

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

THE Bellary district, which contained the seat of the glorious Vijayanagara empire, has a hoary past. The people inhabiting the region, which stood as a bulwark against successive invasions from the days of Kampiladeva and his son Ramanatha for more than two centuries, were brave, prosperous and enlightened. After undergoing many vicissitudes, later, in the beginning of the 19th century, it formed a part of the Madras Presidency under the British and remained so till the achievement of independence in 1947. Then it continued to be a part of the Madras State until formation of the Andhra State in 1953. In the wake of the demand of the Andhras for the formation of a separate Andhra State comprising all the Telugu-speaking areas of the composite Madras State, there was also a similar demand by the Kannada-speaking people of the Bellary district for the merger of the district with the former Mysore State. In deference to the wishes of the Kannadigas of the district and the persistent public opinion in favour of merger with Mysore, the Bellary district, except the three taluks of Adoni, Alur and Rayadurg, was integrated with the old Mysore State on 1st October 1953. This fulfilled a long-cherished desire of the people of the district.

There has been a perceptible political and social consciousness among the people of the district, as elsewhere in the State, in the recent decades. With the attainment of independence and the establishment of popular Government, the people have had more and better opportunities to see and know more of their Government and its plans and programmes and to criticise more freely and boldly than ever before. They not only co-operate with the Government in their developmental efforts, but also lend their hand in building schools, dispensaries, roads and the like. In the community development blocks of the district, people are reported to have made voluntary contributions, both in cash and by way of labour, for the execution of some of the programmes. After the Chinese and Pakistani aggressions on our country in 1962,

1967 and 1971, the people of the district contributed considerable amounts to the National Defence Fund. As at the end of April 1972, the total cash contributions of the people of the district towards the fund stood at about Rs. 6,65,957 lakhs, besides contributions in kind which included two gold rings. Similarly, under the Bhoodan Yajna Movement, sponsored by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, lands to the extent of about 1,531 acres have been voluntarily donated by some people in the district for distribution among landless persons.

The quinquennial general elections to the Parliament and the State Legislature are very keenly contested by the various political parties and individuals. With the decentralisation of administration brought about by the enactment of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large number of people vie with one another to get elected to the village panchayats and taluk development boards. Similarly, the elections to the municipal councils as also to the co-operative institutions and all other elective posts in the district are keenly contested. There is a new awareness among the people about their rights and privileges and the spirit of democracy pervades both the rural and the urban areas to a considerable extent.

Bellary district forms part of two single-member Parliamentary Constituencies, namely, Koppal and Bellary, while it has been allotted eight seats in the Mysore Legislative Assembly. The following statement indicates the names of the constituencies, their extent, the total number of seats that were allotted in accordance with the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956 :—

**Representation
in State and
Union Legis-
latures**

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Extent of Constituency</i> | <i>Total No. of seats</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| LOK SABHA | | | |
| 1. | Koppal | .. Koppal, Yelburga, Kushtagi, Sindhanur and Gangavati taluks of Raichur district, Hadagalli taluk, Mallapuram sub-taluk, Siruguppa taluk and Hospet taluk (excluding Kamalapuram firka) and the 10 villages in Kampli firka (specified in item (16) of the Appendix) of Bellary district. | 1 |
| 2. | Bellary | .. Bellary, Sandur, Harapanahalli and Kudligi taluks and Kamalapuram firka (excluding ten villages in Kampli firka as are specified in item (16) of the Appendix) in Hospet taluk of Bellary district and Molakalmuru, Challakere and Jagalur taluks, and Thuruvanur hobli and Bharmasagara and Yelagodu circles in Bharmasagara hobli in Chitradurga taluk of Chitradurga district. | 1 |

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Extent of Constituency</i> | <i>Total No. of seats</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY | | | |
| 1. | Hadagalli | .. Hadagalli taluk and Chilkanahatti firka in Hospet taluk. | 1 |
| 2. | Hospet | .. Hospet firka and Tungabhadra Project Township in Hospet taluk, and Mallapuram sub-taluk. | 1 |
| 3. | Siruguppa | .. Siruguppa taluk; and such of the villages in Kampli firka in Hospet taluk as are specified in item (33) of the Appendix. | 1 |
| 4. | Kurugodu | .. Kurugodu, Kolar and Moka firkas in Bellary taluk; and Kampli firka (excluding the villages specified in item (33) of the Appendix) in Hospet taluk. | 1 |
| 5. | Bellary | .. Bellary and Rupanagudi firkas in Bellary taluk. | 1 |
| 6. | Sandur | .. Sandur taluk; Gudekota firka in Kudligi taluk; and Kamalapuram firka in Hospet taluk. | 1 |
| 7. | Harapanahalli | .. Harapanahalli taluk, and Kudligi taluk (excluding Gudekota firka). | 2 |

Of these, the Harapanahalli Assembly Constituency was a double-member constituency, with a reserved seat for Scheduled Castes.

Abolition of Two-Member Constituencies

According to Section 3 of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, the Election Commission was required to divide each two-member constituency into two single-member constituencies, delimit their extent and decide in which of them the seat should be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, having regard to the fact that all such single-member constituencies should, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas and the seat should be reserved in the constituency in which there was a greater concentration of population of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes. The Commission was further empowered to make such further amendments in the Delimitation Orders as was necessary to carry out these provisions. Accordingly, the Commission amended and revised the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, and issued the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, in December 1961. The effect of this change, so far as Bellary district was concerned, was that Harapanahalli, which was formerly a two-member constituency, was split up into two single-member constituencies, *viz.*, Harapanahalli and Kudligi, a seat being reserved for the Scheduled Castes in the latter constituency.

The following table shows the names of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies, and their extent, as contained in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order 1961 :—

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Extent of Constituency</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES | | |
| 1. | Koppal | .. Sindhanur, Kushtagi, Yelburga, Koppal and Gangavati Assembly Constituencies of Raichur district; Hadagalli, Hospet and Siruguppa Constituencies of Bellary district. |
| 2. | Bellary | .. Kurugodu, Bellary, Sandur, Harapanahalli and Kudligi Assembly Constituencies of Bellary district; Molakalmuru, Challakere and Jagalur Constituencies of Chitradurga district. |
| ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES | | |
| 1. | Hadagalli | .. Hadagalli taluk; Chilkanahatti firka in Hospet taluk, and Gaddikeri-Kodihalli village in Mallapuram taluk. |
| 2. | Hospet | .. Hospet firka and Tungabhadra Project Township in Hospet taluk; and Mallapuram taluk (excluding Gaddikeri-Kodihalli village). |
| 3. | Siruguppa | .. Siruguppa taluk and the villages in Kampli firka in Hospet taluk as specified in item (38) of the Appendix. |
| 4. | Kurugodu | .. Kurugodu, Kolur and Moka firkas in Bellary taluk; and Kampli firka (excluding the villages specified in item (38) of the Appendix) in Hospet taluk. |
| 5. | Bellary | .. Bellary and Rupanagudi firkas in Bellary taluk. |
| 6. | Sandur | .. Sandur taluk; Gudekota firka in Kudligi taluk; and Kamalapuram firka in Hospet taluk. |
| 7. | Harapanahalli | .. Harapanahalli taluk. |
| 8. | Kudligi (SC) | .. Kudligi taluk (excluding Gudekota firka). |

There has not been much variance since then either in the number or in the extent of the constituencies in the district, except that the Siruguppa Assembly Constituency, which was under the Koppal Parliamentary Constituency both during the second and third General Elections, was included in the Bellary Parliamentary Constituency during the fourth General Elections held in 1967.

