

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Welfare **I**NDUSTRIAL labour welfare now-a-days causes not a little anxiety to all modern governments owing to the increasing resort to industrial strikes. The idea began undoubtedly as a humanitarian reform and is primarily an economic problem though it assumes sometimes a political complexion and to-day it has become one of the crucial problems in the field of industries. The Factories Act regulated the employment of children and women and also provided for safeguards to the labourers against injury. This statute was amended from time to time providing desirable measures for regulating the hours of work, interval between periods of work, provision of canteens and other amenities.

The various labour laws that are in force in the district are :

- (1) Factories Act
- (2) Industrial Disputes Act
- (3) Payment of Wages Act
- (4) Minimum Wages Act
- (5) Workmen's Compensation Act
- (6) Indian Trade Union Act
- (7) Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act
- (8) Maternity Benefits Act
- (9) Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act
- (10) Employees' Provident Fund Act
- (11) Motor Transport Workers Act

The Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers is the authority for the enforcement of the Factories Act, Payment of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefits Act and the Commissioner of Labour for all the other Acts in force, which are administered by the jurisdictional officers appointed for the purpose. The Employees' Provident Fund Act is separately administered by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner.

The Labour Officer, Raichur, is the officer in charge of the Administration of the Labour Department in Bellary district. He works under the supervision and guidance of the Assistant Labour Commissioner and Conciliation Officer, Gulbarga Division, Bellary and through him is responsible to the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Belgaum Region, Hubli, and the Commissioner of Labour in Mysore, Bangalore, in all matters pertaining to the administration of the department.

The Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, Shops and Commercial Establishments regulating the working conditions of persons employed in shops and commercial establishments, provides for compulsory weekly holidays, fixed hours of work, giving of proper notice of termination and grant of suitable compensation for wrongful dismissal.

The Act is in force in all the taluk headquarters towns of the district as also at Kampli, Kamalapura and Kottur. There are three Labour Inspectors in the district, one each at Bellary, Hospet and Harapanahalli, who are working under the direct control of the Labour Officer, Raichur. They have also been notified as Inspectors under the Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, the Minimum Wages Act and the Motor Transport Workers Act. These Inspectors go round in their respective jurisdictions and find out whether the owners of shops and commercial establishments adhere strictly to rules and regulations, and take necessary measures in case of any omission or irregularity.

There were in all 4,358 shops and commercial establishments in the district at the beginning of January 1970, in which 4,651 persons were employed. The reason for this small number of employees is due to the fact that most of the shops and commercial establishments are managed by the owners themselves without the assistance of employed workers.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, ensures the fixation of Minimum Wages for labour different rates of minimum wages for workers employed in different categories of scheduled industries involving hard manual labour, such as agriculture, cotton-ginning and pressing, automobile engineering (including servicing and repairing works), rice, flour and oil mills, public motor transport, tanneries and leather manufacture, beedi manufacture, construction works and the like. The three Labour Inspectors in the district, who are also notified as Inspectors under the Minimum Wages Act, enforce the provisions of this Act and the Rules framed thereunder in their respective jurisdictions. Minimum rates of wages were prescribed by Government in the year 1968 for agricultural labour which accounts for the bulk of the labour force in the district. (For rates of wages, see Chapter IX.)

**Motor Transport
Workers Act**

This piece of labour legislation confers certain benefits like regulation of working hours, payment of overtime wages, free supply of uniforms, provision of washing allowance, etc., on motor transport workers. This Act is applicable to all transport establishments employing five or more workers. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Bellary, is the registering authority under the Act for Bellary district, while the Labour Officer, Raichur, and the three Labour Inspectors in the district are the notified Inspectors under the Act.

**Industrial
Disputes**

The Deputy Labour Commissioner, Belgaum Region, Hubli, is the principal conciliation officer for the district, who is empowered, under the Industrial Disputes Act, to bring about conciliation in industrial disputes arising from establishments employing 500 or more workers. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Bellary, and the Labour Officer, Raichur, are also conciliation officers under the Act in respect of disputes arising from establishments employing 200 workers or more and less than 200 workers, respectively. They are required to mediate under the law, and submit reports regarding the outcome of their efforts, to their superior officers. If their attempts at conciliation fail, and the dispute drags on, they refer the matter to Government through the Labour Commissioner. The Government then refer the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal or Labour Court for adjudication.

The following statement indicates the number of industrial disputes that arose in the district, the number disposed of and the number pending disposal during the period from 1966 to 1970 :—

Year	<i>Number of disputes received (including those brought forward from previous year)</i>	<i>Number disposed of</i>	<i>Number pending</i>
1	2	3	4
1966 ..	59	59	Nil
1967 ..	15	11	4
1968 ..	9	7	2
1969 ..	10	9	1
1970 ..	7	7	Nil

**Factories and
other Establish-
ments**

There is also an Inspector of Factories at Bellary to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act, Payment of Wages Act, and the Maternity Benefits Act in the district. He is under the direct administrative control of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers, Bangalore. He is required to see that all the factories coming under the purview of the Factories Act, follow the statutory obligations imposed under the Act. In case of infringement of any of the obligations, he brings the matter before the appropriate court of law.

