

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

THE economy of the district is being gradually built up by a series of the Five-Year Plans since 1951, and increasingly more employment opportunities are being created in diverse fields. Recently, there were severe famine conditions in the district (*see* Chapter IV) which had inevitably an adverse effect on the pace of progress. The various programmes being implemented have given a new impetus and momentum to all-round development of the district which is at present economically very backward with only a meagre industrial development.

The earlier chapters have dealt with the main sectors of the economy of the district such as agriculture, industries, banking and finance, trade and commerce, communications, in which an appreciable percentage of the population is engaged. Another important segment of the working populations is to be accounted for in this chapter. The latter are engaged in other pursuits like public administration services, learned professions like law, medicine, engineering and teaching, fine arts, domestic services and in certain other occupations like carpentry, goldsmithy, tailoring, hair-cutting, laundries, running of hotels and restaurants, bakeries, bicycle-shops, etc. They render services in different ways or produce goods or aid production of articles of daily use or consumption.

New avenues
of
employment

Relatively, a larger number of them live in urban centres where there are better chances of getting suitable employment. Several of these occupations do not give the persons following them a handsome income. In some cases, their number is not so small as to be left out of consideration. With the growth of urbanisation in recent decades, the miscellaneous occupations have also grown helping to stabilise the economic fabric of the area. Further, the mechanisation of agriculture that has been gaining importance, the new industries

that are coming up and the improvements effected in the field of transport and communications have opened up new avenues of employment in the district. No detailed and systematic survey either economic or sociological, has been made about these occupational groups and in the absence of such surveys, any attempt to describe these groups would inevitably be limited in scope.

In 1971, out of the total population of the district, which was 8,24,059, 2,72,098 persons (*i.e.*, 33.02 per cent) of the total population were classified as workers and 5,51,961 persons (*i.e.*, 66.98 per cent) as non-workers. In that year, the percentages of various categories of workers among the total working population were 32.96 per cent cultivators, 37.68 per cent agricultural labourers, 3.74 per cent workers in livestock-rearing, forestry, etc., 0.31 per cent workers in mining and quarrying, 6.77 per cent workers in household and non-household industries, 1.24 per cent construction workers, 5.52 per cent workers in trade and commerce, 2.11 per cent transport workers, and 9.67 per cent were in "Other Services".

Those persons working in the Central and State Governments, local bodies and quasi-local bodies and other organisations or institutions engaged in educational, scientific, medical and health services, religious and welfare services, legal services, business services, community services and trade and labour associations, recreation services, personal services and other miscellaneous activities not covered in any of the other eight categories, were included in the category called "Other Services" in the 1971 census. They accounted for 9.67 per cent of the total number of workers in the district as already mentioned, while the State average in this respect was 8.1 per cent. The taluk-wise distribution of persons, who were engaged in these "Other Services" as per the 1971 census was (1) Aurad 3,735; (2) Basavakalyan 3,652; (3) Bhalki 4,265; (4) Bidar 9,139; and (5) Humnabad 5,502.

In 1968, the number of persons employed in the State Government offices alone, in the district, was 4,932. Of these, 26 were Class I Officers, 67 Class II Officers, 4,027 Class III officials and 812 Class IV officials, according to the report of the Census of Karnataka Government Employees for 1968. A large number of these employees work in the district headquarters town of Bidar where there were 1,690 (34.3 per cent) officials (15 Class I Officers, 36 Class II Officers, 1,199 Class III officials and 440 Class IV officials). District-wise figures relating to Government employees for the later years are not readily available. With the increase in the volume and variety of developmental activities, the number of employees of this category has been also

Public
services

increasing. The persons engaged in these public services derive various benefits like security of services, various kinds of leave, provident fund, gratuity, advances, free medical facilities, pension, etc., and in some cases, they get quarters for residential purpose. From time to time, their emoluments have been also increased so as to enable them, as far as possible, to meet the increased cost of living.

