

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The district of Chikmagalur is pre-eminently known for its enchanting hills, peaks, valleys, falls, forests and rivers, for its excellent cash crops of here coffee, cardamom, arecanut, coconut and oranges, and now also for its Kudremukh Iron Ore Project which is the largest mining undertaking in India and one of the biggest in the world. The district is smaller than several other districts of the State, but it contains sharp contrasts in topography, geology, soils, rainfall and crops. On the whole, it can be said that the nature has liberally bestowed its bounty on this region. Covering 7,199 sq km of landed area (i.e. 3.76 per cent of the total land area of the State), the district has a population of 7,36,647 (i.e., 2.51 per cent of the total population of the State as in 1971), its ranks in these two aspects being 15th and 18th respectively.

Workers and non-workers

In the 1931 census, the population was classified as 'earners' 'dependents' and 'working dependents', the last being an intermediate category of the first two. During the next census (1941), the term 'earner' was given up and the concepts of 'fully dependent' and 'partly dependent' were adopted. In 1951, the concepts of 'worker' and 'non-worker' were introduced. A decade later (1961), only those who participated in the production of economic goods and services were identified as workers, whereas in 1971 a worker was defined as a person whose main activity was participation in any economically productive work by his physical or mental activity, work being inclusive of not only actual work, but also effective supervision and direction of work. Because of these changes in criteria about the working force, it is not feasible to make exact comparisons about the proportions of workers from decade to decade.

Livelihood classification

In 1971, the ratio of workers to the total population of the district as in 1971 was 34.61 per cent. The total working population following different avocations was classified under nine categories. The position of this aspect

in the district in 1971 and compared to Karnataka and India as a whole is indicated in the table given hereunder.

Livelihood classification of workers into categories	Percentage to total population in Chikmagalur district	Percentage of categories to total number of workers in		
		Chikmagalur district	Karnataka	India
Cultivator	13.12	37.91	40.02	43.34
Agricultural labour	6.49	18.76	26.70	26.33
Livestock, forestry, etc.	6.59	19.04	4.12	2.38
Mining & quarrying	0.21	0.59	0.51	0.51
(a) Household industry	0.66	1.91	4.31	3.52
(b) Non-household industry	1.07	3.09	5.89	5.94
Construction	0.65	1.88	1.79	1.23
Trade and commerce	1.62	4.67	5.88	5.57
Transport, storage and communications	0.65	1.88	2.68	2.44
Other services	3.55	10.27	8.10	8.74
Total	34.61	100.00	100.00	100.00

More than 86 per cent of the total number of workers were earning livelihood in the rural parts. A majority of workers engaged in trade and commerce, transport, storage and communications were in the urban centres, while a large majority of the rest were working in the rural areas. The category of "other services" is mostly composed of Government employees, workers in local bodies and health units, teachers, those engaged in religious, welfare and community services, business, recreation and personal services, etc. Those persons engaged in own household duties and those, who were primarily students, were not considered as workers. The rural and the urban percentages of workers to the total working population, as in 1971, were as follows.

Sl. No.	Category	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Cultivator	36.43	1.48	37.91
2	Agricultural labour	17.70	1.06	18.76
3	Livestock, forestry, etc.	18.23	0.81	19.04
4	Mining & quarrying	0.59	0.00	0.59
5	(a) Household industry	1.28	0.63	1.91
	(b) Non-household industry	1.57	1.52	3.09
6	Construction	1.06	0.82	1.88
7	Trade & commerce	2.01	2.66	4.67
8	Transport, storage and communications	0.37	1.51	1.88
9	Other services	7.61	2.66	10.27
	Total	86.84	13.16	100.00

Out of 3,75,223 persons (inclusive of males and females) who came under the age-group 15-59, 58.86 per cent (2,20,856 persons) were workers, 80.42 per cent of the workers of this age-group were males. Out of the 34.6 per cent of the total population, who were workers, 19.6 per cent came under agricultural population and the rest, i.e., 15 per cent under non-agricultural population. The statement given below shows the sex-wise break-up in this respect pertaining to this district in comparison with Karnataka State and India as in 1971.

<i>Break-up</i>	<i>Chikmagalur</i>	<i>Karnataka</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>(Percentage of worker to total population)</i>		
Agricultural population			
Male	16.7	18.2	18.4
Female	2.9	5.0	4.6
Total	19.6	23.2	23.0
Non-agricultural population			
Male	11.1	9.6	8.8
Female	3.9	1.9	1.1
Total	15.0	11.5	9.9
Total participation—rate			
Male	27.8	27.8	27.2
Female	6.8	6.9	5.7
Total	34.6	34.7	32.9

From among the non-workers, about 84 per cent were in the rural areas and the remaining in the urban centres. This means that there were proportionately more non-workers in the rural parts.