**Changes in
election
procedure**

The following important changes were made in the procedure relating to the conduct of the elections, and matters connected therewith, after the second general elections :—

(i) Under the law now in force, no minimum qualifying period of residence in a constituency is prescribed for purposes of registration as a voter in that constituency. It is now sufficient for registration purposes if a voter is a resident in the constituency at the time of registration.

(ii) The law has now been amended restricting the number of nomination papers that may be presented by or on behalf of any candidate in any constituency, to four. Previously, there was no such restriction, and any number of nomination papers could be filed by or on behalf of any candidate.

(iii) The introduction of the marking system of voting in all elections has very much simplified the method of casting the votes, and also minimised the cost of the elections to a considerable extent.

(iv) Certain changes have now been made in the rules relating to the presentation of election petitions to the Election Commission, calling in question any election in which there is allegation of any corrupt practices having been indulged in. The deposit of security, which every petitioner has to make, has been increased from one thousand rupees to two thousand rupees so as to minimise filing of petitions on flimsy grounds.

(v) Rules have now been framed regarding corrupt practices and electoral offences. Public meetings both on the day preceding the election day and on the election day have been prohibited. Certain restrictions have also been imposed on the printing of pamphlets and posters, either for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of a candidate.

**General
Elections 1957**

The Indian National Congress, the Praja-Socialist Party and the Bharathiya Jan Sangh were the main political parties which participated in the second general elections held in the district in the year 1957. All these parties had their affiliations with the all-India bodies. There was no party in the district which was of local origin.

Of these three recognised political parties, the Indian National Congress had a considerable hold on the people. That party secured five out of the eight seats contested by it in all the seven Assembly Constituencies of the district, besides the Bellary Lok Sabha seat. The Praja-Socialist Party was the only other political party to have some hold in the district. The party secured two seats out of the four contested by it in Hadagalli, Siruguppa and Harapanahalli Assembly Constituencies. It won both the reserved as well as the unreserved seats in the Harapanahalli two-member constituency, in a straight contest with the Congress Party. The Bharatiya Jan Sangh contested only in Siruguppa

Assembly Constituency, but was not successful. Apart from these political parties, six Independents contested the Assembly elections from Hospet, Kurugodu, Bellary and Sandur Constituencies, but only one Independent came out successful in the Bellary Constituency.

The following table shows the party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled by them, the percentage of votes polled and the successful parties, in respect of the second general elections held in the district in 1957 :—

| Sl. No. | Name of Constituency | Party affiliations of contesting Candidates | No. of valid votes polled | Percentage of votes polled | Successful party |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| LOK SABHA | | | | | |
| 1. | Bellary | (1) Congress | 1,46,670 | 54.95 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 1,20,382 | 45.05 | |
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY | | | | | |
| 1. | Hadagalli | (1) Congress | 20,673 | 51.26 | Congress |
| | | (2) P.S.P. | 19,671 | 48.74 | |
| 2. | Hospet | (1) Congress | 15,656 | 53.68 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 13,505 | 46.32 | |
| 3. | Siuguppa | (1) Congress | 18,361 | 59.96 | Congress |
| | | (2) P.S.P. | 10,416 | 33.99 | |
| | | (3) Jan Sangh | 1,850 | 6.05 | |
| 4. | Kurugodu | (1) Congress | 18,332 | 58.62 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 12,946 | 41.38 | |
| 5. | Bellary | (1) Independent | 18,551 | 53.71 | Indepen- |
| | | (2) Congress | 14,984 | 43.38 | dent |
| | | (3) Independent | 3,002 | 2.91 | |
| 6. | Sandur | (1) Congress | 13,955 | 50.57 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 10,101 | 36.60 | |
| | | (3) Independent | 3,536 | 12.83 | |
| 7. | Harapanahalli (two-member) | (1) P.S.P. | 38,550 | 27.23 | P.S.P. |
| | | (2) P.S.P. (S.C.) | 36,162 | 25.54 | P.S.P. |
| | | (3) Congress | 33,988 | 24.02 | |
| | | (4) Congress (S.C.) | 32,860 | 23.21 | |

There were 4,26,694 voters in the district for the Lok Sabha elections of 1957 while the total number of valid votes polled was 2,67,052, the percentage of votes polled being 62.59. As for the Assembly elections, while the total number of electors was 4,17,237, the total number of valid votes polled was 3,35,099, the percentage of votes polled being 62.54. The highest percentage of valid votes polled was 70.04 in Hadagalli Constituency while the lowest percentage was 50.81 in Sandur Constituency.

**General
Elections, 1962**

The Indian National Congress and the Praja-Socialist Party continued to be the main political parties in the district, also during the third general elections held in 1962. The Bharatiya Jan Sangh did not enter the election arena this time, but the Swatantra Party joined the fray by setting up four candidates, one for the Bellary Parliamentary seat and three for the Assembly constituencies; however, it secured only one Assembly seat, while the Indian National Congress and the Praja-Socialist Party won five (including the Parliamentary seat) and two seats respectively. There were also seven Independents in the field, of which only one was returned. The sub-joined statement indicates the number and party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled, the percentage of votes polled and the successful parties in the general elections of 1962 :—

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i> | <i>No. of valid votes polled</i> | <i>Percentage of votes polled</i> | <i>Successful party</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| LOK SABHA | | | | | |
| 1. | Bellary | (1) Congress .. (2) Swatantra .. | 1,48,765 .. 1,37,448 .. | 50 .. 46 .. | Congress |
| LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY | | | | | |
| 1. | Sandur | (1) Congress .. (2) Swatantra .. (3) P.S.P. .. | 23,899 .. 4,118 .. 1,343 .. | 81.5 .. 14 .. 4.5 .. | Congress |
| 2. | Hadagalli | (1) P.S.P. .. (2) Congress .. | 22,694 .. 16,469 .. | 58 .. 42 .. | P.S.P. |
| 3. | Hospet | (1) P.S.P. .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent .. | 21,913 .. 11,153 .. 674 .. | 65 .. 33 .. 2 .. | P.S.P. |
| 4. | Kudligi | (1) Independent .. (2) Congress .. (3) P.S.P. .. (4) Independent .. (5) Independent .. | 15,687 .. 8,704 .. 3,651 .. 511 .. 381 .. | 54 .. 30 .. 13 .. 2 .. 1 .. | Independent |
| 5. | Kurugodu | (1) Congress .. (2) Independent .. | 18,995 .. 11,580 .. | 62 .. 38 .. | Congress |
| 6. | Bellary | (1) Congress .. (2) Swatantra .. (3) Independent .. | 17,250 .. 15,560 .. 567 .. | 52 .. 46 .. 2 .. | Congress |
| 7. | Harapanahalli | (1) Congress .. (2) P.S.P. .. | 28,440 .. 21,620 .. | 57 .. 43 .. | Congress |
| 8. | Siruguppa | (1) Swatantra .. (2) Congress .. (3) Independent .. | 22,517 .. 12,940 .. 840 .. | 62 .. 36 .. 27 .. | Swatantra |

The total number of electors in the district for the Lok Sabha elections of 1962 was 4,86,041, while the number of valid votes polled was 2,86,213, the percentage of votes polled being 60.1. As against this, there were 4,73,517 electors for the Assembly elections, the number of valid votes polled being 2,89,612. The average percentage of votes polled worked out to 61.1, while the highest percentage of valid votes polled was 80 in the Harapanahalli Assembly Constituency, the lowest percentage being 46.8 in the Sandur Constituency.

