

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

The erstwhile Mysore State introduced many beneficial measures for the welfare of industrial and plantation labour. The State more or less kept pace with the legislations in the former British India. The Acts that were passed by the State of Mysore were modelled on the Central Acts. Besides, Mysore also benefited from the findings of the Royal Commission and other official enquiries about labour conducted for the Government of India from time to time. The constitution of India has provided that the State shall promote the educational and the economic interests of the weaker sections of the community particularly the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Keeping this in view the State Government has provided many amenities to the poor, particularly, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes with the main object of enabling them to cross the poverty line. The Government has also made provisions for Social Defence and welfare of women, children, political sufferers, the aged and the physically handicapped. After the unification of Karnataka, common laws for the whole State came to be enforced with a view to implement various social welfare measures. The various Central laws promulgated prior to unification had been already made applicable to the former princely areas and former Bombay and Madras presidencies.

LABOUR WELFARE

Provisions of laws pertaining to labour welfare in Chikmagalur district are administered by an Assistant Labour Commissioner stationed at Chikmagalur. He is assisted by a Labour Officer and a Senior Labour Inspector, in the I Circle at Chikmagalur and a Senior Labour Inspector in the II Circle at Chikmagalur and two more Senior Labour Inspectors, one each at Mudigere and Koppa, and a few other labour Inspectors. They are required to see that the many prescribed welfare measures are implemented and have to make all efforts to maintain industrial peace in the district. Some of the important labour laws that are in force in the district are the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, Shops and Commercial Establishments Act,

1961, Karnataka Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1963, Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, Payment of Wages Act, 1951, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Plantations Labour Act, 1951, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965, Factories Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1970, and Karnataka Beedi Industrial Premises (Regulation of Conditions of Work) Act, 1964 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

In 1976, an amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act was brought into force. As a result of this, it has become obligatory on the part of managements of industrial establishments employing more than 300 workers to seek prior approval of the Government in regard to lay-offs, retrenchments and closures. A bi-partite committee consisting of three representatives from workers and employers has been constituted at the State-level. It examines questions of lay-offs, retrenchments and closures and strives to bring about amicable settlements. There were no lock-outs, retrenchments or closures during the 1960's in the district.

However in the past decade, in 1972-73, there were 18 cases of strikes and ten instances each in 1979 and 1980. The total number of workers involved in strikes was 1,998 in 1970, 276 in 1979 and 1,201 in 1980. The number of man-day loss on account of the strikes was 7,399 in 1970, 19,321 in 1979 and 8,477 in 1980. Eighty four cases of industrial disputes were referred to conciliation machinery in 1970, the corresponding numbers for 1979 and 1980 being 121 and 54 respectively. Of these, 52, 63 and 27 cases were settled in the respective years.

In 1980, the total number of shops and commercial establishments in the district was 3,461 and these together employed 3,437 workers. Of these 2,864 shops were managed by owners themselves with 1,359 workers, whereas there were 372 commercial establishments with 1,107 workers, 208 hotels and restaurants employing 845 workers and 12 cinema theatres employing 126 persons.

Service conditions of plantation labour

In 1978, there were 7,917 plantations with 1,62,176 workers. These workers were employed on coffee, tea and rubber estates of the district. The Plantation Labour Act applies to those estates having not less than 10.117 hectares of area and employing more than 30 workers. Facilities for drinking water and medical care have to be provided by the employer. There has to be a canteen in every estate employing 150 or more workers. In plantations, where 50 or more women are employed, a creche is to be maintained. Labour welfare officers are required to be appointed in estates in which 300 or more workers are employed. Every worker has to be provided with a rent-free house

for his family. In estates where 25 or more workers are employed, it is the duty of the employer to provide free education to the children of the workers, upto 12 years of age.

The total number of hours of work of a plantation worker is limited to 54 hours per week. In respect of children it is 40. A day of rest for every seven days has to be allowed. Work-schedules have to be properly displayed in all estates. Children below 12 years are not to be employed between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. in plantations during the season. Every worker can claim a day's leave with wages for every 20 days of work. The employees are entitled for sickness allowance also. Women are given maternity allowance during the period of confinement.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

The Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, is in force in the district. It applies to all plantations employing 20 or more persons. Estates with 20 to 50 workers are covered under the provisions of the Act, if they complete five years of existence. Employees, who complete 240 days of service in a year, could become members with effect from August 10, 1974. The qualifying period for eligibility to become members has been now reduced to 120 days in case the total period of service falls within a period of six months. Both employers and members contribute to the fund. Members contribution ranges from $6\frac{1}{4}$ to $8\frac{1}{8}$ per cent of their basic wages, while the employer contributes an equal proportion. The employer's contribution and the interest thereon are refundable to the members or to their nominees in the event of permanent physical or mental disability, retrenchment, death or after completion of 15 years of membership. A special fund has been created to meet the employers' contribution if they fail to pay whole or part of the provident fund. Employers, who fail to pay the provident fund dues punctually, are liable for prosecution. They may be imprisoned upto six months or fined Rs 100 or both. The dues can be realised as arrears of land revenue.

