



HAL Administrative Building 1943



## Chapter 21

### ● N Madhava Rao

Nyapathi Madhava Rao succeeded Sir Mirza Ismail as Dewan of Mysore on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1941. Prior to this, he had been the First Member of the Dewan's Council. N Madhava Rao was born at Machalipattanam in Andhra Pradesh. His father was Nyapathi Venkatakrishna Rao and mother Narasamma. He studied at the Noble College in Machalipattanam, and later at the Pacchiappa College in Madras. After securing his degree, he went on to study law at Madras Government College and entered the Mysore service in 1907 after topping the competitive examination for the same. He worked as Sub-Division Officer at Gubbi, Mysore and Sagar.

When Sir Visvesvaraya was the Dewan, he had started the Efficiency Audit Branch. It was started "with a view to continuous action necessary for preservation of discipline and efficiency in Government departments and service personnel," said Sir Visvesvaraya in his address to the Representative Assembly. He stated (in 1913), "In a country like ours where the system of Government departments is maintained on the European model, and the staff employed to work them have not adopted European business habits, an 'Efficiency Audit' is as much a necessity as a Financial Audit."<sup>1</sup> Sir Visvesvaraya further stated, "The 'Efficiency Audit' Branch which was attached to the Secretariat did useful service in systematising work in Government offices and departments, in compiling rules and standing orders and for various offices. It also drew up a comprehensive scheme for the issue of preparing Departmental and Official Manuals, keeping them revised and up-to-date."<sup>2</sup> It also started publishing the *Quarterly Blue Book Journal* on the working of all departments.

1. Memoirs, pp:66-67.

2. Ibid.

Madhava Rao was appointed the Chief of this new branch, despite having put in only six years of service by then. Thus this appointment spoke highly of his experience and efficiency as an administrator.

Later, his tenure as Council Member helped Madhava Rao gain a comprehensive understanding of the Government's functioning and work of the various departments, and similarly when he was appointed the Personal Secretary of the Dewan. He also learned immensely when he became the Director and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Bhadravati Iron Works during its critical days, assisting Sir Visvesvaraya as he transformed it from a 'white elephant' into a profitable venture. His tenure in such coveted posts helped Madhava Rao gain critical knowledge and valuable experience in state administration which equipped him well for the position of the Dewan of Mysore later.

In 1935, Madhava Rao was appointed member of the Dewan's Council under Sir Mirza Ismail. The 1942-43 unrest (Quit India Movement) was a major agitation not only in Mysore, but in the entire country. Controlling it was a Herculean and tiresome task. According to D.V.Gundappa, the strong popular agitation and public unrest which had started in the days of Sir Mirza gained momentum in the days of Madhava Rao. D.V.Gundappa feels that as an honest and a highly efficient administrator, Madhava Rao became the victim of the troubled times in which he worked and that the State was unable to get the best out of him.<sup>3</sup> However, Madhava Rao was well aware of the other side of the picture. He told D.V.Gundappa that in olden days, government servants were respected and honoured. They were gentlemanly, loyal, truthful and well read (scholarly). He felt that these qualities were vanishing with time and people did not respect them anymore. Any respect shown was outwardly and superficial. Administrative work had become complicated.<sup>4</sup>

"In 1941, Madhava Rao succeeded Sir Mirza Ismail as Dewan, but this did not mean any change in the Government attitude towards Congress," says Hettne.<sup>5</sup> "Congressman interpreted the Maharaja's action (of appointment of Madhava Rao) as an expression of his progressive sentiments which they believed would prevent the new Dewan from pursuing reactionary policies. Their euphoria was dampened somewhat a few days later when it was announced that the two non-official (Council) memberships were to go to the loyalists," says James Manor.<sup>6</sup> J.M. Iman was appointed Minister for Education and H.B. Gundappa Gowda was the Minister for Local Self-government and Public Health. The latter was a former Congressman who had turned a loyalist. Though Congress was highly disappointed, they did not make too much noise about it. But in July, the government ordered fresh elections for 10 seats which were held by Congressmen. However, they were disqualified. Soon after, the Congress passed a resolution that their demand for a responsible government be met.

3. D.V.G., Mysurina Divanarugalu (kan.), pp:272-73.

4. Ibid., pp:273-44.

5. Hettne, p.202.

6. Manor, James, p.134.

The Mysore Economic Conference which had not met since 1930 was made to meet during 1943. Instead of the previous three, Dewan Madhava Rao arranged six committees, namely (1) Education, rural uplift, villages amenities, (2) Agriculture, land development, veterinary services and forestry, fisheries and co-operation, (3) Industries and industrial power, electric power, mining, labour welfare and scientific research, (4) Public health, medical services, housing and town planning, (5) Roads, railways and other forms transport, waterways, irrigation and other public works, and (6) Sericulture. The setting up of these six committees was announced by the Dewan in the October session of 1945 after the Second World War had ended. Another committee to co-ordinate the work was headed by former Dewan Albion Banerji with Council Member K Mathan as Secretary. Even though he did not continue as Dewan for too long, Madhava Rao's approach to discuss all aspects of the administration is evident here. The programmes initiated by him, in some form or another, were continued. (See Appendix for the Speech)

The Dewan paid much attention to the expansion of the Co-operative Department. A Statistical Bureau was added to the Industrial organisation in 1944. The co-operative movement in the State made steady progress as per the Annual Report of the Co-operative Department for 1944-45, which stated that there were 2,500 co-operative societies that year as compared to 2,407 in the previous year. Under the Apex Bank, there were four Central Apex Banks. In addition to these, in 1945 there were also 1,763 Agricultural Co-operative Societies, 46 Marketing Societies, 27 Agriculture Supply Societies, 33 Grain Banks, 33 Miscellaneous Societies, 417 Non-agricultural Societies, 166 Consumers' Societies, 68 Weavers' Societies and 577 other ordinary Credit Societies. The same report also stated that the Small Savings Scheme started in 1944 had collected Rs. 17,40,880 in the form of National Savings Certificates.