**Learned
professions**

Persons in the category of learned professions have more or less a good educational background or training and belong to various smaller groups which are quite distinct from one another. They are doctors, engineers, advocates, teachers, authors, journalists, etc., and those engaged in artistic pursuits like musicians, actors, dancers, painters, etc. A brief description of some of those occupations is given below :

Medical profession.—The medical profession, in general, is attracting increasingly more number of persons as there is need for them and since it is found to be a lucrative one. There are doctors, dentists, nurses, health visitors, midwives, pharmacists, etc., working in various hospitals, dispensaries and clinics. Steady improvement in health services is one of the factors helping the developing economy. Doctors, who set up independent practice, earn according to their own ability and the paying capacity of patients. Many of the private medical practitioners earn a high income. According to the 1961 census, there were 204 physicians, surgeons and dentists (including Ayurvedic and other physicians), 207 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. At present (1976), there are 37 doctors, 31 pharmacists, four staff-nurses, 125 auxiliary nurse-midwives, 456 para-medical staff and five *vaid tabeebs* in the district working under the control of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer.

Engineering profession.—In recent years, the irrigation works like the Karanja Project, Chulki-nala Project, Upper-Mullamari Project, Manjra Lift Irrigation Project, Nagora Project, and Manik Sagar Project, as also some industrial establishments have employed engineers, overseers, draughtsmen and other technicians. In 1961, there were 58 architects, engineers and surveyors in the district. Of these, 34 were civil engineers (including overseers) and other related workers. Now the demand for technically qualified persons is on the increase because of the many developmental activities in the several sectors in the district.

Legal profession.—When Urdu was the official and court language during the Nizam's rule some decades back, not much qualification was required to set up legal practice, and a pass in a

pleader's examination was sufficient. Later, a law degree course was introduced as in other parts of the country. The legal profession has drawn an increasing number of persons to its fold. Although the legal career is not particularly lucrative in the beginning, the fact of its being an independent profession with opportunities to make a mark, particularly in public life, makes it attractive to ambitious young men. Jurists, advocates, their clerks and petition-writers come under the category of legal profession. They live in urban areas where courts are situated. They attend to civil and criminal cases. The 1961 census recorded 117 persons under this category. At present (1975) in Bidar town itself, there are 80 advocates. The amount of fees varies according to the stakes involved, seriousness of the case and popularity of the advocate who handles it. The advocate's clerk gets a monthly salary ranging from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 and in addition some fringe benefit from the clients.

Teaching profession.—Among the learned professions, the teaching profession is able to absorb a larger number of persons with the rapid spread of education at various levels. But it is not an independent profession. The teachers are mostly a salaried category with a limited income range. Most of them are Government employees and relatively a small number work in institutions run by private bodies. Education has been recognised as a "built-in condition for economic progress" and large funds are being spent on it. According to the 1961 census, there were, 1,850 teachers out of whom 101 were secondary school teachers, 602 were working in middle and primary schools and 1,147 were employed in various other educational institutions. Of the 1,850 persons, 199 were females, and 793 persons were working in towns and the rest in the rural areas.

Arts and letters.—This broad class covers artists, journalists, authors, actors, etc. According to the 1961 census, there were 125 artists, writers and related workers. Of these, 93 were musicians and related workers, and all of them were men. They provide recreation and instruction to the community. While some of these persons entirely depend upon the profession for their living, others have taken these as subsidiary occupations. There are a few institutions in the district which impart training in arts.

It was recorded in the 1961 census that there were 217 ordained and 67 non-ordained religious workers, and 49 persons were enumerated as astrologers and palmists.

The category of sales-workers includes both employees and self-employed workers found in shops and other establishments. They play an important role in distribution and supply of such goods

Sales-
workers

as are in large demand for day-to-day consumption and production. Many of these persons are carrying on their activities especially in the important trade centres of the district. Many of them maintain small and petty shops and such other small establishments. According to the 1961 census, out of 11,209 persons enumerated as sales-workers, 9,303 were working proprietors, 1,833 salesmen, shop-assistants and related workers, 38 commercial travellers and manufacturers' agents, and the rest 35 were found engaged in similar type of work. Some of the working proprietors are also financing agents.