Employees Family Pension

The Employees Provident Fund Act was amended to make provision for a family pension scheme. It is also extended to cover a compulsory life insurance scheme for the benefit of survivors of the employee in the event of his death while in service. The family pension operates through contributions from the employers, the employees and the Government. The employee, in addition to the provident fund contribution, pays $1/6$ per cent of his basic pay, while the employer contributes one per cent and the Government makes a similar contribution, besides bearing full cost of administration. The family-pension scheme imposes no additional financial commitments over and above their liability under

the Employees Provident Fund Act. Members of the Employees Provident Fund as in March 1971 have compulsorily to be members of this scheme also. Family pension is paid to the dependent if the employee is deceased. In case of death of the employee, the dependent is eligible to take the benefit of life insurance also. In the event of retrenchment or ceasing to be a member after attaining the age of 60, the worker is entitled for a survival benefit.

Payment of gratuity

Gratuity is payable to an employee on termination of his employment after he has rendered a continuous service of not less than five years subject to superannuation, retirement or resignation or death or disablement due to accident or disease. The employer has to pay 15 days' wages at the rate of the wage last drawn by the employee for every completed year of service and a part thereof exceeding six months. The employee has the right to receive better terms of gratuity under agreement or contract with the employer. The amount of gratuity payable to an employee is limited to wages of 20 months. In cases of disputes, the employer deposits the amount with the controlling authority.

Maternity benefit

A female worker, who has put in 160 days of service in 12 months preceding the date of her delivery, is entitled for maternity benefit. This benefit is limited to 12 weeks, six weeks (36 days plus holidays entitled) before and an equal period after the date of delivery. Payment, during this period, is made on the average daily wage-rate or one rupee per day whichever is higher. A woman suffering from illness connected with pregnancy is entitled for leave with wages for a period not exceeding one month. The total number of women normally employed was 10,005 in 1978 as against 5,136 in 1974. About 45 creches were functioning in 1974 and the number of children admitted was 1,506. The number of creches was 40 in 1980 and the number of children admitted was 1787. There were three garden hospitals and nine garden dispensaries in 1979. The A.L.N. Rao Memorial Hospital at Quard-Hitlow, Koppa, is a referral hospitals for plantation workers. (see ch. XVI).

Labour-housing

Construction of new houses for workers and adoption of old houses for purposes of maintenance are being done in the district. In 1978, about 9,250 new houses were constructed and 38 old houses were adopted and the corresponding figures for 1980 were 6040 and 2013. There is a Plantation Labour Housing Advisory Board which reviews the progress made under loan-cum-subsidy housing scheme.

Other benefits

According to the industry-wise conciliation reached in 1975, there are no separate wages for men and women workers. This is in conformity

with the principle of equal wages for work of equal value. The workers are entitled for bonus also. Pending settlement of the rate at which the bonus is to be paid, the worker is eligible to get seven per cent of the total wages earned as an advance towards bonus. The Karnataka Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Rules, 1974, is in force since December 1974. It applies to establishments in which 20 or more contractor's workmen are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months. Such establishments have to be registered under the Act, and also the contractors, who employ 20 or more workmen, have to obtain a licence. Under the Karnataka Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Amendment Act, 1975, the workers are entitled to three national holidays and five festival holidays.

Labour Welfare Centre

There is one Labour Welfare Centre in the district. It was opened at Chikmagalur in 1970. It is providing recreational facilities like reading room, indoor and outdoor games, etc. It also arranges film shows, training in personal safety measures, and health and family welfare talks for the benefit of working class families. It is stocked with about 550 library books.

Trade Unions

A number of trade unions organised by the workers themselves for purposes of collective bargaining of mutual interests is functioning in the district. They are recognised under the Trade Unions Act. The following registered trade unions were functioning in the district at the end of 1980.