Position in early decades

This area was occasionally referred to as “Honjavanige seeme” (region flowing with gold). An early available report of the modern period, that of Mr. Strokes, an European officer, points out the fact that about 1838, Chikmagalur was one of the thriving taluks in the erstwhile Mysore State. A report on the revenue survey and settlement published in 1876 states that the people in the district were found actively engaged in one or the other occupations, either on fields or in gardens, coffee estates, mending of roads, or tending of cattle, etc. The skin and antlers of hunted deer brought a good return; the reward for hunting a tiger or panther would suffice for a small family to live comfortably for a few months. The farmer, however, suffered under the age-old debts, though coffee cultivation in the area had, to some extent, helped him to improve his economic position. Lack of transport and communication facilities was a hurdle in improving their economic position.

In his report on the Census of Mysore for 1881, Mr. Lewis Rice, who was also the then Editor of *Mysore Gazetteer*, remarked that the general economic condition of the raiyats in the erstwhile Mysore State was comparatively better off than that of those in any other part of the country he was acquainted with. The Inspection Report of the then Dewan, pertaining to this district for the year 1917-18, mentions that the *sahukars* and big landlords were quite affluent. The tenants and agricultural labourers were steeped in ignorance and superstition, and were bound to the *sahukars* with heavy debts thrust on their shoulders by their forefathers and also their own to add to the misery and untold suffering. Their food was unwholesome and of the poorest kind, drinking water available to them was polluted by the decayed vegetable matter. They had neither any education worth the name, nor training from any source. Extreme poverty, ravages of malaria, pneumonia and small-pox, inadequacy of medical relief and high mortality of infants and women in child-birth had made the position of the labouring class very unhappy.

Village Economic Survey of 1925

A report of census survey published in 1925 in respect of the Bhandigadi village of Hariharapura taluk in the district states that the old *barabaluti* system was almost disappearing. This was due to the fact that the artisans slowly made their way to urban centres in order to better their lot. The land owners were too indolent to take up even small agricultural operations by themselves and depended mostly on the hired labour. The tenants and the labourers did all agricultural operations for their masters. There was low yield from the land and the working expenses were high, there being also a steep rise in agricultural wages. Because of this, position of the agriculturists, except the owners of areca gardens, who collected a better price for areca, was unenviable. The landless cultivator was a highly discontented person. He found it very hard to eke out a living. Considering the income and expenditure pattern of the families under study, the general standard of their living was very low. The annual average per capita expenditure was put at Rs 68.73. This was compared with the per capita expenditure of Rs 131.27 on a convict in the Central Jail at Bangalore. Even after making an allowance of Rs 30 per head towards the high cost of living in the city, there left a difference of Rs 32.54. Nearly half of their income was spent on food and clothing. More than half of the remaining income was wasted on unnecessary litigations, drinks and travels. Their expenditure on education was not even a rupee (Re 0-76).

Economic Survey of 1941

In 1941, the census selected 24 villages in the district for assessing the socio-economic position and published a report thereon in 1943. This report contains an analysis of the income and expenditure patterns of the selected families. It disclosed that all the families in 14 villages spent more

than their income and those in three other villages some how managed to make both ends meet, while the families in only three villages managed to save something for a rainy day ; however, this aspect could be generalised in respect of the families of the four remaining villages. More than 60 per cent of their expenditure was on food only ; it ranged from 79 in Kavadi village of Sringeri taluk to 47 in Gonibeedu village of Mudigere taluk. The minimum subsistence-level of these families was put at Rs 60. Taking this as the base, more than 50 per cent of the families in 17 out of 24 villages was below this level ; this percentage was as high as 90 in Yagati village of Kadur taluk. But families of Kanabur village of Narasimharajapura taluk, Jayapura village of Koppa taluk, Bukkambudhi village of Tarikere taluk and Mylemane village of Chikmagalur taluk were far above this subsistence-level.

Socio-economic Survey of 1961

In the 1961 census, a socio-economic survey of the families of the Yellambalase village in Kadur taluk was made. It was concluded that there was not much change in the pattern of livelihood over the two decades. Dependence on agriculture, on agricultural labour, on subsidiary occupations, trade, commerce and other services, in the method of cultivation followed, in their social customs, habits, etc., did not show much difference though, however, seeds of such change could be traced here and there. The owners of relatively large holdings of 10 acres and above fared better than those of small holdings of 5 to 10 acres. The rising price-level of arecanut helped some of them. The rising prices of other commodities and their impact on the economic condition of the labour class.

