

## CHAPTER XI

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

UNTIL recent times, the largest source of the State revenue was a tax on lands. According to the ancient practice, the share of the State in the gross produce of the lands varied between one-twelfth and one-sixth, but was liable to rise to one-fourth in times of war or other public calamities. The share of the State was set apart by the village headman out of the aggregate harvest of the village. Between the village headmen and the king, there was a chain of civil officers, consisting of heads of ten, 100 and 1,000 villages, who were responsible for the collection of revenue and for administering various other civil matters. They were remunerated in kind, by a portion of the king's share of produce or by grant of lands which were exempted from tax. In addition to the land revenue, there were some levies, both central and local, as also a few other taxes for particular purposes such as maintenance of tank, temple, feeding house, educational institution or hospital. This system had continued with some modifications or other under the various successive ancient dynasties like the Chalukyas of Badami, Rashtrakutas of Malkhed and Chalukyas of Kalyana.

In the earlier period of the Muslim rule, the state share of the gross produce was converted into the *Khiraj* or tribute payable on land, this share was larger than before. The then existing agency for collections was utilised. Measures were adopted for a complete or partial commutation of the State's share of the produce into cash. Later the assessment was introduced on the basis of Todar Mal's revenue system. It was calculated on the quantity of the grain sown in a field or on its produce, of which a certain share was taken by the government as revenue. Under this levy, the share on dry crops was about one-fourth of the produce and on wet lands, the share varied from half to two-fifths. When the payment in kind was commuted to cash, the amount

**During  
earlier period**

fixed became the revenue from the field. The revenue collections were made through contractors and in some cases, collections were done departmentally through *Talukdars* or *Naibs*.

The unit of land determined by the Bahamani rulers and later by the Mughuls was known as the *koorgy*. A *koorgy* of land was roughly estimated at four and a half acres. A piece of land on which could be sown three seers of jowar seeds by using six bullocks and three men in a day was known as a *koorgy*. The assessment on land was fixed according to four classes of land called (1) *Regar* (black-cotton soil), (2) *Milwa* (Black and red soil), (3) *Masab* (red soil) and (4) *Shore* (alkaline soil). The revenue demand was determined on the basis of a single *koorgy*. A *koorgy* of the first class was assessed at rupees five to ten, the second from rupees three to rupees eight, the third from rupee one to rupees five, and the fourth from annas eight (fifty paise) to rupees two. The assessment on wet lands depended on the supply of water. It varied from Rs. 20 to Rs. 150 per *koorgy*. The rate on sugarcane lands was fifty per cent more than the usual wet assessment. Paddy fields and *bagayat* (garden lands), which were irrigated by wells, were assessed according to the nature of supply of water, at rates ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per *koorgy*.

**Rigorous  
collections**

Generally, the collection of land revenue began immediately after the Dasara. The land revenue had to be paid in cash in respect of all the dry-cropped lands. But payment of assessment in respect of paddy fields was always in kind. This payment in kind was known as the *batayi* system. The cultivators had to pay the whole of the demand before the *rabi* crops were harvested. When the grains were ripe for harvest, the owner was not allowed to cut till he had given a written agreement and produced security for the next year's cultivation. If he failed to do so, the produce was confiscated and the land made over to another person. In case of seasonal fluctuations or unfavourable harvest, when the cultivator was unable to pay his instalment in full, the dues were realised by the sale of his property or from his relatives.

If the cultivator died or ran away owing to coercion, his dues were levied on all the cultivators of that particular village. The fields owned by the deceased or the runaway persons, had to be tilled by the patels with the help of the villagers and pay the assessment. In respect of the collection of revenue assessment on the mango and the tamarind groves, together with all the fruit trees that existed in the fields, were given out on contract basis for a stipulated amount. If the season proved unfavourable and the amount of contract fell below the collections of the previous

year as a result of low yield, tax was levied on all the cultivators and the balance made good from them.

If the authorities found that the crop was abundant and the cultivators could pay a large assessment, they charged an extra assessment which ranged from one to four annas per rupee. Thus the cultivators were compelled to pay additional taxes and every effort was made by the revenue officials to deprive the poor cultivator of any extra earning that came his way. In some taluks, the officers in-charge of collection work looked also to the condition of the land-holders. If the land-holder happened to be a well-to-do man, the entire assessment of revenue on his lands was collected in one lumpsum immediately. If, on the other hand, the land-holder was unable to pay the revenue, he was allowed five to six months time so as to enable him to pay it on the first day of the ensuing year (*Yugadi*).

Nawab Sir Salar Jung I, who was Prime Minister of the Hyderabad State between 1853 and 1883, introduced several reforms in the revenue administration, one of which was the *Zilla-bandi* system. The chief object of this new system was to improve the land revenue collection and the consolidation of the fiscal position of the State. The assessments were modified from time to time. The arable lands were measured, demarcated and registered and the final assessments were regulated according to *bighas*. Each *bigha* was equivalent to 3,600 square yards. The land-holders or cultivators were given proprietary possession of their holdings. Each cultivator was granted a *kowl* for a period of three years. The annual assessment was fixed on the basis of the average payment of revenue made during the past ten years. At the time of the *Zilla bandi* reform, land revenue was derived from *raiyatwari* villages, leased lands, *paishkash*, *panmaqtas*, fruit trees and allied sources. The rate of assessment varied according to the category of land (dry, wet and garden).

**Zilla-bandi  
systems**

However, the fields were not accurately measured and the soils were not classified according to the relative value of the land. As a result of this, the assessments were unequally distributed on different holdings. The *raiyatwari* system with demand for cash payments, was introduced in 1866. There was a practice to collect the assessment on fruit trees, mango groves etc., with no definite principle or rates. Subsequently, it was regularised and fixed at six annas per tree which was to be collected annually and this was in force for several years. In 1281 F. (1872 A.D.), such collections were discontinued. When the cultivator raised two *fasls* (crops) on a piece of land in a year, an additional assessment was

**Raiyatwari  
system**

realised from him in the proportion of four annas in a rupee value, irrespective of the nature of the second crop he raised. In the case of sugarcane, the cultivator was charged one and a half times of what he would have been otherwise charged. Sir Salar Jung I examined also the condition of the *jagirs* and the *inams* and organised a separate department called *Dariafat-Inamaat* for supervising their administration.

#### Land records

The land records system was reformed in the Hyderabad State in 1919 (1328 *Fash*) on the lines prevailing in British India. The Record of Rights was first introduced in the Hyderabad State in 1936. In 1937, a separate Land Records Department was organised with a Commissioner as its head. Besides keeping land records, this Department had other allied functions also like conducting of surveys. The chief functions connected with Records of Rights was the compilation of village-wise registers showing particulars of all private rights over lands, whether they had been acquired by registered documents, by succession, by oral agreements or otherwise and rights relating to owners, occupants, mortgagees and tenancy of assignees, rents of revenue, public rights, and Government rights. The entries in the records related also to various changes that took place, together with inspection notes of the boundaries, the repair of boundary stones when found damaged the dates of such repairs and the definition of particular holdings when the cultivators applied for the same. The two departments of Land Records and Records of Rights were amalgamated in 1354 F (1945). The chief function of the settlement section of this Department was to carry out the survey of *khalsa* and *non-khalsa* villages and attend to the revisions after expiry of the sanctioned period of settlement.

#### Survey and settlement

Prior to 1875, some attempts had been made to have some survey of lands and to settle the rates of assessment. Big estates such as *Sarf-e-khas*, *Paigah*, etc., had their own agency for survey and settlement while small *jagirs* got their assessment fixed arbitrarily. There was, therefore, no uniformity in the rates of assessment, and disparity was found in the majority of the cases. A complete cadastral survey was ordered in 1875 on the Bombay pattern which envisaged direct dealing with each cultivating individual, abolishing thereby the old system of middlemen. A Settlement Department was formed in 1876. The method of survey then adopted was that of chain and cross staff. From this base line, off-sets were measured to the several bends of the lands, forming triangles and trapeziums. Thus, the whole area was worked out into acres and guntas with the preparation of a village map.

In 1878, soil classification work was taken up in Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur areas on the Bombay model. The grades of soil were reduced from ten separate classes to seven. The relative value of the soil was arrived at after taking into account all the defects noticed in the soil.

Experts were able to define two broad soil types, namely, (1) black cotton soils and (2) red earth or *chalkas*. Locally, several varieties of both these soils are distinguished by the *raiya*s who try to make use of the typical characteristics of each of them. A difficulty which arose in the grouping of soils was that a type of soil had no definite boundaries. No demarcating line could be drawn to distinguish between two soils. One soil type usually gives way gradually to another and there is a wide transition zone between a well-defined soil type and its neighbour. Black cotton and red earths are found side by side over wide areas of the district. For classification of soils for land-revenue assessment purposes, two methods were used in the western and eastern districts of the old Hyderabad State. In the western districts, both the black cotton and red soils were classified with reference to their depth. The fertility of a soil being chiefly dependent on its power of imbibing and retaining moisture and this quality being mainly affected by depth, the latter peculiarity was used in the formation of scales for classification. The colour of the soil is, however, reflected in the classification-scale. It was presumed that red soil with a depth of one-and-a-half cubits would be as fertile as a black cotton land with a depth of one-and-a-quarter cubits. This gradation was reflected in the land revenue assessment. The *annawari* (1 Rupee=16 annas) scales of soil classification were as given below :

| Soil class | Black soils (Depth)            | Red soils (Depth)              | Comparative soil value in annas |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1          | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cubits or more |                                | 16                              |
| 2          | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ do             | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cubits or more | 15                              |
| 3          | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ do             | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ do             | 14                              |
| 4          | 1 do                           | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ do             | 11                              |
| 5          | $\frac{3}{4}$ do               | 1 do                           | 8                               |
| 6          | $\frac{1}{2}$ do               | $\frac{3}{4}$ do               | 5                               |
| 7          | $\frac{1}{4}$ do               | $\frac{1}{2}$ do               | 3                               |

These *anna* values were further reduced because of the existence of one or more faults in the soils. For black soils, faults allowed were existence of lime, sand, sloping surfaces, liability of being swept running water, dampness and *karal*. Existence of

stones or sand was not considered as faults for *chalka* (red) soils and of sand and dampness for wet lands. In practice, rocky and barren lands were classed in the lowest group at three *annas* and lands of five *annas* or lower classification were not usually sown with crops.

The Bidar district at that time consisted of seven taluks, namely, Bidar, Kohir, Janawada, Aurad, Udgir, Ahmedpur and Nilanga. Janawada and Aurad taluks being under *ex-Sarf-e-khas* estate, were placed under the Government supervision. The whole district was originally settled in the year 1885. The period of settlement recommended by the Settlement Commissioner was 30 years subject to the condition that after the expiry of 15 years, the assessment was to be enhanced by two *annas* in every rupee.

**First Revision Settlement**

In 1906 A.D., the rates of the original settlement of the seven taluks of the district were revised, but instead of an uniform increase in the assessment by two *annas* in a rupee, a sliding scale according to different values of *bhag-annas* was adopted, the details of which were as shown below.

| <i>Bhag-annas</i>    | <i>Increase per rupee</i> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 9 annas to 16 annas  | 3 annas                   |
| 8½ annas to 6 annas  | 2 annas                   |
| 5½ annas to 4½ annas | 1 anna                    |
| 4 annas and below    | Nil                       |

The above method was applied in the district and every village was divided into four groups as above. During the period of the first revision, there was a reorganisation of districts all over the ex-Hyderabad State. Kohir and Aurad taluks of this district were abolished and they were merged in Bidar and Janawada taluks respectively. Consequently the district comprised five instead of seven taluks, namely, Bidar, Janawada, Udgir, Ahmedpur and Nilanga.

