

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

THE district unit has a special position in the administration of a State. General administration, in so far as this unit is concerned, signifies the management of public affairs within an area which is demarcated for the purpose. Since the Mauryan times, the district as a sizeable administrative unit has always been of importance. At different times, different ruling dynasties called the district-like units variously as *vishaya*, *kampana*, *nadu*, *seeme*, *paragana*, *sarkar* and so on. The code of Manu describes the village as, more or less, a self-contained basic unit with a headman, and that a group of such villages formed a bigger administrative unit which was placed under the charge of an officer. This position has not varied greatly over the centuries. But, it is not feasible to find a historical continuity between the old units and the modern districts.

It appears that under Ashoka's reign, the region was administered by an *Ayaputa* (*Aryaputra*, prince of the royal family), who was the viceroy, with the assistance of *Dharmamatras*, *Mahamatras* and *Rajjukas*. The Satavahanas, who succeeded the Mauryas, had also an efficient system of local administration. During the rule of the Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas, the district units were governed by *Prabhus*, *Nada-gavundas* and *Dandanayakas*. The administration of justice was carried on by the local *Mahajanas* and the village headmen in conformity with the traditional and local customs.

The region became a possession of the Sultan of Delhi in 1321, and a few years later, it was taken over by the Bahamanis who established their authority over the Deccan. Under them, the province was divided into *shiqqs* or *paraganas* which were managed by *Amils* and *Shiqqdar*s. The various officials under the *Shiqqdar* were the *Munshif*, *Potedar* (treasurer), *Karkuns* and *Qanungo*. The *Amil* headed the *Paragana* administration. The *Munshif* was

Early period

the chief officer in charge of assessment, while the *Karkuns* acted as registrars. The *Qanungo* was a revenue inspector.

During the
rule of
Nizams

The Mughuls annexed the region after vanquishing Sikandar Adil Shah in 1686. The system of administration followed by Asaf Jah, the first Nizam (1724-48), who was the Mughul Subedar of the Deccan and his successors was based on the Mughul pattern. Large extents of lands were given away as *Jagirs* and *Paigahs* to nobles and others and some other lands were also appropriated as *Sarf-e-khas* (crown-lands). Some of the nobles who were granted lands had to maintain troops for the use of the Nizam. The lands given over to such nobles were called *Paigahs* and those presented to others for services rendered to the Nizams were known as *Jagirs*. It is interesting to note that these three kinds of lands constituted about one-third of the whole area of the Hyderabad State. The other lands over which the Nizam's Government had direct control were called *Khalsa* or *Diwani* lands. The following table indicates the extent of the district with taluk-wise area and number of villages as in 1901 :

<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Area in sq.miles</i>	<i>No. of villages</i>
Bidar	114	46
Karamungi (Janawada)	150	57
Aurad	158	54
Kohir	147	42
Nilanga	248	63
Udgir	544	153
Vaval-Rajura (Ahmedpur)	687	211
Jagirs, etc.	2,120	831
District Total	4,168	1,457

(One sq.mile = 2.59 sq.kms.)

Before 1905, Bidar was the headquarters of a Division districts, occupying almost the centre of the Hyderabad State and the Bidar district had seven taluks namely, Bidar, Kohir, Janawada (Karamungi), Aurad, Udgir, Varval-Rajura (Ahmedapur) and Nilanga. In 1905, Gulbarga was made the headquarters of the Division which included the Bidar district. The Division was headed by a Divisional Commissioner called the *Subedar*. Each district was under a magistrate or collector designated as the *Talukdar*. The districts were further divided into sub-divisions and each of them was administered by a sub-divisional officer called the second or third *Talukdar*. There were two or three such sub-divisions in each district.

Each of the sub-divisions contained two or three tahsils and a *Tahsildar* was in charge of each of them. Each village had a *Patel* (headman). For the administration of justice, there was a Divisional Judge in each Division, and the *Talukdars* and *Tahsildars* in the district had the powers of first, second and third grade magistrates. In the more important places, the *Talukdar* had Judicial Assistants, and from their courts, complicated cases were sent to the Divisional Courts. In 1905, the district comprised five taluks, Bidar, Janawada (Karamungi), Nilanga, Udgir and Ahmedpur (Varval-Rajura) and had two sub-divisions, one consisting of Udgir, Ahmedpur and Nilanga taluks, in charge of a second *Talukdar* and the other comprising Bidar and Janawada taluks under a Third *Talukdar*.