List of Registered Trade Unions in Chikmagalur District as on 31st December, 1980.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Trade Union</i>	<i>Year of Registration</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1	Karnataka Provincial Plantation Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1956	1,055
2	The Mysore Plantation and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1959	229
3	The Mysore National Plantation Workers Union, Jayapura Chikmagalur District.	1963	591
4	The Mysore Thotta Tholilarar Munnetra Sangham, Jayapura, Chikmagalur District.	1963	2,961
5	Standard Tile Company Workers Association, Kadur	1964	85
6	The Cattle Breeding Station Labour Union, Ajjampura, Chikmagalur District.	1966	40
7	Mineral and Miners Union, Chikmagalur.	1968	529
8	Karnataka State Anna Sama Urumale Chelepalar Munnetra Sangam, Chikmagalur.	1969	377
9	Karnataka Plantation and General Workers Progressive Federation, Chikmagalur.	1969	502
10	Chikmagalur Hassan Districts Saw Mills and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1970	855

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Trade Union</i>	<i>Year of Registration</i>	<i>Membership</i>
11	Estate and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur	1971	222
12	South Indian Estate and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1971	2,907
13	Municipal and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur	1971	130
14	Karnataka Estate and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1974	215
15	Karnataka Mine Workers Union, Chikmagalur	1974	Not available
16	General Employees Union, Chikmagalur	1975	191
17	Karnataka Estate, Agricultural and General Employees Union, Chikmagalur	1976	74
18	Malnad Plantation and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1977	125
19	Karnataka Estate Labour Union, [Jayapura, Chikmagalur District.	1977	3,768
20	H.S.C.L. National Employees Union, Kudremukh, Chikmagalur District.	1977	187
21	Karnataka Estate, Hotel and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1978	1,017
22	Kudremukh Workers Union, Chikmagalur	1978	2,057
23	Hindustan Steel Works construction Ltd., Workers Union, Malleswara.	1978	245
24	H.S.C.L. Diplolma Engineers Association, Malleswara, Chikmagalur District.	1979	26
25	Karnataka State Raitha Sangha, Balgudi, Koppa Taluk, Chimagalur District.	1979	667
26	H. S. C. L. Employees Association, Malleswara, Chikmagalur District.	1979	208
27	Kudremukh Construction Workers Union, Malleswara, Chikmagalur District.	1979	Not available
28	Vignan Industries Mazdoor Sangha, Tarikere, Chikmagalur District.	1979	193
29	Chamundi Curing Works Employees Association, Chikmagalur	1979	297
30	Chikmagalur Town Hamalis Union, Chikmagalur	1979	70
31	Malnad Estate and General Employees Union, Aldur, Chikmagalur District.	1980	100
32	South Karnataka Plantations, Saw Mills, Hotels and General Workers Union, Chikmagalur.	1980	250
33	Chikmagalur District Co-operative Central Bank Employees Union, Chikmagalur.	1980	83

Old-age pension

Since 1965, the State Government have been implementing a well-thought-of social security measure of granting old-age pension to those who have crossed 65 years of age and have neither any source of income nor other persons to take care of them and are unable to maintain themselves or disabled. In respect of destitutes, who are suffering from leprosy, insanity and paralysis, the age-limit is reduced to 60 years, and in the case of blind and physically handicapped persons, it is 40 years. In the beginning, the top-level authority was sanctioning this pension.

Later, this power was delegated to Deputy Commissioners, then on to Assistant Commissioners and thereafter to Tahsildars. The rate of pension was raised from Rs 15 in 1970 to Rs 40 in 1974. The payment is made by the District Treasury Officer through money orders. In 1979, the number of persons benefited under this scheme was 2,641 in Kadur, 2,198 in Tarikere, 1,307 in Chikmagalur, 832 in Mudigere, 667 in Koppa, 503 in Narasimharajapura and 423 in Sringeri taluks, in all 8,571 persons. Of them, 596 persons were from the Scheduled Castes and 21 from the Scheduled Tribes.

Pension to freedom-fighters

The State Government sponsored a scheme in 1967 for the grant of political pensions, as a sort of relief to the needy persons (or their families), who underwent sufferings in the freedom movement. Initially a monthly pension of Rs 50 was paid and subsequently it was raised to Rs 75 to individuals who had been imprisoned for three months or more. Subsequently in June 1978, the Government of Karnataka raised it to Rs 90 per month and again in September of the same year to Rs 125. All the freedom fighters identified after September 1980 are also eligible for pension of Rs 100 only instead of Rs 125 as in the case of those who were already getting the pension. The rules for eligibility are further relaxed by reducing the period of sentence or imprisonment by less than three months with effect from September 1980 and by removing income ceiling limit of Rs 2,400 per annum from November 1980. Added to these, the scheme of sanctioning political pension was also extended to the freedom fighters or widows of freedom fighters who participated in the '*Mysore Chalo Movement*' which was continued up to October, 1947 in Mysore area and '*Hyderabad Freedom Struggle*' which was continued upto 18th September, 1948, in Gulbarga area.

