketing

societies are undertaking processing of tobacco, cotton, oil seeds, etc. As in June 1985, of the eight special purpose marketing societies, five together had earned a profit of Rs 3.57 lakhs, while two societies had incurred a loss of Rs 52.20 lakhs. In respect of general purpose marketing societies, 10 out of 12 together had earned a profit of Rs 9.02 lakhs and the loss suffered by two societies amounted to Rs 70,000. The deposits mobilised by the special and general purpose marketing societies amounted to Rs 5.15 and Rs 14.72 lakhs respectively.

The Belgaum Gardeners Co-operative Production Supply and Sales Society being a special category of marketing society came into being in 1933, having an area of operation of Belgaum City and neighbouring villages, with the main objective of extending better marketing facilities to the vegetable growers in addition to other facilities like supply of quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, cold storage, credit and transportation, etc. The membership of the organisation comprises of growers and dealers. The society initiated with 25 members and a share capital of Rs 500 (half of it was Government grant). In course of time its activities expanded in many spheres so as to cater to the growing requirements of its members. By the end of June of 1985, the society had a membership strength of 641 with a share capital of Rs 1.46 lakhs as against 269 members with a share capital of Rs 30,815 a decade earlier and had effected the sale of vegetables and others worth Rs 9.02 lakhs earning a profit of Rs 52,700 (as in 1975). In order to preserve vegetable and fruits, the cold storage plant was started by the Society in 1972 by expending Rs 9.25 lakhs assisted by the loan and subsidy of the Government to an extent of Rs 6.70 lakhs under N C D C Scheme. During 1984-85, the income by the cold storage amounted to Rs 4.08 lakhs. The total amount of loan advanced by the Society both in cash and kind to the members was Rs 3.48 lakhs during 1984-85. During 1984-85 the deposits tapped by the Society amounted to Rs 13.12 lakhs and it had invested Rs 3.78 lakhs in various schemes. The value of vegetables sold was Rs 29.36 lakhs in addition to pesticides, seeds and fertilisers valued at Rs 6.05 lakhs, Rs 4.96 lakhs and Rs 93,000 respectively. The sales of cloth effected was Rs 7.65 lakhs. The commission earned by the Society in its dealings was Rs 1.44 lakhs during 1984-85. The profit earned by the Society for 1984-85 amounted to Rs 3.25 lakhs as against Rs 1.62 and 3.34 lakhs in the previous two years respectively. The main administrative building

of the Society was constructed in 1963 at an estimated cost of Rs 88,000. The total investments made by the Society in buildings, plant and machinery amounted to Rs 4.76 and Rs 10.21 lakhs respectively as in June 1985 and it had 38 employees.

State Tobacco Marketing and Processing Society

The Karnataka State Tobacco Marketing and Processing Co-op Ltd, Belgaum being the first co-operative body of this category in the State was registered in April 1981 in the wake of farmers agitation for better and remunerative prices for tobacco growers in Nipani area, with the main object of procurement of tobacco from the members and growers and its sale to the best advantage of the members with an area of operation covering the entire State. The Society also undertakes export of tobacco and its products. The estimated production of *bidi* tobacco in Nipani area is around 20,000 tonnes per year.

By the end of June 1985, it had a membership of 4,059, comprising of 3,976 'C' Class, 78 'A' Class, four 'B' Class and one Government, with a total share capital of Rs 155 lakhs including the Government share of 141 lakhs as against 68 members and share capital of Rs 10.32 lakhs in 1980-81. The society also advances loans to members on security of goods in addition to undertaking processing of tobacco. (No loans have been granted to growers during 1984-85).

The quantity of tobacco procured by the society for 81-82, 82-83 was 3,703 tonnes and 746.45 tonnes valued at Rs 346.11 and Rs 63.83 lakhs respectively, while the quantity of tobacco sold for 82-83 was 950.07 tonnes valued at Rs 92.75 lakhs. By 1983-84, the society had purchased 499.51 tonnes of tobacco worth Rs 42.23 lakhs and had sold 1248.16 tonnes of tobacco worth Rs 134.40 lakhs. During 1984-85, quantity of tobacco procured was 21,092 kg valued at Rs 2.06 lakhs while the quantity sold amounted to 5.42 lakh kgs valued at Rs 56.55 lakhs. Due to purchase of tobacco at higher rate to encourage growers and subsequent fall in the prices and also due to heavy interest on borrowed capital, etc, the total accumulated loss suffered by the organisation during 1980-81 to 1984-85 was Rs 180.15 lakhs. The total assets and liabilities held by the society by the end of June 1984 stood at Rs 401.52 and Rs 346.48 lakhs respectively. It has established two processing units, one at Nipani and another a

Galatga. Though the management vests with the 15 Board of Directors, since November 1983, the Deputy Commissioner of Belgaum has been appointed as the Special Officer of the Society.

Non-Agricultural Credit Societies

The district has a network of non-agricultural credit co-operatives comprising of Urban Co-operative Banks and employees' credit societies. The Gokak Urban Bank, and the Pioneer Urban Bank of Belgaum are the premier organisations founded in 1906. Regarding the employees credit co-operatives, the Belgaum district police employees co-operative credit society and the Belgaum Postal Employees Credit Society founded in 1920 are the earliest credit societies. By June 1975 the district had 150 non-agricultural credit societies comprising of 35 of urban banks, 11 urban credit societies, 102 employees credit societies and two thrift societies. These 150 societies together had a membership of 56,000 with a share capital and deposits amounting to Rs 142.22 and Rs 547.47 lakhs respectively. They had advanced loans to a tune of Rs 1,289.75 lakhs. The profit earned by some of these societies amounted to Rs 37.29 lakhs. By June 1985 the total number of these societies increased to 210, comprising of 148 employees credit societies, 41 urban banks and the rest other credit societies. All these societies together had a membership of 1.55 lakhs, majority being (1.20 lakhs) of urban banks and employees credit societies (35,000). Share capital of all these societies amounted to Rs 505.97 lakhs of which the Government contribution was Rs 10.40 lakhs. The advances made by these co-operatives amounted to Rs 4,297.94 lakhs mainly comprising of Rs 3,786.78 lakhs by urban banks, Rs 398.58 lakhs by employees credit societies and the rest by others. The deposits mobilised by these societies amounted to Rs 4,164.77 lakhs and 194 societies together earned a profit of Rs 172.83 lakhs.

Urban Banks: In 1980-81, the number of urban banks in the district was 39 with 15 branches and had a membership of 81,484 with a share capital of Rs 1.33 crores. They had held deposits to the tune of Rs 16.81 crores with a working capital of Rs 21.53 crores. The total loan outstanding by these banks was Rs 12.18 crores and had earned a profit of Rs 60.72 lakhs. By June 1985, of the 41 urban banks in the district, 38 were under the perview of the R B I Act 1949. It is found that the concentration of urban banks is more in the taluks like Belgaum (10), Chikodi (7), Gokak (6) and Sampgaon (4). The

total membership of 41 urban banks was 1.16 lakhs and had a share capital of Rs 239.58 lakhs. The deposits mobilised and advances made by these banks amounted to Rs 3,916.05 lakhs and Rs 3,707.78 lakhs respectively. All these banks except one together had earned a profit of Rs 143.28 lakhs. In 1985, of the 208 urban banks in the State, 66 banks had a credit of mobilising deposits more than a crore, and of them 13 banks belonged to this district. The Maratha and the Pioneer banks had the distinction of being 5th and 7th place respectively in the State list with deposits of Rs 5.64 and Rs 4.09 crores respectively. Of the 148 employees credit societies, four were defunct. Concentration of these societies is found in the taluks like Belgaum, Athani, Chikodi, Gokak, Sampgaon and Ramdurg.