In 1922, the Gulbarga Division was abolished and the Bidar and other districts were put under the direct control of the Revenue Secretariat of the State. However, the Division was revived in 1929 and continued till the police action in 1948, when again it was done away with.

As in 1901, there were eight *Paigahs* in Bidar district, namely, (1) Chincholi, (2) Ekoli, (3) Chitaguppa, (4) Narayanakhed, (5) Hasanabad, (6) Partabpur, (7) Bhalki and (8) Ghorwadi. There were two *jagirs*, the *Jagir* of Kalyani and the *Jagir* of Mirag. While the *Jagir* of Kalyani was attached to the Bidar taluk, the *Jagir* of Mirag was attached to the Udgir taluk. It is noteworthy that the *Paigahs* and the *Jagirs* constituted 2,120 sq. miles with 831 villages out of the district's totals of 4,168 sq. miles and 1,457 villages. The following statement shows the taluk-wise number of *Jagir* villages as in 1905 :

Jagir
administra-
tion

<i>Taluk</i>	<i>No. of Jagir villages</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>No. of Jagir villages</i>
Bidar	89	Udgir	54
Janawada	19	Ahmedpur	33
Nilanga	26		
		Total	221

The *Jagirdars*, more or less, enjoyed the powers of a chief of an Indian State of the British days within the Hyderabad State and were subject to the overall supervision and control of the Nizam who was the paramount authority for them. They collected the land and other revenues within their jurisdictions though their own officers appointed by them. They had also their own police and judiciary for a long time. Owing to varying sizes and incomes of the *Jagirs*, there was a wide disparity in regard to their administration.

Several attempts were made to bring about some uniformity in the administration of the *Jagirs* and to bring it on a level with the *diwani* administration. But there was no adequate machinery in the *Jagirs* for the enforcement of certain laws promulgated by the Nizam's Government, as the internal administration of the *Jagirs* was detached from and uninfluenced by the *Suba*, *Zilla* and *Tahsil* administration. The Nizam's Government had no direct control over the *Jagirs* in respect of welfare activities either, such as public health and education. The *Jagirs* were mostly exploited by the *Jagirdars* for their personal aggrandisement and their welfare was sorely neglected. The *Jagirdars* were divested of their police powers in 1947 and judicial powers in 1948.

Abolition of Jagirs

A Royal Commission on the *Jagir* Administration was appointed by the Nizam's Government in 1947 under the Chairmanship of Sri Albion Rajkumar Banerji to suggest recommendations to reform the *Jagir* administration. Its report laid great stress on meeting the immediate requirements of good administration. But no action was taken to implement its recommendations. The promulgation of the Hyderabad (Abolition of *Jagirs*) Regulation, 1949, by the Military Government of Hyderabad after the Police Action in 1948, however, resulted in taking over of all the *Jagirs* by the Hyderabad Government.

The district was reconstituted under the *Jagir* Abolition Act of 1950 and it consisted of nine taluks, namely, (1) Bidar, (2) Bhalki, (3) Humnabad, (4) Aurad, (5) Nilanga, (6) Ahmedpur, (7) Udgir, (8) Zahirabad and (9) Narayanakhed. Janawada taluk was abolished and merged in the adjoining taluks of Bidar, Aurad and Bhalki. Bhalki, Aurad, Humnabad, Zahirabad and Narayanakhed were newly created out of the overwhelming *ex-paigah* and *ex-jagir* villages of Vikhar-ul Umra, Asmanjahi, Kurshidjahi, Kalyan and Dooni estates.

Earlier, just after the Police Action in 1948, the Nizam dismissed his Council of Ministers, and handed over the administration to the Military Governor. Thereafter, the State became a part of the Indian Union. The Military Governor and the Chief Civil Administrator replaced the old Council of Ministers and a Civil Administrator was appointed for each district. He had under him a Deputy Civil Administrator and an Assistant Civil Administrator on the one side and a first *Talukdar*, two or more Second *Talukdars* and *Tahsildars* on the other. The State became a part 'B' State of the Indian Union with the Nizam as the Rajpramukh.