In 1972, the Union Government also took up a similar scheme. It is laid down that under the State scheme, the rate of pension is Rs 75 per month, whereas it is Rs 200 under the Central scheme. The total amount paid to a freedom-fighter should not normally exceed Rs 200 per month. The widow of the freedom fighter is also eligible to get this pension.

From August 1980, the Government of India, has renamed the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme of 1972 as *Swathantrata Sainik Sanman Pension Scheme* and the quantum of monthly pension to the freedom fighters has been increased to Rs 300 per month. In the case of widows of freedom fighters, the amount has been raised to Rs 200 with an additional amount of Rs 50 per month for each of the unmarried daughters subject to a ceiling of Rs 300. The annual income ceiling of Rs 5,000 for eligibility to pension has also been removed.

In Chikmagalur district, during the year 1980, 53 persons under the State Government Scheme and 31 persons under the Central Government Scheme were sanctioned this political pension.

Aid to the Physically Handicapped

The year 1981 is being celebrated as the International Year of the Physically Handicapped and both the Central and State Governments have taken up special programmes and projects to help the physically handicapped even earlier to this. Chikmagalur District has a total of 1,185 physically handicapped persons (342 totally blind, 377 orthopaedical and 466 totally dumb) according to the 1981 census. The State Government has granted pre-matric scholarships to 276 pupils in the district in 1980-81, of these 12 are blind, three deaf and the rest orthopaedical. The amount of scholarship per student is Rs 25 per month for those studying in I to V Standards and Rs 35 per month for those studying in VI to VIII standards. The income limit of the parent for eligibility is Rs 10,000. The Central Government has provided scholarships starting from Rs 360 to 1,200 per year to 60 physically handicapped students studying in high schools and colleges during the same year and of these three are blind, one is deaf and the rest are orthopaedical. A maintenance allowance of Rs 40 per month is granted to the physically handicapped aged over 16 and whose family income is less than Rs 3,600 per year. In 1980-81, a total of 1,039 persons have been benefited by this programme according to a scheme initiated in 1977. In the succeeding year (till Nov. 1981), 81 more persons have secured this benefit. Financial aid was extended to three persons to purchase wheel chair and tricycles, in 1981 (till Nov. 1981) under a scheme initiated in the year 1964.

Probation of offenders

A Probation Office has been functioning at Chikmagalur since July, 1962, with jurisdiction over the whole of the district. Earlier, the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, a Central Act, was brought into force throughout the State of Karnataka with effect from 1st October, 1960. The Probation Officer administers the provisions of this Act, as also those of Karnataka Children's Act, 1964, Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1956, (see also chapter XII) and Karnataka Borstal School Act, 1963. Efforts are made to reform and rehabilitate the offenders. The Offender is given a chance to defend himself or reform himself without subjecting him to deleterious effects of prison life. The Probation Officer conducts home enquiry about the offender in question and submits a detailed report to the Court. He has to keep a supervision over those offenders who are on probation and has to make efforts to reform them. There is a Probation Advisory Committee with the Sessions Judge as the Chairman and the Probation Officer as the *ex-officio* Secretary. The number of cases referred to the Probation Officer, Chikmagalur, under

the Central Act, during some years was nine (1963-64), 14 (1968-69), 36 (1973-74) and 120 (1977-78).

Remand Home

For the care, protection and rehabilitation of destitute, delinquent or victimised children, a Remand Home was established at Chikmagalur in 1970 under the provisions of the Karnataka Children's Act, 1964. The Act empowers the Sub-Inspector of Police to produce such children before the Juvenile Court which, during the pendency of trial or enquiry, remands them to the Remand Home. Such children are allowed to remain in the Remand Home for a period not exceeding three months. The Probation Officer observes the behaviour of such children, finds out their antecedents, their feelings and aptitudes and also their relationship with other members of the family and tries to know the factors that led them to go astray or to commit offences. His findings are submitted to the Juvenile Court. After considering the relevant facts, the court prescribes appropriate measures to rehabilitate them. In cases where the children require institutional treatment, they are sent to certified schools, which are at Bagalkot, Hubli, Davanagere, Hassan, Khanapur, Bellary, Gulbarga and Bangalore. The table given below shows the number of children admitted to the Remand Home at Chikmagalur and the annual expenditure incurred from 1972-73 to 1978-79.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of admissions</i>	<i>Daily average No. of children</i>	<i>Expenditure (in rupees)</i>
1972-73	157	20	39,922
1973-74	112	3.2	27,307
1974-75	82	4.3	34,336
1975-76	40	8.1	41,126
1976-77	93	9.5	40,387
1977-78	97	10	46,132
1978-79	83	11	46,861