The Pioneer Urban Co-operative Bank : One of the earliest credit society registered in 1906 was reconstituted as Urban Credit Bank in 1921-22, with 2,619 members and share capital of Rs 45,504 and had a deposit mobilisation of Rs 5 06 lakhs. In 1922, it was considered as the best urban society with largest working capital in the Bombay Presidency. By 1945-46, the membership was increased to 3,087 with share capital of Rs 2.84 lakhs and had held deposits of Rs 16.60 lakhs. By 1984-85, the membership has risen to 12,704 with share capital of Rs 13.08 lakhs. This is one of the leading urban banks in the State as well as in the district with a distinction in deposit accretion. The aggregate deposits held by the bank during 1984-85 stood at Rs 4.90 crores as against Rs 4.27 and Rs 3.63 crores in the preceding two years respectively. The total advances made by the bank during 1984-85 accounted to Rs 307.25 lakhs, major portion being Rs 143.37 lakhs for construction and repair of houses, followed by Rs 106.79 lakhs on the security of gold, and the rest being loans for business, and hypothecation, etc as against total advances of Rs 275.84 lakhs in the previous year. The amount of consumer loans financed by the bank (since November 1984) was accounted to Rs 19.64 lakhs by the end of June 1985 and that of weaker section loans Rs 21.23 lakhs (aggregate). The net profit earned by the bank for 1984-85, and in the previous two years was Rs 21.51, Rs 16.41 and Rs 17.69 lakhs respectively. The bank has two local branches opened in 1974. The head office building of the bank was constructed in 1940 at a cost of Rs 50,000. The total staff of the bank is 47. The bank celebrated platinum jubilee in 1981.

Urban Co-operative Bank, Gokak : The Gokak Urban Co-operative Bank, incorporated in 1906 with 133 members as a credit

society with a share capital of Rs 540 emerged as the Urban Co-operative Bank in 1924 with 885 members and share capital of Rs 6,810. By the end June 1985, the membership had increased to 1,990 with a share capital of Rs 12.82 lakhs. The volume of deposit accretion by the bank amounted to Rs 163.31 lakhs as at the end of June 1985 as against Rs 146.16 lakhs, Rs 120.32 lakhs and Rs 105.05 lakhs for 1983-84 and two years before respectively. The total lending of the bank was Rs 122.13 lakhs by the end of June 1985, as against Rs 111.47 lakhs for 1984. The first branch of the bank was opened in the market yard in 1981. The profit earned by the bank during the last three years i.e., 1982-83 to 1984-85 was Rs 4.85, Rs 6.24 and Rs 4.90 lakhs respectively. The bank has its own building constructed in 1957 at a cost of Rs 1.10 lakhs. The bank with eight decades of useful service, celebrated its platinum jubilee in 1984.

Dairy Development Societies

The district has a good number of dairy development societies, next in number to primary agricultural credit societies. The first such society was incorporated at Belgaum as early as in 1915 (now liquidated). In the late sixties and early seventies, a stimulus was given for the development of these societies. For the first time in 1967, dairy farming society for S Cs and S Ts was started at Shiraguppi. It is observed that many of these societies have become defunct due to one or the other reason. In 1973-74 the district had 63 dairy societies with a membership of 6,206 and share capital and working capital of Rs 2.70 and 9.36 lakhs respectively. The loans advanced and profit earned by some of these societies amounted to Rs 2.46 lakhs and Rs 47,000 respectively. By June 1985 the number increased to 289 with a membership of 34,645 and share capital of Rs 19.55 lakhs including the Government share capital of Rs 3.28 lakhs. They had a working capital of Rs 97.80 lakhs and had advanced loans to the tune of Rs 7.51 lakhs. Of these societies, 115 together had earned a profit of Rs 8.17 lakhs, 56 societies incurred a total loss of Rs 69,000. Out of the above 289 societies, 68 were defunct. Among the working societies the largest number (47) were situated in Gokak taluk followed by Chikodi (42) and Sampgaon (39). There is a Milk Producers' Union at Belgaum registered in 1978.

Nipani Bhag Milk Producers Co-operative Federation (1978) was the new name given to the Chikodi taluka Western Division

Milk Producers Co-operative Sangha (1973) with an area of operation covering Nipani town and villages coming in a radius of about 11 km from Nipani. The main activities of the federation are to purchase milk from the members collected through the primaries and to market it at better and remunerative prices in addition to providing necessary infrastructure for the development of dairy industry.

In 1974, there were 788 members with a share capital of Rs 22,475 and it had collected milk of 2.7 lakhs litres earning a profit of Rs 7,606. As in June 1985, the federation had a total membership of 1,683 with a share capital of Rs 50,715 including Rs 5,000 share held by the Government. On an average the society collects milk through its vehicles at the rate of about 7,500 litres per day and the same is supplied to the Government dairy at Miraj and Warna (Maharashtra). The federation arranges for the supply of animal feeds, valued at about Rs two to three lakhs per year. A bakery section is also run by the federation since 1976-77 with sales worth Rs three lakhs per year. The yearly commission earned by the federation for 1985 and in the preceding two years accounted to Rs 8.63, Rs 7.45 and Rs 5.61 lakhs respectively.

The total subsidy extended by the Government to the federation for purchase of equipment and vehicles, managerial salary, etc. accounted to more than Rs 1.30 lakhs by the end of June 1984, in addition to supplying a chilling plant of 2,000 litres capacity free of cost in 1983-84 under SFDA Scheme. The Federation had assets and liabilities worth Rs 20.40 lakhs and Rs 17.92 lakhs respectively by the end of June 1985. The milk procured by the Society during the last three years i.e., 1985, 1984 and 1983 was 22 lakhs, 19 lakhs and 14 lakhs litres respectively with a sales value of Rs 91.68 lakhs, Rs 78.50 lakhs and Rs 46.96 lakhs respectively, while the profit earned in the above years was Rs 1.28, 1.19 lakhs and Rs 62,000 respectively. The staff employed by the society is 35.

Livestock Societies

Livestock Societies of the district cover the societies like poultry, pig-breeding, sheep and cattle breeding etc, and are concentrated mainly in the taluks of Sampgaon, Gokak and Chikodi. The first livestock society to be started in the district was Belgaum Poultry Farmers Society (1926). By June 1985 the district had 25

such societies with a membership of 2,530 and share capital of Rs 2.56 lakhs including Government share of Rs 9,000. They had a working capital of Rs 13.35 lakhs and they had issued loans to members to the extent of Rs 8,000. Of these societies seven together had earned a profit of Rs 28,000 while ten had sustained a loss of Rs 57,000 and out of 25 Societies only 19 were functioning.

Farming Societies

The farming societies of the district are mainly categorised into joint, collective, tenant and better farming societies. Hudali Co-operative Better Farming Society (1937) was the first such society registered in the district (now defunct). Farming societies, for the welfare of Harijans also came into being in the district, and the first one to be started was again at Hudali in 1949 (now defunct). In 1973-74, the district had totally 60 farming societies of all categories together (including 14 meant for SCs and STs) and the total command area was 17,360 acres of which 6,580 acres was under irrigation. The total production of these farming societies amounted to Rs 2.07 lakhs. By 1985 June, the total number of societies was decreased to 43, comprising of 18 joint farming, nine collective farming, ten tenant farming and six better farming. The total area under the control of these societies was 1957 hectares, of which area brought under cultivation was 1,051 hectares which includes 153 hectares under irrigation. The no. of families benefited by these societies were 542. Of the joint and collective farming societies, five had earned the profit and seven incurred loss. Total financial assistance given by the Government to these societies amounted to Rs 1.99 lakhs, comprising Rs 1.60 lakhs as loan and the rest being share capital.