An analysis of the income and expenditure patterns of the families of this village revealed that only 29.4 per cent of the families were in a better position economically as their income exceeded the income-range of Rs 101, the income-range in the village being Rs 20 to Rs 100 per month. For the purpose of calculating the income separately for each of the five categories of occupations, viz., cultivators of owned lands, cultivators of land taken on lease, agricultural labourers, persons in household industries and others, the income of the households was reduced to the lowest minimum unit called the adult equivalent male (calculating adults as full persons and younger persons consuming less as less than one), the number of such adult equivalent males per household being 5. In each household, on an average three persons were found gainfully employed in one or the other occupation. The average income of an adult equivalent male was Rs 284 in respect of cultivators of owned lands, Rs 246 in household industry, Rs 271 in other services, Rs 177 in respect of cultivators of land taken on lease and Rs 156 in regard to agricultural labourers.

Among the items of expenditure, food and clothing took away a fat share of their monthly income. Agricultural labourers spent as much as

82.27 per cent of their monthly income on these two items, and cultivators of lands taken on lease 65.25 per cent, while persons in household industry and in other occupations spent 70.5 and 69.52 per cent respectively. The cultivators of owned lands spent more on hired labour, interest on loans, travelling and purchases for production. The amount spent by even this category on education was not even half of what they spent on intoxicants. The cultivators of lands taken on lease spent very little on education; it was four per cent on intoxicants and 0.09 per cent on education.

Price trends

It was recorded that in 1801 medium variety of rice was sold at 22 seers a rupee and ragi at 50 seers a rupee. During some succeeding years, the prices of these food-articles continued to remain low and the food-grains were grown always more than the local demand. This would have been maintained during the later year also, but for the abhorring practice of contracts and intervention by the intermediaries who exploited the ignorant grower. It was a common scene in *malnad* villages in those days to witness a *mopla* from Kerala or a *labbe* from Tamil Nadu moving from house to house supplying provisions and piece-goods to persons in *malnad* parts and collecting arecanut in return at the harvest season. He managed to make a huge profit at the cost of the growers by resorting to *idukattu* (reduction of price by at least 25 paise less than the market rate per maund), *mamool* (taking away five maunds for every 100 maunds of arecanut bought), *labhasere* (taking away half-a-seer on every maund bought) and *mungole* (adding an extra iron piece to the weight of the scale pans). In addition to such exploitations at the source itself, the *mandi* merchants and other selling agents at the nearby market centres picked up the thread at their end and collected *mamool* (one seer of arecanut for every maund), *labhasere* and *talarasi* (one seer of arecanut for every maund) and *seeme-dharane* (the custom of fixing the price at a price less than the market rate for each maund). In all, they collected not less than 12½ per cent of the total value purchased. They also advanced money to the growers during the sowing season subject to the condition that they should sell the products to them only at the prefixed price. These agents then exported the paddy outside the district at a much higher price and got a large margin of profit. It was recorded that the grower was made to part with his produce at Rs 3 (sometimes Rs 2.75) for a *mudi* of 55 seers of paddy during the months of January and February. As the *sahukars* and other agents took away a large portion of the produce, the grower was reduced to the necessity of making purchases for the use of his family itself at Rs 4 (sometimes Rs 4.50) plus transportation charges for a *mudi* of 55 seers of paddy from the nearby market. The result was that the grower was left with no other alternative but to pledge the next year's produce also to the local *sahukars*.

Because of rising prices, the plight of the ordinary man was growing from bad to worse. By about 1855, rice of medium variety was sold at

16 seers a rupee and ragi at 30 seers a rupee, while a maund of arecanut was sold at Rs 3.20. During the great famine of 1875-78, the prices of foodgrains moved up steeply. In 1876, medium variety of rice was sold at 11 seers a rupee. In 1877, the same variety was sold at 4 seers a rupee. This upward movement of prices kept up during the coming years also.

A report of the year 1925 of the Department of Statistics quotes averages for each of the foodgrains, comparing them with the average for the State, the State average being 100. Between 1886 and 1890, the average for rice stood at 78.8. It had risen to 124.5 between 1890 and 1895, 130.2 between 1895 and 1900, 132.4 between 1901 and 1905 and 147.9 between 1906 and 1911. The average for ragi kept pace with that of rice. It was 97.1 between 1886 and 1890 and had risen to 146.8, 186.0 and 240.5 during the successive corresponding periods.