**Second Revision settlement**

For the second revision settlement, which was due in 1922-23, the survey was conducted by chain and cross staff. The Survey Officer felt the difficulty in working out the financial result according to any one proposed rate because of the sub-groups created previously. Unless the assessment before under each sub-group was known, it could not have been determined as to what the assessment would be according to the proposed rates. In order to avoid this cumbersome method, the Survey Officer proposed a uniform increase of 2½ *annas* and two *annas* per rupee over the existing assesment. The rates of assessment talukwise as per the second revision settle-

ment were in force till the introduction of curent revision settlement, as the maximum rates proposed by the Agro-Economic Survey Officer during the year 1955-56 were not given effect to in view of the reorganisation of the States on 1st November 1956. The rates of assessment (taluk-wise) as per the second revision settlement, which were in force prior to 1965 were as stated below :

| Sl. No. | Name of taluk | Group No. | Class of land |        |        |       |       |
|---------|---------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|         |               |           | Dry           | Wet    | Garden |       |       |
|         |               |           | Rs. P.        | Rs. P. | Rs. P. |       |       |
| 1       | Bidar         | I         | 4.08          | 12.86  | 13.50  |       |       |
|         |               |           | 3.86          | 6.86   | 10.29  |       |       |
|         |               |           | 3.54          | ..     | 6.75   |       |       |
|         |               | II        | 3.41          | 12.86  | 13.50  |       |       |
|         |               |           | 3.00          | 10.29  | 6.75   |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.75          | 6.86   | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.75          | 4.82   | ..     |       |       |
|         |               | IV        | 2.72          | ..     | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.57          | ..     | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.35          | 12.86  | 13.50  |       |       |
| 2       | Aurad         | I         | ..            | 4.82   | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 4.08          | 12.86  | 10.29  |       |       |
|         |               | II        | 3.43          | 6.86   | 6.29   |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.35          | 12.86  | 6.75   |       |       |
|         |               | III       | ..            | 6.86   | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.35          | 12.86  | 6.75   |       |       |
|         |               | IV        | ..            | 6.86   | ..     |       |       |
|         |               |           | 1.98          | 12.86  | 6.75   |       |       |
|         |               | 3         | Bhalki        | I      | ..     | 6.86  | ..    |
|         |               |           |               |        | 3.35   | ..    | ..    |
| II      | 2.23          |           |               | ..     | ..     |       |       |
|         | 2.57          |           |               | ..     | 6.75   |       |       |
| III     | 2.25          |           |               | ..     | ..     |       |       |
|         | 1.77          |           |               | ..     | ..     |       |       |
| 4       | Humnabad      |           |               | I      | 3.86   | ..    | ..    |
|         |               |           |               |        | 3.42   | ..    | ..    |
|         |               |           |               | III    | 2.65   | ..    | 12.86 |
|         |               |           |               |        | 2.57   | ..    | ..    |
|         |               | 5         | Basavakalyan  | I      | 2.79   | 10.29 | 10.29 |
|         |               |           |               |        | 2.57   | ..    | 6.86  |
| II      | 3.43          |           |               | ..     | 10.29  |       |       |
|         | 3.14          |           |               | ..     | ..     |       |       |
| III     | 2.14          | ..        | ..            |        |        |       |       |
|         | 2.57          | ..        | 10.29         |        |        |       |       |
|         |               |           | 2.14          | ..     | ..     |       |       |

Under the Jagir Abolition Act of 1950, the district was again reorganised with nine taluks, namely, Bidar, Bhalki, Humnabad,

Aurad, Nilanga, Ahmedpur, Udgir, Zahirabad and 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 *ex-pagah* and *ex-jagr* areas of Vikhar-ul-Umra, Asmanjahi, Khurshidjahi, Kalyani and Devni estates. There was persistent demand by the people living in the *pagah* and *jagr* territories against the high assessment. In response to this, the then Government sanctioned an interim relief of 25 per cent in land revenue. During 1952-53, a survey was proposed to be conducted for the settlement of unsurveyed *ex-jagr* villages. But "due to lack of adequate staff", this work was not proceeded with. The revision settlement of *Divani* (Government) taluks was also held over.

Later, the Hyderabad Government sanctioned the revision operations of the *Divani* taluks under a curtailed process system. In this system, the unnecessary process of regular revision survey was dispensed with. All the taluks of the Bidar district were surveyed and the work was completed. In 1954, a Settlement Committee was formed by the Hyderabad State Government in order to examine the scope of enhancing the land revenue without the long process of revision settlement. This Committee recommended that the revision work should be restricted to a survey of the agro-economic condition of the tract, and revision of the land revenue assessment rates. In the meanwhile, the report of the Indian Taxation Enquiry Commission was published. This Commission had suggested that the rates of land revenue over the entire area of the then Hyderabad State should, as far as possible, be standardised, and those disparities, which had resulted not because of the difference in the agro-economic conditions but because of the differences in the systems or the periods in which the earlier settlements were made, should be removed. The *ex-jagr* areas came under this category along with several other *Divani* areas.

An Assistant Settlement Commissioner was entrusted with the work of carrying out an agro-economic survey of the district. In 1955-56, he suggested the reconstitution of groups of the entire district taking into consideration the climate, means of communications, proximity to markets, the state of husbandry and natural fertility of the tract. Because of the merger of non-*Divani* (i.e., *jagr*) areas, several rates of assessment were prevailing. Hence standardised rates ranging from Rs. 1.08 to Rs. 2.12 for dry crops proposed treating each taluk as a unit so that a single rate could operate in each of the groups. No decision was taken on the proposals due to the trifurcation of the Hyderabad State in 1956. Only four of the taluks of the old Bidar district, namely, (1) Bidar, (2) Bhalki, (3) Humnabad

Standardised  
rates

Curtailed  
process  
system



and (4) Aurad formed the new Bidar district which was integrated into the new Mysore State.

The background of the revenue villages of the district which came into the new Mysore State was as follows :—

| Name of taluk | Khalsa (Diwani or Govt. villages) | Ex-Sarf-e-khas villages (Crown lands) | Ex-Paigah villages |               |                | Ex-Jagir villages | Total |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
|               |                                   |                                       | Asman Jahi         | Khurshid Jahi | Vikhar-ul Umra |                   |       |
| Aurad         | 50                                | 57                                    | 6                  | ..            | 15             | 21                | 149   |
| Bhalki        | 17                                | 6                                     | 51                 | 22            | 25             | 37                | 158   |
| Bidar         | 41                                | 26                                    | 37                 | 18            | ..             | 47                | 169   |
| Humnabad      | 5                                 | 1                                     | 42                 | 38            | 4              | 51                | 141   |
| Total         | 113                               | 90                                    | 136                | 78            | 44             | 156               | 617   |

The years of previous settlement of different areas of the district is shown in the following table :—

| Territory        | Year of settlement        |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Diwani           | 1922                      |
| Sarf-e-khas      | 1924                      |
| Khurshid Jahi    | 1915                      |
| Kalyani Jagir    | 1921                      |
| Asman Jahi       | 1922                      |
| Vikhar-ul Umra   | 1924-27                   |
| Devni Jagir      | 1950                      |
| Scattered Jagirs | Different years upto 1955 |

The above statement indicates that revision settlement was overdue except in respect of the last two areas. After the re-organisation of States in 1956, the Government of Mysore appointed the then Deputy Commissioner for Settlement to formulate uniform principles and procedure of settlement which could meet most of the objections raised by the Taxation Enquiry Committee. Many of his suggestions have been followed in the present system of settlement operations. According to the revised procedure, the basis of settlement is the yield of the principal and money crops and prices of the agricultural produce. The unit of settlement is a zone which comprises a contiguous whole taluk or portions of taluks of the same district or of more than one district which are homogeneous in soil characteristics, physical configuration, climate and rainfall and nature of predominant crops grown in that area. A Settlement Officer is appointed for each zone as per the provisions of Section 116 (2) of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. He is required

Latest revision settlement

to form groups in each zone on the basis of three main factors, *viz.*, (1) physical configuration, (2) climate and rainfall and (3) yield of principal crops and their prices.

While thus forming groups within the zone, he has also to take into consideration the marketing facilities, communications, standard of husbandry, population and supply of labour, agricultural resources, variations in all the area of occupied and cultivated lands during the previous thirty years, wages and ordinary expenses of cultivating principal crops including the wages of the cultivator for his labour in cultivating the lands. The settlement officer is required to collect these particulars from various departments. While arriving at the average yields of principal crops, he has to conduct crop-cutting experiments or rely upon such experiments conducted by other departments. The average yield of principal crops in each group is arrived at separately for dry, wet and garden and plantation crops. On the basis of this, the cash value per acre is calculated.

The standard rates are then fixed for each class of land at a certain percentage of the cash value. The settlement officer submits his detailed report proposing revised standard rates to the Deputy Commissioner of the district. The standard rates proposed are then notified in the *chavadi* of each village. The interested parties can file their objections on the report with the Deputy Commissioner. All the objections so received by the public and the results of the hearings conducted by the Deputy Commissioner on the request of the parties concerned are then transmitted to the Government through the Commissioner for Survey, Settlement and Land Records. The settlement reports together with the objections are laid before both the houses of the State Legislature. After both the Houses approve the settlement reports with or without modifications by resolutions moved in this behalf, the State Government passes orders in conformity with such resolutions.

**Removal of  
disparities**

Due to disparities in the assessment rates in the ex-non-*khalsa* villages of the district the correct picture of the existing groupings was not available so as to compare the same with the proposed groups. The rates of assessment in the ex-non-*khalsa* villages were much higher than the *khalsa* villages. To bring such exorbitant rates on par with the *khalsa* villages, the State Government allowed in 1958 a suspension to the extent of 25 paise and 50 paise in a rupee. In order to remove the existing disparities of assessment between the same types of lands, a revised procedure of settlement had to be adopted. Under this method, the whole of Bidar district as a unit was divided into four groups covering large areas based on physical configurations, climate and rainfall, nature of crops grown and yield and prices of principal crops.

Groupings

At the first instance, three groups were formed, but after intensive local enquiries, a separate group had to be formed of the area of Ladwanti revenue circle of Humnabad taluk on account of its soil characteristics, physical configuration, etc. The grouping was done taking the area of the highest rate of assessment to be the first group and so on. In the first group, the major portion of Bhalki taluk, northern portion of Bidar taluk, southern portion of Aurad taluk and a part of north-east portion of Humnabad taluk were included. In this area, the land is undulating with good drainage, the soil being heavy black-cotton soil with considerable depth, which retains moisture. Alluvial deposits are generally found along the banks of the Manjra river and its main tributaries. The principal crops in this area are *rabi* and *kharif* jowar and groundnut.

A major portion of Bidar and Humnabad taluks and southern portion of Bhalki taluk where red laterite soil is predominant were formed into the second group. The surface of this part is punctuated by flat and undulating hillocks. The principal crops are *rabi* and *kharif* jowar, bajra and groundnut. The soil of this part is suitable for growing also vegetables and fruits, but there is no assured water supply and major irrigation project. Very few irrigation tanks are found in Bidar and Humnabad taluks. But irrigation through wells is common.