Lift Irrigation Societies

The district has proper infrastructure for the establishment of Lift Irrigation Societies in view of the many important river beds and other sources. Lift irrigation schemes also include lifting water from the rivers, wells, borewells and community irrigations jointly by the owners of lands. For the first time, lift irrigation society in the district was incorporated in 1950 at Talwarkop in the Khanapur taluk (since defunct). In 1973-74 the district had 16 lift irrigation societies with a membership of 2,018 and they had share capital and working capital of Rs 13.42 and 55.13 lakhs respectively. The area brought under irrigation was 623 hectares. Of these societies, ten had together earned a net profit of Rs 55,000. By 1985 June, the

district had 61 irrigation societies with a membership of 4,178. The share capital held by them was Rs 28.46 lakhs including the Government share of Rs 16.75 lakhs and they had working capital of Rs 104.43 lakhs. If 26 societies together had earned a profit of Rs 2.34 lakhs, 32 had incurred a loss of Rs 1.68 lakhs. Out of 61 societies, 45 were community irrigation societies including 25 societies meant for the benefit of SC and ST people. The concentration of these societies is found in the taluks of Chikodi, Hukeri, Athani, Raybag and Gokak. Some of the good working irrigation societies include the Ghataprabha-Krishna Seva Niravari Sahakari Sangha, Bellad Bagewadi, Gundwad Lift Irrigation Society of Raybag taluk, M K Hubli, Lift Irrigation Society, Dastikop Irrigation Society, etc.

Consumers Co-operatives

Consumer co-operatives made their beginning in the district during and after the close of the II World War to ensure proper distribution of essential commodities, and also to arrest wide fluctuations in prices. As early as in 1943, two consumer co-operatives namely the Vijaysing Consumer Co-operative Society, Shahapur, Belgaum and the Bhagat Singh Chowk Consumer Co-operative Society, Belgaum (since defunct) were registered. By 1974-75, the district had 98 such societies and their total membership was 31,149, with their share and working capital being Rs 8.08 and 32.36 lakhs respectively.

By 1985, June, the number of consumer societies in the district was 118 including a wholesale store, with a membership of 50,778. They had share capital of Rs 20.83 lakhs including the Government share of Rs 7.60 lakhs. Their working capital amounted to Rs 119.92 lakhs and their total borrowings amounted to Rs 12.14 lakhs. The total purchases and sales effected amounted to Rs 399.53 and 449.13 lakhs respectively. Of these societies if 66 together had earned a profit of Rs 11.93 lakhs, 33 together had incurred a loss of Rs 3.08 lakhs.

District Co-operative Wholesale Store: The earlier liquidated (1973-74) Central Co-operative Wholesale Store was reorganised (1975) and started its activities during 1976-77. This Central Wholesale store is mainly meant for providing the requirements of primary consumer societies affiliated to it and to have wholesale and retail business through its outlets. In 1983-84, the wholesale store had a

membership of 161 and the share capital of Rs 4.97 lakhs. The total financial assistance rendered by the Government for the store for activities like opening of large sized retail outlets, Janata Bazaar and under special component scheme including share capital, loan and subsidy, etc. have amounted to Rs 6.01 lakhs of which major portion (Rs 4.45 lakhs) was the share capital. The total purchases and sales effected by the store during 1983-84 amounted to Rs 113.12 and Rs 115.40 lakhs respectively as against Rs 135.65 and 152.35 lakhs in 1982-83. The profit earned by the store for 1983-84 and 1982-83 amounted to Rs 37,000 and Rs 94,000 respectively. The store has opened a Janata Bazaar in 1983 and three large-size retail outlets were opened between 1976 and 1983.

The Hukeri Taluk Co-operative Rural Electricity Society, Hukeri:
A unique co-operative was registered in 1969, initiated by the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd, New Delhi on the lines of National Rural Electric Co-operative Associations of United States of America. The area of operation of the society extends over the entire Hukeri taluk and Sutgatti village of Belgaum taluk. It is a miniature KEB in co-operative fold, mainly aimed at providing quick and better services to the consumers. The society purchases electricity in bulk from the KEB and redistributes among its members in addition to undertaking electrification and other allied works. The society has obtained a licence from the State Government for distribution of electricity for a period of 40 years from 1969.

The society had 1,247 members with a share capital of Rs 31,175 in 1970. By 1980, it was increased to 11,962 and Rs 13.25 lakhs respectively which was further enhanced by the end of March 1986 to 25,928 members and of them 25,760 were individuals and a share capital of Rs 43.20 lakhs including the Government share of Rs 16.70 lakhs. By the end of March 1985, the villages electrified by the society numbered 136 as against 20 in 1971. As in 1985, the total length of 11 kv transmission lines drawn was 615 km and the number of transformers installed was 491. The number of domestic and commercial connections together served by the society was 25,793 and the number of irrigation pumpsets energised was 8,094 in addition to supplying power to 831 small scale and three large scale industries in the taluk as in 1985. The total amount of long term loans on concessional rate of interest received by the society from the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd, New Delhi was to a tune of

Rs 283.40 lakhs guaranteed by the State Government and the society has repaid Rs 52.79 lakhs towards principal and Rs 63.20 lakhs towards interest by the end of March, 1985. The total assets and liabilities of the society accounted to Rs 370.86 and Rs 268.84 lakhs respectively by the end of March, 1985.

The capital investment of the society was reckoned at Rs 370.89 lakhs by the end of March, 1985 and it had created a development reserve of Rs 9.29 lakhs, special reserve fund of Rs 47.58 lakhs and had held Rs 22.08 lakhs as consumer deposits. The profit earned by the society for 1984-85 and 1983-84 accounted to Rs 1.07 lakhs and Rs 16,700 respectively. To facilitate the electrification of the Janata houses of poor and weaker sections, the society has granted loans on easy terms to 1,044 members under Janata Wiring Scheme and 2,026 members under the Internal Wiring Scheme by the end of March 1986. The society has its branches at Yamakanamaradi, Hidkal, Sankeshwar and Hukeri opened during 1970-73. By the end of March 1986, the society had 251 employees including casual labourers. Recently (1984), one more similar society has been registered at Bailhongal.

Housing Societies

Housing activities of the district under the co-operative fold made their beginning as early as in 1923 by establishing Gokak Co-operative Housing Society at Gokak. Housing activities for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes were also started in the district by 1950 by establishing Bhoj Harijan Co-operative Housing Society in Chikodi taluk (presently liquidated). By June 1985, the total number of housing societies in the district increased to 167 with a share capital of Rs 25.55 lakhs contributed by 18,563 members. The working capital amounted to Rs 234.71 lakhs and had advanced loans to an extent of Rs 1.21 lakhs. Of these societies, 65 had earned a profit of Rs 7.33 lakhs, while 62 together had incurred a loss of Rs 3.10 lakhs. Out of 167 societies 21 societies were meant for SC and ST communities. The financial assistance given by the Government during 1984-85 to seven housing societies in the district amounted to Rs 75,000. The total loan outstanding by the housing co-operatives in the district amounted to Rs 4.98 lakhs. The Karnataka State SC and ST Housing Corporation had given a loan of Rs 24.87 lakhs for the benefit of the members of the SC and ST housing societies. The total number of houses constructed by the members of the SC and ST and the general societies upto the end of June 1985 was 1,155 and 1,271 respectively since inception.

The Hind Co-operative Housing Society being the earliest co-operative of its kind in the district was registered in 1947. The society started its activities in 1954 by acquiring about 66 acres of land for the development of house sites. So far (1985), the Society has developed 367 plots wherein 215 houses have come up. The society had a membership of 337 with a share capital of Rs 98,800 in 1984-85 as against 273 members and share capital of Rs 66,500 a decade earlier. The profits earned by the Society for 1984-85 and in the previous year accounted to Rs 58,341 and Rs 18,925 respectively.

J G Co-operative Hospital, Ghataprabha is a unique co-operative of its kind founded in 1951 to cater to the medical requirements of the people of this area at the initiation of the late Swamiji of Murusavira Matha, Hubli, by donating land and money. The total membership of the organisation by the end of June 1985 was 811 mainly comprising of 481 life members and 285 permanent members and others. All types of modern medical facilities are extended by the hospital in addition to running a T B Sanatorium. This hospital also provides free and concessional treatment to the deserving poor patients. The total number of patients treated by the hospital during 1984-85 was 19,397, earning an income of Rs 9.88 lakhs. Number of people who got free treatment and concessional treatment together was 1,762 patients involving an amount of Rs 1.03 lakhs. The hospital has a blood bank started with a generous donation of Rs 50,000 from Hira Sugar, Sankeshwar. The State Government and Central Government have given certain grants to the hospital since its inception, for equipments, ambulance, construction of buildings, etc. The total amount so granted till the end of 1984-85 amounted to Rs 2.05 lakhs. The total assets and liabilities of the hospital by the end of June 1985 amounted to Rs 34.92 and Rs 37.50 lakhs respectively. The total staff employed is 62 as in 1985. (See also Chapter XVI).