Further rise in prices

Coffee, arecanut and cardamom are the main commercial crops of the district. In 1901, arecanut was sold at Rs 8, coffee at Rs 8.25 and cardamom at Rs 35 per maund. By 1925, the corresponding rates were Rs 16, Rs 20 and Rs 110. The fluctuations in prices of these commercial crops were frequent. The Government of India set up the Coffee Board in the year 1940. Coffee was subjected to pool sales. The Coffee Board took upon itself the work of grading coffee seeds into plantation 'A' Arabica, Cherry Flats A/B and Robusta Cherry Flats A/B. The annual prices realised in the pool-sales ranged from Rs 201.95 to Rs 247.19 for plantation 'A', Rs 161.53 to Rs 210.73 for Arabica Cherry and Rs 144.00 to Rs 176.78 for Robusta Cherry between 1954 and 1964. This increasing trend could be observed in respect of foodgrains like paddy and ragi also. In 1931, paddy was sold at Rs 7.57 per *palla* of 100 seers and ragi at Rs 4.08 for the same quantity. By 1950, the corresponding prices of these two important food items stood at Rs 21.19 and Rs 19.20 respectively. Between 1960 and 1971, the pace of the movement of prices was doubled. The prices of paddy and ragi had risen from Rs 46.30 and Rs 42.33 to Rs 86.58 and Rs 84.31 per quintal during this period. Similarly, the price of arecanut had risen from Rs 485.50 to Rs 661.06 and that of cardamom from Rs 1,937.18 to Rs 5,260.40 per quintal. The average price paid to coffee-planters in the regular pool-sales was Rs 6,050 per metric tonne.

In 1974-75, the price per quintal of paddy was quoted at Rs 123.63 and for ragi at Rs 143.54. Cardamom was sold at Rs 10,833.33 per quintal. In 1976, the average price paid to coffee-planters was Rs 13,204 per metric tonne. The cumulative impact of several measures introduced by the Government, the frontal attack on many smugglers by rounding them up under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, the introduction of the Dividend Control Act, the impounding of dearness allowances, etc., arrested the speed of the movement of prices to some extent for a while. The prices started moving up again from about April 1976.

Wages

In the malnad parts, there has been many a time shortage of labour. It has been a practice for labourers from the adjacent districts and sometimes from the neighbouring States also to come to this district during the busy seasons and return to their native places during the slack seasons. Old records show that *Miyararu* from below the ghats worked for five to six months in coffee estates and areca gardens on a monthly salary of Rs 4 and a daily quota of a seer of rice and some salt and chillies. *Kavadegaudaru*, a versatile group of labourers from Sorab and Sagar taluks of Shimoga district, known for their fragile body and sharpness in work, worked on contract basis during the monsoon season and collected Rs 6 for covering 1,000 bunches of area. *Hamina*, a group of nomadic labourers, who moved from place to place in search of better employment and better wages, were paid advances which were adjusted during the *Yugadi* and *Navaratri* festivals out of their earnings. The estate-owners collected some nominal interest on such advances. These labourers insisted on leave of absence for 150 days in a year which was conceded. The local labourers were called *Mann* and *Hutalu* workers. The former were more or less attached to the soil, while the later could go out after payment of all debts.

There arose a class of middle men called *Servegars* who were labour-recruiting agents. They supplied labourers on fixed wage basis and payment of advances ranging from Rs 50 to Rs 100 for each labourer. The employers adjusted this advance out of the wages earned by the labourers.

In 1801, according to Buchanan, a male worker got 13 paise to 18 paise per day and a female worker was paid half of that. In 1874, a male worker per day got three to four pucca seers of ragi and a female worker two seers. Women, who were engaged in weeding work or spreading of manure, got three seers of ragi. During the harvest season, each labourer got one *marra* or six seers of ragi. By 1915-16, the skilled workers like carpenters, masons, painters, stone-carvers, etc., got Rs 0.75 to Rs 1.50 per day. Whereas an unskilled worker got Re 0.19 to Re 0.50 per day. By 1925, the *Servegars* started supplying labourers at the wage-rate of Re 0.25 to Re 0.38 per day for a male worker. Payment was made generally at the end of every week. The advances paid to them were adjusted by the time of the weekly payment. Some of the labourers got very little and suffered much. In 1925, the District Economic Survey Officer submitted a proposal to Government to start an agency which could serve as an employment bureau for preventing unhealthy competitions and for keeping a strict vigilance on advances paid and wages received.