There were 139 factories registered under the Factories Act in Bellary district in 1971 employing about 11,260 workers. In addition, there were 586 commercial establishments employing 1,750 persons, 429 restaurants employing 2,610 persons and 22 cinema houses employing 293 workers during that period.

The following statement indicates the number of strikes, the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost in the district during the period from 1966-67 to 1969-70 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of strikes</i>	<i>No. of workers involved</i>	<i>No. of man-days lost</i>
1966-67 ..	3	4,825	3,123
1967-68 ..	1	92	92
1968-69 ..	2	1,292	10,892
1969-70 ..	1	40	40

The Trade Unions Act recognises the right of workers to organise themselves into trade unions for purposes of collective bargaining and redressal of their grievances. The industrial workers in the district have realised the advantages of collective bargaining and have been quick to take advantage of the provisions of this Act, in order to further their welfare. There were eleven registered trade unions in the district in 1961 and this number had increased to 15 by the year 1971.

The conditions of the labour population in the district have improved a great deal by the helpful measures initiated by the employers, either as a result of statutes or of their own free will. Various ameliorative measures have been brought into force by some of the big industrial establishments, like the Co-operative Sugar Factory, Kampli, India Sugars and Refineries, Hospet, the Tungabhadra Steel Products, T. B. Dam, and Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores, Vysanakere, etc. These establishments have provided free medical aid to their employees and are also running canteens, co-operative societies and schools. About 210 quarters have been constructed at Hospet under the Industrial Housing Scheme sponsored by the Government of India, for accommodating the labour population. (See also Chapter V under Welfare of Industrial Labour).

Government have also initiated several other welfare schemes for the benefit of workers, such as provision of banking facilities, screening of films, workers' education and training facilities and the like. With a view to affording relief to the industrial workers who are often in the clutches of money-lenders, co-operative societies of workers have been organised and loans are given at

reasonable rates of interest. The Labour Department conducts film-shows to educate the workers on the improved methods of work aimed at increasing productivity in industrial concerns and on safety measures. These shows are arranged in bigger industrial concerns and also at exhibitions and such other occasions.

There is also a scheme of providing training to the workers in their respective trades so as to increase their skill and make them more useful. They are also educated on their rights and obligations under the various labour laws in force. For this purpose, a 13-week course of practical instruction in all the relevant subjects is held, the trainees being selected from the labour population on the recommendations of trade unions. For implementing this scheme, there is an Education Officer of the Central Board for Workers' Education at Hubli with jurisdiction over Bellary and some other contiguous districts. He contacts the trade unions, managements and others and organises the training programmes with their co-operation.

Increased attention is being paid towards provision of health and sanitation facilities in labour colonies. Centres for child welfare have been opened at several places. Canteens, creches and rest-shelters have been provided near some of the work-spots for the benefit of workers. Maternity benefits have been provided for women labourers. Reading rooms, libraries and recreation facilities have also been provided by some of the bigger industrial concerns in addition to providing housing and drinking water facilities.

**Employees'
Provident Fund
Scheme**

The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, is a Central Act and it has been made applicable to a number of establishments in the district. Membership of the fund is open to all employees of establishments to which the scheme applies, only after the employee has completed one year's continuous service or 240 days of actual work during a period of 12 months. Contribution at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the basic pay and dearness allowance (inclusive of cash value of any food concession admissible) is deducted by the employers each month in respect of all employees who get a pay of Rs. 1,000 per mensem or less. An amount equal to the workers' contribution, namely $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the basic wages and dearness allowance, is contributed by the employers each month. The expenses of administration and supervision of the fund are met from the administrative and inspection charges. An employee may, however, be allowed by the Provident Fund Commissioner to contribute upto $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent if the former so desires. Further the statutory rate of provident fund contributions in respect of certain well-established industries employing 50 or more persons were enhanced to 8 per cent with effect from October 1963.

Under the amended Provident Fund Scheme, any employee, who is not eligible to join the scheme, can also be enrolled as a member, on the joint application of both the employer and the employee, provided the employer agrees in writing to pay his own share of the provident fund contribution and also administrative charges in respect of such employee.

For the administration of the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, there is a Regional Provident Fund Commissioner for Mysore State at Bangalore. He is assisted in this work by Divisional Inspectors, one of whom is stationed at Raichur, with jurisdiction over Bellary district as well. Such of the establishments which have completed five years of infancy period and possess an employment strength of 20 or more are covered under this scheme. Establishments having an employment strength of 50 or more and three years of existence are also covered. Industrial establishments having less than 20 employees but more than 15, are called marginal establishments and there is no statutory compulsion involved in their cases.

In respect of those factories which have a provident fund scheme of their own and the provisions of which are in conformity with or are more favourable than the provisions of the statutory scheme, the Employees' Provident Fund Act provides for their exemption from the operation of the scheme. There was just one such industrial establishment in the district, *viz.*, Messrs. Sandur Manganese and Iron Ores (Pvt.) Ltd., which has its own more beneficial provident fund scheme. In all, 55 industrial establishments in the district were covered under the provident fund scheme in 1971. Of these, 26 establishments had employed 20 or more workers and 29 establishments 50 or more workers. Of the latter, eight establishments were contributing at the rate of 8 per cent. The total monthly and annual provident fund contributions of all the 55 industrial establishments in the district in 1971 were Rs. 1,13,309 and Rs. 13,59,828 respectively.