## Establishment of the Aircraft Factory

One of the most important developments during this period was the establishment of a prestigious industry in Bangalore in the form of Hindustan Aircraft Ltd (HAL). The original idea had been to start a car manufacturing facility, the brainchild of Sir Visvesvaraya. However, the permission for the same was denied, even though preparation had already been started by earmarking a site and creating suitable infrastructure. The Government, during Sir Mirza's tenure, had granted 700 acres of land for the purpose. It was later decided that instead of a car factory, an aircraft manufacturing facility would be started. The British Government granted the permission readily because it made for an ideal solution to service and locally repair damaged war planes and bombers on the Asian front since they could not be taken back to Europe. Instead, they could be shipped to Madras and then transported to Bangalore by road. Shet Walchand Hirachand floated



*Hindustan Aircraft Ltd, Bengaluru*

the company with an authorised capital of Rs. 5 crores and the Mysore Government purchased shares worth Rs. 20 lakhs. Sir Visvesvaraya furnished details in response to the request of Shet Walchand Hirachand. The Bombay Government, then headed by BG Kher of the Congress Party, deputed PB Advani, Director of Industries, to travel to America as the technical advisor to Shet for the project. "In the course of his return journey by air, Mr. Advani came into contact with Mr. W.D.Pawley, an American aircraft expert who was on his way to China. In the course of conversation, Advani asked him for a scheme for an aircraft factory for India. Mr. Pawley complied with the request," says Sir Visvesvaraya.<sup>7</sup>

The project was communicated by Shet Walchand Hirachand to the Commander-in-Chief for India, asking for the facilities to establish the industry in India. For six months, there was no reply to this request, but after the Dunkirk disaster, the British Government woke up to the necessity of an aircraft factory in India and subsequently, arranged for its establishment in Bangalore with M/s Walchand Hirachand and Company as the managing agents, under the guidance WD Pawley. The aircraft factory was successfully established.<sup>8</sup> On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1941, the foundation for the factory was laid down, and within two months, a building with 15,000 square feet area was ready. Then there was an unexpected and miraculous development. At the time, machinery for a proposed aircraft factory at Lawing in China was being shipped and the ship was in the Arabian Sea. When news came that Eastern China was attacked by Japanese war planes, Pawley ordered for the unloading of all the machinery at Madras port. These machines were taken to the Bangalore factory.

The 'Harlo' plane produced at the factory held its successful trial on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1941. Dewan Madhava Rao provided power and water at concession rates as well as other facilities to the factory. The wartime needs of the British saw the factory make major strides and it grew quickly.<sup>9</sup> Though the major preliminary work of the factory was done during Sir Mirza's Dewanship, Madhava Rao extended full support to the project, first as Member of the Council and later as the Dewan. In 1943, a State Government plywood factory was started at Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) by the Mysore Commercial Unions, which aimed at producing plywood required for tea chests, furniture and decoration. Additionally, quality plywood was also required for aircrafts which proved beneficial to H.A.L. This was later taken over by a private agency and was named Mafatlal Plywood Industries Ltd.,<sup>10</sup>

Plans were also drawn up for Mysore Electrical Industries Ltd for producing HT and LT switch gears and it went into production in 1945.<sup>11</sup> The Co-operative movement made steady progress and as per the Annual Report of the Co-operative Department for 1944-45, there were 2500 co-operative societies, as against 2407 during the previous year. Under the Apex Bank, there were four

7. Memoirs, p.98.

8. Ibid.

9. Sheshagiri Rao & Others (Ed), Bangaluru Darshana (kan) pp:193-94.

10. Karnataka Gazetteer, Bangalore Dist. P.273.

11. Ibid.



Central Apex Banks. There were 1763 Agricultural Co-operative Societies in 1945. Forty six Marketing Societies, 27 Agriculture Supply Society, 33 Grain Banks and 33 miscellaneous Societies functioned in 1945. Non Agricultural Societies numbered 417, Consumers Societies 166, Weavers Societies 68, and other ordinary credited societies accounted to 577. The Dewan had paid much attention for the expansion of the Co-operative Department.<sup>12</sup> The Small Savings Scheme started in 1944 had mopped up to Rs.17,40,880 in the form of National Savings Certificates.<sup>13</sup>

## On the Political front

When the independent members were appointed to the Council, the Congress felt that the arrangement was better than the one-man rule of Sir Mirza. By July 1941, it appeared that the Congress policy of restraint had begun to pay off. The Government ordered fresh elections in 10 legislative constituencies where Congressmen had been disqualified. "Congress realised that if this trend continued, the way would be open for a Congress majority in the Assembly in which case it would be difficult for the Government to refuse them a place in the cabinet," says James Manor.<sup>14</sup> In November, the Mysore Congress even resolved that the demand for a full and responsible government "may remain in abeyance" till the Second World War was over. "The Congress also offered to support the war effort like the Maharaja had done. It resolved to raise a volunteer corps to cooperate with the Governments' Air Raid Precaution Committee. However, the Maharaja and the Dewan showed no inclination to seek the cooperation of the Congress. Rather, in April 1942, when Congress leader H Siddaiah approached the Dewan over the issue of including Congressmen in the Council, the Dewan "bluntly" told him that no Congress minister would be appointed because of his loyalty to his party which might conflict with the interest of the Maharaja," says James Manor.<sup>15</sup>

## Boost to Sericulture

A regular demand for silk, for parachute production by the Air Force, ensured increase in silk production during the period. Area under mulberry cultivation which was 30,000 acres in the mid thirties increased to 38,480 acres in 1939-40, and to 75,000 acres in 1944-45. The number of filature basins increased from 300 in 1939-40 to 2,013 in 1944-45, and filature silk production increased to 1.36 lakh kilograms in 1944-45 as against the 20,000 kilograms in 1939-40. All prominent silk-producing countries like Japan, China, Italy, and France, which was under the occupation of Germany, were under the control of the Axis



*Mulberry Cultivation*

12. Annual Report of the Co-operative Society 1944-45.

13. Ibid.

14. Manor, James, p.134.

15. Ibid; p.135.

powers and Allies (led by the British) and so India, and particularly Mysore, emerged as the most reliable supplier of this strategic material. All filatures of Mysore State were turned to war production from 1942. Private silk filature units which were started in Bangalore in 1935 were taken to Kollegal in 1942 where the Madras Government took over.