Popular Government

A full-fledged popular Government consisting of thirteen representatives of the people, took charge of the administration of

the Hyderabad State in Mach 1952. This marked a new stage in historical, political and administrative evolution of the State and also served as a new spur to concerted efforts for development in various spheres. On the reorganisation of States on November 1, 1956, most of the Kannada-speaking area of the Hyderabad State was included in the new Mysore State. In so far as Bidar district was concerned, it was reduced to four taluks, namely, Bidar, Bhalki, Humnabad and Aurad. The Zahirabad and Narayanakhed taluks were merged in Andhra Pradesh, while the Ahmedpur, Nilanga and Udgir taluks were transferred to the then Bombay State. The Bidar district became a part of the Gulbarga Division which included the entire area coming over from the Hyderabad State to the new Mysore State. In 1965, a new taluk, *i.e.*, Basavakalyan was brought into existence by transferring 89 villages and Basavakalyan town from Humnabad taluk and 25 villages from Bhalki taluk and with Basavakalyan as its headquarters. The district thus came to have five taluks with only one sub-division comprising all the five taluks. There are 30 hoblis, six in each taluk, and there are five towns, 591 inhabited and 31 un-inhabited villages in this district.

The administrative machinery of the district consists of a hierarchy of officers and officials headed by the Deputy Commissioner. An Assistant Commissioner is in charge of the sub-division. After the achievement of independence, the district administration has come to encompass a large number of subjects of public administration. The expectations and demands of the people have been increasing. There is wide awareness among them, and the democratic set-up has stimulated aspirations and urges of an unprecedented kind. The district administration has been given added importance and responsibilities with the launching of the Five-Year Plans and several other development programmes. All administrative functions are required to be carried out in accordance with the rule of law.

The functions of the district administration may be grouped into several broad categories. The first group relates to public safety, protection of the citizen and his rights, which includes maintenance of law and order and administration of civil and criminal justice. The second group may be called the revenue group pertaining to assessment and collection of taxes and duties of different kinds including land revenue, irrigation charges, income-tax, agricultural income-tax, sales-tax, entertainment-tax, stamp duty, court fees, registration fees, excise duties of both the Central and State Governments, taxes on motor vehicles, etc. Under this group may also be included recovery of loans advanced to cultivators, control and maintenance of Government treasuries, land acquisition,

**Multifarious
administra-
tive functions**

maintenance of land records, consolidation of agricultural holdings and implementation of land reforms.

Agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, communications, industries and Commerce come under the third group. These constitute the economic group of administrative functions. The next group consists of welfare and development functions such as community development, co-operatives, public health, education, social welfare, local self-government institutions and the like; some of these are also economic. Dealing with calamities like famines, floods, fire, etc., is another duty cast upon the district administration. The conduct of elections to the Lok Sabha, to the State Legislature and to the local bodies, the conduct of population and livestock censuses, etc., are also the concern of the district administration. It has also to see that the local bodies like the municipalities, taluk development boards and village *panchayats* function properly. Further, it has to exercise executive authority of Government in periods of crisis endangering life and security of the people. To deal with these multifarious functions, there are a number of functionaries at the district, sub-divisional, taluk, circle and village levels. But, it is the Deputy Commissioner who has to bear the main brunt of the district administration under the guidance and supervision of the Divisional Commissioner.

Divisional
Commis-
sioner

Under the provisions of the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956, the posts of Divisional Commissioners in the new Mysore State were created under the Mysore Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956. The Bidar district is under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga Division, which includes also Gulbarga, Raichur and Bellary districts. (Bellary, which was a part of Bangalore Division upto 1st February 1966, was separated and included in the Gulbarga Division with effect from 1st February 1966). The Divisional Commissioner, as the head of the revenue administration within his jurisdiction plays a vital role in the general administration of the districts, not only in respect of the revenue matters, but also in regard to the activities of various other departments. In respect of all developmental and public welfare matters, he acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities. He undertakes tours in the districts and supervises the working of all development departments and gives them guidance and instructions.