The Indian National Congress, the Praja-Socialist Party and the Swatantra Party were again the main political parties in the district which contested in the fourth general elections held in 1967. This time, there were only four Independents besides a candidate set up by the Bellary People's Front. But the Congress swept the polls and emerged successful in seven out of the eight Assembly constituencies, as also in the Bellary Parliamentary Constituency. The remaining one Assembly seat was won by the Swatantra Party, while the Praja-Socialist Party and the Independents did not win any seat this time. The Congress candidate from the Sandur Assembly Constituency was elected unopposed since there were no other contestants in the field.

**General
Elections, 1967**

The statement given below indicates the number and party affiliations of the contesting candidates, the number of valid votes polled, the percentage of votes polled and the successful parties in the general elections held in the district in 1967 :—

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i> | <i>No. of valid votes polled</i> | <i>Percentage of votes polled</i> | <i>Successful party</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

LOK SABHA

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|---------------------|----------|------|----------|
| 1. Bellary | .. | (1) Congress | 1,73,402 | 53.8 | Congress |
| | | (2) Swatantra | 1,49,202 | 46.2 | |

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----------------------|-------------------------|------|----------|
| 1. Sandur | .. | (1) Congress | (un-contested election) | | Congress |
| 2. Hadagalli | .. | (1) Congress | 27,462 | 61 | Congress |
| | | (2) P.S.P. | 17,563 | 39 | |
| 3. Hospet | .. | (1) Congress | 19,718 | 58 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 12,736 | 37.5 | |
| | | (3) Independent | 1,510 | 4.5 | |
| 4. Kudligi | .. | (1) Congress | 24,486 | 58 | Congress |
| | | (2) Independent | 16,840 | 40 | |
| | | (3) P.S.P. | 1,014 | 2 | |

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Name of Constituency</i> | <i>Party affiliations of contesting candidates</i> | <i>No. of valid votes polled</i> | <i>Percentage of votes polled</i> | <i>Successful party</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5. | Kurugodu | .. (1) Congress (2) Swatantra | .. 24,892 .. 14,453 | 63 37 | Congress |
| 6. | Bellary | .. (1) Swatantra (2) Congress (3) People's Front (4) Independent | .. 27,052 .. 11,963 .. 2,822 .. 1,382 | 62.6 27.7 6.5 3.2 | Swatantra |
| 7. | Harapanahalli | .. (1) Congress (2) Swatantra | .. 22,201 .. 14,716 | 60 40 | Congress |
| 8. | Siruguppa | .. (1) Congress (2) Swatantra | .. 22,563 .. 18,489 | 55 45 | Congress |

While the total number of voters in the district for the Parliamentary elections in 1967 was 4,99,874, that for the Assembly elections was 4,54,292, the total number of valid votes polled being 3,22,724 (64.5 per cent) and 2,81,864 (62 per cent) respectively. The highest percentage of valid votes polled was 70 in the Siruguppa Assembly Constituency and the lowest was 51 in the Hospet Constituency.

**Mid-term
Poll, 1971**

Consequent on the dissolution of the Lower House of the Parliament early in 1971, a mid-term poll was conducted for the Bellary Lok Sabha seat on 7th March 1971. There were four contestants, one each from the Indian National Congress, then presided over by Shri Jagjivan Ram, and the Swatantra Party besides two Independents. Out of a total electorate of 5,30,510 in the district, 3,32,265 electors (63 per cent) exercised their franchise. The candidate of the Congress, of which Shri Jagjivan Ram was the president, emerged successful winning 2,30,901 or 69.7 per cent of the votes polled, while the votes polled by his nearest rival of the Swatantra Party was 78,041 or 23.6 per cent of the total votes polled.

**General
Elections, 1972**

The Indian National Congress and the Indian National Congress (Organisation) were the two main political parties in the district which contested in the fifth general elections held in March 1972. As the mid-term poll for the Lok Sabha had been held earlier in March 1971, the general elections this time were only for the State Legislative Assembly. The two Congress parties set up their candidates for all the eight Assembly constituencies in the district. The Bharatiya Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party fielded a candidate each in the Bellary and Hospet constituencies respectively and in addition, there were six Independents, but

they did not win any seat. The Indian National Congress secured six of the eight seats, while the Indian National Congress (Organisation) won the remaining two seats. There were straight contests between these two parties in four out of the eight constituencies. The following statement indicates the results of the fifth general elections (1972) in the district :—

| Sl. No. | Name of Constituency | Party affiliations of contesting Candidates | No. of valid votes polled | Percentage of votes polled | Successful party |
|---------|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Siruguppa | (1) I.N.C.* | 27,600 | 58.4 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O)* | 19,659 | 41.6 | |
| 2. | Kurugodu | (1) I.N.C. | 26,914 | 55.6 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O) | 21,531 | 44.4 | |
| 3. | Bellary | (1) I.N.C. (O) | 25,866 | 49.8 | I.N.C.(O) |
| | | (2) I.N.C. | 23,024 | 44.2 | |
| | | (3) Jan Sangh | 1,713 | 3.4 | |
| | | (4) Independent | 1,072 | 2 | |
| | | (5) Independent | 213 | 0.4 | |
| | | (6) Independent | 149 | 0.2 | |
| 4. | Sandur | (1) I.N.C. | 26,030 | 60.4 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O) | 16,608 | 38.6 | |
| | | (3) Independent | 436 | 1 | |
| 5. | Hadagalli | (1) I.N.C. | 31,859 | 60.3 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O) | 20,956 | 39.7 | |
| 6. | Hospet | (1) I.N.C. | 26,717 | 58.8 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O) | 17,305 | 38.1 | |
| | | (3) Socialist Party | 725 | 1.6 | |
| | | (4) Independent | 685 | 1.5 | |
| 7. | Kudligi | (1) I.N.C. (O) | 34,110 | 69.4 | I.N.C.(O) |
| | | (2) I.N.C. | 15,056 | 30.6 | |
| 8. | Harapanahalli | (1) I.N.C. | 28,033 | 60.3 | I.N.C. |
| | | (2) I.N.C. (O) | 16,939 | 36.4 | |
| | | (3) Independent | 1,496 | 3.3 | |

*I.N.C.—Indian National Congress.

*I.N.C. (O).—Indian National Congress (Organisation).

There is now a considerable increase in the number of electors in the district as compared to the previous general elections. As against 4,54,292 electors in 1967, there were 6,09,206 electors in the district this time, out of whom 3,98,430 electors (*i.e.*, about 65.4 per cent) exercised their franchise. Of these votes polled, 13,730 votes were rejected as invalid. While the Hadagalli Constituency polled the highest percentage (*i.e.*, 73) of votes, the Hospet Constituency polled the lowest percentage

(i.e., 55). The sub-joined statement indicates the constituency-wise number of electors, number and percentage of votes polled and votes rejected during the last (1972) general elections in the district :—

| Sl. No. | Name of Constituency | No. of electors | Total No. of votes polled | Percentage of votes polled | No. of votes rejected | Percentage of rejections |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Siruguppa | 70,374 | 48,760 | 69.3 | 1,501 | 3.1 |
| 2. | Kurugodu | 70,409 | 50,290 | 71.0 | 1,845 | 3.7 |
| 3. | Bellary | 85,230 | 54,042 | 71.0 | 2,005 | 3.8 |
| 4. | Sandur | 67,707 | 44,889 | 66.0 | 1,815 | 4 |
| 5. | Hadagalli | 74,672 | 54,576 | 73.0 | 1,761 | 3.3 |
| 6. | Hospet | 85,324 | 47,252 | 55.0 | 1,820 | 3.8 |
| 7. | Kudligi | 74,595 | 50,514 | 67.7 | 1,344 | 2.6 |
| 8. | Harapanahalli | 80,895 | 48,107 | 59.4 | 1,639 | 3.4 |
| | Total | 6,09,206 | 3,98,430 | .. | 13,730 | .. |