England and America provided the technical help and finance for the expansion of sericulture and silk industry in the State. Around 100 acres of land was granted to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Magadi and Kunigal taluks to raise the mulberry crop in 1945-46. All cocoons produced in the State were taken as per Defence of India Rules to the Mysore Silk Filatures Ltd., founded in 1921. Domestic reeling, *charkha*, domestic basins etc. were stopped. Cocoon harvesting gained momentum and about 366 lakhs pound of univoltine and bivoltine cocoons were harvested. A hill centre was started at Biligiri Ranganabetta in 1940-41 to improve foreign silk worm and



*Sharavati Hydro-Electric Project*

seed production and by 1944-45, another hill station at Beduli of Chamrajnagar Taluk was started to rear univoltine and bivoltine silk worms.<sup>16</sup> But this boom in sericulture industry was short-lived and it faced a deep crisis after the war.<sup>17</sup> In 1938, although the construction of the Sharavati Hydro-Electric Project was taken up, but during Dewan Madhava Rao's tenure, but it continued at a slow pace. This was mainly due to constraints on financial resources being used for wartime efforts. Records indicate that the matter was pursued and the power plant went into production later in 1948.

### Industries

The Government Sandalwood Factory at Shimoga was started in 1944. Among the two sandalwood factories already started at Bangalore(1914) and Mysore(1916), by Sir M.Visvesvaraya however the Bangalore factory was closed in 1930, as railway wagons were not available to transport the sandalwood logs from Shimoga. Hence,the Dewan thought of starting a factory at Shimoga itself which would produce crude oil, to be later processed at the Mysore factory. In the same year, another Government sandalwood oil factory was started at Bhadravati near the steel unit. A huge quantity of water vapour which was going to waste at the steel unit was utilised for this factory whose initial capacity was 600 lbs of crude oil per month. The crude oil from this factory was also processed at the Mysore factory. Madhava Rao who was the Secretary



*Steel Boiler Section, VISL Bhadravati*

16. Karnataka Gazetteer, Mysore Dist., p.296.

17. Karnataka Gazetteer II, 982-83.

of the Iron and Steel unit, felt that the water vapour could be put to use in this way.<sup>18</sup> There was a great demand for ferro-silicon in the market. In 1943, the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works started two more electric furnaces with a capacity of 1,500K.Ws. each. Another furnace of 900K.Ws. was also added the same year. Madhava Rao was fully aware of the potential of the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Company and the cement unit attached to it and initiated steps to expand it. Other expansion plans executed as per the Dewan's speech in 1945 were a strip and rod mill. The steel foundry was expanded and a stainless steel unit was added. A unit to produce acetic acid was also set up.

There was a shortage of food grains, sugar, firewood and kerosene oil. Food control had been imposed by restricting any movement of grain and stocking of grain without Government permit. Ration shops were opened and buses were operated with the help of steam power. Dewan Madhava Rao systematised all these developments. It was during these tough times that the Quit India Movement was launched. The food situation became precarious after the fall of Burma to Japan in 1942, when the import of Burmese rice stopped. This was also one of the factors behind the deadly Bengal Famine of 1943.

The October 1944 edition of the *Mysore Economic Journal* states, "Taking into account both local production and the quotas now allowed by the Government of India, our resources are over 50,000 tonnes short of our needs and commitments."<sup>19</sup> The situation was a difficult one. "The Government who had spared no efforts or funds in ensuring food supply to the people in the difficult years which have passed, may well be trusted to take whatever action is required from time to time for this purpose," the Dewan stated. Reports of famine conditions in some Taluks on official enquiry were found to be entirely baseless.<sup>20</sup>

### Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement in Mysore was unprecedented in its time span and dimensions. It was not for responsible government, but for complete freedom for India from the British. "It is to be recalled in this connection that the unprecedented disturbances of August and September were not confined to any locality. It started simultaneously in all the districts with anti-Government propaganda in various forms to begin with and reached the zenith during the latter weeks of August and early September 1942 when the perpetrators resorted to such unlawful activities as the cutting of telegraph and telephone wires, damage to public roads and buildings, hindering railway traffic and so on. Under such state of affairs, it was humanly impossible to expect any officer to pay attention to the several happenings in his charge," writes a very senior police officer in the State almost a year after the launch of the Quit India Movement. There had been Congress movements in Karnataka outside Mysore (in British Presidencies) in 1905, 1921-22, 1930-34 and also in 1940-41,

18. Karnataka Gazetteer, Shmioga, p.187.

19. Mysore Economic Journal, Vol.30, No.10. Editorial.

20. Dasara Speech, 1945. See Appendix at the end.





*Quit India Movement, Vidhurashwatha*

a volcanic eruption not only in British presidencies, but also in Mysore State on an unprecedented scale higher than in 1939, and almost all districts evidenced scenes of people's upsurge never evidenced before – high school and college students and labourers of factories at Bangalore, Mysore, Belgola, Bhadravati and KGF striking work and creating a law and order situation never witnessed before.