The post of the Divisional Commissioner has gained greater importance owing to the numerous programmes taken up under the successive five-year and annual plans and the increased tempo of the developmental activities. He is the Joint Development Commissioner for the Division and the Chief Co-ordinator of various development programmes in the division. Periodically, he convenes co-ordination

meetings of the divisional officers with a view to reviewing the progress of development works and to removing difficulties and bottlenecks, if any, in their expeditious execution. He is also the chief controlling authority of the local bodies within his jurisdiction. He has also to be vigilant about natural calamities like famines, scarcity conditions and floods and bestow his urgent attention on the organisation of relief measures for alleviating the distress and hardships of the victims. He has to be watchful about the rise in prices and scarcity of foodgrains and other essential consumer commodities and take suitable remedial measures.

The Divisional Commissioner has to scrutinise all the proposals from the Deputy Commissioners to the State Government in respect of revenue matters, community development programmes, municipal administration and the like, which are required to pass through him. He has also the responsibility of distribution and re-appropriation of budget grants to revenue offices, community development blocks, taluk development boards and, to some extent, to municipalities. He is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioners in matters of revenue administration, both in respect of revenue laws and disciplinary proceedings against the revenue staff. He has administrative control over the police force in his division with reference to maintenance of law and order in general (but it does not extend to the powers vested in the officers of the police department regarding the internal organisation and discipline). On the whole, the Divisional Commissioner's functions may be summed up as supervisory, controlling, advisory and appellate.

As the district is the vital unit of general administration of the State, the Deputy Commissioner is the crucial figure in respect of general administration of the district. He plays a pivotal role in all aspects of the district administration.

**Deputy
Commis-
sioner**

The Deputy Commissioner is generally an I. A. S. officer. He has the status of the head of a department within the meaning of the Karnataka Civil Service Rules and Karnataka Financial Code for all matters of revenue administration of the district. The main functions of the Deputy Commissioner may be broadly classified as (1) revenue, (2) law and order, (3) development, (4) co-ordination and (5) public welfare in general. He is the custodian of Government property in land (including trees and water), wherever situated, and at the same time, the guardian of the interests of members of the public in land in so far as the interests of the Government in lands have been conceded to them.

All lands, wherever situated and whether put to agricultural use or other uses, are liable to payment of land revenue except in

**Revenue
functions**

cases where it is expressly exempted by a special order or contract. Such land revenue is generally of three kinds: (1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. It is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner to see that the revenues due to the Government are recovered regularly without much coercion and all such collections are properly credited and accounted for. He has been invested with wide powers under the Land Revenue Act and Rules in order to enable him to carry out these and related duties satisfactorily.

The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various other enactments, *e.g.*, stamps and registration, water-rate in respect of irrigation, etc. Under the provisions of the relevant tax laws, any arrears due to Government, whether of State or Centre, may be recovered in the same manner as land revenue. If a party fails to pay a tax in time, the tax-collecting authority forwards a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner of the district and the latter has the powers to recover the amount from that party in the same manner as arrears of land revenue. Under the Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act, the Deputy Commissioner is required to estimate the loan requirements of his district and to approach the Government for sanction. Besides, he has also to arrange for proper distribution of the amounts of such loans placed at his disposal and cause recoveries to be made at the proper time.

Various powers

The Deputy Commissioner is also vested with powers under several other Acts such as the Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Irrigation Act, Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, Municipalities Act, Excise Act, Public Health Act, Essential Commodities Act, etc., and Rules made thereunder, Old Age Pension Rules, Freedom Fighters Welfare Rules, Government Servants Welfare Fund Rules and so forth. In case of revenue disputes, he has also a quasi-judicial function to discharge. The entire collection of revenue from land has been assigned to the taluk development boards and the village panchayats by the Government in recent years and it is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner to allocate these funds properly to these local bodies. He has also powers to survey and settle boundary disputes in respect of lands. He is also the custodian of all the *muzrai* institutions in the district. He is also concerned with the working of the Small Savings Scheme at the district-level. He has been invested recently with powers to inspect all Government offices, except police offices in the district.

Magisterial functions

In his capacity as the District Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order

in the district. He is the head of all executive magistrates and has extensive powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, the Karnataka Police Act, the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, etc., for the maintenance of law and order. He has control over the police force in so far as the law and order questions are concerned. He has supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district. After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate does not deal with the trial processes or with actual dispensation of justice. He is responsible for the enforcement of law and order through the police and by regulatory and penal actions and is also empowered to make preventive detention or get persons bound for good behaviour, when necessary.