The meagre wages of the factory workers, generally, did not allow any scope for saving. The result was that on ceasing to be employed, the workers were leading a life of penury, and in the event of their premature death, the members of their families became destitute. Therefore, a death relief fund has also been organised under the provident fund scheme with effect from 1st January 1964 for affording financial assistance to the nominees or heirs of deceased members. The benefit of this fund is extended to every nominee or heir of a deceased member whose monthly pay and also the provident fund balance does not exceed Rs. 750 at the time of death. Thus the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, with its scheme of compulsory contributory provident fund, meets two important requirements, namely (a) a substantial saving at the time of retirement of the employee and (b)

provision of relief to the members of the family in the event of his premature death. Provision has also been made under the scheme for grant of advances to the members for (i) financing old insurance policies, (ii) construction of houses and (iii) to defray medical expenses, from their share of contributions to the fund.

**Employees'
State Insurance
Scheme**

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme was proposed to be extended to Bellary and Hospet with effect from 25th March 1972. To start with, two E.S.I. Dispensaries were being established, one in each of these places. The scheme provides for the protection of insured persons in contingencies arising out of sickness, maternity and employment injury. Cash grants are also made to the dependents of the insured workers at the latter's death to cover the funeral expenses, etc. Besides, medical care including hospitalisation, specialists' treatment and domiciliary visits are also provided to the insured persons in addition to medical treatment at the dispensary level to their families.

Prohibition

Prohibition was first introduced in Bellary district with effect from the 1st October 1946, under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937 (Act X of 1937). This Act was superseded by the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1948, with effect from the 1st November 1955. Under this Act, all dealings in liquor and intoxicating drugs were prohibited in the district except for medical, scientific, industrial or such like purposes. Permits for possession and consumption of liquor were issued only in exceptional cases. Licences were also prescribed for the possession and sale of denatured and rectified spirits, for the possession and sale, on prescription, of brandy and medicated wines, by chemists, for the possession of brandy in hospitals for medicinal purposes and for the tapping of trees for sweet toddy for making jaggery.

Since the promulgation of the Prohibition Act in Bellary district, the Prohibition Department was in charge of enforcing the prohibition laws till 1st October 1953, the date of merger of the district in Mysore State. After 1st October 1953, the work of enforcement of prohibition was being done both by the police and by an additional temporary prohibition establishment headed by a District Prohibition Officer. This prohibition establishment was merged with the regular police establishment with effect from 1st March 1959.

As may be expected, illicit distillation and smuggling followed in the wake of prohibition. Illicit distillation, which was practically unknown in the district, was carried on now on a considerable scale, although efforts were made to check it by strict vigilance. According to the statistics furnished by the Police Department, the incidence was high in the year 1966 in that as many as 1,069 cases were reported during that year. The following table

indicates the number of illicit distillation cases reported in the district during the period from 1955 to 1960 and 1965 to 1967 :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases reported</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases reported</i>
1955 ..	320	1960 ..	562
1956 ..	471	1965 ..	788
1957 ..	545	1966 ..	1,069
1958 ..	1,014	1967	529
1959 ..	457	(upto October)	

The general feeling among the public, however, remained that in spite of the large number of cases of detection and prosecution, of which a significant percentage ended in conviction, the prohibition law was contravened on a large scale and that the policy of prohibition was therefore hardly a success.

The existence of different sets of laws in the different integrating areas of the new Mysore State caused considerable administrative and procedural difficulties in the implementation of prohibition on a uniform basis throughout the State. Hence a revised uniform Act, applicable to the entire State, called the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1961 (Act XVII of 1962), was brought into force throughout the State in 1962. However, in view of the public opinion and the difficulties experienced in successfully enforcing the provisions of the Act, the State Government decided to amend the law and the Mysore State Legislature enacted the Mysore Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1967, empowering the Government to exclude the operation of the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1961, in any specified areas of the State. Thereafter, the State Government lifted prohibition in the entire Bellary district and also in other districts of the State, except in a few pockets, with effect from the 15th October 1967.

For the care, protection and rehabilitation of destitute and delinquent children, a Remand Home was established at Bellary in 1958 under the provisions of the Madras Children's Act, 1920, which was later replaced by the uniform Mysore Children's Act, 1964. A Juvenile Court has also been established at Bellary under this Act for trying juvenile cases. The Act empowers a Sub-Inspector of Police or any other person authorised by the State Government, to take charge of children, under the age of 16 years in the case of boys and 18 years in the case of girls, who are found to be neglected, uncared for, destitutes and children who commit offences, whether bailable or non-bailable. They are then produced before the Juvenile Court for enquiry and trial. During the pendency of such enquiry or trial, they are remanded to the Remand Home, where they are normally retained for about three months.

During the period of their stay in the Remand Home, the children are looked after by the Superintendent of the Home, who is also the Probation Officer of the district under the Children's Act. He studies and observes the children's behaviour, their character and antecedents, their feelings and aptitudes and also their relationship with the other members of their families, in order to find out the factors which led them to go astray or to commit offences. He then submits a detailed report of his findings in the case of each child to the Juvenile Court. After considering the relevant facts of each case, the court may release the child to be sent to a certified school for further protection and care till the age of 18 years is attained.