Polling Stations

There were in all 496 polling stations, located in convenient centres, in the district during the second general elections held in 1957. In keeping with the increase in the number of electors, the number of polling stations were also increased from election to election, and there were 1,064 polling stations in the district during the general elections of 1972. Formerly, the voters of some of the constituencies in the rural areas had to traverse rather long distances to reach their polling stations. This inconvenience was also obviated by increasing the number of polling stations. The sub-joined table indicates the taluk-wise number of polling stations set up in the district during the general elections of 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972 :—

| Sl. No. | Name of Constituency | Number of polling stations during the general elections of | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--|------|------|-------|
| | | 1957 | 1962 | 1967 | 1972 |
| 1. | Siruguppa | 56 | 67 | 65 | 121 |
| 2. | Kurugodu | 51 | 57 | 64 | 130 |
| 3. | Bellary | 65 | 74 | 77 | 138 |
| 4. | Sandur | 66 | 73 | 66 | 125 |
| 5. | Hadagalli | 75 | 79 | 71 | 132 |
| 6. | Hospet | 51 | 55 | 74 | 143 |
| 7. | Kudligi | .. | 63 | 72 | 127 |
| 8. | Harapanahalli | 132 | 79 | 78 | 148 |
| | Total | 496 | 547 | 567 | 1,064 |

The first printing press was established at Bellary as early as 1815 by the London Missionary Society, under the superintendence of one Mr. Paine. They were the first to print and publish the *Amara Kosha* and the Kannada Bible during the early part of the 19th century, when there were hardly any printing presses in the whole of the area now constituting the new Mysore State. In fact, it is said that this was the first printing press to be established in the entire Karnataka region. It was, however, closed down in 1852 and the room which housed this press is now a part of the Wardlaw High School at Bellary.

Newspapers and
Periodicals

Although the district had the privilege of possessing a printing press so early, Kannada journalism, as such, had not made any headway until after 1912. Prior to 1912, there were only two Telugu monthly journals, *Sanmarga Patrika* and *Vijaya Vedartha Chandrika*, which were being printed and published at Bellary. The *Sanmarga Patrika* was in existence from 1905 to 1920 after which it stopped publication, while the other monthly had ceased publication much earlier. During this period, papers printed and published in Mysore and Dharwar regions were in circulation in the district. Popular among them were 'Mysore Star' and *Vrittanta Patrike* from the old Mysore State and *Chandrodaya* and *Rajahamsa* from Dharwar.

Shri K. M. Karibasava Sastry was the pioneer in the district in bringing out a Kannada weekly, *Ballary Bharathi*, in about 1912-13. It was being printed in the Shankara Vilas Press, of which he was the owner. The main object of the paper was to strive for maintenance of purity in the administration and give expression to the wishes and aspirations of the people of the area. It also helped popularisation of the Kannada language and in rousing the political consciousness of the people. The annual subscription for the paper was a meagre one rupee. The paper, however, could not continue for long. It had to stop publication during the early days of the first world war.

Undaunted by the failure of his maiden enterprise, Shri Karibasava Sastry again started publication of a bilingual monthly called *Andhra-Karnataka Grantha Male* in the year 1931. But one of the features in the journal, namely *Naradana Sanchara*, landed him in court in a defamation case. Although the case was amicably settled out of court, the publication of the journal was stopped thereafter.

In the year 1924, Shri Y. Nagesha Shastry started a Kannada monthly by name *Karnataka-Bandhu*, mainly to propagate the idea of unification of all Kannada-speaking areas. But it also did not survive for long owing to financial stringency and other reasons. Again, in the year 1926, Shri A. Ranganatha Mudaliar and Dr. R. Nagan Gowdh started a Kannada weekly called *Praja-*

Bandhu. But it was being printed in Telugu script. Unfortunately, this paper also could not survive for long.

Shri Tekur Subramanyam was the next to start a paper entitled *Karnataka-Kesari* sometime in 1931. He edited the journal for a period of five months before handing it over to Shri T. B. Keshava Rao. The paper, which was mainly devoted to political affairs, had to stop publication in the year 1932 in the wake of the nation-wide *satyagraha* movement. The first Kannada paper to make a real headway in journalism in the district was *Nava Sandesha*, a weekly edited by Shri T. H. M. Holebasava Shastry. It started publication in the year 1934 and gave comprehensive information on a variety of topics. This journal is still being published, its present editor being Shri T. H. M. Chandrasekhara Shastry. The paper has a press of its own. In 1937, Shri T. B. Keshava Rao started another Kannada weekly entitled *Nava Bharata*. However, after a few years, it also ceased publication.

Rytha was another popular Kannada weekly which had a fair circulation in the district. It was started in the year 1948, its editor being Shri K. Channabasappa. It had a press of its own. It was devoted to the cause of raiyats and other rural population. Even this journal had to stop publication in 1954 owing to financial stringency and other causes.

Swatantra, another Kannada weekly, was started in the district in 1953, its editor being Shri S. M. Kotrayya of Hospet. The paper, which is printed in and published from Hospet, has a fairly good circulation in the district. The present editor of this journal, which has survived to this day (1972), is Shri S. M. Vishwanath.

About the close of 1953, Shri N. S. Shetty started a Kannada fortnightly called *Pratibimba* and Shri Ramappa a weekly known as *Raja-Hamsa*. The year 1955 saw the publication of a Kannada monthly entitled *Geethavani*. This journal, devoted to religious matters, was being edited by Shri A. Karegowda. This was followed by the publication of another Kannada weekly from Hospet called *Nagara-Nagari* during 1957-58 under the editorship of Shri H. Sarveshwara. Later, in 1964, was started another Kannada monthly known as *Vishwabandhu* by Shri T. B. Siddharamaswamy. Almost all these papers survived only for short periods.

Yet another Kannada weekly, which shone for some time in the district and then ceased publication, was *Sankranthi*, edited by Shri M. Mahantaswamy. This 16 page demmy-quarto size journal was started in the year 1966 and stopped publication during 1968. Another Kannada monthly called *Ballary Jilleya Abhi-*

vridhhi Varthe started publication in 1969 under the auspices of the Bellary District Development Council. This journal, devoted to the propagation of developmental activities in the district, is edited by Shri B. M. Chandrashekharaiiah. Other recent additions to the existing journals are *Ballary Jilla Samachara*, a Kannada weekly, but edited and published from Bangalore by Shri C. G. Hampanna, and a Bellary edition of *Simhavani*, a Kannada daily of Bangalore, edited by Shri M. S. Gopalan. While the former was started in 1970, the latter was inaugurated on 1st October 1971. There have been some veteran journalists in the district like Shri Tekur Krishnamurthy, the late Shri Mattihalli Raghavendra Rao and others.

Some of the newspapers and periodicals published outside the district have a good circulation in the district. Among the Kannada daily papers which come from outside, the *Samyukta Karnataka* of Hubli and Bangalore, *Vishwavani* and *Vishala Karnataka* of Hubli and the *Prajavani* and *Kannada Prabha* of Bangalore have become more popular. Weekly and monthly journals like *Karmaveera*, *Sudha*, *Prajamatha*, *Janapragati*, *Kasturi*, *Mallige* and *Mayura* have a good appeal among the Kannada-reading public in the district. With the gradual rise in the literacy percentage, the number of readers of Kannada newspapers and periodicals has also increased in recent years. English dailies like the Deccan Herald, the Indian Express and the Hindu of Bangalore and the Times of India of Bombay are popular among the readers of English newspapers. The Bangalore edition of *Andhra Prabha* is popular among the Telugu-reading population. The film periodicals published from Bombay and Madras are becoming more and more popular among the younger generation. Most of the daily newspapers published in Bangalore and Hubli have their correspondents in the district.