In his executive capacity, he is responsible for the issue of licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act, Indian Explosives Act, etc., and also for the supervision of general administration of these Acts within the district. He is the licensing authority under the Cinematograph Act and exercises powers vested in him under the prevention of Untouchability Act and the like. He looks after the proper implementation of various instructions received from the Government from time to time in respect of grant of visas, passports, etc.

The Deputy Commissioner is also designated as the Deputy Development Commissioner who has to co-ordinate the efforts of the several departments in the district and see that the development programmes are implemented according to schedules. All the development blocks of the district are under his overall charge. In order to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental programmes, he has to possess a clear picture of the working of several departments at the district-level. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-level officers (except the judicial officers), and also the officers at the block level at which the various developmental programmes are reviewed. He is also the *ex-officio* chairman of the District Development Council which guides and co-ordinates the developmental activities of several departments in the district and of the taluk development boards, which help in the execution of the community development programmes. It is also the responsibility of the Deputy Development Commissioner to implement successfully several schemes taken up under the Five-Year Plans and also those of social welfare.

**Development
functions**

Through co-ordination of efforts, he has to work for all-round development of the district. He is also responsible for the procurement of foodgrains and proper distribution of food and

civil supplies items in the district. Under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules made thereunder he is vested with vast powers for discharging these duties. The Deputy Commissioner of the district is also the District Registrar in which capacity he has to supervise the working of the various sub-registry offices in the district, (2) Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority, (3) Chairman, District Family Planning Action Committee, etc.

**Co-ordination
committees**

In order to implement various programmes systematically and to resolve problems that might arise in the course of their execution, a District Committee at the district-level and taluk co-ordination committees at the taluk-levels, consisting of officials and non-officials as members, have been formed. The district committee meets twice a month and the taluk committees once a month to review the implementation of the programmes. Several steps to stimulate production, speed up procurement and streamline the distribution of essential commodities have been taken. Increased allocation of food grains and levy sugar to the district has been made. The wholesale and retail dealers of all essential commodities are required to display recommended retail prices and statement of stocks. Effective steps are being taken to implement the epoch-making land Reforms Act expeditiously. The Deputy Commissioner has to co-ordinate the work of different departments in order to see that the various items of the programme are executed expeditiously according to respective schedules.

**Deputy
Commis-
sioner's
establi-
shment**

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Headquarters Assistant who is a Class I Officer (Junior Scale) with the rank of an Assistant Commissioner. He functions also as the Additional District Magistrate. There are two other class I posts of the K.A.S. cadre, *viz.*, those of the District Development Assistant and Food and Civil Supplies Assistant. The District Development Assistant assists the Deputy Commissioner in his duties relating to community development, taluk development boards, *panchayats*, municipal administration, etc., while the Food and Civil Supplies Assistant helps in matters pertaining to food and civil supplies. The latter is, in his turn, assisted by a Special Tahsildar for Food. The Deputy Commissioner has also a separate Headquarters Assistant who assists in matters relating to registration and stamps. The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a District Planning Officer in matters pertaining to planning. Upto 1964, the Deputy Commissioner was the head of the Government treasuries. In 1964, an independent Department of Treasuries was formed and consequently, the District Treasury Officer is now directly under the control and supervision of the Director of Treasuries in the State. There is an Office Assistant of class II K.A.S. cadre for supervising the work of

the subordinate staff of the office. The establishment of the Deputy Commissioner has the following other subordinate staff :

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of posts</i>
1	Accounts Superintendent (Deputy Tahsildar Grade)	1
2	Endowment Assistant	1
3	Sheristedars	4
4	Personal Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner	1
5	First Division Clerks	11
6	Second Division Clerks	8+2
7	Typists	4
8	Drivers	3
9	Jamadar	1
10	Peons	8
Total		44

There is only one sub-division in Bidar district and an Assistant Commissioner, who is responsible to the Deputy Commissioner, is in charge of it. The Assistant Commissioner forms the connecting link between the Deputy Commission and the Tahsildars of the taluks. This is generally the level at which a newly appointed officer of the Indian Administrative Service starts his official career. The Assistant Commissioner exercises both revenue and magisterial powers. He is the immediate superior authority over the Tahsildars, town municipal councils and Chief Executive Officers of the taluk development boards of the sub-division. His main revenue functions are :

**Assistant
Commis-
sioner**

(1) Inspection and supervision of the work of the Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Village Officers ;

(2) Safeguarding of the interests of Government in land by conducting regular inspections in respect of encroachments, breaches of conditions of tenure, etc.;

(3) Conducting of annual *jamabandi* of taluks except in cases where the Deputy Commissioner himself may conduct the *jamabandi* ;

(4) Hearing of appeals against the decisions of the Tahsildars and settling of cases regarding land acquisition matters ;

(5) Inspection of crops and boundary marks and checking of *anewari* of revenue and the record of rights ;

(6) Supervision over the realisation of Government revenues, such as land revenue, betterment levy, repayment of *taccavi* loans, etc., and so on.