The south-west portion of Humnabad taluk was formed into the third group. Its land is bare, undulating and there are barren hillocks. The area has black-cotton soil with very low depth. The principal crops are *rabi* and *kharif* jowar and groundnut. The fourth group consists of the extreme northern portion of the district comprising more than half the number of villages of Aurad taluk. The landscape here is undulating rather hilly towards the north. This area has light black-cotton soil with low depth. The principal crops are *kharif* jowar and cotton. The talukwise number of villages under each of the four groups is given hereunder :

| Taluk        | No. of villages in |          |           |          | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------|
|              | Group I            | Group II | Group III | Group IV |       |
| Aurad        | 44                 | ..       | ..        | 105      | 149   |
| Basavakalyan | 23                 | 49       | 42        | ..       | 114   |
| Bhalki       | 120                | 2        | ..        | ..       | 122   |
| Bidar        | 53                 | 98       | ..        | ..       | 151   |
| Humnabad     | 14                 | 73       | ..        | ..       | 87    |
| Total        | 254                | 222      | 42        | 105      | 623   |

The revised standard rates worked out at four per cent of the cash value of the average yield of the principal crops which have been made applicable to the four groups in the district are given hereunder :

| Zone       | Group No. | Rate per acre (in Rs.) |      |        |
|------------|-----------|------------------------|------|--------|
|            |           | Dry                    | Wet  | Garden |
| Bidar zone | I         | 3.77                   | 8.92 | 8.92   |
|            | II        | 2.79                   | 8.92 | 8.92   |
|            | III       | 2.14                   | 8.92 | 8.92   |
|            | IV        | 1.42                   | 8.92 | 8.92   |

The Government have conferred powers on the Deputy Commissioner of the district to levy the dry rate in respect of *Motasthal* garden lands also in view of the earlier decision of the ex-Hyderabad Government that dry assessment equivalent to the highest dry rate be levied on lands irrigated under wells situated outside an *ayacut* area from Government source. Accordingly, the *bagayat* rates were reduced to maximum dry rate of the village.

Survey records

As a part of the survey system, the surveyor, who is engaged in the task of survey, chooses a particular old survey number and begins his work by fixing a base line. He measures the survey numbers having due regard to the old survey numbers. The new measurements thus taken are then to be transferred to a rough sketch on paper, with all the detailed measurements of the holding. Various registers are being maintained in the district for recording the observations. The *pucca* book, as it is called, is an important document wherein all details relating to the *tippana* are calculated and entered. The *tippana* book contains all the survey numbers of the village. There is a *tippana* book for each village in the district. In the *pucca* book, one can see final figures of each number. All triangular plots, rectangular plots, length and breadth of each plot, total extent of land are inscribed in the *pucca* book.

The other book which is equally important is the classification book (or *prati* book) in which the nature of the land, *i.e.*, wet, dry or the *bagayat*, first order, second order and similar other details that are required for determining the classification are entered. The class register is a book which contains the rate of assessment, classification of the land, survey number, *phod* number, previous number, the *pattadar's* name, total area of the holding, *phod crop*, *phod-kharab*, etc.

*Sur-naksha* is a map prepared during the survey, which denotes a particular number, *chaltha* numbers, base lines, physical features

of the field, etc. This map is drawn according to a scale and its copies are obtainable on payment of prescribed fees. *Akar-bund* is a final settlement register containing the latest assessment rates. In the register, the survey number, *phod* number, *hissa* number, total area of the holding, *phod-kharab* details, dry wet or *bagayat* details and the amount of assessment to be paid based on the standard rates approved are entered. It also furnishes information about the source of water supply for cultivation and also about the nature of *phod-kharab*.

In 1947, the Government of Hyderabad issued instructions for assessing the lands irrigated under wells as dry and the maximum dry-rates were to be fixed for such lands. It was then decided to levy a consolidated rate for lands which received an assured supply of water from Government sources of irrigation. In 1954, the Government of Hyderabad fixed special water rates for *Abi* crops at Rs. 12, for sugarcane at Rs. 35, for fruit gardens at Rs. 15, for eight months' gardens at Rs. 18, for *rabi* crops at Rs. 6 and for irrigated *kharif* crops at Rs. 4. In respect of lands under light irrigation, concessions were sanctioned for a period of three years. There was no assessment for the first year, but in the second year, 50 per cent of the assessment was to be paid and in the third year, full assessment was levied. Similar concessions were given to those cultivators who brought waste lands under cultivation. Now wet assessment is levied only on rainfed wet lands not deriving advantage of water from any Government irrigational source, while lands coming under a Government irrigational source are liable to a levy of dry assessment in addition to water rate under the Karnataka Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution and Water-Rate) Act, 1957.

#### Water-rates

The water rate is not included in the land revenue assessment under the new settlement. The rules relating to the water-rates were issued in 1965. Subsequently, the water-rates were enhanced by 33 1/3 per cent of the existing rates and the revised rates came into force from 1966. The Government appointed a committee to go into the question of water-rates, which reviewed the entire issue and recommended that the water-rates might be scaled down and levying of maintenance charges might not be continued. The Government accepted the recommendations and passed orders accordingly. But the Government had to reconsider the issue in view of the mounting expenditure on irrigation projects, and the maintenance cess was restored and it is levied in accordance with the Karnataka Irrigation Act of 1965. The water-rates leviable on lands coming under the Government source of irrigation are defined under Rule 3 of the Karnataka Irrigation (Levy of Water

Rate) (Amendment) Rules, 1971, and they were given effect to from 1st July 1965. The water-rates as levied in 1965 and as revised in 1972 and 1976 were as follows :

| Sl. No. | Crops   | Water rates per acre |                    |                    |
|---------|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|         |   | as in 1965           | as revised in 1972 | as revised in 1976 |
| 1       | For sugarcane crop ;  |                      |                    |                    |
|         | (a) to be harvested within a period of twelve months  | 20                   | 40                 | 80                 |
|         | (b) to be harvested after a period of twelve months but before a period of eighteen months.   | 30                   | 60                 | 120                |
| 2       | For paddy crop ;  | 11                   | 20                 |                    |
|         | (a) for paddy crop (in Malnad areas with annual rainfall of 1250 mm.)   | ..                   | ..                 | 20                 |
|         | (b) in other areas  | ..                   | ..                 | 30                 |
| 3       | For any crop of jowar, maize, ragi, navane, saje, pulses, greengram, wheat, cotton, groundnut, sweet potatoes, gingelly, onions, tobacco or coriander | 5                    | 12                 | 18                 |
| 4       | For any manurial crop such as sannhemp or sesbania  | 3                    | 6                  | 9                  |
| 5       | For any crop of arecanut, betel-leaves, turmeric, lime, oranges, pomegranates, coconut, pepper, mulberry or any fruit.                                | 12                   | 24                 | 36                 |

### Jagirs

The *jagir* was a tenure which was common under Muslim Government with the general appellations of *Inam-ul-Tunqha* and *Madad-Maash*, according to which the public revenue of a given tract of lands was made over to the favoured persons with powers requisite to enable them to collect and appropriate such revenue, and sometimes to administer the general government of the territory so assigned. In the early part of the 18th century, Asaf Jah, who was a feudal chief of the Mughul and the first Nizam of Hyderabad, brought with him from North India a number of followers who were attached to his person and fortunes. To many nobles, he granted *jagirs* (*inams*) on military tenure and employed them as his generals. Some of the officers who were employed in administrative work in the departments of revenue and finance, were also granted *jagirs* in recognition of their services. The *jagirs* in the Hyderabad State were neither in the nature of the *zamindaries* of the former Madras province, nor like the *Taluqdaries* of Uttar Pradesh. They were not acquired for any consideration, but were given as free grants by the ruler as enunciated in *Kanuncha-Mubarak* of 1302 *Fasli*. The State was founded on despotism and autocracy, the whole dominion being considered as the private

property of its ruler. All these *jagirs* came to be considered as hereditary.

In many cases, the assignment, in the first instance, was either for a stated term or for the life-time of the holder, lapsing to the State on his death. It was frequently renewed to his heir on payment of *nazarana*. It was sometimes specified to be a hereditary assignment, without which specification, it was held to be a life-tenure. There were in the Hyderabad State many estate-holders who were recognised and confirmed in their possessions on payment of a tribute and they were allowed to exercise a kind of semi-independent jurisdiction within the limits of their estates. Some of the *jagirdars* were fully authorised to collect land revenue, local cesses and other taxes which were not prohibited in the *khalsa* areas. They were entitled to recover them in accordance with the terms of the *sanad* or with the permission of the State Government. The land revenue was collected by the *jagirdars* directly. The excise revenue was taken over by the Hyderabad Government in October 1936.

The bigger of the *Jagirdars* were, in varying measure, responsible for the administration of their *jagirs*. In almost all such important *jagirs*, except those under the Court of Wards or Government supervision, revenue collection was completely in the hands of the *Jagirdars* who used to appoint and maintain staff of their own. A Jagirs Revenue Recovery Regulation was passed in 1946, limiting the powers of the *Jagirdars* and their officers in respect of revenue collections. Lands, which were the subject of State grants and the revenue from which was assigned, came under the category of non-*khalsa* lands. Small *jagirs*, which came under this category, were free grants of lands of one or more villages as a reward for some conspicuous service rendered, or for maintaining the status and dignity of the grantee. The *jagir* was inalienable and the *Jagirdar* was only entitled to the revenue accruing from the land.

A special feature of the *jagirs* in the Hyderabad State was that possession of the estate was given to a single person who was known as the *Qabiz* (holder) who, in addition to his own share, was entitled in respect of management to one-fourth share in income of the estate where the total income of the estate was more than Rs. 25,000 and to one-eighth share where the income did not exceed Rs. 25,000. This right was called *Haq-e-intezam* (right of management). The junior members of the family were entitled to their respective shares after deducting *Haq-e-intezam* and other administrative expenses. Besides the shares of *hissedars* (sharers) there were other dependents of the family who were entitled to *guzara* (maintenance) from the *jagir*.

**Haq-e-intezam**

The *jagirs* were of four kinds, namely (a) *paigahs*, (b) *Ilaqas* of premier nobles, (c) *samsthan* and (d) other *jagirs*. There was no *samsthan* in this district.

The number of village under *paigahs* and *jagirs* in the different taluks in the district are as under :

| Name of taluk | Jagirs | Paigahs | Total |
|---------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Aurad         | 20     | 8       | 28    |
| Basavakalyan  | 64     | 48      | 112   |
| Bhalki        | 17     | 60      | 77    |
| Bidar         | 52     | 37      | 89    |
| Humnabad      | 14     | 63      | 77    |
| Total         | 167    | 216     | 383   |

#### 1,500 Jagirs

Several commisisions were appointed under the Atiyat Department between 1822 and 1851 to settle disputes among the *jagirdars*. Later on, a small branch was set up under the Revenue Secretary, which worked between 1866 and 1876 and settled many disputes. A new commission was appointed in 1866 under Mr. Dunlop who was subsequently made the Inam Commissioner with several Deputy Commissioners under him. In 1876, Sir Salar Jung appointed a commission called *Dariafat-Inamaat* for investigation into the affairs of the *jagirs* which were in a chaotic condition. Many forged documents claiming rights over proprties came to its notice. In 1932, the Atiyat Department was brought under the Revenue Department. A Commission was appointed in 1356 *Fasli* (1947) to enquire into the administration of *jagirs* and to suggest reforms. The report of this commission served as a back-ground for their abolition later in 1949, of about 1,500 *jagirs* comprising about 6,500 villages in the Hyderabad State. The Jagir Abolition Regulation promulgated by the Military Government on the 15th August 1949 was a considerable advancement on the recommendations of the commission.