Bidari-ware

Bidari-ware is a famous handicraft of Bidar district. It was introduced in Bidar about 400 years ago when King Ahmad Shah Wali Bahamani brought some skilled workers from Persia (Iran) for the construction of various types of buildings in the Bidar town. Of those skilled workers, there were some who used to do artistic work even with silver and gold. This skilled work of inlaying silver and gold on zinc alloy and producing valuable articles won a high reputation. At present (1975), this occupation has provided full-time employment for 110 persons, of whom majority are household members. The daily earning of a Bidari-ware worker ranges from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 depending upon his skill and experience (*see* also Chapters V, VI and XV).

Bakeries

Most of the bakeries in the towns of Bidar district are family establishments where the owners themselves work with the help of the members of their families. Formerly, a few among the local people were using bread, buns, biscuits and the like. Now these items of ready-made food have become popular. This occupation has a good scope for development as the demand for bread and biscuits is steadily increasing. There is a large-sized unit functioning at Bidar town, while there are many small units at Bidar and other towns of the district. They work throughout the year. In cases where workers are employed, they are paid a salary of about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month. Some of them are boys who have also to deliver the products to permanent customers.

The raw materials required are wheat flour, sugar, yeast, butter, flavouring essence and eggs. All these are locally available. The requirement of raw materials depends on the total turnover. Generally, the monthly expenditure ranges between Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 depending on the size of the units. The equipment consists of an oven with its accessories such as metal sheets, moulds, iron rods, vessels and big plates to prepare dough, and cupboards to keep the baked stuff, as also utensils, some furniture, etc. The cost of equipment ranges from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000 depending upon the

size of the establishment. In the case of small establishments, the net income may range between Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per month and in the case of larger ones, it may be between Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month. The products are mostly sold to hotels, restaurants and households. Some bakeries maintain their own shops, where they sell their products.

Chewing of betel-leaves with arecanut, etc., is a common habit prevailing in the district. As a result, there are a number of petty shops selling betel-leaves, arecanut, lime, catechu, cloves, and *paan-masala* which are the ingredients of a *beeda* (*paan*), ready-made *beedas*, tobacco, *beedis*, cigarettes, match-boxes, etc. They are fairly well distributed all over the district. They are generally located in booths near hotels and restaurants, bus stands, on the main roads of a town and in the market area. The occupation requires a small initial capital for purchase of glass jars, articles, etc., which may come to about two to five hundred rupees. These shop-keepers procure the required articles in the local market. The transactions are very small and many, and the turnover of such shops may range from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 per day depending on the location and other factors. The daily net profit may range from Rs. 2 to Rs. 5.50 per day, whereas some shops earn upto Rs. 400 per month.

Paan-beeda
shops

The bicycle has become a necessity for a common man. A good number of persons both in the rural and urban parts of the district now use this handy vehicle. It is the cheapest and very convenient mode of transport. As such, the demand for bicycles has been steadily increasing. With this, there has been a greater need for bicycle shops which hire out bicycles for short durations. They are located largely in the towns. In these shops, in addition to hiring out of their cycles, spare parts are sold, and private cycles, cycle-rickshaws are also repaired. This is an additional source of income for them. Some shops do mainly repair work, while keeping only two or three bicycles for hiring out.

Bicycle
shops

A big bicycle shop has on an average, about 15 to 20 bicycles each costing about Rs. 250 to Rs. 600. Besides the initial investment, the minimum working capital required in the case of bigger establishments may be estimated at about Rs. 500 and about Rs. 250 for the smaller ones. For sale and repairs, these shops keep spare parts and accessories such as handles, hubs, rims, tubes, tyres, scissors, spanners, air pump, screws, bells, seats, solution, grease, etc. The value of all these articles (including bicycles) in the larger shops may be estimated at about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000. In the case of smaller ones, it may be from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000.