Sports Promotion and Development Society is one of the special categories of Co-operative bodies, the first of its kind in the State, incorporated in 1984, managing a sports school at Kasba Chandargi, about 28 kms from Ramdurg. The Society mainly aims at the promotion of sports and games in addition to providing general educational facilities. At present it manages primary fifth and sixth classes in Kannada medium. The average intake capacity

of the school is 40 pupils per year to standard fifth. The society has availed the permission from the State Government to start composite sports high school in future. At present it has a strength of 80 students. It is a well equipped residential school, with all the necessary facilities for promotion of sports and games, housed in a spacious building, surrounded by 38 acres of vacant land wherein a full fledged sports campus is expected to come up in a phased manner. The Society had a membership strength of 1,120 with a share capital of Rs 5.64 lakhs by the end of June 1986. So far, the society has spent about Rs four lakhs for the development of the school complex and other equipments.

Labour Societies

Labour Societies in the district are mainly categorised into labour contract and Forest Labour Societies. The concentration of labour contract societies is found in the taluks of Belgaum and Chikodi, while forest labour societies are mainly found in Khanapur taluk. The first labour society to be organised in the district was the Khasbag Labour Society in April 1947 (since defunct). Among the Forest Labour Co-operatives, the Jamboti Forest Labour Society at Jamboti was the first to be organised in 1951 (since defunct). The good working labour contract and forest labour societies are: 1) Hiranyakeshi Labour Society, Sankeshwar and 2) Kolavi Forest Labour Society of Gokak taluk. By June 1985, the district had 29 labour and eight Forest Labour Co-operatives together with a membership of 3,208 and a share capital of Rs 2.31 lakhs including the Government share of Rs one lakh. The working capital of these co-operatives together was Rs 8.08 lakhs. Of the labour contract societies, ten together had earned a profit of Rs 15,000 while five had incurred a loss of Rs 2,000. It is reported that majority of these societies are not economically viable units and cease to function.

Grain Banks

These co-operatives are engaged in lending food grains along with cash to their members for agricultural purpose. Since the introduction of compulsory levy system of food grain by the Government, the working of these societies was affected and many had to close down. In this district, the first grainery society to be organised was at Hunnargi of Chikodi taluk in 1922 (since defunct). By 1974-75 the district had 16 such societies with a membership of 1,817 and the share capital was Rs 1.24 lakhs. They had a working

capital of Rs 3.23 lakhs. The loans advanced by them was Rs 74,000 and they had earned a profit of Rs 10,000. By June 1985, the number of these societies reduced to five with 803 members and a share capital of Rs one lakh including Rs 10,000 held by the Government. The loans issued was Rs 61,000. Of these societies, two together had earned a profit of Rs 10,000. In the next year (1986) the number of actual working Grain Banks was reduced to four and they are located at Santibastwad (Belgaum taluk), Bijaguppi and Hulkund of (Ramdurg taluk) and at Chikodi.

Transport Co-operative Societies

The district has nine transport societies as in 1984-85. The first such society to be started was Belgaum Ex-Servicemen Transport Co-operative Society at Belgaum in March 1948 followed by Belgaum District Motor Transport Society, Belgaum, in November 1948 (Both are declared as dormant). Majority of these societies do the business of sale of automobile spare parts and work as transportation agents on behalf of the members. These societies are not owning any vehicles of their own. The good working transport Societies of the district are (1) Hiranyakeshi Motor Transport Society, Sankeshwar (1966) and (2) Chikodi Taluk Motor Transport Society, Chikodi (1965). In June, 1985 all these societies together had a share capital of Rs 3.35 lakhs and had a membership of 1395. The working capital of these societies was Rs 34.36 lakhs and their borrowings amounted to Rs 14.88 lakhs. The loans advanced by these societies amounted to Rs 4.80 lakhs. Of these societies, five together had earned a profit of Rs 55,000.

Garibi Hatao Co-operatives: This new breed of co-operatives were promoted in the district between 1977 and 1980, with an objective of intensifying socio-economic ameliorative measures of the socio-economically backward groups like petty shop keepers, hawkers, barbers, dhobies, small artisans, agricultural labourers, etc. During 1983-84, the district had about 40 such societies. Majority of these societies have now become defunct.

Other Co-operatives

In addition to the above broad categories of co-operatives, the district has some other societies coming under the co-operative fold. They include 12 supervising unions with 514 members, three processing societies with 1,239 members, and share capital of Rs 7.68 lakhs, 18

Fisheries societies with 1977 members and share capital of Rs 70,000, eight taluk agricultural development societies, seven taluk development associations, one district fish marketing federation and one of the physically handicapped. It is reported that at present majority of these societies are not working, except a few agricultural development societies.

District Co-operative Union

The erstwhile Belgaum District Co-operative Board of Supervising Union incorporated in 1937, was reconstituted as District Co-operative Union in 1960 and is affiliated to the Karnataka State Co-operative Union, Bangalore. The main objectives of the Union include the propagation of the ideology and principles of co-operation through its several schemes including members' education programme. The union organises training classes of long and short duration for the benefits of the members and office bearers of co-operatives in addition to arranging of seminars, conferences, etc. Co-operative education fund and admission fees are the main sources of income to the union. The education fund collected by the union for 1984-85 and 1983-84 was of Rs 4.82 and Rs 2.95 lakhs respectively, as against Rs 28,000 during 1970-71. The income and expenditure of the union for 1985-86 was Rs 2.34 lakhs and Rs 1.72 lakhs as against Rs 3.00 lakhs and Rs 2.17 lakhs respectively for 1984-85. The membership of the union was 385 in 1984-85 as against 278 and 31 during 1980-81 and 1952-53 respectively.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

The Western Ghats running at the length of the Western parts of Belgaum district made the places in the district terminal points for the movement of goods taken from the hinterland of the Deccan plateau to the ports on the coast like Karwar, Chittakula, Old Goa (Gopakapattana), Vengurla, Redi and Malvan. They had to stop at points to the east of the Ghats. Thus Dodwad, Saundatti, Nandgad, Halasi, Golihalli (Sampagadi), Shirasangi (Pirisingi), Manoli, Belgaum (Venugrama), Huli, Athani, Hukeri, Shedbal, Telsang, Raybag (Huvinabage), Gokak, Khadaklat (Latti), Kabbur, etc. were some of the important commercial centres of antiquity. Two inscriptions from Belgaum dated 1204 speak of the flourishing trade of the place and the trade guilds. There were also traders coming from Lala (Gujarat) and Malayala (Kerala) in the town. The

goods traded at Belgaum included glass, cotton, perfumes, jewellery and gold, cloth, rice, black pepper, asafoetida, ginger, turmeric, oil, arecanuts, betel leaves, coconuts, coarse sugar, plantains, myrobolans, sugar cane, potstone, etc. There were several bazars in the town. A Kabbur record speaks of the horse trade of the place. A record from Sirsangi also speaks of the traders from Gujarat and Kerala having settled there. Many of the records speak of the powerful trade guilds called as Settiguttas, Mummari Dandas, Nanadesis, etc. A record from Kirusampadi (Golihalli-Bidi) dated 1173 speaks of the Settiguttas of the place. Trade guilds at Huli, Manoli, etc, are also mentioned. The Khadaklat or Latti record speaks of the Mahanadu or trade guild of the place. They had federations like the Ayyavole 500 mentioned in many places, as noted above. So powerful were the guilds that they provided protection to the caravans of moving merchants, who either in carts or pack animals moved from place to place in groups, carrying their merchandise. The Bedkihal plates of 1000 AD speak of the murder of Mangala Shetty a trader moving on the Mudanabatte (name of road) by a dacoit called Semanaka, and Revana, perhaps a person charged with the duty of protecting the caravans, taking an oath and killing Semanaka and his family including women and young children, totalling 13. The Ayyavole 500 honoured Revana for his action and he was exempted from the payment of certain customs duties on imports. These guilds met on occasions of weekly shandy, as referred to in the Saundatti record of 1228 and the Shedbal record of 1144 where the weekday of the shandy is given as Friday. These guilds made munificent grants to temples, mathas, bastis, etc, and also engaged themselves in charitable works, as indicated by the Belgaum, Manoli and Sirsangi records. The corporate trade body of Belgaum had 4,000 members according to the record of 1204.