The transfer of the administration of the *jagirs* to the Hyderabad Government took place in September 1949, under the order of the Military Governor. In order to bring about speedy and effective transfer of *jagir* villages, a *jagir* Administrator was appointed. All the Civil Administrators (District Collectors) and First Talukdars were appointed as Assistant Jagir Administrators within their respective jurisdictions. Finally, all the *jagirs* were integrated with the *diwani* area by the 5th May 1950. Several ameliorative measures were taken by the Government in the *jagir* villages soon after their merger in the *diwani* area. The Settlement Commissioner took up the survey of the unsurveyed villages. As a provisional



step against the existing high rates of assessment in the *jagir* areas, the Government announced a general remission of 12½ per cent in land revenue of all *jagir* areas for 1950. The *pattedari* rights were also protected in the *jagir* villages.

The word "Inam" means a favour or reward. An *inam*-holding was a grant of land in which the State had given up its right of land revenue, or a portion of it in favour of an individual or an institution, in return for the performance of certain duties or as a charitable endowment. This had been an old system. Such grants varied from small isolated fields to whole village or several villages. In 1276 F (1865 A.D.), a Commission known as the Inam Commission was appointed to examine the title and rights of the *inamdars*, *jagirdars*, etc. This commission continued its work till 1312 F (1902) and remaining work was completed by the Revenue Department. Those claims which were proved to be valid were confirmed afresh and title deeds issued. The types of *inams* that existed in the district were:—(1) Service *inams*, (2) *Madad-Mash inams*, (3) *Balluta inams*, (4) *Hadoli inams*, (5) *Mazkuri inams*, (6) *Oati inams*, (7) *Halgia inams* and (8) *Mathapati inams*. Service *inam* lands were granted to the Muslim and Hindu religious and charitable institutions and to the Deshmukhs, Deshpandes and village officers. *Madad-Mash inams* were granted to help certain families. *Balluta inams* were granted to carpenters, blacksmiths, washermen, barbers, *kumbaras*, *pholaries*, cobblers, etc., in villages for rendering services to the villagers. The persons who were granted the *Balluta inams* were not permitted to leave the villages where the lands were granted. Some Harijan families of villages were granted lands for rendering services to the villagers by cleaning them etc., and such *inams* were called *Hadoli inams*.

#### Inam tenures

The *Mazkuri inams* were granted to those families which rendered services in the village office. The *Oati inams* were granted to those who cleaned the village *chavadi* and made arrangement of drinking water, etc., for the officers who visited the villages. The *Halgia inams* were granted for the service of announcing Government orders as and when necessary by beat of drums. The *Mathapati inams* were given to those families which rendered services to visitors of *mathas* (monasteries) from outside the village. Except service-condition *inams* granted to religious and charitable institutions and the *Balluta inams*, all the *inams* were abolished and occupancy rights of all the abolished *inam* lands were granted either in favour of the *inamdars* or their tenants under the Hyderabad Abolition of Inams Act, 1954. The Karnataka Legislature has passed a legal measure called the Karnataka (Bombay and Hyderabad Areas) Religious and Charitable Inams Abolition Act, 1973,

which has not yet come into force. Only the *Balluta inams* were continued. The area of *inam* lands resumed was 6129.12 hectares and the area regranted was 15819.02 hectares. The amount of compensation paid was Rs. 6,03,448.83.

Various  
tenures

Land tenure means the manner in which the land is held or cultivated. Theoretically, the *raiyatwari* tenures does not contemplate any middlemen between the land-holder and the State unlike in the case of *zamindari* estates. Still as the registered occupant was not always -and necessarily the actual cultivator, there were certain tenures which were inferior to that of the registered occupant (*pattadar*), based on contract or custom in the *raiyatwari* villages. The forms in which lands were actually held under the *raiyatwari* system were classified as (i) *pattadari*, (2) *pot-pattadari*, (3) *Shikmidari* and (4) *asami-shikmi*. Besides, there were other tenures in respect of the *Diwani (khalsa)* lands namely *pan-maqta*, *tahud* and *ijara*. The *Diwani* lands were generally held on the *raiyatwari* tenure. The details of the system of survey and settlement of the *raiyatwari* lands and the principles of land revenue administration were laid down in the Hyderabad Land Revenue Act of 1907 which was formulated on the same lines as the Bombay Land Revenue Code V of 1879. Under the *raiyatwari* system each field is considered a holding, technically called survey number. The land-holder is called a registered occupant or *pattadar* or *khatedar*. The right of occupancy depended on the regular payment of assessment by the *pattadar*.

*Pattadari* tenure was a simple occupancy wherein the occupant cultivated the land personally or through hired labour. On account of the unrestricted right of transfer which was allowed to the occupant of the *pattadar*, a class of non-cultivating owners or *pattadars* came into existence. They leased their lands to tenants and became rent-receivers. *Pot-pattadari* was a tenure where two or more cultivators held a joint *patta*. The *pattadar* in the case of *pot-pattadar* could neither evict the *pot-pattedar*, nor enhance the existing assessment payable by him. The *pot-pattadar* had to pay land revenue in proportion to the share held by him and so long as he continued to pay it, he could not be evicted from his holding. In cases where the occupants made over the lands to cultivators on certain conditions, such cultivators were known as *shikmidars* and they could not be evicted as long as they carried out the terms of their agreement with the registered occupant. The *shikmidars* were permanent tenants and possessed rights almost similar to those of the *pattadars*. *Asami-shikmis* were tenants-at-will.

The *Asami-shikmi's Act (1354 Fasli) (1945)* was enacted on the lines of the Bombay Tenancy Act, 1939, to protect the interests of such tenants. They were responsible to the holders for the payment of rent. After 12 years of continuous tenancy, they could be deemed to be *shikmidars*, but in practice, it was difficult for them to prove such a period of continuous possession. *Pan-maqta* was a *kowl* of tenure by contract in which lands were given to the holders on a fixed quit-rent without liability to enhancement. The rights of these *pan-maqta* holders were examined by the Inam Commission and only such as were proved to be valid were confirmed. *Tahud* or *Sarbasta* was a lease for a specific period. This was abolished by Sir Salar Jung I long back. *Ijara* was a special type of tenure governed by contracts made between the State and *ijardars*. This was introduced by Sir Salar Jung I with a view to repopulating some deserted villages and to bringing under cultivation of cultivable lands which were lying waste. Under this system, the land was assessed at light rates subject to progressive increase till full assessment was reached. The period of lease granted for a whole waste village was a term of 30 or 40 years. The *Sarf-e-khas* lands, as stated earlier, were the sole property of the Nizam, the revenue of which was a contribution to his privy purse. After the accession of the State to the Indian Union, these land were merged in the *Diwani (khalsa)* lands.

Tenancy in the non-*Diwani* areas of the old Hyderabad State had a different history. There were unauthorised claims of the *jagirdars* to a right in the lands whereby they sought to treat the cultivators as mere tenants. The *jagirdars* were leasing the lands and the occupants in many cases were sub-letting the lands to others. Some *jagirdars* were also in the habit of insisting upon payment of "*nazarana*" (meaning, in such cases, premium in the shape of one or two year's assessment) before they accorded *pattadari* rights to old cultivators. It was found that some *jagirdars*, while they allowed freely *pattadari* rights to old cultivators, did not permit the *pattadars* to sell or mortgage the holdings without their permission. This permission was sometimes granted on the *pattadar* paying a *nazarana*. There were also cases where the holders of the alienated villages, after giving *pattadari* rights to cultivators on payment of a *nazarana*, deprived them of these rights later. Conditions in those *jagir* villages, where survey and settlement had not been carried out, were still worse. The *jagirdar* called himself a *pattadar* of many fields in the villages, even old cultivators being entered as *kowldars*, who were not allowed to sell lands cultivated by them. The State Government had to intervene from time to time to make the position clear.

Tenancy in  
non-Diwani  
areas

With a view to putting an end to the controversy in respect of right to the land created by the unauthorised claims of the *jagirdars*, the Government took power to compulsorily introduce survey and settlement operations in the *jagir* areas. Finally, the Government, by an amending Act, incorporated certain modifications in the Land Revenue Code which defined the respective rights of the *jagirdars* and of cultivators under them. According to the Hyderabad Land Revenue Code, the *pattadar* was defined as the person who was directly responsible to the Government for payment of land revenue and whose name was entered as such in Government records whether he was personally in possession of the holding or through his tenant. In the case of non-*Diwani* lands, *pattadar* was defined as the person who was directly responsible to the *jagidar* for payment of land revenue, whether his name had or had not been entered as such in *jagir* records.

In course of time, the tenancy problem became complicated because of alienated villages, where even hereditary cultivators were sometimes considered tenants-at-will. The question had become more urgent on account of the large volume of agricultural indebtedness in villages. Thereupon, the State Government appointed a Tenancy Committee to investigate the condition of tenants. This committee arrived at the conclusion that one-third of the net yield, after deducting the cost of cultivation, weeding and harvesting, remained with the tenant, and two-thirds or more went to the *pattadar*. Out of the *pattadar's* two-third net profit, half or less went towards assessment. Thus on a rough calculation, after deducting the cost of cultivation, manuring, weeding and harvesting, from the gross yield, the net income was divided into three equal parts among the *pattadar*, the tenant and the Government. The Tenancy Committee was of the view that early steps were needed for putting the position of the tenants on a secure basis.

#### Tenancy Regulations

In the wake of the changes brought about in the social and political structure of the society, attempts to regulate tenancy were taken up in the various parts of India including the Hyderabad State. Several regulations were enacted for giving relief to the tenants and in the course of their implementation innumerable difficulties were experienced. It was felt that any amount of tenancy legislation, so long as the cause of tenancy remained, would deny the real security of tenure to the tenants. There was the demand that the peasants who actually tilled the soil should be the owners. It was visualised that a new class of peasant proprietors should manage the lands and produce from it abundant food. The main theme of the agrarian reforms was to eliminate all intermediaries between the cultivators and the Government. Absentee landlordism was found to be a severe hindrance and it was decided to do away with it.

In the Hyderabad State, the first step was taken in 1933 when a regulation was passed for preventing agricultural lands from passing into the hands of money-lenders and others. In the same year, an officer was appointed to conduct a detailed survey of agricultural indebtedness. One of his findings was that "people from all walks of life began acquiring land, not for purposes of cultivation by themselves, but as a source of business or commercial investment". The Hyderabad Government passed the prevention of Agricultural Land Alienation Act, 1939. This legislation closely resembled the Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900. Land transfers were prevented unless the transferee belonged to the class of agriculturists as defined by the Act and land with an assessment of Rs. 50 at least was left with the transferer. Those holding land with an assessment of more than Rs. 500 were not deemed to be agriculturists.

A Tenancy Committee was appointed during 1939 and in the light of its recommendation, the Asami-Shikmis Act of 1945 was promulgated. The tenants, however, could not derive any benefit from this legislation as its enforcement was half-hearted. According to the Act, *Asami-Shikmidars* could be deemed to be *Shikmidars* after 12 years of continuous possession but in practice it was difficult for tenants to prove such a period of continuous possession. The hardships and complaints of the cultivating class continued as before.

After the accession of the Hyderabad State to the Indian Union in 1948, the State Government took up the question again and an Agrarian Reforms Committee was appointed in 1949. On the basis of its recommendations, the Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950, was passed. The main objectives of this Act were to improve the status of tenants, to limit the size of holdings, to abolish absentee landlordism and to preserve lands in the hands of genuine agriculturists. The Act declared all tenants who had cultivated the land continuously for six years within the prescribed period as protected tenants and conferred special rights and privileges upon them including the right to purchase the land held by them on easy terms. It was also made clear in the statute that no land-owner could terminate the tenancy of a protected tenant who was for the time being a member of the co-operative farming society.