The news of Gandhiji's arrest at Bombay on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1942 spread across the country like a forest fire and there were protesting processions of agitated crowds in Bombay, Pune, Delhi and other centres nationwide. Mysore too witnessed a procession of students on 9<sup>th</sup> August, a Sunday. From 10<sup>th</sup> August onwards, schools, colleges, some factories and shops remained closed in protest and processions and demonstrations were seen in all district headquarters and towns. *Hartal* (strike) was observed in all main towns. Important Congress leaders from every district were arrested on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August. On 9<sup>th</sup> August, the Mysore Congress was declared an 'illegal' outfit and so were district, taluk and city committees. Congress offices were sealed. Students, mill workers and the general public held separate meetings in Bangalore on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August.

Gandhiji had announced that this movement would be unlike previous ones, but before he could announce the mode or method of the movement, he was arrested. But, on the third day, a pamphlet containing a 14-point programme reached Congressmen in Bangalore and other places which they made copies of and distributed among various leaders.

There were huge processions and meetings in all important towns. Slogans of "Quit India" could be seen painted on walls and compounds all over. The Binny Mill and AMCO factory workers joined the strike on 12<sup>th</sup> August and their procession in Bangalore became the biggest. Police resorted to *lathi* charge to disperse unruly mobs. HAL workers also struck work. On 12<sup>th</sup> August, the Secretary of State for India, L.S.Amery announced in the British Parliament that the Congress programme had included a strike in industry and trade, paralysing administration and courts, cutting telegraph and telephone wires and closing army recruitment centres, attributing the arrest of all leading



Congress leaders to the same. He said such steps had been taken to counter this programme. But Amery's announcement only gathered more publicity for the programme circulated secretly among Congress workers.<sup>21</sup>



*Quit India Movement, Bengaluru*

Since most of the State Congress leaders were arrested, a new setup of people, especially students, including girls, and labourers, took on the leadership. Gandhiji's Secretary Mahadevbhai Desai perished on 15<sup>th</sup> August in Pune Jail. "The news of Mahadevbhai Desai's death created very serious incidents of mob fury on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, resulting in firing and imposition of curfew on 16<sup>th</sup>. Cavalry had to be engaged to control the unruly mob in Bangalore city and tar roads were strewn with *ragi* (finger millet) to trip horses."<sup>22</sup> In Bangalore, crowds of thousands congregated at landmarks like the Mysore Bank square, Avenue Road and Kempegowda Road, defying prohibitory orders. According to police reports, 27 military personnel were wounded from stones thrown by the crowds and the police resorted to firing which killed one. Curfew was imposed in Bangalore.<sup>23</sup>

Imposition of strict press censorship on Bangalore papers like *Vishwa Karnataka*, *Daily News* and *Tainadu* prompted them to announce temporary closure of their offices. Two days later, *Prajamata* and *Janavani* also announced their closure. Underground bulletins were circulated by the Congress and, at times, wild rumours were circulated. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, the situation in Bangalore worsened. Crowds gathered near the Mysore Bank Square, snapped communication lines, set fire to the Cottonpet Post Office, Central Post Office, Ulsoorgate Police Station and Government Storage Depot near Kashi Vishwanath temple which was also looted. Police firing claimed nine lives on the 17<sup>th</sup> and one more wounded died on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>24</sup> A huge mob on the 17<sup>th</sup> attacked the Davangere Railway Station. Police resorted to firing, killing five on the spot, and injuring two.

The agitation was equally strong in Mysore where it was led by students, in Tumkur, Davangere, Chitradurga, Hiriya, Hassan and other centres. Schools and colleges remained closed for more than two months. After the peak events of 17<sup>th</sup> August, calm returned to Bangalore city. Meanwhile, an underground cell headed by A.G.Ramachandra Rao, H.S.Seetharam, K.A.Ventakatarameiah, M.H.Shah, H.S.Doreswamy and others was formed to guide the movement in Mysore State by clandestine printing of cyclostyled bulletins which were circulated all over the State. Financial assistance was also received from

21. Vide, Suryanath Kamath, *Quit India Movement in Karnataka*, Bangalore 1988, pp:14-24.

22. *Karnataka Gazetteer*, Bangalore Dist., p.113.

23. *Ibid.*

24. *Quit India*, Op.cit, p.44.

Bombay, where Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee had its underground Action Committee headed by C.S.Ambli and R.R.Diwakar. Journalists T.T.Sharman (*Viswa Karnataka*), B.N.Gupta (*Prajamata*), P.R.Ramiah (*Tainadu*), P.B.Srinivasan and Krishna Sharma were among those arrested in Bangalore.

### Sabotage work

Sabotage activities such as cutting communication lines, damaging railway property, attacking government offices etc. started being carried all over the State.<sup>25</sup> Sabotage of railway lines at Davangere and Banavar compelled the shutdown of rail traffic for two-three days. Labourers who had resumed work after 17<sup>th</sup> August went on strike again and Binny Mill and two other textile mills in Bangalore declared lockout on 21<sup>st</sup> September.<sup>26</sup> On 25<sup>th</sup> August, all mills in Bangalore declared a lockout. The strike at K.G.F. continued for more than 100 days. Bhadravati also evidenced a prolonged strike in all its factories. The Belgola factories also had to be closed for some days. As a form of protest, hundreds of students from Mysore and Bangalore started travelling ticket-less on trains daily to hold processions in Mandya, Maddur, Tumkur, Arasikere, Tiptur, Davangere and other places and returned home the same day. From 25<sup>th</sup> August, this ticket-less travel was stopped.<sup>27</sup>

In Hassan District, a kind of no-tax campaign was launched by peasants by refusing to pay the weekly *shandy* toll. This happened in almost all towns and major villages. Hundred of peasants joined the picketing at Sharavanabelagola. They were fired upon during September 1942 and six people were killed. One constable was also killed.<sup>28</sup>

The rural areas too witnessed a strong movement. Many *Patels* had resigned their posts. At Isur in Shimoga district, the villagers declared freedom to their village and barred the entry of officials. When government servants entered the village on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the villagers attacked the *Tahshildar* and a Police Inspector, killing them both. This resulted in the hanging of five persons at the Bangalore Central Jail in March 1943.<sup>29</sup> Such incidences of violence compelled the village Congress leaders to withdraw from the movement because they were finding it difficult to control the unruly mob of hundreds.