By the end of 1930, a skilled worker got Rs 1.50 to Rs 2.50 and an unskilled worker roughly half of it. The generality of agricultural labourers got rock-bottom wages and their lot was hard. In 1941, their wages were Re 0.25 to Re 0.50 for men, Re 0.13 to Re 0.38 for women, and Re 0.06

to Re 0.25 for children for a day's work. There was general discontentment among this class of persons. In 1948, the Centre passed a Minimum Wages Act. The State adopted this Act and began to fix minimum wages payable to agricultural workers. In 1959, the minimum wages fixed for class "A" agricultural labourers who were engaged in ploughing, digging, harrowing, sowing, inter-culturing, irrigating or watering and up-rooting were Rs 1.25 for dry lands, Rs 1.50 for wet lands and Rs 1.75 for garden lands. These rates were further revised to Rs 1.85, Rs 2.20 and Rs 2.55 in 1968, Rs 3.15, Rs 3.75 and Rs 4.30 in 1973 and Rs 4.10, Rs 4.90 and 5.60 in 1976 respectively. Similarly, upward revisions were made in wages for class "B" labourers who were engaged in manuring, transplanting, weeding, reaping including harvesting, threshing and winnowing and picking. According to the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (Central Act of 1976), it is the duty of the employer to pay equal remuneration to women also for same work of similar nature. In 1979, the Minimum Wages Act was amended so as to enable the worker to get double the ordinary rate of wages for the extra work whenever he works for over nine hours a day or 48 hours a week.

Unemployment problem

Employers and employment seekers of the district are availing themselves of the employment exchange facilities provided by the Government. The District Employment Exchange, Chikmagalur, has been functioning since 1961. The jurisdiction of this office extended to the whole of the revenue district. In 1976, a Project Employment Exchange was started at Kalasa in Mudigere taluk to meet especially the requirements of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project. The employers and employment-seekers of Mudigere and Sringeri taluks are generally expected to approach this Project Employment Exchange. There is a District Employment Committee the function of which is to tender advice on problems relating to employment and on measures for expanding employment by yreviewing and assessing the employment position in the district.

An Employment Market Information Unit and a Vocational Guidance Unit are attached to the District Employment Exchange, Chikmagalur. The information relating to all establishments in the public sector and those establishments in private sector, which employ 25 or more persons, is being collected by this Information Unit under the Compulsory Notification of Vacancies Act, 1959. In respect of establishments employing ten to twenty four persons, the information is being collected on voluntary basis. By the end of 1979, 374 establishments in the district were identified by this Unit for the purpose of collecting the information at regular intervals. Out of them, four were of Central Government, 41 quasi-Central Government establishments, 130 of State Government, 30 quasi-State Government Units, 16 local bodies and 28 other establishments covered under the Act, and 125 were not covered under the said Act. Self-employed persons, persons in

agriculture, household establishments, defence forces and establishments in the private sector employing less than ten workers are excluded from the purview of this. According to the data thus collected, the total number employed in public and private sectors stood at 18,930 as on 31st March 1969 and it had risen only to 20,857 by 31st March 1978 and then there was relatively a better increase to 22,046 by 30th June 1979. The classification of such employment under major heads as on the latter two dates was as given hereunder.

Sl. No.	Major heads	Total employment (private & public sectors)	
		31-3-1978	30-6-1979
1	Agriculture, hunting & forestry	4,902	2,958
2	Mining and quarrying	292	1,335
3	Manufacturing	2,835	2,828
4	Electricity, gas and water supply	782	870
5	Constructions	1,698	3,188
6	Wholesale and retail trade	248	228
7	Transport and storage	277	279
8	Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	612	881
9	Community, social and personal services	9,211	9,489
Total		20,857	22,056

The employment-seekers are expected to get their names registered in the employment exchanges. The total number of employment-seekers on the Live Register of the District Employment Exchange has been considerably increasing. The number, which was 1,711 in 1961, had risen to 3,506 in 1966, 5,134 in 1971, 11,198 in 1976 and 11,748 in 1979. Similarly, the total number on the Live Register of the Project Employment Exchange, Kalasa, was 2,744 in 1977, 3,046 in 1978 and 3,192 in 1979.

The employers notify the number of vacancies in their establishments and get them filled up through the Exchange every year. Periodical details of such vacancies notified, filled and outstanding are given in the following table.

Year	Notified	Filled	Outstanding
1961	1,011	747	264
1966	1,248	779	469
1971	1,110	829	281
1976	963	531	281
1979 (November)	311	168	267

A large number of employment-seekers remain unemployed at the end of each year. This has become a serious problem in respect of educated

persons. In 1971, the total number of educated unemployed persons was 2,867. This number had risen to 4,271 in 1974, 6,898 in 1976 and 7,982 in June 1979. The State Government has initiated several schemes for reducing the acuteness of the problem concerning the educated unemployed and to give relief to them. They are employment assistance to technically qualified persons, graduates and post-graduates, stipendiary scheme for training of engineering graduates and diploma holders, incentive schemes for self-employment for technically qualified, certificate and diploma-holders, etc. Under the stipendiary employment scheme, 476 unemployed graduates, post-graduates and diploma-holders were paid at the rate of Rs 150 per month as stipend and they were working in various departments as at the end of October 1979; 392 persons were still waiting on the Live Register on that date.