The most important of the rights conferred on the protected tenants was the one to purchase the land-holder's interests in the land. If the offer was not accepted, the protected tenant had the choice to apply to the tribunal for the determination of the reasonable price of the land. The extent of the family-holding as

Hyderabad  
tenancy  
reforms

Protected  
tenants

envisaged ranged from 21 to 36 acres of black cotton soil, from 6 to 9 acres of wet land under irrigation and from 48 to 72 acres of poor lands. The area of a basic holding was equal to one-third of the area of a family holding.

The Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1950, had another interesting feature, namely, the use of compulsion for the formation of co-operative farming societies. If an application was made to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies by any ten or more persons of a village or two or more contiguous villages holding between them 50 acres or more for the formation of a co-operative farming society, the Registrar had to make enquiries and grant a certificate of registration. The majority of tenants holding lands on lease from substantial holders in 1954 were found to lack protection under the law, because they were ordinary tenants to whom land was leased out by land-holders in order to circumvent the effect of land reforms legislation. The Tenancy Act was, therefore, amended under which ordinary tenants of land-holders, whose holding including those under tenants exceeded three family holdings, were declared as protected tenants.

The process of voluntary purchase of lands by the protected tenants was, however, not brisk due to a variety of reasons. Although, according to tenancy records, the number of protected tenants in the whole of the old Hyderabad State was 6,30,000, only 13,000 of them purchased 57,105 hectares upto the end of 1955. The sale in most of these cases was effected with the consent of the landholders and the protected tenants did not insist on paying a reasonable price. Instead, they paid at market rates. Some of them, however, yielded to the pressure of land-holders and surrendered their rights. The Tenancy Act of 1950 made provisions for prevention of fragmentation and consolidation of holdings. It laid down that no land should be permanently alienated, leased or subdivided so as to create a fragment. The Government had powers to prepare a scheme for consolidation of land-holdings and to enforce it in areas previously notified.

**Land Commission**

In order to fully associate public opinion with the implementation of land reforms, the Hyderabad Government appointed a Land Commission consisting of three elected, one official and three nominated members. After touring the State extensively and carrying out enquiries for four and a half months, the Commission submitted a report on the determination of family-holdings and local areas and the Government accepted the recommendations of the Commission and issued a notification specifying the local areas in all the districts and the extent of family-holdings for different classes of lands in those areas. The second report of the Commission was on

consolidation of holdings. The Government accepted also the recommendations of the Commission on consolidation of holdings and action was initiated in 125 villages in the State. Although the Agrarian Reforms Committee, 1949, had recommended consolidation, as far as possible, by voluntary methods through co-operative agencies, the Land Commission suggested that as the work was technical and required considerable knowledge of settlement and land records work, it should be started through departmental agencies only.

In the light of experience gained, the Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act of 1950 was amended by the Amending Acts XIII and XXIII of 1951. These aimed at improving the status of tenants of lands in *ijara* villages. After the expiry of the term, the lease-holders were recognised as *raiyyatwari* holders on concessional land revenue assessment. With the concentration of large extents of land in their hands, many of them had developed into a class similar to the *zamindars* of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Tenancy Act of 1950 did not apply to their tenants, but some of them were cultivating lands for long periods and had made efforts for reclamation of lands. Such of those tenants as had been in possession of any land in an *ijara* village continuously for a period of 12 years or who had from the commencement of cultivation or from the time *patta* was granted to the *ijardar*, cultivated such land jointly with the *ijardar*, were declared as *shikmidars* i.e., holders of a proprietary right. They are also allowed a right to purchase the *ijardar's* nominal interests on payment of an amount not exceeding ten times the difference between the rent and the land revenue payable in respect of such lands.

With the object of stopping large-scale eviction of tenants, in which the land-holders started indulging, the Hyderabad Prevention of Evictions Ordinance was promulgated in 1952 for staying all suits claiming relief through eviction of tenants and for restoring possession of tenants evicted after 21st March 1952. Sales of lands which were made without giving first an option to the protected tenants for purchasing the lands were declared void. During the years 1951-52 and 1952-53, tenancy records were prepared for all the villages in the district to consolidate the position of the protected and ordinary tenants. As a token of recognition of the protected tenancy rights, certificates were distributed to six lakhs of protected tenants in the old Hyderabad State. Similarly, *shikmidari* records were prepared in the *ijara* villages and *shikmidari* certificates were distributed. The Ordinance, however, lapsed in January 1953. Meanwhile, the Planning Commission made recommendations for further progressive measures to be taken in regard to land policy.

**Tenancy in  
Ijara  
villages**

**Eviction of  
tenants**

The Hyderabad Tenancy and Agricultural Land Amending Act, 1954, was passed in order to implement the recommendations of the Planning Commission. This was another landmark in the progress of land reforms in the Hyderabad State. The salient features of this new Act were introduction of "family-holding" as a new yardstick for administration of land reforms, reduction of rents, their fixation in terms of multiples of land revenue, imposition of fresh restrictions on resumption for personal cultivation, imposition of ceilings on the size of holdings, on future acquisition of lands as well as on the existing holdings, sale of lands in favour of tenants on easier terms and assumption of management on acquisition by the State of surplus or inefficiently cultivated lands. Maximum rents for both protected and ordinary tenants were also prescribed. The Act aimed at merging of ownership with cultivation and by permitting the tenant to acquire ownership on easy terms.

After the States' Reorganisation on 1st November 1956, when the Bidar district became a part of the new Mysore State, an ordinance was issued on 11th March 1957 suspending the provisions relating to the landholders' right to terminate protected tenancy and also staying all proceedings whether for termination of tenancy or for resumption of land which were pending on 11th March, 1957. Surrenders of land were required to be verified before the Tahsildar and registered in his office. The Ordinance also contained a provision that all the lands surrendered by a tenant in excess over the extent which, along with the extent already in the holding of the landlord, would make up three family-holdings, should be taken under Government management and leased out to co-operative farming societies, agricultural labourers, landless persons and other agriculturists in that order. This Ordinance was replaced by the Hyderabad Tenancy Suspension of Provisions and Amendment Act, 1957, passed by the Mysore Legislature.

**Land  
Reforms**

In the various parts of the new Mysore State, different tenancy laws were in force and there was a persistent demand for examining afresh the tenancy problems in detail and for adoption of a uniform measure. Therefore, a committee called the Mysore Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws Committee was appointed on 10th May 1957, under the chairmanship of Shri B. D. Jatti. This Committee went into the question of fixation of rent, security of tenure, right of resumption of land by landholders for personal cultivation, right of purchase by tenants and payment of compensation to landholders, ceilings and land-holdings and other cognate matters. The Committee after fully examining all these aspects submitted its report in 1958. The Government then introduced a bill called the Karnataka Land Reforms Bill, 1958, in the Karnataka Legislature. After a general discussion, the bill was referred to a Joint Select



Committee of both the Houses consisting of 46 members, which submitted its report in March 1961. The bill was adopted with certain changes by the State Legislature in November 1961 and it received the assent of the President of India in March 1962.

However, as it was found necessary to amend certain provisions of the Act, its implementation was held up for some time. It was accordingly amended in 1965 by Act No. XIV of 1965. The Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961 (Karnataka Act X of 1962), as amended in 1965 had been brought into force throughout the State with effect from the 2nd October 1965, the Gandhi Jayanthi day. The enactment had made comprehensive provisions in respect of tenants' rights, ceiling limits of existing holdings and future acquisitions, payment of compensation for surplus lands taken over from land-owners and other connected matters. Under the provisions of the Act, no tenancy could be terminated merely on the ground that its duration, whether by agreement or otherwise, had expired. Tenants who were cultivating the lands prior to 10th September 1957, but who had been dispossessed either by surrender or eviction, were entitled for restoration of possession. Land in excess of 27 standard acres in the case of existing holdings were to be treated as surplus lands, which were to be vested with the Government. The ceiling area for future holdings was limited to 18 standard acres. This Land Reforms Act was further amended in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1972 and 1973. Several highly important provisions were made by the Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1973 (Karnataka Act No. 1 of 1974).

Over five lakh families of tenants, spread throughout Karnataka will become free from the clutches of the landlords with the implementation of the Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1973 (Act No. 1 of 1974). This Act, a major policy decision designed to give reality to the slogan "Land to the Tiller", has come into force with effect from March 1, 1974. The Act, which is considered to be a most revolutionary measure in the history of agrarian reforms in the country, has also enabled agricultural labourers and landless persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and others to own the land. Besides reducing the ceiling limit on the land to be held by each family, the Act has reduced the size of the family by redefining the term. Persons with an annual income exceeding Rs. 12,000 from non-agricultural sources, companies, associations and co-operative societies are barred from acquiring lands in future except under specified conditions.

**Radical  
measures**

*Abolition of Tenancy*: The tenant-landlord relationship has come to an end and there will be no future tenancies except in the cases of soldiers and seamen and Court of Wards. As a sequel to

abolition of tenancies, about 3.97 lakh holdings comprising 10.18 lakh hectares of land will go to the tenants who are cultivating them on lease and 1.6 lakh hectares of surplus land will be made over to the displaced tenants, agricultural labourers, landless persons, including ex-service personnel whose gross annual income does not exceed Rs. 2,000. Other persons in the villages in the taluk or the adjacent taluk having less than one unit with gross annual income of Rs. 2,000 will get land in the order of priority fixed. Fifty per cent of the surplus land is reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The tenants have to pay to Government an amount equal to fifteen times the net annual income in the case of A, B and C classes of land and twenty times such income in case of D class of lands to be eligible to be registered as occupants. They are permitted to pay the amount in one lumpsum or in twenty annual instalments with interest at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent annum. In case of a permanent tenant, however, the amount payable shall be six times the difference between the rent and land revenue.

*Classification of lands :* 'A' class lands include those having facilities for assured irrigation from Government canal or tank capable of supplying water for two crops of paddy a year ; 'B' class include those lands having similar facilities for one paddy crop a year and lands irrigated by lift irrigation constructed or maintained by Government and wherein two crops of paddy can be grown in a year ; 'C' class lands include those irrigated by any other Government source of water and also by lifting water from any river or Government canal, pumping installations or any other device of lifting water having been provided by individual himself and the lands wherein paddy or areca crops can be grown with the help of rain water. 'D' class includes dry lands.

*Possession of Lands :* The Government will take possession of all tenanted lands except those mentioned under Section 5, and the Taluk Tribunals will decide the proceedings relating to the conferment of ownership rights on tenants and distribution of surplus lands. Every person entitled to be registered as an occupant has to file his application before the Tribunal of the concerned taluk in Form 7 before 31st December 1974. The delay in filing the applications can be condoned and applications can be received up to 31st December 1976. In order to eliminate the huge costs involved in litigation and the time-consuming procedures, the Government has declared that the decision of the Tribunal is final and that no legal practitioner will be allowed to appear in any proceedings. The right of resumption of tenanted land available to the landlords under the principal Act will no more be there. All pending applications

for resumption will abate. The rent to be paid will be 10 times the land revenue plus water rate not exceeding the specified rates.