During Adilshahi times, Athani, Raybag, Hukeri, Belgaum, Gokak and Chikodi continued in importance. The British had founded a factory at Raybag in the days of the Adilshahis as testified by Tavernier and he speaks of the flourishing trade in chillies at the place. Travellers also speak of the trade at Athani and Belgaum. Mandelslo (1639) and Ogilby (1670) have described Athani as one of the chief markets between Bijapur and Goa. The Wheelwrights at Athani were excellent workmen and it was noted for manufacturing of coarse cloth, blankets and salt-petre and had number of factories for processing and dyeing cotton. It was a chief rural market in the

district linking trade with Miraj. Nipani was noted for its trade and crowded weekly market specially for cattle, about 1,000 brought for sale weekly. Captain Moor (1720) speaks of the flourishing trade at Gokak and Chikodi. Gokak is described as "a centre of considerable trading importance"; according to him here cotton and silk weaving, dyeing, copper and brass work and woodcraft of the Chitragars flourished. Chikodi was a noted entrepot trade centre between the interior and the coast. In 1790 it was described as large and respectable town by Captain Moor and neighbourhood was famous for grapes of extraordinary size and flavour. It is said that the founders of Kittur dynasty were originally traders having come from Gulbarga area to trade in Belgaum area in the days of the Adilshahis, being suppliers of materials to the Bijapur army. Under them Nandgad, Sampgaon, Bailhongal and Gandigwad grew to be flourishing commercial centres. The migration of traders from Gujarat and also Rajastan continued in Adilshahi times.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Khanapur was entrepot trade centre for Goa merchants and this was hindered by about 1810 by Kittur Desai with an intention to develop Nandgad which formed the part of his territory. Forest products, food grains, spices, bangles and cotton fabrics were the main items of export. During the time of the Peshwas, in the Southern Maratha country generally every one in the cultivators family in the cotton growing belts did the spinning in spare time and there were many looms in *kasbas* and *petas*. At that time transit duties were paid on commodities in three types of coins viz, *nava rokka* (new coins), *juna rokka* (old coins) and in rupees. Number of commercial taxes were levied and one of them was *muhatarfa* (meaning general commercial tax in Arabic). It was levied on shop keepers, manufacturers, merchants, weavers and on miscellaneous contributors specially in Manoli area wherein the weavers used to produce good quality sarees, *dupattas* and coarse cloth. In about 1840, total amount of *muhatarfa* from the town of Chikodi was Rs 1,297 collected from 350 individuals classified under eight professions or castes.

Since the beginning of British rule communications improved much with other infra-structures. New provincial roads were built and hill passes were opened connecting Uttara Kannada and other districts of Bombay Karnataka and Hyderabad area. By 1826, the district had established trade links through roads

with far off places like Pune in the north, Sholapur in the east, Kolhapur, Goa, Vengurla and Ratnagiri in the west. Laying railway lines connecting Harihar and Pune during 1882-87, and further connecting Vasco from Londa in 1889, and thereafter Alnavar to Dandeli during First World War gave a boost to the trade of the district establishing far off links.

Trading in earlier centuries

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the leading communities engaged in trade which was combined with money lending were Lingayats and Jains in addition to Gujaratis, Marwadis and Parsis. The chief trade centres of the district were Belgaum, Bailhongal, Nandgad, Nipani, Sankeshwar, Gokak and Athani. In the last century, before the commencement of modern banking, business through *hundis* was very common among the traders. Shahpur under Sangli State had this business on a large scale (about Rs eight lakhs per year) and clothes produced here were exported to Nagpur and Paithan. The chief imports of Belgaum then were timber from Karwar, iron, glass and other European articles from Bombay, metals, vessels and salt from Poona and Sangli, coconut from Goa and Vengurla, while the chief export comprised of grain rice, wheat and pulses to Goa and Vengurla and cloths, dhotis, saris to Konkan, Dharwad and Bijapur. Bailhongal used to import indigo, waist cloth and head covers *rumals* from Madras and betelnut and molasses from Yellapur. Native Christians of Nandgad used to bring coconut, betelnut, coconut oil, salt and dates from Goa and Nandgad was a place of direct export. Shahpur, Chikodi, Yamakanamaradi and Desur were noted for weaving *mundas* or *rumal*. Gokak, Manoli and Murgod were famous in the production of printed cloth, while the places like Belgaum, M K Hubli and Bailhongal were noted for colourful carpets. The good quality cotton from Athani and surrounding area was exported to Chiplun. Government took number of measures for the promotion of cotton trade from the district.

Trade Centres

The present important wholesale and retail trade centres of the district include Athani, Shedbal, Ugar, Ainapur, Bailhongal, Sampgaon, Kittur, Nesargi, M K Hubli, Belawadi, Dodwad, Belgaum, Hirebagewadi, Hudli, Sulebhavi, Gokak, Ankalgi, Konnur, Ghataprabha, Mudalagi, Yadwad, Khanapur, Nandgad, Londa, Ramdurg,

Katkol, Sureban, Nipani, Ankali, Akkol, Sankeswar, Hukeri, Pachapur, Raybag, Kudachi, Chinchali, Saundatti, Manoli, Yargatti, Murgod, etc.

Present Imports and Exports

Considerable volume of import and export including entrepot business is done in the district. The chief imports and exports are as follows: The chief imports of Belgaum are from stations such as Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Coimbatore and include steel, industrial raw-materials, detergents, petroleum products, drugs, pharmaceuticals, electrical goods, stationery, jowar and timber. The main exports of the place include groundnut, cotton, jowar, gur, tejpatra, engineering goods such as hydraulic presses, jacks, etc, and aluminium ingots, cotton textile and hosiery, pickles and food products, vegetables, furniture, silver and gold ornaments, machine parts and tools. Shahpur is famous for its export of sarees and hosiery products. The main exports of Gokak include jaggery, cotton yarn, fancy goods of colourful wood craft. Imports include clothes from Ilkal, Rabakavi, Banhatti, Ichalakaranji and other places. Bailhongal imports chiefly cloth, jaggery, grocery and export footwear, oil-cake, cotton and groundnut, etc. The trade of Raybag is mainly linked with Sangli because of nearness and easy transportation facilities. Rice is imported from Andhra, kirana goods from Belgaum, handlooms from Sangli, groundnut, etc, are also imported. Exports include jaggery, chillies, maize to Sangli, and banana is exported from here on large scale to Kolhapur, Ichalakaranji and Belgaum. The main imports of Nipani include foodgrains and vegetables from Belgaum and Kolhapur, stationery and hardware, cutlery, gunny bags from Bombay; medicines, chillies, utensils from Poona and Kolhapur, furniture and electrical goods from Belgaum and Kolhapur and timber from Londa and Khanapur. Exports mainly include tobacco, jaggery, groundnut and aluminium utensils, raw tobacco (*anagod*, when processed is named as *jardi*) and exported to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Calcutta. There are about 100 tobacco processing units in the town. If rice, sugar and cloth are the main imports of Athani, exports include groundnut, cotton, jowar, footwear, etc. The Charmalaya started by Khadi and Village Industries Commission in 1968 here has given a fillip for the development of this local traditional craft and has provided direct employment avenues to about 1,050 persons. The Charmalaya, Athani had exported 80,000 pairs of chappals valued at Rs 11 lakhs to France during

1979-80, and in the next year, exported about 3 lakh pairs valued at Rs 48 lakhs to Italy and France. The value of goods produced by Charnalaya for 1983-84 amounted to Rs 28.17 lakhs as against Rs 24.15 lakhs in 1982-83.