The main items of expenditure of a bicycle shop are wages for labour, rent and cost of the materials used in the repairs. The total expenditure on them depends upon the size of the shop and the extent of service rendered. The owner engages one or more boys and one or two skilled workers to help him in his occupation. He pays Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 per month to boys and Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per day to skilled workers. Bicycle hire-charge varies from 15 to 20 paise per hour and Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2 for the entire day. Some of the bicycle shops also keep petromaxes for hiring out for which they charge from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per petromax for a night's use. An average unit may earn a net income of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per month.

**Cycle-
rickshaws**

The plying of cycle-rickshaws for hire provides employment to many persons in the towns of the district where they have become very popular. In the majority of cases, the rickshaws are owned by others who lend them for a fixed sum of about Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2 a day. The income from the plying of cycle-rickshaws varies according to the season, and it also depends upon the individual capacity of the driver and the opportunities that occur from day to day. The driver usually earns about eight to ten rupees a day inclusive of what he has to pay to the owner of the rickshaws. On the days of festivities, he gets a larger income. According to the 1961 census, there were 209 cycle-rickshaw-drivers. At present (1975), there are about 636 cycle-rickshaws in Bidar town alone. Now the commercial banks are advancing money to the cycle-rickshaw-drivers to enable them to become owners of the vehicles.

**Hair-cutting
saloons**

Hair-cutting is an age-old traditional occupation. In recent decades, hair-cutting saloons have sprung up largely in the urban areas. The practice of the village barber has been to move from house to house and village to village with his bag containing the necessary instruments. In the past, sometimes, he was receiving his remuneration in kind. The saloons are set up in rented rooms paying a monthly rent which may range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. The barbers' shops normally may be classified into three categories according to the size of investment, *i.e.*, (1) those with investment of more than Rs. 1,500, (2) those with investment of Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,500, and (3) those with investment below Rs. 700.

The equipment of saloons consists of two or more high chairs, big mirrors, scissors, razors, croppers, pincers, nail-parers, combs, etc. The cost of the equipment may range from Rs. 250 to Rs. 700 in the case of small shops and from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1,500 or even more in the case of bigger ones situated in important and busy localities. There is a current expenditure on soap, oil, face

powder and other requisites, and lighting charges, which may together range from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 and it may vary according to the size of the business. The monthly net income of a small establishment may be about Rs. 100 and that of medium-sized establishments between Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 and that of the bigger establishments more than Rs. 500 per month, who employs two or three assistants to serve the customers as per need. The assistant gets a monthly salary or a share in every rupee he earns for the saloon. Usually, the earning of an assistant in a saloon may vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. In some cases, the variation of income is due to the goodwill enjoyed by them among the customers. According to the 1961 census, there were 864 persons engaged in this occupation, out of whom 190 were living in the towns, 859 were males and five females.

The occupation of tailoring has been a hereditary one for the *simpi* or *darji* or *bhavasari*. In recent years, many others have also entered the field. Nowadays, with the growth of urbanisation and rapid changes in fashions this occupation has a larger scope than before. The tailors are found throughout the district, but are concentrated mostly in urban areas. A large majority of the tailoring shops in the district are small establishments, where the owners, with the help of one or two workers, carry on the work. There are some shops at Bidar, Basavakalyan and Humnabad which have made a good name in stitching. Tailoring provides employment throughout the year and there is brisker business during marriage and festival seasons. Most of these establishments are located in rented rooms or in portions of cloth shops.

Tailoring

The equipment of a tailoring establishment consists mainly of sewing machines, scissors, cutting tables, cupboards and ironing machines. The cost of the equipment may range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 in the case of smaller ones and from Rs. 800 to Rs. 2,000 or even more in the case of bigger ones. The other materials required by the tailoring establishments are cloth for lining, buttons, needles, threads, oil and marking chalks. These materials are purchased in the local markets and their cost may range from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 and Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per month, according to the size of the business.