ADVANCEMENT OF WEAKER SECTIONS AND BACKWARD CLASSES

Help to weaker sections

A number of measures have been adopted for the benefit of weaker sections in the State. These programmes or schemes are to benefit particularly poor tillers of the land, artisans, handloom-weavers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, backward classes, women and children, small and marginal farmers, petty traders, hawkers, agricultural labourers, and other poor people. The radical land reforms being implemented in the State aim at making the tillers of the soil the owners of the land. Land Tribunals, which include also people's representatives as members, have been constituted. A separate cell under the administrative control of the Law Department is providing legal aid to the

tenants. The Karnataka State Land Development Bank is giving financial assistance to tenants for giving the occupancy price (see chapter XI). For generations, many were helplessly suffering as bonded labourers. Under the Karnataka Debt Relief Act, 1975, relief is being given to landless labourers and agricultural persons belonging to the weaker sections whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs 4,800 per annum. The district authorities have instructions to identify bonded labour cases and to provide necessary relief. More than 2,750 bonded labourers were released by the end of October 1979, and 1964 of them were rehabilitated. Under Differential Interest Rate Scheme, the measures adopted since the middle of 1975 for reducing rural indebtedness has been of considerable help to the rural poor. It is estimated that debts to the tune of Rs 1.81 lakhs of the rural poor were liquidated by the end of September 1979, the number of beneficiaries being 998 (see ch. VI).

The State Government are carrying out massive programmes of distributing house-sites and construction of houses for the rural poor. In Chikmagalur district, 40,857 families were identified for the purpose, and nearly 38,890 families were allotted sites upto the end of October 1979, out of them 16,551 belonged to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under a People's Housing Scheme, financial assistance in the form of subsidy to a tune of Rs 1.35 crores was sanctioned to 11,382 persons in the rural areas out of whom 7,218 persons constructed their houses by the end of October 1979. Similarly financial assistance to weaker sections in urban areas is also being given since 1979-80. In order to provide at least minimum shelter to the weaker sections, construction of huts has been also taken up. In 1977-78, a sum of Rs 2.170 lakhs was spent on this scheme, the total number of beneficiaries being 868 families.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes

According to the 1971 census the total population of Scheduled Castes in the district was 1,19,733 constituting 16.25 per cent of the total population, while the total Scheduled Tribes population was 10,092 being 1.57 per cent of the total population of the district. Among the Scheduled Castes, *Adi-Karnatakas* account for the largest number of 67,604 persons, followed by 11,159 *Adi-Dravidas* and 18,178 *Banjaras* or *Lambanis*, the rest being others (see chapter III). There are nine individual Scheduled Tribes in the district, the more numerous among them being *Hasalaru* (5,283 persons), *Maleru* (648 persons) and *Malakudi* (204 persons) and others being *Iruliga*, *Jenukuruba*, *Kadukuruba*, *Gowdalu*, *Hakkipikki* and *Soligaru*. As in 1971, 10.92 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and 13.88 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes were literates, while the general literacy percentage was 31.52. Among the Scheduled Castes, 50,400 persons were workers and 69,333 non-workers as in 1971. The corresponding figures

among the Scheduled Tribes were 4,586 and 5,506. The table given below shows the percentage distribution of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes workers among nine categories of work as in 1971.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>
Cultivators	23.81	19.82
Agricultural labourers	35.69	22.87
Workers in livestock, forestry, etc.	24.39	50.68
Workers in mining and quarrying	0.58	—
Workers in household industry	1.10	0.11
Workers in manufacturing, processing, etc.	1.96	0.11
Workers in constructions	1.91	0.65
Workers in trade & commerce	0.35	0.22
Workers in transport, storage and communications	1.15	0.20
Workers in other services	9.06	5.34

According to a survey carried out by the Department of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Sociology, University of Mysore, in 1971, the living conditions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were very poor. A village in Chikmagalur district was taken as a sample for the survey. The report says that very rarely one could come across a household with livestock, implements, carts, bicycle and modern conveniences like electricity, radio, watch, furniture, etc. Many of the persons belonging to these two sections were unemployed. Wages paid for their labour was low. The Government have been taking several measures from year to year to remove their disabilities and to help them in their educational advancement and economic upliftment. In the light of the experiences gained during the first two Five-Year Plans, the programmes for their welfare were further intensified during the successive plans. Various other additional schemes like award of money prizes to students who pass the S.S.L.C. examination in first class, award of gold medals to rank winning students, payment of tuition fee to students studying in private schools, award of foreign scholarships and setting up of hostels for college students were also taken up. A special assistance to law, engineering and medical graduates is also given.