However, the students' strike in all centres continued for more than two months. The Dasara procession of the Maharaja had to be cancelled due to students' strike and aggression in Mysore city. The death of a student, Shankarappa by excessive *lathi* charge in Mysore Jail unnerved the over 300 students who were imprisoned. The *lathi* charge was on 27<sup>th</sup> October.<sup>30</sup> After the shocking incident, the parents of the jailed students forced their imprisoned wards to withdraw from the movement. In the course of 1942-43

25. Karnataka Gazetteer, Bangalore Dist., p.114.

26. Ibid., p.115.

27. Ibid.

28. Ibid.,137-38.

29. Ibid, p.152-53.

30. Ibid, p.103.

and 1943-44, according to the respective annual reports, over 10,000 people had been arrested in Mysore State under Defence of India Rules (1942-43, 3,548; 1943-44, 6,463). The movement was stronger in the Kannada districts of Bombay Presidency.

Dewan Madhava Rao, in his speech to the Representative Assembly in October 1942, said: "That the first duty of a Government is to maintain order and not to hesitate to use force for this purpose will not be disputed by any person, but to a detached observer, these happenings would present a tragedy which need never have been enacted, in the State at all events. In Mysore, the administration is responsive to public needs and aspirations and the Government is wholly in its composition, outlook and details. The issues on which the agitation is professedly based are totally absent here, and the fact that it should have spread to Mysore, which has always stood for constitutional progress, only shows that the movement, judged by its present manifestation is devoid of any high intelligible purpose."<sup>31</sup> It is clear that the Dewan, being a follower Sir Mirza and a loyal servant to the Prince, spoke in the same tone as Sir Mirza and other Dewans.

The movement as such was not directed by the Mysore Congress leaders who had been agitating for responsible government but had been arrested at the earliest. It was the public at large – students, labourers and the common man who had joined the movement in large numbers to help secure freedom for the country, a more noble and sublime cause. The students and labourers were not concerned about the constitutional progress in Mysore. They got beaten by the police, suffered imprisonment and were even prepared to die for the cause. Hundreds of factory labourers were dismissed for participating in the strike, and in Bangalore alone, their number exceeded 200. While they were in jail, their families were thrown out from the factory quarters. They continued to suffer till 1947. For them, the Maharaja was only an agent of the British, perhaps an agent better than other such. 'We are the slaves of a slave Maharaja' was the statement the Mysore Congress leaders had repeatedly remarked to Mahatma Gandhi and other national Congress leaders. Nonetheless, they wanted 'Responsible Government under the aegis of His Highness the Maharaja'. The Maharaja however was in no mood to grant this even after the British left the country!

The movement had virtually rattled the British throne. The British were still engaged in the Second World War and they could not afford the time to assess their plans for India immediately. The movement ended in Mysore by the close of 1943. "Quit India agitation augured well for the future of Mysore Congress. Within urban areas which taken together, comprised the state-level sphere of politics, significant gains have been made. In scale, the campaigns surpassed all previous agitation," says James Manor.<sup>32</sup>

In June 1944, when the District Board Elections were held, Congress won 120 of 177 seats in the State. In the Assembly Elections in 1945, it secured

31. Proceedings of the Assembly, Oct. 1942.

32. Manor, p.144.

122 seats, as compared to 111 in 1941. When Dewan Madhava Rao turned down the request of the Mysore Congress for political concessions in 1945, the Congress decided to strengthen its base and launch one more agitation. A major propaganda campaign was launched. The near famine condition in certain districts due to shortage of food supply and corruption and inefficiency charges were lashed out against the administration. A membership enrollment campaign was also launched.<sup>33</sup> The corruption charges over the handling of the food situation proved to be true, and in June 1946, a case of death by starvation came to light.

“The ineptitude of Dewan Madhava Rao had convinced the Maharaja that a more skillful leader was required to administer the State,” says James Manor. To label the Dewan as inept was a wrong estimation. Nobody else could have perhaps done better. Any other Dewan could have caused more bloodshed. Madhava Rao resigned from the Dewanship in July 1946 and Sir A Ramaswamy Mudaliar became the next Dewan.

Though N Madhava Rao was an able and experienced administrator, meeting the war demands of the British and handling the massive Quit India Movement engaged most of his time and energy. Food scarcity was another serious issue. He could not yield to the demands of the Congress since the Maharaja could not foresee the future for the princes when the British left. He relied on a cunning Dewan who stirred a movement, more massive than the Quit India - the Place Satyagraha or ‘Mysore Chalo’ movement which caused many deaths and more damage to the State, and hardly did anything in the interest of the State. Madhava Rao later became a member of India’s Constituent Assembly representing some eastern states of South India and also became one of the members of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, headed by Dr. Ambedkar.

He participated in the Round Table Conferences with Sir Mirza in London and also worked as Mysore’s Trade Commissioner in London. On return from London, he was made the Revenue Commissioner before becoming the Council member in 1935. He also visited Washington in February 1946 as member of the Indian Food Delegation. He was the Chairman of Land Reforms Committee in Hyderabad State and worked as Chairman, Firka Committee in Rajasthan. When Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board was constituted in 1945, he became its first Chairman and planned creation of extensions like Kumara Park (West), Jayanagar and Rajajinagar.