About 7,490 persons were found waiting on the Live Register of Employment Exchange for more than three years and about 2,260 for more than two years. At the end of November 1979, nearly 890 candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 40 to the Scheduled Tribes waiting for employment were on the Live Register. Agricultural labourers in the rural areas suffer from much poverty for want of adequately gainful employment opportunities. A number of marginal farmers are always on the look-out for gainful employment to supplement their income. Some of the artisans find employment for only five to six months a year. In order to provide assured employment to these people at least during the slack season, the State Government has introduced a scheme called the Employment Affirmation Scheme. This is in operation in the Kadur taluk of the district since 1978-79. Efforts are made to provide employment for indigent agricultural labourers for about 100 days in a year during the slack season when each such labourer is paid at the rate of Rs 4 per day. One-third of the total wages earned is paid in cash and the remaining two-thirds in kind (grains). In 1978-79, a sum of Rs 2.343 lakhs was spent on this account generating 54,154 man-days and providing employment to 2,934 persons.

Level of development

In 1961, the census authorities made an assessment of the level of economic development in all the districts of the State. According to them, Chikmagalur district was relatively a highly developed district. In the same year, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics ranked the districts according to relative development and it was found that the Chikmagalur district got the third place under mean-weighted ranking, second place in respect of *per capita* income and fifth place when the aggregate score was taken into consideration. In 1968, some alternative indicators were used for the purpose of assessing the development. They were (i) number of radios in use for every one thousand persons, (ii) number of telephones for every ten thousand persons and (iii) number of registered motor vehicles for

every one lakh of persons during that year. In these respects, the district obtained the 7th, 7th and 9th ranks among the districts of the State respectively.*

In the same year, under another count, they used two more indicators, viz., the percentage of towns and villages electrified and the number of permanent talkies (cinema theatres) for every ten thousand people. In both these respects, Chikmagalur got the 8th place. Further, they took up the overall development achieved by the districts and the total number of ranks obtained under various indicators. Accordingly, the districts were regrouped in the descending order of development. Under these criteria, it was found that the Chikmagalur district got the 8th rank in the State. In 1968-69, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics made an assessment of the level of development and assigned the third place to the Chikmagalur district, the first two being Shimoga and Dakshina Kannada districts. The same agency calculated the *per capita* net value of output for the rural population only in the agricultural sector. In this respect, this district got proportionately the second place. By the end of 1969, another set of indicators, which were accepted by the Programme Administration Division of the Planning Commission, were used, as a result of which the 9th rank was assigned to this district. -Oct.

In 1974, the Planning Commission made an attempt to arrive at an integrated view of the comparative development of the districts. For this purpose, they took 22 indicators classified under six categories. Under such composite index of development used by that body, the district got the 7th rank in 1960-61 and 13th rank in 1970-71. They concluded that the district had shown signs of stagnation and needed greater attention in order to maintain its level of development.

Investigations into the average agricultural productivity index values were made in 1974 for the triennium of 1961-64 and of 1970-73** crops like rice, ragi, jowar, bajra, wheat, minor millets, bengalgram, tur, groundnut, safflower, cotton and sugarcane were covered for the purpose. A comparative value was arrived at, and it was found that the district moved from a low productivity index value of 98.14 in 1961-64 to a medium-level productivity value of 118.39 in 1970-73. The linear rate of growth of agricultural productivity between these two periods was 4.01 which was the highest among the districts of the State.

*Delineation of Backward Regions, article by Rao, V.K.R.V. in "Planning for Change", 1975.

**Studies prepared by Sharma, I.C. and Coutinho, O. Department of Geography, Rani Parvati Devi College, Belgaum.

The Statistical unit of the Department of Agriculture made an assessment of the relative position of the Chikmagalur district in 1975. Classifying the districts of the State under four categories, viz., highly developed, developed, backward and highly backward, they grouped Chikmagalur as a backward district in so far as agricultural development was concerned. In 1974-75, an assessment of the overall development achieved in the district *vis-a-vis* the State was made by the Regional Planning unit of the Economic Adviser's Division of the State Government. They selected some 22 indicators and made the composite index. Under this, the weighted composite index of development for the Chikmagalur district was found to be 94.14, the State index being 100. In order to get an integrated view of economic development as also the magnitude and nature of inter-district imbalances, a development index was devised by the State Planning Department in 1978-79. When this was applied the position of this district was found to be as follows.