The developmental works and activities of the taluk development boards are supervised by the Assistant Commissioner and he has been invested with wide powers under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. Powers of granting old-age pensions have been delegated to him. He supervises all the *muzrai* institutions and social welfare institutions in his sub-division. In the capacity of Returning Officer, he has to conduct elections to the Legislative Assembly constituencies, of the presidents of the taluk development boards, etc.

**Magisterial
functions**

The Assistant Commissioner is the executive magistrate at the sub-divisional level and has been designated as Sub-Divisional Magistrate in which capacity he is responsible for ensuring public peace, law and order and security. He has powers to take security for good behaviour, to pass orders for prevention of apprehended danger to public peace, to hold inquest and to resort to Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code when necessary for ensuring maintenance of law and order. All the cases sent by the Divisional Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner are to be investigated by him. He investigates cases on his own initiative too. He is the presiding authority of various committees at the taluk-level and also a member of several committees at the district-level. The Assistant Commissioner is assisted in his duties by a Sheristedar, five First Division Clerks, four Second Division Clerks and a Junior Steno and a typist. There is Special Assistant Commissioner for Land Reforms (*see* also Chapter XI).

Tahsildars

There are five taluks in Bidar district under one revenue sub-division. A Tahsildar (who is a class II officer) is in charge of each of these taluks. He is responsible to the Assistant Commissioner and through him to the Deputy Commissioner. He is the central figure in the general administration of the taluk. Enquiries regarding various revenue matters are to be conducted by him and reports submitted to the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. The Tahsildar has to execute the orders passed by these officers.

He is responsible for the collection of land revenue and other Government dues such as the recovery of *taccavi* loans, irrigation charges, *pot-hissa* measurement fees and the like. He is in charge of the work of granting lands and building sites. He deals with matters relating to acquisition and alienation of lands also. He has to discharge the duties and responsibilities vested in him under the Land Revenue Act, Land Reforms Act and such other Acts and Rules relating to the administration of the taluk as a revenue unit. All particulars in respect of the demand, collection and balance of land revenue which are required for conducting *jamabandi* of the

taluk are to be kept ready by the Tahsildar. He has also to collect other dues like income-tax, sales-tax, etc., from defaulters at the request of the departments concerned. Generally, applications for the grant of *taccavi* loans are received and enquired into by him.

The Tahsildar is also responsible for the procurement, and then distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops. He is expected to effect collection of paddy and other foodgrains from the cultivators under the levy orders in force. He has to supervise the Government stocks of paddy held by the different mill-owners, Taluk Agricultural Produce Co-operative Marketing Society and other agents. He has to pay surprise visits to the fair price shops and check their stocks and see that they function properly. Under the orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules made thereunder, he has several powers to exercise. He has to pay a special attention for the improvement of conditions of the weaker sections of the society. For implementation of the National Savings Scheme and the like, he has to organise drives as per the directions of his superior officers.

The Tahsildars are the executive magistrates at the taluk-level and in that capacity, they exercise certain magisterial powers and are responsible for maintaining public peace, law and order and security in the taluk. They are also responsible for preparing and maintaining electoral rolls for the Legislative Assembly, as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and they head the election machinery as Assistant Returning Officers in respective taluks. The work relating to conducting of periodical human and livestock censuses is also entrusted to them.