*Ceiling Limit* : Another important feature in the amended Act is bringing down of the ceiling limit from the existing 27-216 acres per family to 10-54 acres per family and the reduced ceiling will be effective from 24th January 1971. For the purpose of ceiling, the lands classified earlier into seven classes is now reclassified into four classes. Plantation lands of coffee, tea, rubber, pepper and cardamom are exempted from ceiling. Exemptions from ceiling available to the lands exclusively used for grazing the cattle, forest lands, lands used for specialised farms, sugarcane farms, etc., will cease. For the extinguishment of the rights of the landlords in the lands vesting in Government, the Government will pay them for the first Rs. 5,000 of net income, 15 times the net income, for the next Rs. 5,000, 12 times and for the balance 10 times. No landlord can get more than Rs. two lakhs for the lands surrendered by him.

In case of dry land ('D' class) or if the landlord is a small holder, minor, widow, woman who has never married, physically or mentally handicapped person or a soldier or a seaman, the amount payable is twenty times the net annual income. The aggregate amount payable to the landlord is restricted to an overall limit of Rs. 2 lakhs. Persons having an annual income of Rs. 12,000 or more from sources other than agriculture are not allowed to acquire land.

Educational, religious or charitable institution or society or trust of a public nature capable of holding property, formed for such purpose, is permitted to hold land upto 20 units, even if the land held is cultivated by hired labour or by servants under the personal supervision of an employee or agent of such institution or a society or trust, but subject to the rider that the income from the land is appropriated for the institution or the society or the trust concerned. A soldier or a seaman, who is a landlord, continues to have the right of resumption upto ceiling area provided he had created the lease while he was serving as a soldier or seaman or not earlier than three months prior to his becoming a soldier or seaman. If a soldier or a seaman fails to issue notice to the tenant to deliver possession of land within the specified time, the Tahsildar by issue of notification can order the vesting of the land in Government free from all encumbrances.

*Sales of Lands* : While landlord is prohibited from transferring by sale, gift or exchange the resumed land within fifteen years of resumption, he can mortgage the land in favour of Government, scheduled bank, etc., for raising loan for improving the land.

Failure to cultivate personally within one year of taking possession of the land or ceasing to cultivate personally within three years, makes the landlord lose the land in favour of Government and the land reverts back to the tenant entitled. Sale of a site on which dwelling house is built is to be in favour of tenant and the price shall not exceed ten times the land revenue.

A person or a family is prohibited from holding land in excess of the ceiling area (family includes the individual, his or her spouse, minor sons and unmarried daughters). Families having more than five members are permitted to hold additional land at two units (unit meaning one acre of 'A' class land, soil classification of which is 50 paise or above or its equivalent as specified in Schedule I to the Act) for each additional member in excess of five, subject to a maximum of twenty units. Sugar factories can hold land for research or seed-farm upto a limit of 50 units. Educational, religious or charitable institutions or trust of a public nature capable of holding property are permitted to hold upto twenty units if the income from the land is appropriated for the institution, society or trust. Plantation lands are exempted from ceiling but the agricultural lands interspersed in the plantations do not get blanket exemption but they are subject to scrutiny by the prescribed authority.

If a person has transferred his land after 24th January 1971 and by such transfer, he had reduced his holding to less than the ceiling, the transferred land shall be taken into account for computing the surplus land to be surrendered by him and the lands deemed to be surplus shall be surrendered out of the lands retained by him. Change of class of land due to Government irrigated works constructed later will result in a fresh application of the ceiling provisions. It is made incumbent on every person holding 10 acres or more of 'A' or 'B' class of land, 20 acres or more 'C' class of land or 40 acres or more 'D' class of land to file a declaration of his holding within 31st December 1974 before the Tahsildar. Companies, associations, bodies of individuals not being a joint family, co-operative societies are prohibited from holding land, but co-operative societies, scheduled banks, finance corporations and the Coffee Board are permitted to take mortgages of land as security for loans granted for agricultural purposes.

*Payment of Annuity:* Religious, charitable or other institutions capable of holding property shall be paid for their lands vesting in Government annuity in perpetuity equal to the net annual income of such institutions. The annuity bonds shall be non-redeemable and non-negotiable.

Except the provisions of the Act pertaining to rent, others shall not apply to land belonging to Government; held on lease from Government for a period of not exceeding 20 years held on lease from a local authority, agricultural produce marketing committee, University or Karnataka Bhoodan Yagna Board; used for stud farms in existence on 24th January 1971 and approved by Government; used for cultivation of linaloe and used for research, propaganda or development by the Coffee Board. Rent shall be ten times the aggregate of land revenue and water rate, if any.

The water rates to be taken for computing rent should not exceed for 'A' class land Rs. 16.50 per acre, for 'B' class land Rs. 11.00 per acre, for 'C' class land Rs. 5.50 per acre. Contract rent if it is less will prevail. In the *malnad* area for dry lands exclusively used for grazing and removing leaves, the rent will be two times the land revenue. Liability to pay land revenue, water rate and cesses is on the tenant.

*Land Tribunals*: Land Tribunals have been formed in all the taluks of the district under Section 48 of the Karnataka Land Reform (Amendment) Act, 1973; the Assistant Commissioner of the revenue sub-division having jurisdiction over the taluk or an Assistant Commissioner specially appointed for the purpose by the State Government is its Chairman and the Tahsildar of the taluk or the Special Tahsildar for Land Reforms its Secretary. It has four other members nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be a person belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Tribes. The duties of the Tribunal are to make necessary verification or hold an enquiry and pass orders in cases relating to registration of a tenant as occupant, to grant occupancy rights to eligible tenants, to decide whether a person is a tenant or not, to grant surplus land to the weaker section among the categories of landless labourers, displaced tenants, etc., and to perform such other duties and functions as are imposed on the Tribunal.

Every person entitled to be registered as an occupant had to make an application to the Tribunal before 31st December 1974. The Tribunal can also entertain such applications after 31st December 1974 and upto 31st December 1976 if they are satisfied about the reasons of delay. The Tribunal makes a notification and issues notices to individuals concerned and calls upon the landlords and all other persons concerned to appear before it. If no objection is filed, the Tribunal may grant or reject the application after verification. If any objection is raised, it determines the person to whom land is to be granted after enquiry. The order of the Tribunal is final in all cases decided by it. The Tribunal of the

taluk is empowered to determine the surplus land as well as the amount payable to the landlords and land-holders after the amendments effected in 1976.

**Consolidation  
of holdings**

In order to remedy the excessive fragmentation of lands which has taken place on account of the law of succession or economic necessities of the parties, a uniform measure to consolidate the holdings and prevent further fragmentation of lands called the Karnataka Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1964, was adopted. According to this Act, a holding of lesser extent than the appropriate standard area determined under Section (3) of the Act, which is not profitable for cultivation, is considered a fragment. The unit of standard minimum area varies from half an acre to four acres according to the classification of lands. Any unit of land, which is not profitable for cultivation, is regarded as a fragment. No person can dispose of such a fragment to any one other than the contiguous holder. According to the provisions of the Act, no fragment shall be divided or partitioned. In addition, the Act also provides for the consolidation of holdings in respect of the existing fragments. In the scheme of consolidation, there is provision for compensation to the owner. Every person to whom a holding is allotted according to the consolidation scheme, gets a certificate of transfer without any stamp duty or registration fee (*see* Chapter IV for particulars of land holdings in the district).

**Grant of  
lands**

The Karnataka Land Grant Rules came into force in 1969. In pursuance of Rule 24 of those Rules, Consultative Committees, consisting of officials and non-officials, were constituted in all the taluks of the district during May 1970. These Taluk Consultative Committees were abolished in 1971. Thereafter, a special staff was appointed for expeditious disposal of lands. In 1972, the Government constituted again the Consultative Committees after amending the Karnataka Land Grant Rules, 1969. These committees have to be consulted in respect of all applications for grant of land for agricultural purposes. The lands are granted as per reservations: ex-servicemen and soldiers 10 per cent, persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 50 per cent, political sufferers 10 per cent and others 30 per cent. The conditions of grant are that the grantee shall not alienate the land for a period of 15 years and the land granted shall be brought under personal cultivation within three years from the date of taking possession.

**Bhoodan**

The Bhoodan movement, which was initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave in 1951, aims at obtaining lands as a gift from the land-holders and distributing them among the landless. This movement has been

assisted by organisations like the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and a number of Sarvodaya workers. After the reorganisation of States the movement was taken up by the Sarvodaya Mandal. The movement had its impact on the minds of the people in the district. However, the extent of lands given in *bhoodan* in the district is not much, but the spirit behind *bhoodan* has been considerably appreciated by the people. In order to remedy certain anomalies in regularising the donations and distribution of lands among landless persons, the Karnataka Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1963, was passed. The State Government constituted a Karnataka Bhoodan Yagna Board which started functioning in June 1966. The following are the particulars of land donations as in 1976 in the taluks of the district, as furnished by the Chief Executive Officer, Bhoodan Yagna Board, Bangalore :

| Taluk        | No. of donations | (Area in hectares) (Dry) |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Aurad        | 4                | 1,068.00                 |
| Basavakalyan | 4                | 8.20                     |
| Bhalgi       | 43               | 452.04                   |
| Bidar        | 7                | 581.34                   |
| Hunnabad     | 10               | 148.30                   |
| Total        | 68               | 2,059.08                 |

out of the 68 donations covering 833.98 hectares, only 35 donations covering an area of 256.8 hectares contain details of survey numbers. Out of these, 23 donations of an area of 49.16 hectares have been confirmed, and an extent of 47.26 hectares have been distributed as follows :

| Taluk        | No. of Donations confirmed | Hect  | Extent of lands distributed |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Aurad        | 1                          | 4.86  | 4.86                        |
| Basavakalyan | 4                          | 3.32  | 1.62                        |
| Bhalgi       | 12                         | 25.92 | 25.92                       |
| Bidar        | 4                          | 9.92  | 9.82                        |
| Hunnabad     | 2                          | 4.90  | 4.90                        |
| Total        | 23                         | 48.82 | 47.12                       |

Several changes have taken place since the donations were made. It is stated that many of the donors are now dead and their heirs are not willing to effect the donations. In some other cases, the lands have been alienated and are in possession of persons other than the

donors. Efforts are being made by the Board to regularise the gifts.