Customers usually purchase the cloth and give it to the tailors for stitching. The charge for stitching a cotton suit varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 while that for a woollen suit or any other suit of costly cloth varies from Rs. 125 to Rs. 150. Some tailors, who work under a master tailor, receive 50 paise out of every rupee they earn, while others work on the basis of daily wages which vary from

Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 or more, depending upon their skill and speed. Boys are taken as apprentices and are paid from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month during the period of their learning. The value of business done daily varies from Rs. 20 to Rs. 75 or more according to the size of the establishment. In 1961, the district had, in all 2,189 tailors, cutters and related workers, out of whom 1,809 were males and 380 females. Of them, 744 persons were living in the urban parts.

Laundries

The occupation of washing of clothes is an old traditional one. Formerly, only the *agasas* also called *madivalas* or *dhobis* were engaged in this occupation, but now some others have also taken to it. Laundries (as shops) are to be found in towns, such as Bidar, Basavakalyan and Humnabad and in big villages. A majority of the laundries are housed in rented rooms and they have to pay a nominal rent. In the villages, however, as before, the washermen collect soiled clothes from their customers' houses and follow the age-old method in cleaning them. Most of them are family concerns, and only a few bigger establishments employ paid workers. Mechanised dry-cleaning of clothes is done only in a few shops of the bigger towns. This occupation provides employment throughout the year, but the business is usually slack during the rainy season.

The equipment in the case of medium-sized laundries consists of a couple of ironing boxes, a large table for ironing, one or two show-cases for keeping cleaned clothes and one or two benches for sitting purposes. The cost of these may range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. The recurring requirements are very small, *viz.*, soap, washing soda, bleaching powder, indigo, charcoal and fuel. The monthly expenses on them may vary from Rs. 50 for a small unit, Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 for a medium one and Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 for a large one. The rate charged per cloth is about 20 to 25 paise for ordinary wash and about 25 to 50 paise for urgent wash. For costly clothes like wollen, silk, tery-cot, terene, polyster, etc., the charges are more. The income of a medium-sized establishment may range from about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month. A washerman is paid at the rate of about Rs. seven per hundred clothes, and a man doing ironing is paid more. Other workers are paid a monthly wage varying from Rs. 75 to Rs. 100. As per the 1961 census, there were 928 launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers in the district. Of them, 492 were men. About 166 launderers lived in the urban centres.

Florists

The occupation of selling of flowers has been a hereditary one for the *hoogars*. In recent years, some others also are following it. The trade is carried on by a small number of persons and

sometimes as a subsidiary occupation for supplementing of income. The flower merchants obtain their supply from owners of gardens and farmers and sell the loose flowers to the retailers. With the great improvement in transport facilities, flowers are procurable also from Hyderabad, Gulbarga, etc. The bulk of the retail trade of flowers is handled by women. The flowers are strung, into *dandes*, garlands, and the like to suit different requirements. There is a good sale on important festive days especially in the pilgrimage centres and on marriage and such other occasions. Flowers are also sold in front of some temples, in market places, etc. The ordinary flower-sellers carry on their business in the morning and evening hours. A retail-seller buys loose flowers worth about five to ten rupees, paying some advance and the rest is paid after the business hours. For them, the profit may range from 15 to 20 per cent on special occasion and 10 to 15 per cent on ordinary days. For the flower-merchants the profit yield may work out to 15 to 25 per cent or even more.

Under the group "domestic services", domestic servants, cooks, maids and the like are included. Only persons belonging to the higher income group and middle-income groups are able to employ domestic servants. Many of these workers are provided with food and clothing and sometimes shelter also. Some of them are part-time workers serving more than one household. The level of wages paid to the domestic servants may vary from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per month excluding food and clothing. The rates of wages would be higher in respect of those who are not given food and clothing. The total number of persons engaged as house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers, as in 1961, was 707, of whom 509 were men and 198 women. Of these, 257 persons were cooks, cook-bearers (domestic and institutional), and the remaining 450 persons were engaged in similar pursuits. Out of the total, 434 persons were living in the urban centres and the rest in villages.