Papers from
outside the
district

Organised social activities form a particular feature of the non-official endeavour in the district and there are several voluntary organisations doing good work in catering to the social needs of the community in a variety of ways. These organisations cover several fields of ameliorative service which government agencies alone cannot fulfil. Many of these organisations have been accorded official recognition and are getting assistance and general guidance from the Government. The existence of a number of such voluntary social service organisations in an area gives a richness to its institutional life. Many public-spirited persons have evinced keen interest in organising such institutions for the benefit of the people and for the welfare of the less fortunate groups of people. Provision of educational and medical facilities and promotion of welfare of women and youth are some of the important subjects to which particular attention is being bestowed by these institutions. The following is a brief account of some of the social service organisations in the district. It has not been

Voluntary
Social Service
Organisations

feasible to obtain details of all the institutions functioning in the district, but an attempt has been made to include as many typical institutions as possible, details about whose working could be collected.

The Veerashaiva Vidya Vardhaka Sangha, Bellary, was established in the year 1916 and was registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 on the 7th March 1918. It has been a pioneering institution in the field of education. The main objects of the Association are: (i) to establish schools, colleges, hostels and other educational institutions; (ii) to provide scholarships to poor and deserving students who desire to pursue higher studies; and (iii) to do such other acts as are necessary for the improvement of education in the district, in general.

The Sangha made a humble beginning in 1918 by setting up a Sanskrit Pathshala at Bellary. This was followed by the establishment, in 1924, of a Kannada Elementary School with provision to teach both Kannada and English. The progress achieved by the Sangha from 1963 onwards is remarkable. One educational project led to another and yet another, so much so by 1971 the Sangha came to have a net-work of educational institutions in the district, covering all levels of education—from primary to collegiate including professional. Till 1960, the educational endeavours of the Sangha were confined only to Bellary city. During that year, its activities were extended to other parts of the district as well. At present (1971), the Sangha is maintaining the following twelve educational institutions in the various parts of the district:—

Sl. No. Name and location of the institution
Year of establishment

| | | |
|------|-----|---|
| 1924 | 1. | Heerada Sugamma Senior Basic School, Bellary |
| 1942 | 2. | S. G. Higher Secondary School, Bellary |
| 1945 | 3. | Veerashaiva College, Bellary |
| 1954 | 4. | Silver Jubilee Memorial Primary School, Bellary |
| 1963 | 5. | Vijayanagara High School, T.B. Dam, Munnirabad |
| 1963 | 6. | Kotturwamy College of Education, Bellary |
| 1963 | 7. | H. B. High School, Kudathini |
| 1964 | 8. | First Grade Vijayanagara College, Hospet |
| 1967 | 9. | Kottureshwara College, Kottur |
| 1968 | 10. | K. P. G. High School, Tambrahalli |
| 1969 | 11. | Smt. Allum Sumangalamma Memorial College for Women, Bellary |
| 1970 | 12. | Smt. Gangavathi Bhagyamma Rural College, Huvviahadagalli |

Veerashaiva
Vidya Vardhaka
Sangha, Bellary

These institutions are providing educational facilities to about 7,000 students and employment to about 300 teachers and other workers. The Sangha is also running a few hostels for the benefit of the students studying in these educational institutions. It has endowment properties in the shape of buildings and lands, valued at more than Rs. 25 lakhs and has also received donations from a good number of philanthropists of the district. The Sangha has thus been instrumental in spreading education, to a considerable extent, in this otherwise educationally backward district.

The Provincial Vysya Education Fund came into existence in the year 1948. Its main objects are to render financial help to the students of the Vysya community for their higher education, including foreign studies. One of the conditions under which financial assistance is given to the scholars is that the amount should be repaid to the institution as soon as they begin to earn their livelihood.

**Provincial
Vysya
Education Fund**

The organisation has so far (1970-71) helped seven students for their foreign studies and 314 students for their technical and higher education; a sum of Rs. 1,35,841 has so far been spent for this purpose, while the beneficiaries have repaid Rs. 82,479 to the Fund after completing their studies.

Bellary has the distinction of being the oldest mission station in the Mysore Diocese of the Church of South India. The London Missionary Society began its work here as early as 1810 when the district formed part of the old Madras Presidency under the East India Company's administration. As stated earlier, a printing press was started by this Mission at Bellary in 1815, and it was here that the first edition of the complete Kannada Bible was printed. But this press did not become a permanent institution and stopped working in 1852. The Mission next established the Wardlaw High School in the year 1845. To begin with, 70 students were admitted to that institution. It celebrated its centenary during the year 1951 and in memory of it, a Centenary Memorial building costing about Rs. 30,000 was constructed. This institution has helped to produce many eminent scholars and public citizens. The London Mission was also responsible for starting two Higher Elementary Schools for girls as early as 1880. There are, in addition, two free Boarding Homes for poor children, one for girls and the other for boys, which were started by the Mission.

**London Mission
Organisation**

The Catholic Mission Organisation started its activities in the district even prior to the year 1870. It has established two High Schools, one for boys and the other for girls, in Bellary.

**Catholic Mission
Organisation**

The Mission has also established a Preservation Home for women and girls at Bellary. Founded about a hundred years ago, it provides protection and shelter to destitute women and girls

who are in moral and social danger. Run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, this Home had 62 inmates in 1971. The same Sisters also run two Orphanages, one established in 1875 and another in 1904, in which there were 56 and 68 inmates respectively. Besides, the Sisters of our Lady of Fatima also run two other Orphanages, one at Bellary and the other at Hospet; while the former, founded in 1924, had 130 inmates in 1971, the latter, founded only recently, had just about a dozen inmates. Further, the Fathers of the Society of Jesus are running another boys' home called St. Jhon's Boys' Home and the Fathers of the Parish are maintaining the St. Martin's Home, both of which are located in Bellary proper.

The Missionaries of Charity, a Congregation founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who came to the district in 1967, have also established (1) a home called Nirmal Hirday for the homeless and aged destitutes, (2) a Shishu Bhavan for the care and protection of illegitimate and unwanted children and unmarried mothers, (3) a Leprosy Centre and Clinic, (4) about a dozen Mobile Clinics and Centres in the slum areas of Bellary and the surrounding villages, (5) two Kindergarten Day Schools in the slum areas, and (6) classes for training poor girls in shorthand, typewriting, tailoring and embroidery.

**Poor Muslim
Students'
Educational
Aid Fund**

The Poor Muslim Students' Educational Aid Fund, Bellary, was established in 1961 with the object of helping needy Muslim students to prosecute their studies by providing them with books, free of charge, scholarships, etc. There are 120 ordinary and 20 life members in this organisation, with a managing committee to supervise the fund. Regular annual contributions and donations are collected from the generous public, especially during the holy month of Ramzan, for augmenting the funds of the organisation.

About 600 poor students of Bellary city have so far (1971) been benefited by this Fund. A hostel has also been constructed for the benefit of students coming from distant places.

**Rate Payers'
Association,
Bellary**

The Rate Payers' Association, Bellary, was established in the year 1952 by a band of enthusiastic citizens of Bellary and it was registered in 1956. The main object of the Association is to co-operate with the authorities in developmental work and also focus their attention on the just demands of the general public regarding civic amenities. It also aims at obtaining a uniform and just mode of taxation in all spheres, co-operating with the authorities to prevent wastage in administrative expenditure, assisting them to improve the tone of administration and stimulating civic and social consciousness among the citizens.