The main mercantile imports of Chikodi are food-grains, cloth and yarn and the exports include betel leaves, sugarcane and tobacco, handlooms and utensils, etc. Hukeri imports wheat, rice, jowar and exports groundnut, jaggery, chillies, *agarbatis*, blankets and groundnut oil. The main imports and exports of Sankeshwar include provisions, jowar and rice, cloth and exports include sugar and jaggery, footwear, chillies, groundnut oil, etc. Ramdurg market imports chiefly groundnut, cotton, silk and art silk yarn and cereals and pulses, and exports groundnut oil, handloom cloth, jaggery and leather footwear, etc. The main imports of Khanapur include foodgrains, clothes, fertilizers and exports include ceramic pipes, paddy and rice, white clay and sand, bricks and earthenware, etc. Londa effects import trade in respect of timber and firewood, bone meal, charcoal, activated carbon powder and building materials, which are also exported to other places. Saundatti imports rice, jaggery and chillies from Dharwad, Byadagi, kumkum and turmeric powder and brass and copper utensils from Sangli and Miraj, fruits and flowers, coconuts, on large scale from other places, while the exports include cotton, safflower, groundnut, etc.

Employment in trade and commerce

In recent decades, due to improved infra-structure, expansion of marketing, enlarged trading and commercial activities have been made possible and these have drawn more and more people towards trade and commerce as a main occupation. In 1971, the total number of people engaged in trade and commerce in the district was 42,182 as against 29,287 in 1961, and of these 26,313 were in urban area and the rest (15,869) in rural pockets. Taluk-wise, there was more concentration in Belgaum taluk (14,048) because of its trading and industrial importance followed by Chikodi (5,413), Gokak (4,284), Hukeri (3,723) and Paragad (3,279) and the least number (1,385) in Raybag taluk. In the rural segments of the district, more concentration is found in rural parts of Paragad (2,364), Hukeri (2,090) and Sampgaon (2,019) taluks.

Trade Associations

In the present set up of trade and commerce, the district has a

number of merchants associations formed by different traders, occupations and industries to promote and strengthen their interest in trade and commerce. These voluntary and advisory bodies render some useful services to their members like collecting, classifying and disseminating statistical and other commercial information in addition to undertaking arbitration and most of these associations are concentrated in Belgaum only. The chief trade associations of the district at present include the Belgaum Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Belgaum, the Gold Dealers and Jewellers' Association, the Chavi Market Merchants' Association; the Belgaum Coal and Coke Consumers Co-operative Association, Belgaum Vyapari Sangha, Belgaum Automobiles Merchants Association, Belgaum Bakers Association, Belgaum Hotel Owners Association, Belgaum Motor Workshop Owners Association, Belgaum and Shahpur Bhandi Vyapari Sangha, Cloth, Silk and Yarn Merchants Association, Shahpur, General Merchants Association and the Saraff Association (all in Belgaum), the Bailhongal Kirana Vartakar Sangh Bailhongal, Foodgrain and Kirana Merchants Association, Sankeswar and the Kirana Vyapari Sangh, Khanapur. All these associations are the associate members of Belgaum Chamber of Commerce and many of these associations are registered bodies under the Societies Act. Of the existing associations, Belgaum Vyapari Sangh established in 1896 is said to be the earliest one.

The Belgaum Chamber of Commerce and Industries: This business fraternity of the district first set up in 1966 was registered in 1968. The membership of the organisation comprises of three categories and the area of operation extends all over India. Among other things, its chief aims and objectives are to contribute for the general promotion of trade and commerce and industrial prosperity of the district in addition to foster and develop mutual help, understanding and goodwill among the business community. For the last two decades, the chamber is championing the cause of small scale industries and their spread out in the rural areas. The organisation conducted technical survey of the district in 1973 on the industrial potentialities of the district. It is affiliated to the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, New Delhi. In 1985, it had a membership of 500 as against 529 and 460 in 1982 and 1980 respectively. The income and expenditure of the organisation for 1985 was Rs 59,893 and Rs 44,145 as against Rs 48,086 and Rs 35,096 respectively for 1984.

Belgaum Vyapari Sangh: Belgaum Vyapari Sangh was first formed in 1896 and was registered in 1969 with the city corporation limits being its jurisdiction. The organisation has provided as many as 11 different categories of membership so as to facilitate the common interest of different trade faculties. This is affiliated to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi and Karnataka Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore. Promotion of unity and co-operation among the members engaged in trade and commerce and thereby protecting their common interest is the chief objectives of the guild.

Regulated Markets

Regulation of the marketing activities through legislation began in India in 1886. Regulated markets are expected to ensure not only remunerative and competitive prices to the growers but also to systematise marketing processes on proper lines by eliminating various malpractices.

Bombay A P M C Act 1939: Prior to the Re-organisation of the State, the market committees functioning in the district at places like Bailhongal (1936--under Cotton Market Act of 1927), Athani and Gokak (1948), Sankeshwar (1950), Belgaum (1955) and Nipani (1956) were governed in accordance with the provisions of Bombay A P M C Act XXII of 1939. After the Reorganisation of the State, a more comprehensive and uniform regulation known as Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act 1966 was enacted and brought into force from May 1968 and in the meanwhile, the regulated markets for other taluks viz. Ramdurg (1958), Kudachi and Nandgad (1961), Saundatti (1962) were established. The main market yards in respect of Chikodi, Khanapur, Hukeri and Raybag taluks are located outside the taluk headquarters. In addition to the main markets, there are a number of sub-markets attached to each market opened subsequently. At present, there are in all 30 sub-markets in the district attached to the main markets. The list of market-wise sub-markets is as follows. Athani: Kagwad (1955); Belgaum: Hirebagewadi (1968); Nipani: Chikodi (1978), Nipani—Livestock (1979); Kudachi: Harugeri (1962) and Raybag (1984); Gokak: Mudalgi and Ankalgi (1955), Ghataprabha (1977); Bailhongal: Kittur and Nesargi (1969), Dodwad (1983); Ramdurg; Katkol (1958), Hulkund (1960) and Sureban (1975); Saundatti: Yargatti, Murgod (all in 1962), Manoli (1975); Sankeshwar: Hukeri, Pachapur, Yamakanamardi and Bellad Bagewadi (1955),

Daddi (1977), Hebbal (1981); Nandgad: Khanapur, Bidi, Halsi, Itagi, K Nandagad (all in 1969).

The Act in force covers all marketing functions at the primary and wholesale level within its perview and has rationalised market charges. The maximum rate of commission has been fixed at 2% in respect of all other agricultural produces and 5% for perishable goods. According to the Act, there is a provision to create market which includes market fees, licence fees, grants, loans and contribution, etc, and all expenditure of the committee should be met out of this fund. The market functionaries in different capacities are required to obtain licences. The district marketing officer is empowered to administer the provisions of the (1) K A P M (Regulation) Act 1966 & (2) Karnataka Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act 1973. To ensure more effective administration and implementation of the above rules and regulations, the office of the District Marketing Officer was opened at Belgaum in 1967.

Notified Commodities

The list of notified commodities brought under the regulation varies from market to market depending upon produces of the hinterland attached to each market. If the markets like Sankeshwar, Khanapur and Nipani have 5-6 notified commodities, the markets like Belgaum has 26 commodities including livestock followed by Saundatti 15, Kudachi 14 and Gokak 13. Some of the chief notified commodities of markets in the district include jowar, wheat, bajra, maize, cotton, groundnut, gur, dry chillies, coriander, garlic, onion, horsegram, tobacco, turmeric, safflower, etc. The method of sale adopted in the district before the regulation was '*hatya*' (under covering) and *hissa* system (temporary parting system). At present tender, open auction and open agreement are the modes of sale prevailing all over the district.