**Domesite
services**

The occupation of carpentry has been a hereditary one for *badigers*. In recent years, many others have also entered the field. A number of carpenters in the district manufacture agricultural implements and also attend to their repair work. They also make doors, windows, etc., required for house construction, and bullock carts. In urban parts, the carpenters are needed for manufacturing also furniture. Formerly, in the villages, the practice was to pay the carpenters in kind and cash. The carpenters work either in their own houses or in sheds attached to their houses. Many of them work under master craftsmen who pay them daily wages. The implements required like chisel, hammer, saw, etc., would cost about Rs. 100 to Rs. 200. A well-skilled carpenter earns from

Carpentry

Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per day, whereas a less skilled worker would get about Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per day. Boys are taken as helpers who attend to minor pieces of work on a daily wages of Re. 1 to Rs. 1-50. According to the 1961 census, there were 2,311 persons engaged in manufacturing of wooden products. Of these, 275 were in the urban centres (*see* also Chapters V and IX).

Leather-workers

Leather-working has been a traditional occupation of a section of the Scheduled Castes. This occupation has been adversely affected in recent years owing to large-scale manufacturing of shoes by factories. There are some good leather-working shops in the urban parts. They prepare and repair footwears, drums, etc., and some of them also do tanning in the traditional way. Some of the cobblers sit at the end of streets in a busy place and attend to minor repairs of footwears. Sometimes, members of their families assist them in their work. Some cobblers work in shoe-shops on daily wage basis. Now, many of the shoe-shops get shoes and other allied finished products from big factories and sell them to the public on profit or commission basis.

In a leather-working shop, the tools and appliances in use, consisting of punches, hammers, scissors, iron spikes, wooden blocks, scrapers, etc., would cost about Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. The working capital required for the purchase of raw materials may be Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 a month. Some of the cobblers are now enabled to borrow their working capital from co-operative societies. On an average, a worker earns from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per day. According to the 1961 census, there were 1,292 persons engaged in this occupation. Of these, 1,107 persons were men, only 358 persons lived in the urban parts and the rest lived in rural parts of the district (*see* also Chapters V and IX).

Goldsmithy

The occupation is generally hereditary. They make and mend ornaments of gold and silver, set gems and work in precious stones. Goldsmiths and silversmiths manufacture various kinds of ornaments either on demand by customers or on the basis of the orders given by shroffs. Most of the goldsmiths and silversmiths are independent workers. While some of them have set up their business in rented rooms or in their own houses, the rest sit in a jewellers' shop and carry on their work. The equipment of a goldsmith consists of an anvil, bellows, hammers, crucibles, moulds, saws and scissors. The cost of the equipment may range from Rs. 150 to Rs. 500 in respect of a small artisan, but in cases of large establishments, it may go up to Rs. 800 or even more. The recurring expenditure on mercury, lac, *tejap*, *navasagara*, etc., used for the work may come to about Rs. 15 to Rs. 30 per month.

The raw materials required like gold and silver are in many cases supplied either by the customers or by the jewellers themselves. They manufacture gold items like, chains, rings, bangles, *mangalasutra (tali)*, and silver articles like, ankle-chains, *kalungura*, *kalgadga*, silver idols, silver plates, and silver glasses. Skilled work is done by persons having good training and previous experience, while other work is entrusted to less experienced persons and apprentices. A skilled worker in this line earns from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 a day. On an average, a goldsmith with a shop of his own may earn Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month. The Gold Control Rules enforced from 10th January 1963 had affected this occupation adversely. In order to mitigate the hardships of the goldsmiths, the Government helped them by free grant of lands for agricultural purposes, liberal loans for running cottage industries, etc., payment of stipends for education and training of their children and other facilities. The later relaxations of the gold control measures have given them much relief. In 1961, there were 919 jewellers, gold smiths and silversmiths, of whom 35 were women.