Madhava Rao was honoured with CIE by the British Government, while the Maharaja conferred on him, the title ‘*Pradhana Shiromani*’ (Crest-jewel among the Pradhans). He received a honorary doctorate from Mysore University. He was a member of the Golf Club and also of the Century Club. He was associated with the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs in Bangalore and was actively involved with its academic work. He was also connected with the Forum of International Affairs. N.Madhava Rao passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1972.

33. Ibid, p.149.



## Appendix

### Extrtacts from the Dasara Address at the Representative Assembly\* (On October 10th 1945)

Great events have occurred since this Assembly met last. The War has concluded with complete success for the Allies and the nations of the World are free once again to pursue, if they will, the path of peace and progress.

#### War Effort

It may not be inappropriate on this occasion to review briefly the State's share in the furtherance of the war effort of the country. The First battalion of the Mysore Infantry, which was sent for service overseas was taken as prisoners in Singapore. The Unit was repatriated recently and most of the officers and men have arrived back safe. The courage and fortitude displayed by them both as soldiers and prisoners deserve our warm appreciation. The personnel of the 51(Mysore) G.P.T. Company has also returned after three and a half years of service overseas. One of the officers of this Unit was awarded "M.B.E." and another was decorated with the "Order of the Red Star". The Two Jamedars were mentioned in Despatches. The Second Battalion has been serving the ex-State under the Crown and will continue to do so for some time longer.

Large extent of land were given in various parts of the State for military camps, hospitals, prisoners, of war camps, training centres and similar purposes. A number of buildings belonging to His Highness, the Maharaja and the government were placed at the disposal of the military authorities. The industrial concerns in the State, supplied goods of the value of over Rs. 14 Crores, for war purposes.

The Hindustan Aircraft Factory, of which the Government of Mysore are partner owners, played a most useful part throughout the war as one of the important stations for the servicing and overhauling of aircraft used in the war against Japan. Cash contribution amounting over Rs. 60 lakhs was made by the State for various War Funds. A sum of Rs.8.5 Crores was invested in the Government of India War Bonds. Non-official organizations, including women institutions, did a good deal of work in providing amenities and comforts to troops on active service or on leave and to prisoners of war overseas.

It is expected that about 5,000 persons belonging to Mysore are likely to be demobilized from the Indian Army. One or more Employment Exchanges is also established in order to resettle these persons in civil life. More over attempts are made to organize some of the workers in groups for continuous employment on public works. I wish to indicate briefly the progress made in the planning of the economic development of the State in the years to come. An outline of a plan for economic development was prepared and published some time ago for general information, Detailed schemes have not been prepared

\*Part of an Address delivered by N.Madhava Rao, B.A., B.L., Dewan of Mysore, at the Mysore Representative Assembly on October 10, 1945.

by the departments of the Government, for the work to be carried out in the next fifteen years. In the preparation of these schemes careful consideration has been given to the suggestions made by non-officials on the floor of the Representative Assembly, and the Legislative Council and through other channels. The plans drawn up by the Central Government and some of the Provincial Governments of India and by competent non-official organizations in the country have also been studied, and in fixing targets, the endeavour has been to reconcile wants with resources and to aim as high as possible, without sacrificing practicability for visionary or sentimental appeal.

It is needless to observe that the work of economic development in the State is not something new which is being inaugurated on the conclusion of the war; it represents the continuation on an amplified and intensified scale, of the work that has been done for many decades past for the development of Agriculture, Industries, Communications, Education, Public Health, Medical aid and other services. Reconstruction of planning, in other words, is not so much the exploration of unfamiliar ground as the enlargement of the scope of work already done and the quickening of its tempo.

The structure of the Economic Conferences has been revised so as to facilitate the examination and scrutiny of the plans most of which have now taken a concrete shape. Six Policy Committees have been formed to deal with 1) Education, Rural uplift, Village amenities and Instructional propaganda, 2) Agriculture, Land Development, Veterinary Services, and Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Fisheries and Co-operation, 3) Industries and Industrial Training, Electric Power, Mining, Labour Welfare and Scientific Research, 4) Public Health and Medical Services, Housing and Town Planning, 5) Roads, Railways and other forms of transport, irrigation, water ways, drainage and other Public Works, and (6) Sericulture. Another Committee has been constituted to review and co-ordinate the work of the Policy Committee and to consider the financial aspects of the schemes recommended by them and suggest ways and means of finding the necessary resources. We are grateful to Rajamantradhurina Sir Albion Banerji who has accepted the chairmanship of this important committee and to Rajamantrapravina Diwan Bahadur Mr. K. Matthan and other gentlemen who are guiding the deliberations of the Policy Committees for their readiness to help in this work. The detailed plans prepared by the Departments will be first considered by the Policy Committees, and then by the Co-ordination and Finance Committee and finally by the Government. The plans are under print and will be published shortly and copies will be supplied to the members of this Assembly. I propose to refer to the main features of the plans for the five-year period. Certain schemes have already been sanctioned where urgent action was called for.

### **Agriculture**

The plan for the development of agriculture aims primarily at increasing the production of food grains in the State. The proposals include the construction

of the new irrigation works at a cost of ₹ 2 Crores with a view to bringing an additional extent of 90,000 acres under wet cultivation and the restoration of 2,500 minor tanks at a cost of ₹ 50 Lakhs. Eleven large works on this programme which are expected to bring 39,000 acres under irrigation have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 86 Lakhs. By systematic measures for supplying high-yielding varieties of paddy seed and by the subsidised distribution of manures on the lines followed in recent years, it is hoped to increase the production of paddy by ₹ Five Lakhs of pallas at the end of the fifth year. Schemes have also been prepared for large scale distribution of agricultural implements, for the provision of greatly extended tractor service and for popularising the preparation and use of compost manure. The preparation of Compost manure from the town refuse, has been taken up in 27 Municipalities.

The proposals that have been formulated in regard to improvement of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services include the starting of 105 Veterinary Dispensaries during the next five years; the supply of 150 bulls of good varieties every year free of cost to selected breeders; the starting of several Cattle breeding stations, including one for Malnad cattle, and the development of the Serum Institute.