Out of ten Regulated Markets in the district, seven were included under the World Bank Development Scheme, and carried out various developmental activities. The total amount of loans sanctioned for the development of seven regulated markets under the World Bank Scheme amounted to Rs 63.09 lakhs and the markets included were Belgaum, Gokak, Bailhongal, Saundatti, Ramdurg, Sankeshwar and Athani. In addition to the above assistance, APMCs in the district have also carried on developmental works such as

providing godowns, auction platforms, cattle sheds, water and road facilities, etc, for each regulated markets, out of the assistance by the agencies like Central Government, National Grid of Rural Godown Funds and also from their own committee funds. Except Nandgad and Kudachi all main markets are provided with grading centres to grade commodities like cotton, groundnut, jaggery, tobacco, chillies, etc. There are also two State ghee grading laboratories attached to Belgaum and Sankeshwar markets. The total staff employed by all the APMCs of the district is reported as 277 as in 1986. The wholesale trade centres of agricultural commodities in the district are Belgaum, Gokak, Mudalgi, Hukeri, Sankeshwar, Raybag, Kudachi, Harugeri, Khanapur, Ramdurg, Sureban, Saundatti, Yargatti, Manoli, Bailhongal, Kittur, Nipani, Chikodi, Athani and Kagwad.

The table hereunder indicates some important notified commodities sold through the APMCs of the district and their sales value for some years.

(Rs in lakhs)

Name of Commodity	1981-82		1983-84		1985-86	
	Sales (Qntls)	Value Rs	Sales (Qntls)	Value Rs	Sales (Qntls)	Value Rs
Cotton	7,17,466	1,591.01	5,51,834	3,253.47	9,69,448	3,047.52
Jaggery	2,71,156	634.18	2,03,099	859.55	3,34,678	1,223.70
Groundnut	2,40,103	850.46	1,24,698	484.43	1,40,046	639.60
Jowar	72,278	124.45	69,615	143.41	1,47,307	459.57
Wheat	16,931	47.12	16,760	45.59	18,092	55.39
Tobacco	2,31,268	1,320.50	2,74,460	1,978.44	797	6.55
Paddy	1,11,412	167.33	65,392	138.59	17,245	34.16
Onion	1,64,252	2,110.79	1,95,947	249.87	3,83,130	462.44
Potato	3,46,593	206.77	3,23,727	244.26	2,37,679	549.86
Rice	67,988	269.19	57,437	215.87	58,049	218.18

Market functionaries

In recent years, there is an increase in the number of market functionaries attached to each market due to expansion of markets

and sub-markets. The total number of market functionaries (20 categories together) of the district was 12,704 during 1980-81, the bulk (8,195) being traders of all categories, as against 11,984 total market functionaries in the district in 1985-86 comprising of 7,602 traders of all categories (ABCD), 728 commission agents, 475 stockists, 590 importers, 794 exporters, 189 processors, and the rest, others.

The table hereunder indicate market-wise income and expenditure for the years 1981-82, 1983-84 and 1985-86.

(Rs in lakhs)

Name of regulated market	1981-82		1983-84		1985-86	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Athani	3.27	1.73	5.38	2.40	2.09	1.38
Bailhongal	12.96	5.28	15.63	7.07	19.20	8.41
Belgaum	20.08	7.68	38.12	14.38	28.45	13.14
Gokak	13.92	7.29	22.79	14.00	10.74	5.84
Kudachi	1.08	0.65	1.05	0.67	0.82	0.47
Nandgad	2.49	1.03	2.17	0.89	2.30	1.67
Nipani	25.58	6.76	47.18	18.24	4.49	2.38
Ramdurg	5.28	3.72	13.78	6.86	9.27	6.06
Sankeshwar	5.95	4.03	3.91	2.56	2.94	1.96
Saundatti	14.24	6.02	48.06	20.69	28.03	10.12

Regulated Market Bailhongal: APMC, Bailhongal was first constituted in 1936 under the provisions of the Bombay Cotton Market Act, 1927 and later in 1942 it was reconstituted and brought under the purview of the Bombay Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1939, with an area of operation covering the entire revenue taluk. In 1974 the Market Yard was named after "Isha Prabhu", a local chief of Belawadi. There are three sub-markets attached to this market set up at Kittur and Nesargi in 1969 and at Dodwad in 1983. The chief regulated commodities of the market area include cotton, both ginned and unginned, shelled and unshelled groundnut, jaggery, paddy husked and unhusked, jowar, safflower, dry chillies, coriander, cattle

feed. The mode of sales prevailing in the market are tender for cotton and groundnut, open auction for onion, garlic and foodgrains, and by open agreement for cattle, sheep and goats, etc. The present developmental works undertaken by the Market Committee out of its own funds are estimated to cost Rs 1.72 lakhs in addition to undertaking several developmental works like shops for traders, godowns, veterinary dispensary, etc, under central assistance scheme.

The market committee has provided the facilities like warehousing (by the Central Warehouse), commercial grading of groundnut (1963-64), scientific grading of *kapas* (1966-67) and such other facilities conducive for the development of marketing. The committee has installed its own gin for grading of cotton on the basis of Agmark specification. The market committee owns a market yard extending about 36 acres. Some developmental works have been undertaken by the committee under the world bank project to provide necessary infrastructure amounted to Rs 10.56 lakhs for four works during the period from 1977-78 to 1981-82. The total number of market functionaries during 1985-86 increased the number of market functionaries to 1,408 comprising of 935 traders (A B C D classes), 86 commission agents, 61 exporters, 62 importers, 58 stockists, 15 processors, 13 crushers and the rest others. The total income and expenditure of the committee during the last five years was as follows (the figures in the brackets indicate income and expenditure respectively in terms of lakhs of rupees): 1985-86 (19.20, 8.40), 1984-85 (16.21, 6.47), 1983-84 (15.62, 7.06), 1982-83 (22.22, 5.71) and 1981-82 (12.95, 5.28). The latest reconstitution of the committee was made in June 1983, comprising of 13 members representing different constituencies including nominations. The table given below indicates the volume of arrivals of some important notified commodities and their sales value and the number of cattle sold in the Regulated Market Area for 1985-86.

(Rupees in lakhs)

<i>Name of commodity</i>	<i>Arrival Quintals</i>	<i>Sales Value</i>
1	2	3
Cotton Jayadhar	648	3.32
Cotton Lint Jayadhar	23	.24
Rice	1,865	5.48

1	2	3
Groundnut : Gejji	36,842	150.71
Bold	504	2.05
Gur	488	.48
Onion	1,166	1.15
Garlic	821	4.41
Dry Chillies	21	.21
Jowar	2,580	2.71
Cotton Sharada	1,754	7.36
Cotton DCH 32	3,30,485	841.80
Cotton CO2	550	1.55

<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Nos Sold</i>	<i>Sales value</i>
Oxen	1,286	14.01
Bullocks	1,146	12.95
Cows	126	1.55
Buffaloes (he)	172	.93
Buffaloes (she)	2,366	38.56
Goats (he)	509	1.75
Goats (she)	1,596	3.72
Sheep	2,729	5.67

State trading

Prior to 1981 in the district, the procurement of paddy and jowar from the growers was done by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, Bangalore, through the agencies like TAPCMS and other Co-operatives. Since 1981-82, levy paddy is collected from the millers and traders only on certain fixed (50%) percentage. In addition to this, paddy is also being purchased under support price. For 1984-85, the levy procurement of rice was 25,200 quintals as against the fixed target to 80,000 quintals and the purchase

price for rice was Rs 228.45 (super fine), Rs 222.45 (fine) and 216.45 for common variety while it was Rs 145, 141 and 137 for paddy of the above varieties respectively.

Rationing : At present, the district has only three informal rationing areas, viz. Belgaum city (1974), Nipani (1978) and Gokak (1984). The total number of fair price shops in the district by the end of March 1985 was 1,250 and of them, 674 were managed by KFCSC and the rest by individuals (134) and others (442) as against 1,240 and 1,222 fair price shops in 1983 and 1980 respectively. The Belgaum city had 133 shops by the end of March, 1985.