The occupation of copper-smiths and brass-smiths has been a hereditary one (for the *kanchugars*). In recent years, others have also entered into it. The workers in these metals, who are found mostly in Bidar, Humnabad and Basavakalyan taluks, are not many. Some such workers residing in big villages go round the nearby urban areas also with their required materials for attending to the repairs of household copper and brass utensils. Many of those engaged in this occupation are Muslims. The shops dealing in copper and brass vessels in the district are small establishments, where the owners, with the help of one or two workers, carry on the trade. The local merchants supply required raw materials such as copper and brass sheets, Jes sheets, *navasagara*, *tavara* etc., to prepare various types of new utensils, for which the worker may get remuneration of Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 per kg. weight of the prepared items.

Copper and
brass workers

The occupation requires a small initial capital for purchase of some tools such as iron rings, *ikkala*, compass, scissors, hammers, bellows, water tub, etc., the cost of which may come to about Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 in the case of small and medium-size establishments. Generally, the monthly recurring expenditure ranges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 depending on the size of the units. The net income of small and medium shops may range between Rs. 250 to Rs. 350 per month (see also Chapter V).

Blacksmithy, like carpentry, is also a very old occupation found in all parts of the district. The work of a blacksmith is a hard one. Services of blacksmiths are vital to the agriculturists. They work in

Blacksmithy

sheds attached to their houses. Mostly, the members of the blacksmith's family work with him, sometimes he takes the assistance of the customers. During the busy agricultural seasons, they have brisk work and as such, they may have to take the help of one or two more workers. They manufacture or repair agricultural implements like plough-share, sickle, weeding-hook, etc., and sometimes bullock-carts. The blacksmith's work needs a big anvil, hammers of different sizes, bellows, furnace, etc. The cost of all these may be about Rs. 350 to Rs. 500. Charcoal, paddy-husk, etc., are used for keeping the fire burning in the furnace. The expenditure on this may come to about Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per month. In a few cases, during the lean months, the blacksmiths prepare some implements and keep them for sale. The iron rods for making the implements are usually supplied by the customers.

In the villages, the old practice was to pay blacksmiths in kind, but now they are generally paid in cash. On an average, a well-skilled blacksmith earns about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 a day and a worker earns on daily wages about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4. According to the 1961 census, there were 726 blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgers. Among these, 630 workers lived in rural parts where they got much work from the cultivators.

Tinsmithy

Tinsmithy is not the main occupation of those who are engaged in it, since they combine other jobs like repairing of stoves, umbrellas, locks, trunks, batteries, etc. A few of them, while moving about from village to village, also purchase empty bottles and such other articles from households and later sell them to dealers of those articles in the market. Usually, tinsmiths sit on the foot-paths of a street and do tinning of vessels of the customers. The tinsmith's equipment is simple, consisting of hammers, scissors, anvil and bellows, costing about Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. The cost of raw materials like tin, charcoal and sulphuric acid would be about Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 a month for a smaller unit. They undertake also orders for making kerosene lamps of tin and supply them to the shops. The income of a tinsmith may range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 a month.

Pottery

Manufacture of earthenware is one of the oldest hereditary occupations. The availability of cheap metallic vessels, etc., has in recent times, very adversely affected this occupation of the Kumbhars. Some of the poorer people still use the earthenware for cooking food, storing water and grains. Others may use earthen pots for keeping drinking water during the summer season. The village potter works with his wheel and stick and prepares different types of earthenware. The work is carried on with the help of members of the family in sheds attached to their houses. They take

the finished products to the nearby *shandis* or markets and sell them. The average daily earning of a potter ranges from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per day. According to the 1961 census, there were 1,124 potters and related clay-formers. Of the total number, 347 were women.