Educational advancement

The Department of Social Welfare is running 10 hostels for boys and 6 hostels for girls, the total strength being 615 and 200 respectively as in 1980. The inmates of the hostel are provided with two meals and a tiffin, books, stationery articles, four pairs of dresses, footwear, bedding, etc. Free medical assistance and coaching facilities are also provided. In 1977-78, the total amount spent on hostel facilities was Rs 3.61 lakhs. There are four ashram schools, two in Kadur, one each in Sringeri and Chikmagalur taluks, the total strength being 175 as in 1979. The

children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes are being admitted to these schools where they can study upto IV standard. They are provided with two pairs of dresses, slates and books, boarding and lodging facilities.

Under the auspices of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Sangha, a hostel for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is functioning at Chikmagalur, its strength being 35 in 1979. Boarding and lodging facilities are provided at the rate of Rs 125 per head. Its expenditure is met partly by Central assistance and partly by grants from the State Government. There is another such hostel at Birur with a total strength of 25 students. There are 10 other hostels which are being managed by private organisations. One of these hostels is located in Tarikere taluk and the remaining nine in Kadur taluk. The total strength of inmates of these hostels was 555 and the amount paid per boarder in the form of grant was Rs 50 per head as in 1979 by the Government.

In order to encourage students of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to continue their education without any break, pre-matric scholarships are awarded at the rate of Rs 50 per annum per student studying in higher primary schools and at Rs 75 per annum for those in high schools. Students belonging to these sections who secure 60 per cent marks in examinations are awarded merit scholarships at Rs 75 per annum in middle schools, and Rs 100 in high schools. The total amount of merit scholarships (pre-matric and post-matric) given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students during 1978-79 was Rs 3.19 lakhs and the total number of students benefited by this scheme was 2,240. In 1979-80, 2,540 students secured a sum of Rs 3.66 lakhs as scholarships. As the post-matric scholarships paid by the Union Government were found to be not adequate to meet the boarding and lodging charges, a scheme of payment of extra-boarding and lodging charges is being implemented by the State Government. This facility is extended to students who remain in general hostels only.

Economic upliftment

The programmes under economic upliftment are mainly supplemental in nature. The main objects are to improve the employment ability of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to divert them, as far as possible, from their traditional occupations to more remunerative ones. For this purpose, several programmes have been taken up, *viz.*, training in trades like electrician, auto-mechanic, motor-vehicle driving, printing, book-binding, typewriting, stenography, tailoring, gardening, etc. Eighteen per cent of the posts in the public sector are reserved for these communities. In order to enable the educated unemployed to acquire necessary technical training and qualification and become eligible for the posts reserved for these communities or to enable

them to pursue such avocations of their own, stipends ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 200 per month are being given to trainees. A sum of Rs 5,960 was spent for this purpose in 1978-79.

The persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who own lands are being assisted financially to enrol themselves as members of Primary Land Development Banks, so as to enable them to avail themselves of the loan facilities for sinking of irrigation wells, etc. Upto the end of March 1979, 392 persons were given assistance in this respect. Similarly, financial assistance is given towards membership fee and share capital to enable them to become members of other co-operative societies. With such help, 236 persons were enrolled as members of co-operatives in the year 1978-79. In order to improve the economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a Development Corporation for the exclusive benefit of these sections has been set up at the State-level. The Corporation is advancing loans to these people for various productive purposes.

Improvement of social environment

Some of the items included under improvement of social environment are provision for better housing conditions, drinking water amenities and cultural facilities. The State Government have announced an offer of grant of financial assistance to persons contracting intercaste marriages in which either of the parties is of Scheduled Castes. Under Article 17 of the Constitution, untouchability is abolished, and practice of untouchability in any form is punishable. Propaganda against untouchability is being continuously done. The evil practice of carrying night-soil by scavengers on their heads has also been stopped in the State. The sweepers and scavengers are now called "Poura-Karmikaru".

In 1978-79, there were 26 Women and Child Welfare Centres in the district, the total strength of the centres being 1,300. These are located near or inside Harijan colonies so as to enable the parents who go to work to leave their children at the care of the staff. They provide food, clothing and informal education to the children. In the Child Welfare Centres, children of the age-group of 3 to 6 are admitted. The main object of the Child Welfare Centres is to develop a school-going tendency among the children. A sum of Rs 65,550 towards maintenance and Rs 47,500 towards supply of dress was spent on Child Welfare Centres during the year 1978-79. At these Centres, women receive training in crafts like tailoring, embroidery, knitting, etc. Craft-training programme for women of weaker sections is being implemented in the district. Under this scheme, a tailoring centre at Chikmagalur and another at Kadur are functioning. Unemployed women belonging to weaker sections are admitted to this training course, its duration being 12 months. The in-take capacity of each centre is twelve. The candidates who pass

the examination are given a sewing machine each free of cost. Such women are also offered employment in any of the tailoring training centres run by Government where they can earn a minimum of Rs 100 per month. The total expenditure on 26 Women Welfare Centres and two Tailoring Training Centres during 1978-79 was Rs 1.970 lakhs.