In the Remand Home, the children are provided with food at a prescribed scale, two sets of clothings, a set of bedding, bathing and washing soaps, etc. Medical aid, as and when necessary, is also provided to them, for which purpose a Medical Officer from the local government hospital pays regular visits to the Remand Home. They are engaged in P.T. and drill for sometime in the morning and in indoor and outdoor games in the evening, as also in gardening. The Remand Home is housed in a spacious building on the Siruguppa road and is looked after by the Superintendent, who is assisted in his duties by a matron, a clerk-cum-typist, two male and one female guards, a cook and a peon.

The following figures indicate the number of children admitted into the Remand Home during the last five years and also the annual expenditure incurred in running the Home during that period :

Year		Children admitted	Expenditure incurred	
			Rs.	P.
1967-68	148	10,895	00
1968-69	203	11,329	03
1969-70	136	14,227	11
1970-71	100	8,628	40
1971-72	212	33,582	16

**Junior
Certified School**

A Junior Certified School for boys was also established at Bellary as early as 1926, also under the provisions of the Madras Children's Act, 1920. This institution is also now governed under the provisions of the Mysore Children's Act of 1964. As already stated above, destitute, neglected and uncontrollable children as well as juvenile delinquents, below 16 years of age, are first ordered to be detained in the Remand Home for short periods pending enquiry and settlement of their cases by the Juvenile Court. Later,

such of the children as have no homes or whose home conditions are not satisfactory, are committed to the Certified School till they attain the age of 18 years. Again, such of the orphan boys as are in need of continued protection and rehabilitation, even after 18 years, are sent to the State Home at Bangalore or to the District Shelters at Hubli, Belgaum and Mysore.

The Junior Certified School, Bellary, admits boys not only from the local Remand Home, but also from the Remand Homes in the neighbouring districts. As in the Remand Home, the inmates in the Certified School are also provided with food, clothing, bedding, medical aid, etc. But since this school is meant for long-term institutional treatment, it also provides facilities for training the boys in crafts, like tailoring, weaving, spinning, carpentry, masonry, chappal-making, band-play, hair-cutting and laundering. It also conducts general education classes from standards I to VII in Kannada, the syllabus and curriculum being the same as prescribed by the Education Department for other normal schools. This scheme is important as it ensures that the children in the Certified School, who are educable, are not deprived of their right of primary education.

A Headmaster is in charge of this Certified School and he is assisted in his duties by three Assistant Masters, six House Fathers, 16 Teachers, 12 Craft Instructors, four clerks, six guards, two cooks and a few other class IV servants. There is a Committee of Visitors to look after the affairs of this institution. While the Deputy Commissioner of the district is the Chairman of the Committee, the Headmaster of the School functions as its Secretary. The sub-joined statement indicates the total strength of boys in the institution, the new admissions and the total expenditure on the institution during the period from 1965-66 to 1969-70:—

Year (As on 1st April)	Total New admissions	Strength during the year	Total expenditure
1965-66	437	141	2,92,089
1966-67	417	121	3,56,455
1967-68	457	140	3,57,090
1968-69	398	152	3,39,157
1969-70	400	135	3,10,298

There is also another Probation Officer in the district, with his headquarters also at Bellary, for the administration of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. This Central Act was brought into force throughout Mysore State with effect from October 1, 1960. It aims at the reformation and rehabilitation of offenders

so as to make them useful and self-reliant members of the society without subjecting them to the deleterious effects of prison life. Under this Act, the courts are empowered to release certain categories of offenders, particularly the young and the 'first offenders', on probation and it is the duty of the Probation Officer to assist such persons and arrange for their rehabilitation. For this purpose, he keeps himself in regular touch with the judicial courts in the district and sees to it that suitable cases under the Act are referred for home enquiry and release on probation. During the period of probation, the offenders are put under the supervision and guidance of the Probation Officer. The latter is also called upon to conduct home enquiries in respect of cases falling under the Children's Act, Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, Habitual Offenders Act and such other social legislations. The table given below indicates the year-wise number of cases referred to the Probation Officer for conducting enquiries under the Probation of Offenders Act and other social legislations during the period from 1962 to 1970 :—

Year	No. of cases referred	
	Under P.O. Act	Under other Acts
1962	17	20
1963	35	40
1964	33	45
1965	30	37
1966	36	53
1967	57	39
1968	30	40
1969	15	32
1970	43	94
Total	296	400

A District Probation Advisory Committee has also been constituted under the Act to advise on the proper working of the Act and to seek the co-operation of the public in the handling of probationers and their rehabilitation. The Committee, which consists of three non-official and six official members, is headed by the District Magistrate. The Probation Officer functions as its *ex-officio* Secretary.

State Rescue Home

A State Rescue Home has also been established at Bellary in 1958 under the provisions of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, and under the programme of social and moral hygiene. The main object of this institution is to provide protection to and upliftment of the fallen, destitute and down-trodden women and girls. It serves as a rescue home for women and girls dealt with under the Suppression of Immoral

Traffic Act, a protective home for destitute women like helpless widows, deserted wives, unmarried mothers and orphan girls and an after-care home for girls released from correctional and non-correctional institutions like certified schools, fit person institutions and prisons. Children below seven years are also admitted to this institution along with their mothers.