### TAXES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE

#### STATE TAXES.

#### State Excise

The State exchequer derives a large amount of revenue from the State Excise. The revenue in this respect is mainly in the form of rentals from toddy and arrack shops, duty and price on arrack, tree tax, duty on beer, I.M.F.L. duty, licence and other fees, etc. The revenue from this source in 1958-59, just before the enforcement of prohibition in this district, was Rs. 6,92,336, whereas the revenue in 1959-60, when prohibition was introduced, was Rs. 1,54,546. During 1967-68, it was Rs. 1,79,554. In 1968-69 when prohibition was lifted, the revenue was Rs. 14,48,901, and in 1972-73 it was Rs. 25,11,231. The extents of annual consumption of various intoxicants, which fetched the revenue, as during the period from 1968-69 to 1973-74, were as given hereunder :

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Toddy<br/>(in trees)</i> | <i>Arrack.<br/>(in litres)</i> | <i>I.M.F.L.<br/>(in litres)</i> | <i>Beer<br/>(in litres)</i> | <i>Opium<br/>(in grams)</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1968-69     | 25,249                      | 92,908                         | 9,941                           | 14,743                      | 5,013                       |
| 1969-70     | 9,258                       | 96,162                         | 9,549                           | 14,714                      | 4,685                       |
| 1970-71     | 12,076                      | 1,68,569                       | 10,620                          | 15,066                      | 4,440                       |
| 1971-72     | 11,012                      | 1,78,620                       | 18,648                          | 22,441                      | 3,535                       |
| 1972-73     | 9,763                       | 1,87,763                       | 20,455                          | 23,279                      | 3,010                       |
| 1973-74     | 7,879                       | 2,98,830                       | 18,568                          | 36,603                      | 2,465                       |

There were 130 arrack shops and 193 toddy shops in 1975-76. The taluk-wise number of toddy shops and arrack shops in 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76 was as follows :

| <i>Taluk</i> | <i>Arrack shops</i> |         |         | <i>Toddy shops</i> |         |         |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|
|              | 1973-74             | 1974-75 | 1975-76 | 1973-74            | 1974-75 | 1975-76 |
| Aurad        | 25                  | 25      | 25      | 21                 | 21      | 21      |
| Basavakalyan | 25                  | 25      | 25      | 47                 | 47      | 47      |
| Bhalki       | 21                  | 21      | 21      | 39                 | 39      | 39      |
| Bidar        | 32                  | 32      | 32      | 41                 | 41      | 41      |
| Humnabad     | 27                  | 27      | 27      | 45                 | 45      | 45      |

The revenue realised in the district from the State Excise during the years 1973-74, 1974-75 and 1975-76, are detailed below :



| Sl. No. | Items  | 1973-74   | 1974-75   | 1975-76   |
|---------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1       | Arrack shop rent                                   | 9,42,000  | 13,24,750 | 12,32,300 |
| 2       | Toddy shop rent                                    | 9,14,000  | 9,24,700  | 8,66,700  |
| 3       | Beer shop rent                                     | 7,920     | 3,720     | 3,960     |
| 4       | Price and duty on arrack                           | 10,61,880 | 14,26,837 | 12,08,351 |
| 5       | Duty on Indian made liquor                         | 1,01,380  | 1,01,845  | 1,57,074  |
| 6       | Duty on beer                                       | 29,319    | 40,211    | 22,338    |
| 7       | Duty on S.M.P.                                     | 125       | 176       | 275       |
| 8       | Tree tax and tree rent                             | 28,830    | 29,821    | 220       |
| 9       | Foreign liquor licence fee                         | 1,35,796  | 1,55,696  | 9,190     |
| 10      | Denatured spirit and rectified spirit licence fee. | 1,750     | 6,798     | 1,73,296  |
| 11      | Receipts from distillaries                         | 50,000    | 1,00,000  | 18,770    |
| 12      | Fines and miscellaneous                            | 5,295     | 9,404     | 58,581    |
|         | Total  | 33,73,295 | 41,23,938 | 37,51,055 |

The work of registration of documents and collection of registration of fees is administered by the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who is also the *ex-officio* District Registrar and is responsible to the Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bangalore, for the purpose. There were only two Sub-Registry offices in the district upto 1966-67, and from 1967-68 there are five Sub-Registry offices, one in each of the taluk headquarters. The subjoined statement shows particulars relating to registration in the district during the years from 1960-61 to 1974-75 :

## Registration

(Amount in rupees)

| Year    | Registration offices | Documents registered | Total receipts | Total expenditure |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1960-61 | 2                    | 1,162                | 24,672         | 8,568             |
| 1961-62 | 2                    | 2,213                | 43,763         | 9,005             |
| 1962-63 | 2                    | 2,366                | 39,638         | 8,348             |
| 1963-64 | 2                    | 3,208                | 52,294         | 9,785             |
| 1964-65 | 2                    | 4,175                | 67,466         | 9,842             |
| 1965-66 | 2                    | 5,995                | 1,04,880       | 15,835            |
| 1966-67 | 2                    | 5,507                | 98,225         | 21,280            |
| 1967-68 | 5                    | 5,956                | 1,15,726       | 32,425            |
| 1968-69 | 5                    | 7,353                | 1,96,467       | 54,616            |
| 1969-70 | 5                    | 5,111                | 1,53,525       | 47,595            |
| 1970-71 | 5                    | 7,347                | 1,96,467       | 54,616            |
| 1971-72 | 5                    | 10,569               | 1,63,934       | 53,028            |
| 1972-73 | 5                    | 12,610               | 3,39,023       | 61,474            |
| 1973-74 | 5                    | 19,567               | 2,10,984       | 76,638            |
| 1974-75 | 5                    | 14,172               | 5,06,058       | 91,526            |

**Sale of stamps**

The Indian Stamp Act, 1955, was made applicable to the entire State of Karnataka in 1956 and the Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps was made the appellate authority under the Act. A uniform Karnataka Stamp Act and Rules made thereunder were brought into force in 1965. The following statement shows the amounts of revenue collected under stamps in the district during the years from 1971-72 to 1975-76 :

*(Amount in rupees)*

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Particulars</i>     | 1971-72          | 1972-73          | 1973-74         | 1974-75          | 1975-76          |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1              | General stamp          | 11,41,050        | 12,14,440        | 5,93,181        | 21,33,436        | 9,26,416         |
| 2              | Court fee stamp        | 1,26,700         | 1,79,465         | 1,62,933        | 1,73,517         | 1,87,808         |
| 3              | Revenue stamp          | 43,872           | 48,713           | 66,502          | 46,604           | 56,107           |
| 4              | Document copying fee   | 8,750            | 12,425           | 10,290          | 10,710           | 15,550           |
| 5              | Special Adhesive stamp | 150              | 303              | 450             | 1,064            | 3,272            |
| <b>Total</b>   |                        | <b>13,20,522</b> | <b>14,55,346</b> | <b>8,33,356</b> | <b>23,65,431</b> | <b>11,98,153</b> |

**Sales-tax**

The Sales-tax is a levy imposed on the sales or on the elements incidental to sales. It is collected on the first stage of transaction in some cases and on all stages of transactions in some other cases. Before the integration of the area with the new Mysore State, the Sales-tax in the district was being collected under the Hyderabad Sales-Tax Act, 1950, which was replaced by the Karnataka Sales-Tax Act, 1957. All goods, which are liable to be taxed at single stage of transaction, or in all stages of transaction as also the goods which are exempted from the levy of sales-tax are listed in the schedules of the Act.

Every dealer, whose total turnover is not less than the minimum limit prescribed, and every dealer, who is registered under the Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956, casual traders dealing in goods mentioned in the Act, agents of non-resident dealers and non-resident millers and commission agents, irrespective of the quantum of turnover, have to get themselves registered under the Act. The minimum turnover for registration was Rs. 10,000 from 1948 to 30th September 1957, Rs. 7,500 from 1st October 1957 to 31st March 1966, and it has been Rs. 10,000 from 1st April 1966. The registration fee prescribed was Rs. 6 per annum from 1st September 1948 to 31st March 1970 and it has been Rs. 25 from 1st April 1970.

The minimum turnover for levy of this tax was Rs. 7,500 from 1st October 1967 to 31st March 1966 and Rs. 10,000 from 1st April 1966 to 31st March 1970, and it has been Rs. 25,000 from 1st April 1970. But this limit is not applicable to (a) a dealer registered under the Central Sales-Tax Act. He is liable to pay tax on the sale of goods purchased in the course of inter-State trade or Commerce in respect of concessional rate of tax under Section 8(1) (b) of the Central Sales-Tax Act has been levied, (b) a casual trader dealing in goods specified in III and IV scheduleds, and (c) non-resident dealer including his agent or manager. Petty dealers and also hoteliers, who are not registered under Section 10(2) of the Karnataka Sales-Tax Act and also not liable to taxation under Section 5(3) (a) of the Act, are given the option to pay a lumpsum amount. The rates of such lumpsum amount payable are as follows :

| <i>Turnover range</i> | <i>Amount. per annum</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Rs.                   | Rs.                      |
| 25,000 to 35,000      | 600                      |
| 35,000 to 45,000      | 900                      |
| 45,000 to 55,000      | 1,200                    |
| 55,000 to 65,000      | 1,500                    |
| 65,000 to 75,000      | 1,800                    |

In order to plug evasions of the tax, Section 6 was introduced by an amendment to the Karnataka Sales-Tax Act, 1957 by Act No. 9 of 1970 which came into force from 1st April 1970. Additoinal tax at the rate of two paise in a rupee on the sales-tax or purchase-tax or both was introduced with effect from 1st December 1971 and was in force upto 31st March 1974. A new section was introduced with effect from 1st April 1975, according to which every dealer, whose turnover is more than Rs. 10,00,000, is liable to pay an additional tax at the rate of 10 per cent of the sales-tax or purchase-tax or both, but this provision is not applicable to the dealers exclusively dealing in areca, with effect from 23rd May 1975. The Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956, came into force in the district in October 1956. It is a levy on sales of goods which take place in the course of inter-State trade and commerce. The number of assessees and the amounts of revenue collected under the Karnataka Sales Tax Act, 1957, the Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956, for the years from 1964-65 to 1974-75 were stated hereunder :

| Year    | No. of assesseses |        | Tax collected (in Rs.) |          | Fines (in Rs.) |        |
|---------|-------------------|--------|------------------------|----------|----------------|--------|
|         | K.S.T.            | C.S.T. | K.S.T.                 | C.S.T.   | K.S.T.         | C.S.T. |
| 1964-65 | 315               | 171    | 5,79,642               | 13,086   | 3,932          | 294    |
| 1965-66 | 337               | 180    | 7,70,645               | 10,277   | 6,072          | 1,828  |
| 1966-67 | 404               | 187    | 9,65,016               | 14,383   | 7,252          | 281    |
| 1967-68 | 450               | 185    | 16,50,642              | 11,397   | 6,601          | 22     |
| 1968-69 | 511               | 190    | 18,42,290              | 5,336    | 15,600         | 20     |
| 1969-70 | 508               | 198    | 21,06,985              | 3,820    | 8,471          | ..     |
| 1970-71 | 510               | 201    | 23,76,954              | 17,129   | 5,689          | 182    |
| 1971-72 | 406               | 144    | 30,00,065              | 12,070   | 8,731          | ..     |
| 1972-73 | 394               | 141    | 19,16,238              | 18,472   | 15,137         | ..     |
| 1973-74 | 397               | 131    | 20,62,206              | 58,102   | 20,298         | ..     |
| 1974-75 | 453               | 161    | 22,95,272              | 1,67,814 | 9,948          | ..     |

The Karnataka Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1957, was in force in the district with effect from 1st October 1957. This Act was repealed with effect from 1st April 1970, and motor spirit and petrol were brought to the Second Schedule of the Karnataka Sales-Tax Act, 1957. The number of registered dealers in this respect and the amount collected for some years before the revocation of the Act were as shown below :

| Year    | No. of dealers | Revenue collected in Rs. | Fines collected in Rs. |
|---------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1964-65 | 24             | 44,469                   | 140                    |
| 1965-66 | 21             | 45,049                   | 27                     |
| 1966-67 | 21             | 72,831                   | 5                      |
| 1967-68 | 24             | 77,630                   | 182                    |
| 1968-69 | 22             | 81,321                   | 6                      |
| 1969-70 | 18             | 53,725                   | ..                     |
| 1970-71 | ..             | 4,060                    | 10                     |

#### Entertainment-Tax

The Karnataka Entertainment-Tax Act, 1958, is in force in the district. The work of administration of the Act rested with the Police Department till 31st December 1958, and then it was transferred to the Commercial Taxes Department. There are three types of levy under this Act as follows.

(1) *Entertainment-Tax*.—The levy ranges from 20 per cent to 35 per cent on the value of admissions to entertainments. Ninety per cent of the collections made in respect of this levy goes to the local bodies of the respective area and the balance is being retained by the State Government. The payment of tax was by way of affixing stamps upto 15th May 1966., and since then, the tax is being collected in cash.