Lands are also being acquired at Government cost for providing house-sites to houseless and landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families who are not covered under the general programme. There are seven Harijan Housing Societies functioning in the district with a total membership of 5,622 as in 1979. Upto the end of 1976, nearly 500 houses were constructed and a sum of Rs 15,250 as subsidy and another amount of Rs 49,380 as interest-free loans were distributed among 545 families. The Scheduled Castes families, who lose their houses on account of fire, floods or other natural calamities, get a subsidy of Rs 700 each for new construction. Timber, for two sets of windows and doors costing about Rs 500 is also given to them free of cost for constructing houses. In 1976, about 100 such sets of free timber were sanctioned to the Scheduled Castes and another 20 sets to the Scheduled Tribes. It was found that they were not able to get electric connections since considerable sum of investment was needed for the purpose. In 1976, a sum of Rs 55,000 was spent to help them to obtain electric connections. Electrification of two Harijan localities in villages has also been taken up under a rural electrification programme. Under the "*Bhagya Jyothi*" scheme, houses of the poorest families in the villages are provided with one-bulb electric connection free of charges.

Agricultural families among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, who possess lands or are allotted lands, are assisted financially at the rate of Rs 2,000 for a pair of bullocks and Rs 500 for agricultural inputs like seeds, manure, etc. There is a legal adviser in the district appointed by the Government for extending legal assistance to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He is paid an honorarium of Rs 300 per month.

Facilities to tribals

The tribals are largely forest-dwellers. They depend largely on agriculture for their livelihood and supplement their income by selling forest produce like honey, fuel, cane and reeds, hunting of animals, catching of birds and fish, etc. They have been traditionally cultivating forest lands, cutting trees for their use, carrying on *kumri* cultivation in some areas and putting up sheds in certain places for their residence in the forests. For developing scientific forestry and for preserving wild life, indiscriminate cutting of trees and hunting of animals have been now restrained and regulated. Hence, the tribals have had to take to new vocations.

Surveys and studies conducted by different organisations as also the Department of Social Welfare revealed that among the Scheduled Tribes,

the *Jenu-Kurubas* and *Koragas* are the most backward. On the basis of a survey and study done by the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and the Anthropological Survey of India, Southern Circle, Mysore, the Government of India have agreed to treat the *Jenu-Kurubas* as a primitive tribe. The estimated population of the *Jenu-Kurubas* in the district is 23 as per 1971 census. The main occupation of this tribe is collection of honey in forests. They live in thick interior forests. They are adept at trapping and training of elephants and are employed as *mahuts*. They practice also *kumri* cultivation. Some of them have now started working as agricultural labourers.

Special schemes have been prepared for the development of the tribes. A tribal sub-plan is in operation in the district, with Mudigere as its centre, covering a population of 6,995 persons of 1,160 families. Though lands were sanctioned to some of the tribals, all of them were not able to cultivate them on account of poverty and interference by non-tribals. Steps are being taken to find out the extent of encroachment on lands allotted to tribal people and their alienation, and to adopt remedial measures. It has been arranged that at least one-third of the bank credit under Differential Interest Rate Scheme is made available to the Scheduled Tribes. No liquor shops are to be located in or near the tribal areas. The States Temperance Board is trying to reduce their habit of drinking liquors. One of the five large-sized Agricultural Multi-Purpose Co-operative Societies is established at Karkala in Dakshina Kannada district to help the tribals of this region also the use of co-operative credit and marketing. Action is being taken to help the land-owning tribals with agricultural inputs. Each development department is required to earmark a certain portion of the budget provision for betterment of the conditions of the tribal people. In 1978-79, a sum of Rs 18.750 lakhs was spent for tribal welfare in the district by various departments. The tribal sub-plan outlay for 1980-81 is Rs 27.760 lakhs.

Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities

The question of adopting effective measures for ameliorating the economic conditions of backward classes and minorities in the State had been engaging the attention of the State Government. In 1972, the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission was appointed for systematic and detailed examination of the problems. Consequent on the recommendations of this Commission, the State Government categorised in 1977 the Backward Classes into Backward Communities, Backward Castes, Backward Tribes and Classes comprising Special Groups for the purpose of Article 15(iv) and 16(iv) of the Constitution of India. A separate Directorate for Backward Classes and Minorities for rendering assistance to them in various ways was set up in October 1977. It has a District Office at Chikmagalur. An Advisory Board for Backward

Classes has also been formed for purpose of considering the claims of various castes for inclusion in the list of Backward Classes and Backward Castes.