The process of admission to the State Rescue Home is of two types: judicial and voluntary. In the first process, women and girls rescued or caught by the police under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act are remanded or committed by the Magistrates for a definite period. In the second process, women and girls, who are rendered destitute, without proper guardians and means of subsistence, seek admissions themselves through the police or social workers. Such women are provided shelter in the institution till they are rehabilitated.

Although the intake capacity of the Rescue Home is only 100, it is reported that at the beginning of 1971, there were 185 women and 28 children in it, far in excess of the intake capacity. The following statement indicates the year-wise admissions into the institution since its inception upto the end of 1970-71 :--

<i>Year</i>	<i>S.I.T.</i> <i>cases</i>	<i>Voluntary</i> <i>cases</i>	<i>After-care</i> <i>cases</i>
1958-59	17	7	..
1959-60	35	9	..
1960-61	13	26	..
1961-62	7	31	..
1962-63	10	44	2
1963-64	10	33	..
1964-65	11	29	1
1965-66	8	60	1
1966-67	1	66	2
1967-68	2	38	3
1968-69	5	70	11
1969-70	71	15
1970-71	4	143	6

Efforts are made to rehabilitate the women and girls admitted into the Rescue Home by releasing them to fit and willing guardians, by marrying to proper suitors, by providing with employment and by imparting training for avocations like teaching, nursing, etc. According to the Superintendent of the Rescue Home, so far (1971), 405 of its inmates have been rehabilitated, 289 by release to willing guardians, four by marriage, 29 by employment and 83 by training in some useful avocations.

The inmates of the institution are provided with proper food, four sets of clothings, one set of bedding and other amenities. A lady medical officer looks after their general health. Besides conducting adult literacy classes upto the V standard, condensed courses for VII standard and S.S.L.C. examinations are also conducted. Craft education, in suitable crafts like tailoring, weaving, holdal-making, etc., is also imparted to interested inmates. The Rescue Home is headed by a Lady Superintendent who is assisted, in her duties, by a Lady Probation Officer, a Matron, an Assistant Matron, a Supervisor, two Chief Instructors, four Instructors, four Teachers, besides necessary ministerial and class IV officials.

**Advancement of
Backward
Classes and
Tribes**

According to the 1961 census figures, there were 1,24,492 people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 647 belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the district. While the Adi-Karnatakas, Banjaras (Lambanis) and Bhovis, who numbered 46,257, 28,523 and 18,045 respectively, formed the bulk of the Scheduled Caste population of the district, the Jenu and Kadu Kurubas, numbering 386, formed the largest single group among the Scheduled Tribes. The percentage of Scheduled Caste population to the total population of the district worked out to 13.6, while that of the Scheduled Tribe population to only about 0.07 per cent. The standard of living of these communities is generally low in the district as elsewhere in the State. Educationally, the Scheduled Castes and Tribes are still far behind others. They were subjected to various social disabilities in the past. While a few vestiges of those disabilities are still lingering on in remote villages, they have disappeared in the towns. Many of the people belonging to these groups live in slums and separate colonies. A section of the Scheduled Caste population is engaged in tanning and leather work and some have taken to occupations like masonry, carpentry and blacksmithy. The educated persons among them are generally absorbed in Government services; the number of such persons is not large, and about 70 per cent of these classes of people living in the rural parts are agricultural labourers and wage-earners. Some are cultivating tenants and a small number own lands.

Right from the commencement of the First Five Year Plan, efforts have been made for raising the economic and social conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State in accordance with the general policy of the Government. But experience has shown that the problem requires continuous endeavour for bringing these classes of people on par with the other progressive sections of the society.

**Welfare
Schemes**

There is a Department of Social Welfare in the State and its Director has the responsibility of implementing the various welfare schemes of the State Government as well as the schemes spon-

sored by the Government of India for the uplift of the backward classes in the State. The schemes administered by this department are for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Denotified Tribes and other Backward Classes. At the district-level, the responsibility of implementing these schemes is entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner. As already stated elsewhere in this volume, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted in this work by a District Social Welfare Officer, who functions as his Executive Assistant for the purpose of administration and execution of the programmes by co-ordinating the work of the Tahsildars, Social Welfare Inspectors and other officers implementing the schemes at various levels.

Earnest attempts have been made to enforce the provisions of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. Instructions have been issued from time to time to the officers concerned for taking steps to see that the members of these castes and tribes are treated like equal citizens without any kind of discrimination. The Government have also introduced a scheme of awarding prizes to such of the villages, taluks and districts in the State as have done outstanding work in the field of eradication of social disabilities of these backward classes.

**Removal of
Social
Disabilities**

The several ameliorative schemes sponsored in the district for the welfare of Scheduled Castes may be broadly classified into three categories, namely (1) educational aid, (2) economic uplift and (3) health, housing and sanitation.