The Association has assisted in solving several problems affecting the citizens of Bellary, through constitutional methods.

It acts as a liaison between the public and the authorities in tackling public issues. For instance, when the local municipality takes up periodical revision of taxes, the Association enlightens the tax-payers on tax regulations and supplies them forms to be filled in and sent to the municipal authorities, so that the taxes may not be levied in excess. Whenever street lights fail or water taps do not work, the matter is immediately brought to the notice of the authorities for rectification. It also tries to bring corruption cases in Government departments to the notice of the authorities concerned for necessary action. When there were differences of opinion on the question of location of the bus-stand at Bellary, the Association intervened and helped to resolve the issue. These are a few of the instances of the activities of the Association. It is represented on the Hospital Advisory Committee and such other advisory bodies. A managing committee, consisting of a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, a treasurer and a joint-secretary looks after the activities and administration of the Association.

The Bellary District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society was started in the year 1934 by Shri S. Parthasarathy, an Advocate of Bellary. The Society is an international organisation devoted mainly to the service of the poor and the needy, especially in times of emergencies and natural calamities. One of the principal achievements of the Society was the construction of a hospital ward called "Nora Fraser's Ward" in the General Hospital, Hospet, at a cost of about Rs. 30,000. This institution won the provincial shield twice for meritorious services rendered in the field of Red Cross activities.

**Bellary District
Red Cross
Society**

After the merger of Bellary district with old Mysore State in October 1953, the Bellary District Branch was affiliated to the Mysore State Red Cross Branch. The Branch continued to render useful social service and earned the appreciation of the Indian Red Cross Society. On several previous occasions, as also in 1960-61, when certain parts of the district were in the grip of scarcity conditions, the Society organised relief measures and distributed foodgrains, clothings, medicines and milk powder to the sufferers in the worst-affected villages. In the wake of the promulgation of the Gold Control Order in 1963, the Society strove to help the goldsmiths in distress. Similarly, during the national emergencies in 1962 and 1965, the Society organised Jawans' Relief Funds and collected large amounts of money, woollen blankets, mufflers, sweaters, copies of magazines, cigarettes, soaps and the like and despatched them to the war fronts for supply to the jawans. Shri Tekur Krishnamurthy, a prominent social worker of Bellary, took an active part in these multifarious activities of the Red Cross in the district. In appreciation of his commendable service for over three decades as a member, organiser, secretary and vice-president of the Red Cross in the

district, he was awarded the "Indian Red Cross Award of Merit" for 1964 by the Indian Red Cross Headquarters at Delhi.

**Rotary Club,
Bellary**

The Rotary Club, Bellary, was started in the year 1959, duly sponsored by the Bangalore Rotary Club, with a small number of members on its rolls to begin with; the membership rose steadily over the years and its present (1971) strength is about 45. The club is essentially a service organisation covering four avenues of service, namely, club service, vocational service, community service and international service. This institution was responsible for establishing a women's and children's park at Bellary at a cost of Rs. 15,000. It contributed a sum of Rs. 1,000 to the Book Bank established in the Government Polytechnic, Bellary, for the use of poor students.

Among the other important activities of the Club may be mentioned the construction of a bus-stop shelter at Bellary cantonment at a cost of Rs. 2,000, creation of an endowment of Rs. 1,000 at the Bellary Medical College for award of a gold medal to the best student of the College every year, donation of Rs. 500 to the police for erection of traffic sign boards in Bellary city, and award of two rolling shields, one for the school adjudged as best in sports activities and the other for the school the students of which score the highest marks in S.S.L.C. Examination. It also awards prizes to the students who obtain the first ten ranks in the district in the annual S.S.L.C. Examination.

The Club has adopted a village, *viz.*, Sanganakal, three miles from Bellary city, for development as a model village. It has established a rural medical centre at this place. The Club has also undertaken a Student Adoption Scheme under which poor and deserving high school students are provided with school fees, books and clothes. In appreciation of this service of the Club, it has been awarded a trophy for "best youth service" in the Rotary District-317.

**Rotary Club,
Hospet**

The Rotary Club, Hospet, was established in the year 1959. It was sponsored by the Rotary Club, Bellary. At the beginning of 1971, there were about 50 rotarian members in the Club. In keeping with its objectives of fostering the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, the Club has undertaken a number of ameliorative activities for the benefit of the people of the area. It distributes anti-polio vaccine for children free of cost and observes the 15th of every month as polio-vaccination day. A bus-stop shelter has been constructed on the Dharwar road in the Nehru Colony at a cost of Rs. 2,000 besides sponsoring another shelter at the Kamalapur bus-stand near Hospet. It has established a Rotary Children's Library at Hospet and is also supplying newspapers to the local reading rooms. It conducts elocution and *rangoli* competitions as also spot-painting and drawing competi-

tions every year and awards prizes to the winners. Scholarships are also awarded to poor and deserving students studying in the local high schools.

The Club has adopted the Hampi village for development as a model village. It has donated Rs. 9,000 towards the rural water supply scheme undertaken by the Government for providing protected water supply to the village. (The Rotary Club of South Sydney, Australia, has also contributed Rs. 4,000 towards this scheme.) The Club annexed the shield for the 'best international service' in the Rotary District-317. As a part of its vocational service, the Club conducted two courses of Supervisory Training and Agricultural Management Programmes in April 1970, with the assistance of the National Productivity Council, Bangalore. The Club is publishing a monthly news bulletin called 'Hospet Rotarian' for circulation among the members. All these and other activities of the Club are financed from the subscriptions and donations of its members.

The District Hindi Premi Mandal, Bellary, was established in 1931 by Shri T. B. Keshava Rao, one of the five earliest workers in Karnataka in the field of Hindi who were honoured by the President of India with the presentation of a "sannad". Its main objects are spreading of Hindi in Devanagari script in the district, by starting *vidyalayas* and classes, publishing books and pamphlets, opening libraries and reading rooms and doing such other acts as are calculated to advance the propagation of Hindi. The Mandal is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, two secretaries and 15 other members. Funds are raised for running the institution through subscriptions and donations supplemented by Government grant which is 50 per cent of the total admitted expenditure. A good number of students, both boys and girls, men and women, have been taught Hindi ever since the inception of the Mandal and have been successful in the various Hindi examinations conducted by Hindi Prachar institutions.

**District Hindi
Premi Mandal**

The Lions Club, Hospet, was started in January 1968 and there were 43 members on its rolls at the beginning of 1971. The highlights of the ameliorative activities undertaken by the Club are organisation of a free eye camp by Dr. M. C. Modi, baby shows, free coaching classes for S.S.L.C. students, and the like. It also extends financial assistance to poor students for payment of school fees and purchase of books. It has also undertaken construction of a building for the Child Welfare Centre at the Co-operative Colony, Hospet. The affairs of the Club are managed by a Board of Directors with the help of subscriptions from the members and donations from the public.

**Lions Club,
Hospet**

Bharat Sevadal

The Bharat Sevadal is an off-shoot of the Hindustani Sevadal founded by Dr. N. S. Hardikar in the year 1923. It came into existence in March 1950 as a non-political, non-party youth organisation. The objects of the organisation are : (i) to instil the qualities of self-discipline, self-reliance and service in the youth of the country ; (ii) to improve the health and physique of the youths, and (iii) to promote national development and social reconstruction by rendering service.