(State average=100)

Year	Development index	Rank among districts of the state	Standard deviation for the State
1960—61	123.74	7	48.31
1971—72	92.66	12	36.44
1974—75	94.14	12	34.24
1976—77	84.56	16	33.13

It was concluded that the district is backward in respect of infrastructure, agriculture, industry and utilisation of land.

Development of Western Ghats

A scheme for the improvement of the districts of Shimoga, Kadur (present Chikmagalur) and Hassan was taken up by the Government of the erstwhile Mysore State in 1917. To help implementation of the decisions of the Government in this respect, a Malnad Improvement Committee at the district-level and a taluk-level committee in each taluk were constituted. These committees worked well for some time. In 1941, a Malnad Development Committee was formed. Immediately after the formation of the New Mysore State, the Government set up a Malnad Development Board in place of the Malnad Development Committee. In 1969, a special Committee was formed at the Centre, and it was charged with the responsibility of evolving a feasible programme of developing rich and varied resources of the districts coming under the western ghats of various States. On the advice of this Central Committee, the State Government set up a small Committee of technical experts to identify the taluks of the region which are economically backward and require immediate attention of the Government. Accordingly, the Committee identified 55 taluks in the State, including all the taluks except Kadur of this district. The Second Irrigation Commission set up by the Government of India indicated that 28 *malnad* taluks of the

State could be taken up for all-round development on a priority-area basis. The taluks of Koppa, Mudigere and Sringeri of Chikmagalur district were included in this list. The High-Power Committee at the Centre accepted this view. A set of schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 782.71 lakhs, covering important sectors like animal husbandry, horticulture, agriculture, irrigation, forestry and tourism for all the 28 taluks were proposed.

District Plans

The District Plans of the type that were drafted for the second and third Five-Year Plans marked a beginning in directing a focus of development to the level of district and below. The first Five-Year Plan had mentioned that "district plans are always essential, but they may gain in value if they are also part of well-considered regional plans". The Second Five-Year Plan described the district plans "as the pivot of the structure of democratic planning and an agency of change towards a new social life". The Third Five-Year Plan gave the district a very important position in the whole structure of planning. The introduction of Panchayat Raj at the lowest level was a beginning of the shifting of emphasis. The Fourth Five-Year Plan stressed the need to strengthen regional planning and integrated area development programmes, "meaningfully woven into the frame of the district plan" in order to help the process of planning from below. The shift of emphasis on district and local planning where people's participation could be ensured by strengthening district-level planning through Panchayat Raj institutions was accepted by the Fifth Five Year Plan. The three-tier institutions, viz., panchayats, taluk development boards and district development councils, were asked to discuss the various aspects of the plan programmes in order to generate a popular response needed for participation in the plan efforts.

In 1978-79, the State Government introduced a two-tier planning process demarcating the district sector schemes from the State sector schemes. Taking stock of the level of development and also the resources available for exploitation, the District Planning Committee prepares the plan programmes for the district. Blocks are now treated as units of planning for providing gainful employment for those who need work. This helps better local participation, mobilisation of resources and gradual reduction of imbalances. With this end in view, the Government got the block plans prepared in respect of 51 out of 175 blocks in the State during 1978-79, Sringeri and Kadur taluks of this district have been selected for this purpose. In the preparation of these plans, Government have involved academic and research institutions apart from the district planning machinery.

It is stated that the development of the district during the first four Five-Year Plans was not fairly impressive. During the Fifth Plan period, more efforts were made for balanced development of the district. The position in the district at the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the year 1978 was as follows.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Chikmagalur District	Karnataka State	India
1	Net area sown as percentage to total area.	32.03	53.84	45.70
2	Net area irrigated per 100 persons as a percentage of net area sown per 100 persons.	15.25	14.00	25.00
3	Number of school students attending schools from 1st to 5th standards as percentage of total population.	8.60	10.93	25.80
4	Percentage of literates to total population	35.00	31.50	29.60
5	Percentage of female literates to total female population.	25.00	20.70	13.72
6	Percentage of male literates to total male population.	44.00	41.90	39.45
7	Surfaced road-length per 100 sq km	25.00	20.70	18.72
8	Population per hospital or dispensary with a strength of 26 beds	38,708	26,679	53,373
9	Population served per primary health unit	18,386	63,315	—
10	Population served per commercial Bank branch	13,371	3,000	4,000

A review of the progress achieved in different sectors of economy was made by the Planning Department of the State in 1977-78. The position in the district in 1975-76 as disclosed by the indicators adopted for the purpose was as set forth below.