With a view to providing more educational facilities to the children of the Scheduled Castes, the Government are maintaining six hostels for boys and five for girls in different parts of the district. While the total sanctioned strength of the boys' hostels was 342, that of the girls' hostels was about 140 in 1971-72. These hostels are located at the following places: *Boys' Hostels*.—(1) Siruguppa, (2) Tekkalakota, (3) Hampasagara, (4) Hada-galli, (5) Kudligi and (6) Sandur; *Girls' Hostels*.—(1) Bellary, (2) Hospet, (3) Siruguppa, (4) Kudligi and (5) Harapanahalli.

**Educational
Aid**

Each of these hostels is under the charge of a Superintendent and the inmates are provided with free boarding and lodging facilities as also clothings. Besides these 11 hostels run by the Government, there are twelve hostels run by private agencies, which are given grants-in-aid by the Department of Social Welfare. The total intake capacity of these private hostels was about 500 in 1971-72. The Government having accepted the principle of establishing general hostels with a view to promoting the integration of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes with the rest of the general community, several of these hostels have been already converted into non-denominational institutions. There is now a

ten per cent reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes in non-Scheduled Castes' hostels and a similar reservation for non-Scheduled Castes in Scheduled Castes' hostels.

Scholarships.—As an incentive to the students studying in the middle and high schools, scholarships are granted to a large number of poor and deserving candidates. In 1971-72 about 850 such students were awarded with pre-matric scholarships and the amount spent for this purpose came to Rs. 43,200. Besides, merit scholarships are awarded to such of the students as secure marks between 50 and 60 per cent in the last annual examination, the number of such awardees being 146 and the amount spent being Rs. 10,250 during 1971-72. For selecting students for award of these scholarships, there is a Scholarship Committee consisting of three officials and two non-officials presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Supply of text-books, etc.—Many of the parents of Scheduled Caste children do not evince any interest in the education of their children owing, primarily, to their poverty. With a view to encouraging such children to join the primary schools, the Government have formulated a scheme under which poor children are supplied with text books, slates and dresses free of cost.

Residential school.—A Residential School for the benefit of children of Basavis (*see* chapter III under social evils) is located at Kudligi having a strength of 50 inmates. The children admitted to this school are given primary education, with free boarding and lodging facilities.

Agricultural Colonies

During the Second Five Year Plan period, a centrally sponsored programme of establishing agricultural colonies for the benefit of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes was implemented throughout the State. Under this Scheme, five to ten acres of cultivable lands were granted to each family in the colony. The Central grant was utilised for the reclamation of waste lands, construction of houses, purchase of plough-bullocks and agricultural implements, construction of community centres-cum-school buildings, sinking of drinking water wells and laying of approach roads to the colonies. Each family was given a subsidy of Rs. 400 for construction of houses and Rs. 300 for purchase of plough-bullocks. Each colony was provided with a community centre-cum-school building at a cost of Rs. 2,500 and a community radio set at a cost of Rs. 300. There were, in 1971, 13 such agricultural colonies in the district as per the following statement :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Taluk</i>	<i>Location of Colony</i>	<i>No. of families settled</i>
1.	Sandur	Ramanathapur ..	18
2.	Sandur	Yeshawantnagar ..	15
3.	Sandur	Vaddinakatte ..	25
4.	Sandur	Vittalnanagar ..	25
5.	Sandur	Lakkalahalli ..	14
6.	Siruguppa	Sirigere ..	14
7.	Harapanahalli	Kadathi ..	20
8.	Harapanahalli	Koracharahatti ..	46
9.	Harapanahalli	Sathur ..	10
10.	Hospet	Kamalapura ..	30
11.	Kudligi	Hansikatte ..	10
12.	Kudligi	Badaladuku ..	30
13.	Kudligi	Bathanahalli ..	39

Of these, the colonies at Vaddinakatte in Sandur taluk and Badaladuku in Kudligi taluk are for other Backward Classes and Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes respectively. A total extent of 1,919 acres of land has been distributed among 287 families settled in these colonies (1971-72). For providing various facilities to the colonies and the families settled thereon, a total sum of Rs. 3,28,989 has been spent by the Government.

Community Centres are found to be of considerable advantage for promotion of unity and fellow feeling among the different sections of the community. Buildings for these centres have been constructed in all the taluks of the district. These centres are also made use of for running women's welfare centres. During 1971, there were, in all, 17 such centres in the various parts of the district, of which 14 were for Scheduled Castes and the rest for Denotified Tribes.

Community Centres

A housing programme for the Scheduled Castes was initiated by the Government during the First Five-Year Plan and it was continued under the successive Plans. A large number of families of these classes have been living in thatched huts in congested areas and under unhygienic conditions. It was, therefore, felt that unless suitable lands were acquired for distribution as house-sites, their living conditions were not likely to improve. Therefore, the Government acquired suitable house-sites in healthy surroundings to an extent of about 92 acres and distributed them free among the needy families. Besides, subsidies at Rs. 400 per house were also sanctioned to deserving families. A sum of Rs. 9,42,800 was spent for this purpose. A total number of 2,357 houses were thus constructed under this scheme upto the end of the

Housing

Third Plan. A sum of Rs. 9,42,800 was spent by the Government for this purpose.