The Sevadal is managed by a Central Committee consisting of a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, an organising secretary, a treasurer and a *dalapathi*. Taluk and District Committees have also been formed to look after the work of the organisation at those levels. There are at present ten registered *shakas* (branches) of the Sevadal functioning in the district.

**Sanmarga
Theosophical
Lodge, Bellary**

The Theosophical Society was founded by Madame H. S. Blavatsky and Col. H. S. Olcott, in the United States of America in 1875. They came to India in 1879 and in 1886, established their headquarters in Adyar, a suburb of Madras. The Society has proved as an important factor in the field of social and religious reforms and has promoted tolerance.

The Sanmarga Theosophical Lodge of the Theosophical Society at Bellary was the seventh of the Lodges started at the instance of the founders. It was established sometime during the last decade of the last century. The aim of the Lodge is to propagate universal brotherhood and comparative study of all religions. It also aims at the study of the un-explained laws of nature inherent in man. For this purpose, the Lodge holds meetings and arranges lectures on allied subjects. Evening study classes or discourses are also conducted. The Lodge celebrates *jayanthis* of great and eminent personages of all religions.

The Lodge maintains a library and a reading room consisting of about 5,100 books and newspapers and periodicals in English, Kannada and Telugu. The Lodge receives a grant of Rs. 150 per year from the Government. With the proceeds of a trust endowment and occasional charity from the public, it conducts poor feeding on some important days every year. The Lodge is housed in its own building in the Car Street, Bellary. There is also a ladies' wing of the Lodge at Bellary called the Maitreya (Ladies) Lodge and a Branch Lodge at Hospet.

Youth Clubs

Attempts have been made in recent years to harness the energy of the youths of the district for healthy activities through the organisation of youth clubs all over the district. Bellary is also one of the districts in the country selected for the Intensive Educational District Development Project under which schemes

and programmes, especially to develop the employment potential among the youth, are being implemented. The training of the non-student section of the youth is an important part of this project.

During 1971, there were as many as 216 youth clubs in the district with a total membership of about 4,460. While 186 youth clubs with a total membership of 3,860 were in the rural areas, 30 clubs with a membership of about 600 were in the urban areas of the district. These institutions have adopted activities suitable to their environments and resources and they include organisation of adult literacy classes, libraries and reading rooms, cultural and recreational activities. While some clubs have undertaken literacy campaigns, some others assist the authorities concerned in implementing the mid-day meal scheme and the applied nutrition programme. They also educate the people on the need for better sanitation and healthy surroundings. The youth clubs also organise centres to educate the farmers on the production of compost and green manures, on poultry-farming, on vegetable cultivation, on rearing of improved breeds of cattle, sheep and goats and the like. Games and sports are the common activities of all the clubs, which hold competitions at the local level and encourage youth to participate in body-building activities. Cultural programmes like dramas and *bhajans* are also organised by several of the clubs.

The active youth clubs are assisted by the Government with a monetary grant of Rs. 300 to each. Besides, prizes ranging from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,000 are also awarded to the clubs which turn out good work. During 1970-71, 12 youth clubs in the district were selected for the award of these prizes and a sum of Rs. 5,800 was spent for this purpose. Another sum of Rs. 2,000 was also spent during the year for organising youth rallies at the taluk-level. Thus, in all, a sum of Rs. 26,800 was spent during 1970-71 for youth services programmes in the district, while it was proposed to spend Rs. 94,500 for this purpose during 1971-72.

A 20-member District Youth Service Board has been constituted by the Government during 1969-70 with the Deputy Commissioner of the district as its Chairman and the Deputy Director of Public Instruction as its Secretary. The District Planning Officer, who has now been designated as the District Planning and Youth Service Officer, functions as the Joint Secretary of the Board. It is mainly an advisory body and its functions include formulation of specific programmes for the promotion of welfare of both the student and non-student youths in the district, mobilisation of resources from local bodies and other agencies for youth welfare programmes, advising the authorities concerned on the steps to be taken for intensifying extra-curricular activities, sports and games and the like in schools and colleges,

and reviewing of the progress of work done under the youth services programme in the district periodically.

According to the latest rules regarding organisation of youth clubs, every youth club in the district is required to be affiliated to the District Youth Service Board if it is to get recognition and financial assistance from the Government. To qualify for such affiliation, a club should have at least 15 members in the age-group of 15—30. It is expected that these affiliated clubs would be entrusted with more responsible civic and social work in the years to come. In the following paragraphs is given a brief account of the activities of a few of the youth clubs in the district, by way of illustration, as it is not possible nor is it necessary to deal with all of them individually.

**Taruna Sangha,
Huvinahadagalli**

The Taruna Sangha, Huvinahadagalli, was established in 1957, but it was registered only in 1964. The aims and objects of the Sangha include promotion of literary and cultural activities in the town, providing of guidance and advice to the cultivators regarding modern methods of cultivation, encouraging of games and sports, etc. The affairs of the Sangha are managed by a committee consisting of 13 members. The Sangha has been drawing the attention of the authorities concerned towards administrative lapses, if any, and civic and other needs of the people of the town as well as the taluk through representations and, sometimes, by organising agitations.

It conducted a survey of lepers in the taluk in 1959 and caused the establishment of a leprosy sub-centre at Hadagalli. It conducted also a Leprosy Volunteers' Training Course and distributed 50 pairs of canvas shoes among the lepers. A B.C.G. Vaccination Camp was also organised by the Sangha in the town. It has also instituted a rolling trophy for staging dramas and conducts annual drama competitions. It conducted State-level volleyball and badminton tournaments and awarded gold medals to the winners. Demonstrations in preparation of compost pits, use of modern agricultural implements, etc., were organised on several occasions. The Sangha has taken up construction of a building of its own at a cost of about Rs. 20,000. Its activities are financed with the help of subscriptions from members, donations from the public and realisations from benefit shows.

**Sharada Youth
Club,
Nagalapura**

The Sharada Youth Club, Nagalapura, in Hospet taluk, was started in October 1964 by a band of enthusiastic youth of the place with the main objective of serving the cause of the agriculturists of the area by providing them with improved seeds, demonstrating the use of modern implements and generally guiding them in the pursuit of scientific methods of agriculture. Village sanitation, social and cultural activities, etc., are also among the activities of the Club. During 1971, there were 26

members in the Club, each paying a subscription of 50 paise per month.

The Youth Club has made arrangements to impart training in mat-weaving, stone-carving, horticulture and the like to interested persons in the village. Adult education classes are also being conducted in the Club premises. A Radio Rural Forum has been functioning in the village under the auspices of the Club and 12 of its members have received training in modern methods of agriculture at the Agricultural Training Centre, Gangavati, in Raichur district. Improvement of the village road through *shramadan*, repairs to the drinking water wells of the village, preparation of compost manure, renovation of the village temples, small savings work, etc., are among the other activities of the Club. Staging of dramas, conducting of *bhajans* and *keertans* and celebration of national festivals are also a common feature of the Club.

The Youth Club, Uttangi, in Hadagalli taluk, is affiliated to the Mysore State Young Farmers' Forum and its activities are mainly concentrated on efforts to develop agriculture. The Club procures improved seeds and distributes the same among the farmers of the village. It also provides guidance to illiterate cultivators in respect of high-yielding varieties of crops and the use of chemical fertilisers, insecticides and the like. It has established a Bhajan Mandir, where religious and cultural programmes, variety entertainments, etc., are conducted. The services of the members of the Club are made available for social work on important occasions like public functions, festivals, etc. To finance its activities, the Club collects regular subscriptions from its members and also receives public contributions. The Hadagalli Taluk Development Board has given a financial assistance of Rs. 300 to the Club for purchase of furniture and other equipment to the Club office.