Schemes for the free grant of Amrit Mahal, Hallikar and Sindhi bulls and Murrah buffaloes to qualified raiyats and for the grant of premia to individuals and panchayats maintaining breeding bulls in selected villages have been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 66,000 per annum. Arrangements are being made to start four sheep farms in the current year. The fisheries section is being developed. The several schemes prepared in connection with the development of agriculture (apart from irrigation) and animal husbandry and veterinary services involve a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 38.57 Lakhs and a recurring expenditure ranging from ₹ 23.16 Lakhs in the first year.

### **Sericulture**

The starting of Sericultural Training Institute at Channapatna has been sanctioned at a non-recurring cost of ₹ 1,70,000 and a recurring expenditure of ₹ 30,000 per annum. The measures recommended for the consolidation and development of sericulture include the starting of two new hill stations and 50 farms for rearing seed cocoons, and 35 Co-operative Societies with aided grainages. The proposals involve a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 31.78 lakhs and a recurring expenditure ranging from ₹ 2.89 Lakhs in the first year to ₹ 6.45 Lakhs in the fifth year. This expenditure can, for the most part, be met from the sericultural development fund.

### **Forests**

The afforestation of 40,000 acres in maidan districts, the rehabilitation of a large acreage of exploited area in Bhadravati Division, the improvement of



communications for the exploitation of virgin forests in hitherto inaccessible regions, the formation of cinchona plantations near Kemmannugundi and the establishment of a Central Sericultural Research Station constitute the main features of the forest plan.

### Industries

In matters of industrial development, Mysore has been a pioneer in the country in some respects. She has taken risks and made sacrifices and acquired valuable experience. But we cannot nowadays work in isolation from the rest of India. Nor need we do so, as long as we are allowed a voice in the location of industries and our legitimate claims for industrial progress are recognised. Meanwhile certain existing industries are being expanded and developed and it is proposed to start some new ones. In the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, a strip and rod mill has been erected and the Steel Foundry is being extended. Action is being taken to install electric furnaces for smelting iron ore. Among the other developments under contemplation in the Works are the installation of a plant for the manufacture of stainless steel, and additional cement plant and a plant for the manufacture of acetic acid. In the Electric Factory, it is proposed to undertake large scale manufacture of transformers, motors and generators and to increase the output of Bakelite articles. The capacity of the Paper Mills has to be steeped up from 4,000 tons to 10,000 tons of paper and from 120 tons to 3,000 tons of cardboard. Orders have been placed for the machinery required for doubling the output of Ammonia in the Mysore Chemicals and Fertilisers Factory and a loan of ₹ 15 Lakhs has been sanctioned to the company for this purpose. Schemes for the expansion of the soap Factory, the Dichromate Factory, the Lac and Pain works and the central Industrial workshop of a company with a capital of ₹ 25 Lakhs for the manufacture of radio receiving sets has been sanctioned. It is gratifying that private enterprise is also forthcoming to start important new industries. A company which proposes to manufacture electric motors and certain categories of electrical equipment and another company which proposes to establish an alkali industry have been offered certain facilities and concessions. The question of the future use of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory is under active consideration. The first stage of proposed industrial suburb in Bangalore has been taken up at an estimate cost of ₹ 22½ Lakhs.

It was proposed to give a further fillip to Rural and Cottage Industries by increasing the number of Rural Industrial Centres from 45 to 107, with facilities for training in 16 Cottage Industries.

### Hydro Electric Power

The importance of developing the resources of electric power in the State to the fullest extent possible cannot be overestimated. Arrangements are being made to increase the generating capacity at Jog from 48,000 KW to 1,20,000 KW. A five-year programme of other developments including remodelling and



extension of the transmission system and the establishment of new stations for distribution, involving an outlay of about ₹ Five Crores, has been prepared. The question of supplying power in bulk to certain places in the Madras Presidency near the border of the State is under negotiation with the concerned authorities.

### Road Transport

Proposals for the improvement of Road Transport include the formation of a length of 600 miles of new roads and construction of bridges where necessary and the cement-concreting of 150 miles of important trunk roads at a total cost of about ₹ 2.5 Crores. Electric trolley buses are proposed to be introduced in Bangalore. The work of cement concreting important trunk roads has been taken on hand.

### Railways

Among the developments contemplated in the Railways, mention may be made of the remodelling of Railway Station yards at Arsikere and certain other important commercial centres to suit present day requirements, the electrification of the Mysore-Bangalore Section and the provision of additional facilities to passengers. The remodelling of the Bangalore City Railway Station yard and the construction of chord line between Yeshvantapur and Nayandahalli at a cost of ₹ 7.66 Lakhs and the strengthening of the track of the Bangalore-Mysore Section have been sanctioned. The question of extending the railway line from Chamarajnagar to Satyamangalam is being pursued.

### Education

The schemes prepared for the development of primary education contemplate an increase in the number of schools from 8,000 to 10,500 and that of pupils from 4,30,000 to 7,82,000(which represents three-fourths of the school-going population in the State), and of teachers from 13,500 to 24,000. The starting of 100 more middle schools with an increases in the number of pupils from 70,000 to 1,50,000 is also contemplated. The adult literacy campaign has yielded encouraging results within a short space of time and it is proposed to intensify it with a view to make 4, 00,000 people literate in the course of the next five years.

While meeting the great and growing demand for new schools to the fullest extent possible it is necessary to see that the instruction imparted in them is purposeful and of real value. This implies a remodeling of school work from the earliest stages and a greater emphasis on the training of teachers. High school education, particularly, has to be diversified and adjusted to the aptitudes of the different types of pupils and the needs of their post-school life. With these consideration in view, the plans prepared for the development of education provided for the reorganization of the courses of study in Middle and High

Schools and for increased facilities for the training of teachers. Provision is also made for the physical education and medical examination of pupils. The plans formulated for educational development involve a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 192 Lakhs and a recurring expenditure ranging from ₹ 37.93 Lakhs in the first year to ₹ 132.48 Laksh in the fifth year.