There is a Housing Co-operative Society for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each taluk headquarters of the district. These societies provide financial assistance, by way of loans, to houseless families of these classes for construction of houses, the amount of loans varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 per family. These loans are repayable in 20 equal annual instalments. In addition, timber worth Rs. 200 is also supplied free to the loanees. So far (1971), a total sum of Rs. 31,74,500 has been granted as loans by these societies to 1,319 families in the district; of these, 731 houses had been completed and the construction work in respect of others was in various stages of progress.

Economic Aid

The Government have also been taking several measures aimed at improving the economic condition of these sections of the people. Cultivable lands are being assigned to them wherever possible; aid is being given for purchase of plough-bullocks, seeds, manure and agricultural implements; subsidy is being given to poorer families to enable them to take up sheep-breeding and poultry-farming; and milch-cows are also supplied free of cost to deserving families. Aid is also extended to co-operative societies of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes for taking up dairy farming and cottage industries.

Under the scheme of grant of lands for cultivation purposes, as in 1971, an extent of 4,223 acres and 18 guntas of land had been granted to 1,893 families of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes under the new Mysore Land Grant Rules of 1969. Still about 52,700 acres of land are said to be available for assignment in the district. Under the scheme of assistance to cottage industries, a Dairy Farming Co-operative Society of Scheduled Castes has been organised at Punabaghatta Thanda in Harapanahalli taluk with a working capital of Rs. 20,000. About 40 families of Lambanis are benefited by this society. Two tailoring centres are being maintained by the Social Welfare Department, one each at Bellary and Hospet, for the benefit of women belonging to the Scheduled Castes. The intake capacity of each of these centres is 12 and all the trainees are provided with a stipend of Rs. 25 per month for 12 months.

The foregoing is only a brief account of some of the more important schemes undertaken in the district for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. There are also other schemes like those relating to provision of drinking water wells, formation of approach roads to Harijan colonies, aid to voluntary agencies engaged in Harijan welfare work, publicity and propaganda against the practice of untouchability, supply of wheel-barrows and hand-carts to sweepers and scavengers, economic aid to disabled persons,

payment of boarding grants to Scheduled Caste students in general hostels, award of scholarships for college and other higher studies and so on. Considerable amounts have been spent by the Government for the implementation of these and other schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes under the successive Five-Year Plans.

The problem of tribal people has also received adequate attention of the Government and several similar schemes for the amelioration of this section of the people have also been formulated and implemented in the State. However, since the number of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the district was only a little over 600 (as per the 1961 census), the steps taken for their welfare and the amount spent thereon are naturally very limited.

**Welfare of
Scheduled
Tribes**

The Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes are a wandering people and often keep on moving from place to place; they do not generally remain at any one place. With a view to creating some interest in them to remain at a place and improve their economic conditions, they are also granted lands for agriculture and house-sites for construction of dwelling houses. An Agricultural Colony for these tribes, comprising about 30 families, has also been started at Badaladuku in Kudligi taluk, as already stated earlier. The children of these tribes are mostly neglected educationally due to the nomadic habits of their parents. Two Ashram Schools have, therefore, been established, one at Bellary and another at Kudligi, for collecting these children at a central place and giving them primary education on systematic lines. These residential schools with free hostel facilities, etc., have an intake capacity of 50 children each.

**Denotified
and Nomadic
Tribes**

The welfare of the Denotified Tribes has also received the attention of the Government (especially during the Second Plan period). Schemes for providing housing facilities, educational aid, supply of bullocks and agricultural implements, etc., to them were formulated and implemented during that period as also during the subsequent period. Women welfare centres, for the benefit of women belonging to these tribes, have also been established.

Women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes are mostly engaged as unskilled workers on agricultural lands and in mines, construction of roads, buildings, etc. The few educated ones among them are working as school teachers, nurses and in such other avocations. Realising the need to improve the condition of women belonging to these classes, the Government have formulated special welfare schemes, such as opening of women welfare centres, nursery schools and tailoring units. During 1971, there were, in all, 17 women welfare centres in the district, of which 14 were for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and three for women belonging to the Denotified Tribes.

**Welfare of
Women of
Backward
Classes**

The women of these classes usually gather at these centres during the evenings for recreation and also for learning certain crafts like tailoring and needle work. Talks aimed at imparting them elementary knowledge of sanitation and care of children are also given in these centres. Facilities for indoor games have also been introduced. Pre-primary or nursery education has been introduced as one of the important activities of these welfare centres. A women welfare organiser, assisted by a conductress, runs these classes in each of these centres. In addition to reading and writing, the children are also taught music and drill. About 50 children are admitted to each of the nursery schools and they are provided with free mid-day meal under the CARE programme and also with the assistance of the Social Welfare Department. As already stated earlier, two tailoring centres have been opened for the benefit of these classes of women at Bellary and Hospet.

**Charitable
Endowments**

The administration of the religious and charitable institutions in the district is still governed by the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951. There was a separate department called 'Endowment Department' for the administration of this Act in the district in the former Madras State, but it was abolished consequent on the merger of Bellary district with Mysore in October 1953. The Deputy Commissioner of the district was then placed in charge of the administration of the religious institutions. In 1968, the Government created a separate post of Assistant Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and entrusted him with the responsibility of administering all the institutions falling under the purview of the Act in the entire district. The Assistant Commissioner, who has also his headquarters at Bellary, works under the guidance and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. The Assistant Commissioner is assisted in his work by three Inspectors who are authorised to inspect the institutions falling within their respective jurisdictions.