**Youth Club,
Uttangi**

The Sri Savalal Ryot Sangha in Adavimallanakeri Tanda, in Hadagalli taluk, was established in June 1970. Its main objective is to help, with the assistance of the local village panchayat and the block agency, the backward people of the Tanda to improve their agricultural and animal husbandry practices. Development of co-operative institutions in the Tanda is also one of its aims.

**Savalal Ryot
Sangha, A.M.
Keri Tanda**

In fulfilment of its main objective, the Sangha procured chemical fertilisers, improved seeds, pesticides, etc., and made them available to the farmers in the Tanda. It also collected soil samples and got them tested through the Agricultural Department. It has arranged for the dissemination of knowledge to the farmers regarding modern techniques of agriculture, through the installation of a community listening radio set. A night school has also been started for the benefit of the illiterate adults of

the Tanda. An amount of Rs. 300 has been granted to the Sangha from the block funds so as to enable it to pursue its activities.

Mahila Mandals

The *Mahila Mandals* play a useful role in the betterment of the socio-economic condition of the womenfolk to a certain extent. There were over 90 such institutions in Bellary district during 1971 and their programme of work was, by and large, the same all over the district. They included running of nursery schools for little children and conducting of classes in Hindi, music and dance and providing of training in tailoring, knitting, embroidery and such other crafts for the benefit of women and girls of their respective areas. Several of these institutions have received recognition and financial support from the Government and the local bodies. In the following paragraphs, a brief account of the important activities of a few of the *Mahila Mandals* in the district is given by way of illustration.

**Akkamahadevi
Mahila Samaj,
Bellary**

The Akkamahadevi Mahila Samaj, Bellary, was started in the year 1962 by a band of enthusiastic women of the city with the object of promoting the social and economic betterment of the women of the place. The Samaj is running embroidery and tailoring classes for needy women so that they may be in a position to supplement their family income after their period of training. Provision has also been made to teach Hindi and music to interested women and girls. A *Shishu Vihar* is also being run by the Samaj for the benefit of tiny tots, which provides them a good base for their future educational development. There were about 200 children in this *Shishu Vihar* during 1971. The activities of the Samaj are financed by subscriptions from its members and contributions from the public.

**Sharada Mahila
Samaj,
Hadagalli**

The Shri Sharada Mahila Samaj, Hadagalli, was also established in 1962 and was subsequently registered in 1963. Its aims and objects include mobilisation of women for promoting the general welfare of women and children of the area, organisation of cultural and educational activities and training of women in fine arts and handicrafts. In addition, the propagation of the principles of small savings, family planning, etc., are also among the objectives of the Samaj.

There were about 160 members in the Samaj during 1971. It is housed in its own building constructed at a cost of about Rs. 25,000 out of public contributions and Government assistance. The Samaj is running tailoring, knitting and embroidery classes and over 70 members were attending these classes during 1971. It is also running a *Shishu Vihar*, which is attended by more than 50 children. It arranged for distribution of 85 sewing machines on 50 per cent subsidy basis to the members trained in tailoring. The scheduled caste children attending the *Shishu Vihar* are

provided with slates, pencils, books and uniforms free of cost. Milk is supplied to babies and pregnant women belonging to the backward classes. The Samaj conducts baby shows and exhibitions, organises tailoring and *rangoli* competitions and awards prizes to winners. Twenty of its members were trained at the Associated Women Workers' Training Class at Gangavati. Apart from subscriptions from its members and contributions from the public, the Samaj has also received financial assistance both from the Government and the Hadagalli Taluk Development Board.

The Vanaja Mahila Samaja, Kottur, in Kudligi taluk, was started in 1963, for promoting the welfare of womenfolk of the area by providing them training in various crafts and for creating in them interest in public activities. There were about 40 members in the Samaja during 1971, each paying a monthly subscription ranging from 25 paise to one rupee. Donations from the public and grants-in-aid from the Government were the other main sources of revenue of the Samaja apart from nominal admission and tuition fees.

**Vanaja Mahila
Samaja, Kottur**

Upto 1971, about eight batches of women, each batch consisting of about 40 members, were trained in tailoring in the tailoring section of the Samaja. A number of them were also taught embroidery and design-stitching. Several of the poorer trainees have been provided with sewing machines at half the cost and they are also supplied with cloth pieces for garment-making, at concessional rates. Besides, another 40 women were also trained in mat-weaving. The Samaja, which has its own building, possesses also a library and a radio set. In addition, training classes in making plastic wire articles, paper-flowers, woollen articles, food-stuffs, hair-oils and scents, batic painting, etc., were also conducted by the Samaja during 1970 for the benefit of local women and girls.

The Bhagini Mandal, Hampasagar, in Mallapuram taluk, was inaugurated in June 1963. The main activities of the Mandal include running of a *Shishu Vihar* and conducting of tailoring and knitting classes. Music classes are also conducted for the benefit of interested women and girls. The Mandal has a modest building of its own. Apart from collecting subscriptions from its members, the Mandal is getting a little financial help from the local development block towards payment of salary to the teaching staff.

**Bhagini Mandal,
Hampasagar**

The Lakshmi Mahila Mandali, Chikkajogihalli, a most progressive village not only in Kudligi taluk but also in the entire district, was established in December 1968 with the main objective of achieving the socio-economic betterment of the womenfolk of the place. There were about 30 members in the Mandali during 1971, as against 15 at the beginning. It is running a *Shishu Vihar*

**Lakshmi
Mahila Mandali,
Chikkajogihalli**

for the benefit of little children and is also conducting classes in tailoring and embroidery, which are found useful by the women-folk of the locality. Recreation facilities are also provided to the members of the Mandali in the evenings so as to relieve them of their boredom of daily hard work. It is also maintaining a reading room so as to encourage a reading habit among the literate women. The institution also conducts 'baby shows' and other competitions for young kids and celebrates all the important national festivals and helps to promote a spirit of co-operation.

**Mahila Samaj,
Kampli**

The Mahila Samaj, Kampli, in Hospet taluk, was established in 1958 for promoting the welfare of women. The Samaj is running a well-equipped nursery school for the children of the colony. About 50 children were attending the school in 1971. A library and a reading room are also provided for the members. A tailoring class is also being run for the benefit of interested women. The Samaj distributes milk with the assistance of the Red Cross Society to about 100 children of the sugar factory labour colony daily. The institution has been getting a grant from the Central Social Welfare Board and also financial assistance from the management of the sugar factory.

**Mahila Samaj,
Hospet**

The Mahila Samaj, Hospet, was established in April 1955 and was registered in 1958. It is recognised both by the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, and the State Social Welfare Board, Bangalore. In 1971, there were 65 members in the institution. It is managed by an executive committee consisting of a president, a secretary, a treasurer and five other members.

The Samaj is running a nursery school for the benefit of children. The school is housed in the Samaj's own building constructed at a cost of about Rs. 20,000. There were 72 children in the school in 1971. The Samaj is also running tailoring and machine-embroidery classes for women. Facilities have also been provided for indoor and outdoor games for the benefit of the members. The Samaj has received varying amounts of grants from the Social Welfare Board and the Department of Industries and Commerce.

There are also a number of other similar institutions in various parts of the district, which are striving for the social, cultural, educational and economic uplift of the various sections of the society in their own humble way. There are also *mathas* belonging to different religious denominations, which also seek to promote social, cultural and religious objectives. The number of such voluntary social service organisations have increased in recent years thus adding lustre and strength to the social fabric of the district (see also Chapter XV).