Each revenue taluk of Bidar district has been considered as a Community Development Block. An Officer designated as the Block Development Officer has been put in charge of the Community Development Block. Besides looking after the developmental activities of the taluk, he has to discharge duties as the Chief Executive Officer of the Taluk Development Board. The programmes for the block are to be planned and also various activities of the development departments at the taluk-level are to be co-ordinated by him. There are, on an average, eight Extension Officers (including Social Education Organiser, Lady Social Education Organiser and Junior Engineers) representing various development departments at the taluk-level. The Block Development Officer supervises the work of the Extension Officers, Gramasevaks and Gramasevikas. He acts as Secretary to the Taluk Development Board and has to implement its resolutions. Under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act

**Block
Development
Officers**

of 1959, he has certain statutory powers to exercise. Under the Community development programme and also under the Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, it is his responsibility to implement developmental activities like digging of drinking-water wells, construction of school buildings, improvement of communications, execution of people's housing scheme, distribution of free house sites, implementation of agricultural programmes, progress of co-operative movement, etc.

**Revenue
Inspectors**

The five taluks of the district have been further sub-divided into 30 circles or *hoblis*, each of which is under the charge of a Revenue Inspector. The Revenue Inspector is an important official within the jurisdiction of his circle and he forms a link between the Tahsildar and village officers. He is directly responsible to the Tahsildar of the taluk in the administration of revenue matters. He attends to recovery of land revenue, water-rate and other government dues, loans and advances, collection of betterment levy, procurement and distribution of foodgrains, etc.

He has to supervise the work of the village officers and inspect the boundary marks, all Government lands and encroachments thereon and irrigation sources under the control of the revenue department. He is also responsible for the collection of land revenue in the circle with the assistance of the village accountants. He has to acquaint himself generally with the agricultural conditions of the circle. The other functions of the Revenue Inspector are building-up of records of land grant, land acquisition and other revenue matters, and old-age pension, maintenance of records of rights and enquiries into miscellaneous applications from members of the public. He has also to attend to such other various items of work as the Tahsildar may entrust to him from time to time.

**Village
officers**

Until some years ago, the village establishment in the Bidar district consisted of a *Patwari* (equivalent to *Shanbhogue i.e.*, Village Accountant), a *Mali-Patel* (Revenue-Patel), a Police Patel and a *Seth-Sanadi* or *Walikar*. All these posts were held by hereditary succession. The *Patwaris* and Patels were paid cash remuneration on a fixed percentage basis of the actual land revenue collections. The *Seth-Sanadis* were given a reduction in the assessment of lands held by them.

These hereditary offices were abolished by the Karnataka Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the Karnataka State with effect from the 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of this Act, in the place of *Patwaris*, Village Accountants have been appointed as full-time Government servants on a salary basis under the Karnataka General Services (Revenue

Subordinate Branch) Village Accountants (Recruitment) Rules, 1970. The incumbents of the posts of Patels and other village officers are, however, being continued for the time being without hereditary rights.

The Village Accountants (locally called *Patwaris*) are required to work under the guidance of the Revenue Inspector of the circle. They are in charge of the work of one or more villages concurrent with the village *panchayat* jurisdiction. They are mainly responsible for collection of the Government dues. They have to maintain properly the village accounts in the prescribed registers and other forms and, when called upon by any superior officer of the taluk or the district, have to prepare various records or reports connected with village affairs. They are also required to perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them by the Tahsildar, the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. As in 1975, there were 314 Village Accountants working in the five taluks of the district.

Village
accountants

The village-level workers are designated as *Gramasevaks* and *Gramasevikas*, the latter being the women workers. Usually, a *Gramasevak's* circle (working area) consists of a group of a few villages with a total population of about five to seven thousands. It is the primary unit for administrative purposes of a Community Development Block. A liaison between the Government and the people is formed by the *Gramasevaks* and *Gramasevikas*, who assist in enlisting the co-operation of the villagers in implementing various developmental works, particularly in respect of stepping up agricultural production. The duties of the *Gramasevikas* include assisting in matters relating to (1) mother and child care, (2) home management, (3) food and nutrition, (4) health and sanitation, (5) clothing, (6) domestic crafts, (7) agriculture and animal husbandry, (8) *panchayats* and co-operation and (9) women's and children's welfare activities. On an average, there are ten *Gramasevaks* and three *Gramasevikas* in each Block.

Gramasevaks
and
Gramasevikas

Another important component of the general administration of the district is administration of law and order. The police force headed by the Superintendent of Police is responsible for the performance of all police functions including prevention and detection of crimes and prosecution of offenders, while the District Magistrate (the Deputy Commissioner) is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. For this purpose, the Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the general control of the District Magistrate. When an executive Magistrate is present on a scene of rioting or wide-spread disorder, he assumes charge of the situation and the police force has to act under his

Law and
order

orders. It is he who can give the order to fire or to use force. But it is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Police to administer actually the police force, including discipline, training and deployment of the force.

