

P R E F A C E

AN attempt was made as early as 1843 in Bombay Presidency, which had Bijapur as one of its districts, to publish the statistical accounts of the different districts of the Presidency and the Revenue Commissioner requested the Collectors to furnish full information regarding their districts. But no such publication seems to have been brought out. In October 1868, the Bombay Government, at the suggestion of the Secretary of State for India, took up the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency and appointed the Bombay Gazetteer Committee to supervise and direct the preparation of the Gazetteer. The work was entrusted to Mr. James M. Campbell who, with the assistance of the Collectors of the districts, compiled the gazetteers which were published between the years 1877 and 1904. The Gazetteer of Bijapur district was published in 1884 as Volume XXIII of the Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency.

The old gazetteers were mainly intended to give background information to the foreign administrators about the district and the people. After the attainment of independence, this outlook has undergone a change and the gazetteers have now to focus attention on the history and culture of the people and pinpoint the progress achieved and benefits that have accrued to the people as the result of the implementation of the successive Five-Year Plans.

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, drew up an all-India scheme and requested the State Governments to take up the compilation of District Gazetteers as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and promised a grant-in-aid. The Government of Mysore sanctioned a scheme for the compilation of a gazetteer for each one of the district of the State. An Advisory Board consisting of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Mysore as the Chairman and Dr. D. C. Pavate, M.A. (Cantab), Sri V. L. D'Souza, B.A., B.com. (Lond.), Sri P. H. Krishna Rao, M.A., Prof. K. A. Nilakanta Sastri, M.A., and Dr. S. C. Nandimath, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.) as Members was also constituted to scrutinise the chapters compiled by me and to guide me in the work.

The Gazetteer of Bijapur district is the second to be published in the series of District Gazetteers of Mysore State, the first being that of Coorg district. The chapter headings and contents are in accordance with the pattern laid down by the Government of India. Its publication was held up for some time in order to include the figures of the 1961 Census. The available Census data

of 1961 have been given and in other cases the figures of the 1951 Census had to be depended upon. Every attempt has been made to include the latest figures as far as possible.

I have received valuable co-operation and assistance from various sources and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Advisory Board, the Indian Meteorological Department, the Survey of India, the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publications, and the departments of the State Government. I have also received valuable assistance from the members of my staff consisting of Sri A. Ramakrishnan, Administrative Officer, Sriyuths P. B. Srinivasan, K. Puttaswamaiah and J. N. Kamalapur, Editors, Abdul Wadood and B. R. Prahlad, Stenographers, N. K. Neelakantaradhya, Assistant, and M. Rudrappa, Junior Assistant, Sriyuths K. Abhishankar, J. G. Alavandar Naidu, M. A. Narasimha Iyengar and K. C. Bheemaiah, who later joined the staff as Editors, have also rendered assistance at the stage of revision and printing of the gazetteer. To all of them, my gratitude is due.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not express my thanks to Dr. P. N. Chopra, M.A., Ph.D., Editor, District Gazetteers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, for their effective role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The Unit scrutinised the draft of this volume with great care and made several helpful suggestions with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication. It may also be mentioned here that a portion of the expenditure incurred on the compilation and printing of the District Gazetteers is being met by the Government of India.

BANGALORE,

Dated 16th February, 1966.

B. N. SRI SATHYAN,

Chief Editor.