Warehousing and Godowns

With the main objectives of providing facilities of scientific storage and easy credit to depositors, Central and State Warehousing activities in the district were started in 1962 and in 1964 respectively by opening warehouses at Belgaum and Athani with a storage capacity of 17,293 MT and 1,000 MT respectively. The commodities that are being stored in the district mainly include foodgrains, pulses, fertilisers, seeds, jaggery, cotton bales, oilseeds and other notified commodities by the Government. Central Warehousing Corporation has also opened its warehouses on hire basis at Saundatti (1979) and Bailhongal (1980) with a storage capacity of 2,260 and 2,444 MT. Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore (1957) has also opened warehouses at Gokak in 1975 and 1985 with a total storage capacity of 3,000 MT in addition to managing hired godowns at Kudachi, Sankeshwar, together with total capacity of 2,800 MT and at Nipani to facilitate the storage of tobacco. The total income and expenditure of four warehouses of State Warehousing Corporation for 1983-84 accounted to Rs 2.38 and Rs 2.44 lakhs respectively.

Godowns : In addition to the above storage facilities by warehousing corporations, construction of rural godowns is also undertaken under the control of the department of co-operation by Co-operative Societies under different schemes with different capacities ranging from 50 tonnes to 5,000 tonnes. From 1975-76 to 1984-85, the total number of rural godowns of different capacities sanctioned was 447 and of them 361 were of smaller capacity (100 tonnes). The total number of godowns completed was 374.

Weights and Measures

Before the introduction of Metric System in 1961, in accordance with the provisions of Karnataka Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act 1958 and the earlier Bombay Weights and Measures Act 1932, there was a great variation in the weights and measures that were in vogue in the district according to local trade customs and usages. As per the old records, in the last century, in the district, precious stones and pearls were not sold by weights but on the basis of size and quality of the stones. The table for weighing of gold and silver was eight *gulganji* (abras seeds) is one *masa* and 12 *masa* is one *tola*, and *tola* was always represented by imperial rupee weight which was standard. Silver ornaments were weighed against rupee. The other metals like copper, brass, tin, iron including foodgrains were sold by *sher* or *mana*. The *sher* varied from 20 to 80 *tolas* within the district and *mana* contained 40 or 41 *shers*. Green and dry grass was sold in *pendis* or *shevadus*. Cotton was measured on the basis of 52 *shers* to one *mana* and 20 *manas* equalled one *khandi*. Timber was sold by cubic contents according to English measurement. To the south of the Krishna including Belgaum, *sher* was equal to 80 rupees weight of nine grains. The table in general was, four *sher* was one *solige* or *chitti*, 16 *solige* was one *mana* or *andige*, 20 *manas* was one *khanduga*. Liquids like milk, oil, etc, were sold by a capacity measure also called *sher* equal to 20 rupees (*tolas*) in weight. Fragrant oils were sold according to the table for weighing of gold and silver. Salt on wholesale was bought according to the measure *paili* equal to four *shers* (320 *tolas*) and was sold on retail measure *sher*. The unit for measuring length was *hath* (cubit) of 18'' length, and two *haths* were equal to *gaza* or *var* or yard. During the Peswas, land measure was in the unit of *bigha* and one *bigha* was equal to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{3}{4}$ acres. Land measuring was introduced in the district in 1840 and measures like acre and gunta came in vogue. Generally, the extent of land which can be sowed in a day by one farmer is called *kurige* equal to about four acres.

The office of the Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures was opened at Belgaum in 1962, exercising the jurisdiction over the district. During 1983-84, traders numbering 15,657, industrial establishments (402), petrol and HSD pumps (160) and tank lorries (15) were in the district coming under the regulation of the Department. The number of units verified and stamped during 1983-84 was 1,58,107 weights, 87,631 measures, 35,218 weighing instruments and 328 measuring instruments and the fees collected for verification and

stamping amounted to Rs 3.83 lakhs as against Rs 3.37 lakhs during 1980-81. The number of cases booked in the district in 1983-84 for contravening the provisions of the Act was 732 and of them, 427 were compounded. The fine levied was Rs 27,200.

Fairs

About hundred years ago as many as nine very important *jatras* were held in the district with large congregation of devotees. Of them, Saundatti Yellamma with a congregation of about 70,000 people, Mangsuli Marthanda with 8,000, Kokatnur Yellamma with 25,000, Sankeshwar Shankarling with 25,000, Yedur Veerabhadra *jatra* with 10,000, Kanamadi *jatra* of Bhairadeva with 8,000 devotees were prominent. Volume of sales effected in these *jatras* ranged between Rs 10,000 to 35,000. In addition to promoting religious, spiritual and socio-cultural activities, they facilitate considerable trade transactions both in commodities of general and special use and cattle. (See chapter III, pp : 244-50 for details)

Shandis

Shandis (weekly bazars) have facilitated barter trade transactions since olden days and continue to be active retail and wholesale outlets for the local produces. There are inscriptional evidences found at Saundatti in 1128 A D and at Shedbal 1144 A D making reference to weekly shandies. Important weekly markets during the last century in the district were at Belgaum, Kittur, Sampgaon, Khanapur, Saundatti and Murgod and in about 50 large villages of the district. Shandi-markets are helpful to small agriculturist labourers and other small producers including rural craftsmen to find a ready market. In these weekly markets many itinerant traders are found in dealing in cheap articles attracting large number of consumers from lower income group. In many cases, the shandy day is generally associated with the week day auspicious for the chief local deity. Cattle markets are also held in some places on the shandy day or some other day under the supervision of the Regulated Market Committees in addition to marketing of cattle on large scale on the occasion of big *jatras* of Savalagi, Mudalagi, Ankalagi, Chinchali, etc. Regular weekly cattle markets are held in the following places. Belgaum, Hirebagewadi, Nipani, Saundatti, Sankeshwar, Mudalagi, Bailhongal, Mangasuli, Chikodi, Ramdurg, Khanapur and Chinchali. It is reported that in the weekly cattle markets like Sankeshwar and Mudalagi about 3,000 cattle are sold

on an average and it is about 2,000 cattle in the markets of Belgaum and Hirebagewadi.

Taluk-wise list of important shandies: 1) *Athani*: Athani, Kagwad (Sun); Khilegaon, Kokatnur, Satti (Fri); Anantpur (Mon); Mangsuli, Shedbal (Tue); Nandgaon, Jambagi (Wed); Ugarkhurd, Madhabhavi (Thu); Ainapur, Shiraguppi (Sat). 2) *Sampgaon*: Sampgaon (Sun); M K Hubli, Kittur, Nesargi (Mon); Belawadi (Tue); Dodwad, Sangolli, Deshnur (Thu); Bailhongal (Fri); 3) *Belgaum*: Belgaum (Sat); Hirebagewadi, Belgundi (Tue); Hudali, Ankalgi (Mon); Sulebhavi, Marihal (Wed); Santibastawad, Kadoli (Fri); 4) *Gokak*: Gokak, Mallapur PG, Gokak Falls, Mudalgi (Sun); Konnur, Mamadapur (Mon); Yadwad (Thu); Ankalgi, Koujalgi (Fri); Kallolli (Sat); 5) *Khanapur*: Khanapur, Londa (Sun); Halashi (Mon); Nandgad (Wed); Itagi (Tue); Kakkeri (Fri); Bidi (Sat). 6) *Ramdurg*: Ramdurg (Sun); Hoskoti (Mon); Hulkund, Mudakavi (Thu); Sureban, Katkol (Fri). 7) *Chikodi*: Chikodi, Nipani (Thu); Kothali (Sun); Sadalaga (Mon); Kharoshi, Examba, Saundalaga (Tue); Khadaklat, Manjari, Bhoj (Wed); Ankali, Konganoli (Fri); Akol (Sat). 8) *Hukeri*: Hukeri (Mon); Hidkal Dam (Sun); Pachapur, Bellad Bagewadi, Yamakanamardi (Tue); Yadgud (Wed); Nidsosi, Hebbal (Thu); Sankeshwar (Fri). 9) *Raybag*: Raybag (Mon); Harugeri, Mugalkhod (Wed); Kudachi (Fri); Hidkal (Sat); Chinchali (Sun). 10) *Parasagad*: Saundatti (Wed); Manoli, Hosur (Thu); Shirsangi, Murgod, Inamhongal (Fri); Yaragatti (Sat).