In the field of University Education, the starting of some more Intermediate Colleges and an Agricultural College and the expansion of the Engineering and Medical Colleges are contemplated.

### **Public Health and Medical Relief**

Anti-malarial measures on an extensive scale, the starting of additional health units, and provision of drainage in towns and large villages are among the measures contemplated for the improvement of public health. The extension of anti-malarial measures to 314 villages in the Irwin Canal area has been approved. The second stage of the programme of drainage and other anti-malarial works in the area has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹ 15 Lakhs.

Expansion of the Victoria Hospital in Bangalore and the Krishanarajendra Hospital in Mysore, the conversion of the McGann Hospital in Shimoga to a general hospital, the improvement of equipment in other District hospitals, the starting of mobile dispensaries in rural parts and the opening of a number of new dispensaries in Malnad area, the provision of woman doctor for each taluk and a midwife of each hobli and the construction of in-patient wards for women in hospitals in all taluk headquarters are among the measures recommended for developing medical aid. The proposals involve a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 50 Lakhs and a recurring expenditure of ₹ 50 Lakhs per annum under Public Health and a non recurring expenditure of ₹ 25.15 Lakhs in the first year to ₹ 12.53 Lakhs in the fifth year under Medical relief.

### **Urban Development**

The question of improving housing condition in Bangalore, Mysore and other large towns is being examined by a special committee. Projects for improving the water supply of Bangalore and Mysore Cities are being carried out.

### **Rural Development**

The promotion of Rural Welfare is one of the main objectives of the development of Agriculture, Communication, Education, Medical aid, Public Health and Other services which I have indicate. But the full benefit of these measures can be secured only with the intelligent and organised co-operation of the rural people. Village Panchayats have an important part to play in carrying out post war plans. To assist and guide them in this work Special Rural Development Officers are being appointed, one for each District.



## Technical Training

The planned development of agriculture, irrigation industries and social services requires a large number of trained technical personnel. Arrangements have been made in collaboration with the Government of India to depute candidates to technical institutions and industrial centres in India and foreign countries to undergo advanced training, appropriate to our requirements.

I wish to make it clear that the several schemes which I have mentioned are not yet to be regarded as final blue prints for development in the next five years. They are tentative recommendations which have to be scrutinised in detail by the Policy Committees. Their relative priority can be determined only after their financial implications, individually and in the aggregate, have been considered by the Co-ordination and Finance Committee.

## Finance

The account which I have just given in broad outline, of the development schemes, before the various committees, may be usefully supplemented by a brief indication of the finances available for carrying out such schemes. According to the preliminary accounts for June 1945, the revenue for the year 1944-45 amounted to ₹ 10.10 Crores, being 621 Lakhs over the Revised, while the expenditure met from revenue showed a decrease of ₹ 27 Lakhs. The net improvement of about ₹ 90 Lakhs has enabled us further to strengthen the Reserve and Depreciation Funds. The balance at the credit of these Funds as on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1945 were:

<b>Reserve for Non-recurring Expenditure</b>	<b>₹.in Lakhs</b>
Post-War Reconstruction Fund and Mining Revenue Capitalization Fund.	639
Development Funds (Irrigation, Rural Communications and Industries)	174
Depreciation Funds (Railways, Electrical and Other works)	409
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,222</b>

Apart from these funds, the assets of the State built up from revenue surpluses in the past exceed liabilities by about Eight Crores. Altogether the amount available for capital and other schemes is about ₹ 20 Crores. A review of our cash position and investments shows that the whole of this sum could be provided during the next five years from normal ways and means surpluses. I would add that for the execution of public works of a remunerative or partially remunerative character, the Mysore Government have never hesitated to resort to public borrowing and that our credit in the money market to – day stands as high as ever.

The considerations, which govern the financing of schemes for the expansion of social services such as expansion of education, medical aid, etc., are naturally different. Their cost must be met largely, if not entirely from current



revenues. Nodoubt, our revenue receipts stand at a high level today. But this position cannot be maintained for long unless fresh sources of revenue are tapped and existing ones are developed. It is an essential part of planning to evolve a taxation policy that will enable the State to provide adequately for the expansion of education and other beneficent services.

### **Food Supply**

Food stuffs of the value of over ₹ Six Crores have been acquired locally or imported from outside and their distribution through a large number of Government and licensed private depots has gone on very smoothly considering the magnitude and unfamiliar character of this kind of work. The operations have involved during the year a loss of ₹ 30 Laksh, due mainly to the fact that it has been the policy of Government to sell food grains at fixed reasonable rates to the public even if they are purchased, as they often were, at higher prices from outside the State. The position in regard to rice may be regarded as satisfactory. The stocks of ragi are sufficient and will be further augmented by the import of about 46,000 tons allotted to the State. Owing to the failure of the last harvest, Jowar (Jola) is in short supply, but a consignment of 5,000 tons of this grain is soon expected. On the whole, therefore, the stock position is good and affords no ground for apprehending any shortage during the coming few months. Should the monsoon prove entirely inadequate and seriously affect the out-turn of crops, local resources will have to be more largely supplemented next year by importing grains from outside and there is no reason to anticipate that they will not be forthcoming in the desired quantities. Meanwhile, careful enquires made by responsible officers show that the reports recently circulated in some quarters alleging the existence of famine conditions in some taluks are entirely baseless and that there is no need for any anxiety at present. The Government who have spared no effort or funds in ensuring food supply to the people in the difficult years which were have passed, may well be trusted to take whatever action is required from time to time for this purpose.