Bidar district has been divided into two police sub-divisions for purposes of police administration, with their headquarters at Bidar and Bhalki, and each sub-division is headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is responsible to the Superintendent of Police, Bidar. These two sub-divisions have been further sub-divided into two circles each. The Bidar Sub-Division has Bidar and Humnabad circles, while the Bhalki Sub-Division has Bhalki and Aurad circles. Each of the police circles is under the charge of a Circle Inspector of Police. There is an Armed Reserve Police Force stationed at the district headquarters. Jails and judicial lock-ups form another element in the law and order component. There is a District Jail at Bidar and a Taluk Lock-up at Humnabad. The District Surgeon who is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of the District Jail is in charge of the District Jail. The Taluk Lock-up is looked after by a lock-up Officer. They work under the control of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bangalore. (*see* also Chapter XII).

Judiciary

In respect of judicial administration, the District and Sessions Judge, Bidar, is the head of the judiciary in the district, dealing with both civil and criminal cases. He is vested with a separate and independent sphere of powers. Both appellate and supervisory powers are exercised by him over the subordinate judicial officers in the district. In his capacity as the Sessions Judge, he deals with cases committed to sessions in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The sessions cases are the more serious ones falling mainly under the Indian Penal Code.

Other District Officers

For dealing with civil cases, apart from the District Court, there are, in the district, a Civil Judge's Court and a Munsiff's Court at each of the other taluk headquarters. On the criminal side, apart from the Sessions Court, there is a Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bidar, and a First Class Judicial Magistrate's Court each at Bidar, Bhalki, Basavakalyan, Aurad and Humnabad. The Court of the Munsiff and First Class Judicial Magistrate at each of the taluk headquarters is a combined court. The Chief Judicial Magistrate at Bidar has, subject to the control of the Sessions Judge, supervisory jurisdiction over the First Class Judicial Magistrates in the district (*see* also Chapter XII).

Prior to attainment of independence, the feudal administration did not pay much attention for economic and social development of the area. After the advent of freedom in 1947, great emphasis

has been laid on all-round development of the country and on raising the standard of living of the people. Massive plans of economic development are being implemented. The Indian Constitution has devoted sixteen of its Articles to the Directive Principles of State policy. They mainly relate to the people as a whole in both economic and social spheres. In keeping with the objectives of promoting the welfare of the people at a rapid pace, the democratic Government strengthened and reoriented the existing departments and formed several new ones. As a result, a number of economic and social administration departments have been functioning both at State and district-levels, in addition to the revenue, law and order and judicial departments referred to earlier. The following are the various district-level officers in the district, whose main functions, powers and responsibilities have been dealt with earlier in this Chapter, Chapter XIII and other relevant Chapters :

- Deputy Commissioner
- District and Sessions Judge
- Superintendent of Police
- Commandant, Home-Guards
- District Surgeon
- District Health and Family Welfare Officer
- Deputy Director of Agriculture
- District Horticultural Officer
- Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce
- Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies
- Deputy Director of Public Instruction
- Superintendent of Land Records
- Executive Engineer, P.W.D.
- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. (Karanja Project)
- Executive Engineer, P.H.E.
- Executive Engineer, K.E.B.
- Divisional Forest Officer
- District Treasury Officer
- Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services
- District Employment Officer
- District Statistical Officer
- District Planning Officer
- District Publicity and Information Officer
- District Marketing Officer
- District National Savings Organiser
- Regional Transport Officer
- Superintendent of Excise
- Geologist, Ground Water Survey Unit

Deputy Director of Karnataka Land Army
Special Land Acquisition Officer
Commercial Tax Officer, Bidar Circle
Deputy Director of Agriculture (Soil Conservation)
Assistant Agricultural Engineer
Assistant Engineer, Major Irrigation
Assistant Engineer, Minor Irrigation
Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures
Assistant Director of Town Planning
Project Commander, Land Army

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Superintendent of Central Excise
Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs
Income-tax Inspector
Conservation Assistant, Archaeological Survey of India
Commanding Officer, Air Force