A scheme for awarding scholarships to pre-and post-matric students and programmes for starting hostels for the benefit of pre-and post-matric students are two of the welfare measures already taken up to help these sections. There are eight backward class hostels with a total strength of 575 boarders (1979). Of these, three are in Kadur taluk, two in Chikmagalur and one each in Sringeri, Tarikere and Narasimharajapura taluks. The Department is paying Rs 50 per boarder per month. The total expenditure incurred on running these hostels for the year 1978-79 was Rs 3.680 lakhs. A post-matric hostel is functioning at Birur with a strength of 100 boarders. During 1978-79, a total sum of Rs 2.413 lakhs was spent on this hostel. In 1978-79, as many as 2,239 students got pre-matric and post-matric scholarships involving a sum of Rs 2.02 lakhs. In 1979-80, the outlay for this purpose was Rs 2.930 lakhs to help 3,254 students. Ten aided hostels are also functioning in this district. Grant-in-aid at Rs 50 per boarder is being given to them.

RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

The Deputy Commissioner of the district exercises powers of control and supervision over all the major, minor and village *muzrai* institutions in the district. The Tahsildars are taluk *muzrai* officers in their respective jurisdictions. Those institutions having an income of Rs 1,000 per year and other institutions of importance as may be specified from time to time are generally termed as major *muzrai* institutions. Minor *muzrai* institutions are those whose annual income ranges from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000. Those institutions, which have an income of less than Rs 100, are called village *muzrai* institutions. There are such 34 major, 74 minor and 834 village institutions in the district, totalling 942 as in 1979. Of these 384 institutions are located in Chikmagalur taluk, 274 in Koppa taluk, 107 in Kadur taluk and the remaining in other taluks. There are also four Jain *basadis* in Mudigere taluk and one in Narasimharajapura taluk. Two choultries, one each at Kadur and Hariharapura of Koppa taluk, and a trust at Birur of Kadur taluk are also functioning under the control of the Muzrai Department. The Bhandigadi Tengina Matha and Shri Matha of Hariharapura, both in Koppa taluk, and the Basadi Matha in Narasimharajapura taluk are at present (1979) under Government supervision, but they are managed by their *Swamijis*. There is a committee of *Dharmadarshis* constituted by Government for each of the major and minor institutions to look after their affairs. Such committees are re-constituted once in three years. For purpose of meeting the daily expenditure of each institution,

a separate scale of income and expenditure is sanctioned. This scale is reviewed once in five years. The accounts are subject to audit by the State Accounts Department.

Many philanthropic persons have made endowments for the conduct of *sevas* in many of the *muzrai* institutions. A total extent of 6,224.10 acres (2,800 hectares) of lands was endowed to the *muzrai* institutions in the district. After introduction of Religious and Charitable Inams Abolition Act with effect from July 1970, the lands endowed to these institutions are vested with the Government. A total sum of Rs 3,559 as *malnad* cash grant and another total sum of Rs 299 as *tasdik* allowance are released by Government to some of the *muzrai* institutions every year. In addition, an annual total State grant of Rs 2,517 is also paid to 28 institutions in Chikmagalur taluk. Registers containing details of the jewels possessed by the *muzrai* institutions in the district are maintained in all taluk offices. Vigilance about their safety is exercised by the *muzari* officers by regular visits, and discrepancies, if any, are immediately brought to the notice of higher authorities for further action. Car festivals, *Dasara* etc., are celebrated annually with pomp and pageantry by many of the *muzrai* institutions.

Wakf institutions

For administration of the Muslim religious and charitable institutions, the Central Wakf Act, 1954, was enforced in the Mysore area with effect from 15th January 1955. Under Section 10 of this Act, the State Government constituted a Board of Wakfs with the Commissioner for Religious and Charitable Endowments as the Chairman. The necessary rules under the Act were also framed. Later, District Wakf Committees were constituted for each district by the Karnataka State Board of Wakfs to supervise the Muslim endowments in the districts.

There are, as in 1979, 115 mosques, *darghas* and other Muslim institutions in the district, which are supported by specific endowments. Of them, 40 are located in Chikmagalur, 11 in Mudigere, 8 in Koppa, one in Sringeri, 12 in Narasimharajapura, 20 in Tarikere and 23 in Kadur taluks. The total value of the properties endowed to them was Rs 21,45,450 with an annual income of Rs 1,83,500 and an expenditure of Rs 2,08,860 as in 1977-78. A District Wakf Committee, which supervises the working of these institutions, is functioning in the district.