(2) *Surcharge.*—Levy of surcharge was introduced from 16th May 1966 by Act No. 14 of 1966. The rate of surcharge was fifty per cent of the Entertainment-Tax upto 30th November 1971, and it was raised to 60 per cent from 1st December 1971 to 31st March 1974, and then it was enhanced to 100 per cent. The entire proceeds of this surcharge are being credited to the Consolidated Fund of the State.

(3) *Show-Tax.*—In the case of cinematograph shows, a show-tax at the rates prescribed in Section 4 of the Act is payable in addition to the Entertainment-Tax.

Exemptions in respect of the levy of the tax could be made by the Government and the Commercial Tax Officers till an amendment was effected by Act No. 14 of 1966 by which only the Government was empowered to grant exemptions.

The amounts of revenue realised in the district for the years from 1963-64 to 1976-77 are given hereunder :

(Amount in rupees)

| Year    | No. of theatres | Entertainment tax | Surcharge | Show-tax | Miscellaneous |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| 1963-64 | 5               | 89,949            | 23,392    | 4,411    | ..            |
| 1964-65 | 6               | 92,216            | 24,397    | 4,462    | 15            |
| 1966-67 | 7               | 1,11,898          | 55,964    | 9,318    | ..            |
| 1967-68 | 8               | 1,42,710          | 75,158    | 10,988   | ..            |
| 1971-72 | 9               | 2,63,884          | 1,43,417  | 20,494   | 35            |
| 1974-75 | 10              | 3,23,616          | 3,19,158  | 57,097   | 540           |
| 1975-76 | 10              | 3,41,685          | 3,41,687  | 63,073   | 2,905         |
| 1976-77 | 10              | 3,64,778          | 3,64,741  | 59,068   | 93,265        |

includes additional tax.

Under the Karnataka Taxation of Motor Vehicles Act, vehicles plying in the district and in contiguous districts of the Karnataka State have to be registered with the Regional Transport Officer, Bidar. According to the figures furnished by him, the revenue realised under various items for the year 1973-74 was as follows.

Motor Vehicles Tax

|   | Rs.       | P. |
|---|-----------|----|
| (1) Tax on the capacity of the passenger carriers | 4,70,746  | 70 |
| (2) Tax on passenger goods                        | 10,80,880 | 96 |
| (3) Driving licence                               | 10,191    | 50 |
| (4) Registration                                  | 7,151     | 50 |
| (5) Fitness certificate                           | 19,584    | 00 |
| (6) Permits                                       | 31,532    | 00 |
| (7) Other receipts                                | 11,775    | 00 |

**Agricultural  
Income-Tax**

Prior to integration of the Bidar district with the new Mysore State, the Hyderabad Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1950, was in force. The Karnataka Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1957 was introduced in the district in 1957. The Act was amended twice in 1962, once in 1963 and again in 1964 and in 1976. In the beginning the enforcement of the Act had become entrusted to the revenue authorities, and it was later transferred to the Commercial Taxes Department. Prior to the amendments effected in 1976 the Act envisages the levy of a tax on agricultural incomes derived from growing of commercial and plantation crops. The commercial crops taxed were areca, chillies, coconut, coriander, garlic, ginger, grapes, groundnut, mango, mulberry, onion, plantain, potato, sesamum, sugarcane, tobacco and turmeric and the plantation crops on which the tax is levied are cardamom, coffee, linaloe, orange, pepper, rubber and tea. In order to have equality in the levy of this tax, lands were classified into eight different categories. The Act provided for the levy of the tax only on a total agricultural income exceeding Rs. 3,500 per annum. It has also laid down that no tax is payable by a person who derives agricultural income from lands of not more than 50 acres of the VIII class of lands or an extent equivalent thereto consisting of any one or more of the classes of land. The rates of this tax vary from three per cent to 40 per cent in accordance with a slab system. A super-tax is also levied on the income slabs ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1 lakh at nine per cent to fifteen per cent. The percentage of taxation goes upto 20 in cases of income on the balance of the total agricultural income.

The Act, as amended in 1976, classifies the lands into two groups, namely, Group I and Group II. In group I, the lands are classified from 'A' to 'J' classes according to the source of water available. 'A' class lands are those which have facilities of assured irrigation from such Government canals and Government tanks as are notified by the State Government to be capable of supplying water for growing two crops of paddy in a year. The lands of the 'J' class, which is the last class, are those which are dry with no irrigation facilities from a Government source and which are assessed for land revenue of less than fifty paise per acre. Lands under Group II are those which grow special crops classified as 'S' class. No tax is payable where the total agricultural income does not exceed Rs. 8,000. The rates vary from 12 per cent to 65 per cent for incomes exceeding Rs. 8,000 in accordance with a slab system.

The revenue collected under the tax during the years from 1968-69 to 1975-76 was as follows :

| Year    | <i>Revenue collected<br/>in Rs.</i> |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 1968-69 | 23,676                              |
| 1969-70 | 21,006                              |
| 1970-71 | 15,732                              |
| 1971-72 | 28,808                              |
| 1972-73 | 15,164                              |
| 1973-74 | 11,135                              |
| 1974-75 | 24,330                              |
| 1975-76 | 43,340                              |

**CENTRAL TAXES**

Upto 1957, the administration of Central excise in the district was being carried on by the Collectorate of Central Excise at Hyderabad, and then a separate Collectorate was formed at Bangalore with jurisdiction over the entire new Mysore State (see also Chapter XIII). The Central excise duty is levied and collected under Section 3 of the Central Excise and Salt Act and Rules, 1944. The rates of duty on various items are levied according to Schedule I of the Act. The main sources of revenue of the Central excise in the district are sugar, *khandasari* sugar and unmanufactured tobacco. The other items are matches, *beedis*, chewing tobacco and snuff. The duty is being levied on the manufactured tobacco since 1943, on *khandasari* sugar since 1965, on matches and sugar since 1969. The hand-made *beedies* (labelled), chewing tobacco and snuff came under the tax with effect from March 1975 after the introduction of these tariff items in the Finance Bill of 1975. The levy of duty is fixed as per Tariff Schedule which varies from commodity to commodity. The exemption limits are also prescribed in the Tariff Schedule. Any violation of the Central Excise and Salt Act and Rules, 1944, in the district is being adjudicated by the Superintendent (Tech.), Central Excise, Bellary, and the Assistant Collector of Central Excise, Bellary Division, Bellary. The Appellate Collector, Central Excise, Madras, is the authority to hear appeals against the adjudication orders.

Central  
excise

The following table gives the number of assessees and the amounts of revenue realised under different commodities from the year 1965-66 to 1975-76 :

(Amount in rupees)

| Year    | Khandasari sugar     |           | Tobacco              |        | Sugar                |           | Matches              |        |
|---------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------|
|         | No. of<br>assesseees | Amount    | No. of<br>assesseees | Amount | No. of<br>assesseees | Amount    | No. of<br>assesseees | Amount |
| 1       | 2                    | 3         | 4                    | 5      | 6                    | 7         | 8                    | 9      |
| 1965-66 | 4                    | 37,680    | 123                  | 50,862 | ..                   | ..        | ..                   | ..     |
| 1966-67 | 7                    | 70,210    | 112                  | 45,699 | ..                   | ..        | ..                   | ..     |
| 1967-68 | 7                    | 1,97,512  | 103                  | 48,888 | ..                   | ..        | ..                   | ..     |
| 1968-69 | 7                    | 3,66,693  | 89                   | 43,374 | ..                   | ..        | ..                   | ..     |
| 1969-70 | 8                    | 3,13,303  | 116                  | 43,647 | 1                    | 4,20,726  | 1                    | 6,915  |
| 1970-71 | 8                    | 1,88,362  | 115                  | 25,223 | 1                    | 49,58,803 | 1                    | 1,406  |
| 1971-72 | 8                    | 2,52,817  | 140                  | 27,772 | 1                    | 52,38,917 | 1                    | 394    |
| 1972-73 | 8                    | 2,27,060  | 59                   | 24,799 | 1                    | 65,67,345 | 1                    | 581    |
| 1973-74 | 8                    | 2,63,954  | 35                   | 31,077 | 1                    | 8,06,585  | 1                    | ..     |
| 1974-75 | 8                    | 5,29,335  | 125                  | 25,325 | 1                    | 19,96,971 | 3                    | 362    |
| 1975-76 | 8                    | 18,81,320 | 140                  | 22,509 | 1                    | 94,85,244 | 4                    | 13,867 |

*Bee-lies* (taxed from March 1975) had 25 assesseees and the revenue was Rs. 8,139 during the year 1975-76. The chewing tobacco and snuff had one assessee each and the revenue realised was Rs. 2,347 and Rs. 12 respectively. The penalties, fines and duties collected during the years from 1967 to 1975 are detailed below :

(Amount in Rs.)

| Year | Penalty | Fine  | Duty  |
|------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1967 | 732     | 358   | 34    |
| 1968 | 1,638   | 251   | 748   |
| 1969 | 2,005   | 5,857 | 4,524 |
| 1970 | 840     | 510   | 2,388 |
| 1971 | 1,530   | 732   | 5,729 |
| 1972 | 397     | 237   | 774   |
| 1973 | 822     | 700   | 3,163 |
| 1974 | 1,457   | 682   | 9,544 |
| 1975 | 2,320   | 860   | 1,463 |

In addition to the Central Excise and Salt Act and Rules, 1944, the Central Excise Officers are also administering the following Acts: (a) Gold Control Act, 1968, (b) Customs Act, 1962, (c) Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, (d) Export and Import Control Act, 1955, (e) Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 (partly), (f) Mineral Products (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958, (g) Khadi and Other Handloom Industries Development Additional Excise Duty on Cloth Act, 1953, (h) Produce Cess Act, 1966, (i) Duties (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1957, (j) Additional Duties



of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 and (k) Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

The District comes under the jurisdiction of the Income-tax Officer, Gulbarga. The sub-joined statement gives the amounts of collection of income-tax and the number of assessees in the district for the years 1966-67 to 1976-77 :

## Income-Tax

| <i>Year</i> | <i>No. of assessees</i> | <i>Amount collected (Rs.)</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1966-67     | 460                     | 2,63,000                      |
| 1971-72     | 625                     | 5,98,000                      |
| 1972-73     | 645                     | 4,47,000                      |
| 1973-74     | 700                     | 4,73,000                      |
| 1974-75     | 560                     | 4,39,000                      |
| 1975-76     | 900                     | 11,02,000                     |
| 1976-77     | 940                     | 9,91,000                      |

The number of assessees for gift-tax and wealth-tax and the amounts collected in the district during the year from 1972-73 to 1976-77 were as given below :

## Gift-Tax and Wealth-Tax

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Gift-tax</i>         |                         | <i>Wealth-tax</i>       |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|             | <i>No. of assessees</i> | <i>Amount collected</i> | <i>No. of assessees</i> | <i>Amount collected</i> |
|             |                         | <i>Rs.</i>              |                         | <i>Rs.</i>              |
| 1972-73     | 4                       | 16,000                  | 18                      | 1,000                   |
| 1973-74     | 6                       | 17,000                  | 20                      | 4,000                   |
| 1974-75     | 9                       | 16,000                  | 23                      | 4,000                   |
| 1975-76     | 10                      | 25,000                  | 28                      | 4,000                   |
| 1976-77     | 12                      | 31,000                  | 32                      | 9,000                   |