The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, applies to all public Hindu religious institutions in the district. The number of institutions transferred to Mysore on the merger of the district was not large. Later, new additions were made from time to time for the better management of the institutions, with reference to the representations received from the devotees or on reports received from the subordinate officers to that effect. The classification and number of institutions in the district administered under the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, is as follows :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>
1.	Listed institutions under Section 38 of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951. (Institutions getting an annual income of over Rs. 20,000).	2 (Virupaksheshwaraswamy temple, Hampi, and Hosureshwara temple, Hosur).
2.	Institutions getting an annual income of about Rs. 1,000.	146
3.	Minor institutions	384
	Total ..	532

The following table indicates the number of major and minor institutions in the several taluks of the district :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Major institutions</i>	<i>Minor institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Bellary	42	66	108
2.	Siruguppa	9	24	33
3.	Sandur	11	12	23
4.	Hospet	42	121	163
5.	Harapanahalli	5	8	13
6.	Hadagalli	19	70	89
7.	Kudligi	21	64	85
8.	Mallapuram	1	17	18
	Total ..	150	382	532

There is an Area Committee functioning in the district at Bellary. The Area Committee is a statutory body appointed under Section 12(1) of the Act, to supervise the management of religious institutions located within its jurisdiction. The Assistant Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, is the Chairman of the Committee. The period of office of the Committee is three years. The main functions of the Area Committee are: (1) to pass the budget estimates of the religious institutions whose annual income is not more than Rs. 20,000, (2) to attend to the day-to-day administration of the institutions, (3) to exercise general supervision over the management of these institutions and (4) to review their audit reports.

Area Committee

The financial position of the muzrai institutions in the district in its several taluks for the year 1971 was as follows :—

Sl. No.	Name of Taluk	Opening balance	Credits	Total	Debits	Balance
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Bellary ..	1,50,265	2,45,896	3,96,161	2,25,961	1,70,200
2.	Siruguppa ..	Nil	44,284	44,284	44,284	Nil
3.	Hospet ..	2,13,309	4,56,902	6,70,211	4,95,656	1,74,555
4.	Mallapuram ..	Nil	8,400	8,400	8,400	Nil
5.	Sandur ..	7,000	90,462	97,462	6,500	90,962
6.	Harapanahalli ..	6,000	16,422	62,422	17,072	4,350
7.	Hadagalli ..	70,277	91,252	1,61,529	1,04,974	56,555
8.	Kudligi ..	6,500	94,221	1,00,721	88,111	12,610

(Note : The balance includes the deposit, etc., held in bank).

Festivals

There are four important notified festivals in the district which are celebrated annually with great pomp and pageantry. They are the following :—

(1) Virupaksheshwaraswamy Car Festival at Hampi, Hospet taluk.

(2) Kottur Basaveshwaraswamy Car Festival at Kottur, Kudligi taluk.

(3) Mylara Lingaswamy Karneeka Festival at Mylara, Hadagalli taluk.

(4) Mallikarjunaswamy Car Festival at Kuruvatti, Hadagalli taluk.

The Festival Committee which meets before the commencement of these festivals makes proper arrangements for their conduct, with the co-operation of all concerned.

The Endowments Department, in co-operation with the Health Department, supervises the sanitary and other arrangements during the time of the festivals and *jatras* insofar as the institutions under the control of the Government are concerned and makes arrangements to provide drinking water and shelter to the pilgrims who congregate on those occasions.

Several philanthropic gentlemen and institutions in the district have made endowments for the conduct of *sevas* in many of the muzrai institutions. In addition, lands to the total extent of 21,186 acres and 42 cents have been endowed to several of the institutions in the district. These institutions and their properties

are registered by the Endowments Department under the rules and regulations in force, in order to safeguard the properties from being encroached upon or alienated.

For the administration of the Muslim religious and charitable endowment institutions, the Central Wakf Act, 1954, was enforced in the erstwhile Mysore State with effect from the 15th January 1955. Under the provisions of this Act, the State Government constituted a Board of Wakfs consisting of seven members with the Commissioner for Religious and Charitable Endowments as its Chairman. Necessary rules under the Act were also framed. Later, District Wakf Committees were constituted for each district by the Mysore State Board of Wakfs to supervise the Muslim endowments in the districts.

**Wakf
Institutions**

With the enforcement of the Central Wakf Act, 1964, in the whole of the new Mysore State, the Commissioner for Religious and Charitable Endowments was appointed as the Commissioner of Wakfs under Section 4(1) of the Act, with a non-official at the head of the Mysore State Board of Wakfs. There are a number of mosques, *darghas* and other Muslim institutions in Bellary district, which are supported by specific endowments. The total number of such institutions in the district in 1970-71 was 413, the total value of the property attached to them being Rs. 9,71,485. The gross income from these institutions and the expenditure on their maintenance during that year were Rs. 1,13,411 and Rs. 1,05,587 respectively. The institutions are managed by *Mutawallis* and administered by Committees according to the usage and customs and terms of the deed and the scheme.