Making of cotton beds and pillows is a traditional occupation of the *pinjars* who are a few in Bidar district, and mostly they are Muslims. Some of them have set up their own shops in Bidar proper, in small rooms for which a small rent is paid. They keep here for sale some ready-made beds and pillows. Besides, they carry out also repairs of such articles. They undertake work on orders of the customers also. Sometimes the customers themselves supply the raw materials such as cotton and cloth, in which cases the *pinjars* charge wages per bed and pillow. The equipment required for this occupation consists of wooden bow, hammer type wood-piece, needles, threads, etc., all costing about Rs. 20 to Rs. 50. The average daily earning of a person engaged in this work may vary from about Rs. 8 to Rs. 10. They do booming business, particularly in April and May months which are marriage seasons.

**Beds and
pillowmakers**

The construction-workers are engaged in the construction and repairs of buildings, roads, bridges, tanks, irrigation works, etc. Laterite, which is found in plenty in certain taluks of the district, is quarried and dressed for use in construction of many buildings. Laterite is also used in road-making. The work of quarrying and cutting of stones has been the traditional occupation of the *Waddars*, while there are also other individual workers in the line. There is good demand for these workmen. Women and boys are engaged to help them by attending to unskilled and light work. They generally work under big and small contractors. There are many kilns in some parts of the district where bricks and limestones are baked and sold. The daily wages of skilled workmen may vary from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10. Ordinarily, an unskilled worker is paid from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per day. According to the 1961 census, there were 3,230 brick-layers and plasterers (masons) in the district. Of this total, 2,803 workers were men and 427 women, and 549 workers lived in the urban centres.

**Construction
workers**

A considerable number of persons in the district are engaged as farm-workers (other than agricultural) including rearers of animals and birds. The 1961 census recorded 11,055 persons as farm and related workers of this category. Of this total, 10,907 were men and 148 women, and only 392 persons lived in the urban centres. Their wage rate may range from about Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 according to the skill and nature of the work.

**Farmworkers
(other than)
agricultural**

Occupational classification of persons at work (other than cultivation) in Bidar district as in 1961 is given below :

Sl. No.	Occupations	Male	Female	Total
1	Engineers, Architects and Surveyors	58	..	58
2	Physicians, surgeons and dentists	187	17	204
3	Nurses, Pharmacists and other medical and health technicians.	163	44	207
4	Teachers	1,651	199	1,850
5	Jurists (including legal practitioners and legal advisers).	117	..	117
6	Artists, writers and related workers	117	8	125
7	Administrative, executive and managerial workers (both govt. and private)	1,395	36	1,431
8	Clerical and related workers (including stenographers, typists, book-keepers, cashiers, etc.)	2,508	94	2,602
9	Unskilled office workers (including attendants, etc.)	1,262	83	1,345
10	Working Proprietors (whole-sale and retail trade).	8,794	509	9,303
11	Salesmen, shop-assistants and related workers.	1,732	101	1,833
12	Farm-workers	10,907	148	11,055
13	Workers in transport and communications, etc.	1,231	3	1,234
14	Spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers.	2,431	2,817	5,248
15	Tailors, cutters and related workers	1,809	380	2,189
16	Leather-cutters and related workers	1,107	185	1,292
17	Blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgemen	674	52	726
18	Jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths	884	35	919
19	Tool-makers, machinists, plumbers, welders, platers and related workers.	381	21	402
20	Electricians and related workers	27	1	28
21	Carpenters and related workers	2,269	42	2,311
22	Brick-layers, stone-cutters and other construction workers.	2,803	427	3,230
23	Potters and other related workers	777	347	1,124
24	Cooks, maids, house-keepers and related workers.	509	198	707
25	Barbers and related workers	859	5	864
26	Washermen and related workers	492	436	928
27	Labourers not classifiable by occupation	304	15	319
28	Social scientists and related workers	66	25	91

Source: Census of India, 1961, Vol. XI, Mysore, Part II-B(ii), General Economic Tables.

(N.B. Figures for 1971 are not yet available.)