1	Net area irrigated as per cent of net area sown	11.9
2	Area under high-yielding varieties (in '00 hectares)	378
3	Area sown more than once as per cent of net area sown	8.4
4	Consumption of fertilisers (in '00 tonnes)	38
5	Soil-conservation (in '000 hectares)	25.60
6	Agricultural production (in lakh tonnes) :	
	Foodgrains	1.71
	Oil-seeds	0.12
	Sugarcane	1.40
	Cotton (in bales of 170 kg)	1,338
7	Percentage of villages electrified (1976-77)	80.38
8	Number of pump-sets energised (1976-77)	2,335
9	Number of small-scale industrial units	206
10	Number of co-operative societies	103
11	(a) Short-term loans advanced by agricultural co-operatives (Rs '000)	17,482
	(b) Medium-term loans (Rs. '000)	132
	(c) Long-term loans (Rs '000)	11,389
12	Bank facilities	
	Number of bank branches	6
	Population served by a bank branch	12,000
	Commercial bank advances (Rs in lakhs)	802
13	Road-length per '00 sq. km	49
14	Number of post offices	266
15	Number of — Primary schools	1,209
	Secondary schools	70
	Higher educational institutions	5
16	Total number of health institutions (1976-77)	62
	Number of beds	508
17	Veterinary institutions	50
	Animal bovine population served per veterinary institution	12,02

District income

The National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, assessed the income of the district at Rs. 17 crores for the year 1955-56. The State Bureau of Economics and Statistics estimated that it was Rs. 28.6 crores in 1970-71, Rs 69.2 crores in 1974-75 and Rs 106.59 crores in 1975-76. The index of district income with 1960-61 as the base moved from 185.57 in 1970-71 to 242.02 in 1974-75.

A lion's share of the income originates from agriculture (including horticulture) and animal husbandry. These two sectors constituted more than 66 per cent of the total income in 1960-61 and 79 per cent in 1974-75. The percentage contribution of the district to the State income was of the order of 4.29 in 1960-61, 3.39 in 1970-71 and 2.72 in 1974-75. The table given below shows the percentages of contribution to the district income by the various spheres.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Sectors</i>	<i>1960-61</i>	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1975-76</i>
1	Agriculture	72.59	77.47	68.35
2	Forestry and Logging	3.88	2.89	3.00
3	Fishing	0.07	0.60	1.08
4	Mining and Quarrying	0.18	0.13	0.09
5	Manufacturing			
	(a) Registered	1.87	1.10	1.38
	(b) Unregistered	1.34	1.42	1.42
6	Construction	7.22	3.72	5.47
7	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.28	0.42	0.75
8	Railways	0.21	0.54	0.60
9	Transport by other means	0.85	0.89	1.45
10	Communications	0.21	0.36	0.30
11	Trade, Hotels and Restaurants	4.90	4.04	6.46
12	Banking and Insurance	0.53	0.46	1.26
13	Real estate ownership of dwellings and business services	1.80	1.26	1.67
14	Public Administration	1.62	1.52	2.11
15	Other services	2.47	3.19	4.61

Per capita income

The Chikmagalur district occupied the second position among the districts, of the State in respect of *per capita* income in 1960-61. But its place was reckoned as the seventh in 1974-75, and it regained its second rank during the next year, i.e., 1975-76. The *per capita* income and percentage variation of the district as compared with the State average during some years are given below :

Year	Per capitaincome		Percentagevariation	
	District	State	District	State
1960—61	495	285
1970—71	732	540	+48.0	+89
1974—75	853	784	+16.5	+45.2
1975—76	1,327	1,005	+55.6	+28.2
1977—78	1,520	1,132	—	—

Consumer price-index numbers

The consumer price-index numbers are being computed for purposes of knowing the percentage changes in prices paid by consumers over a period of time. According to the Labour Bureau of Simla, the consumer price index-numbers for industrial workers in respect of Chikmagalur Centre from 1965 to 1975, were as follows.

(Base year 1960=100)

Year	Food	General	Year	Food	General
1965	160	148	1971	202	199
1966	204	180	1972	210	204
1967	195	176	1973	271	250
1968	207	186	1974	332	310
1969	188	176	1975	362	339
1970	187	181			

The consumer price-index numbers for working class are being worked out by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics for nine centres in Karnataka. Though Chikmagalur is not one of those nine centres, the index numbers of adjoining centres can give some approximate idea about the position at Chikmagalur. With the base year July 1958 to June 1959, the index numbers at Hassan Centre were 430 in 1961, 574 in 1965 and 740 in 1970. During the corresponding years, the index numbers at Bhadravati were 450, 633 and 885. With the arithmetically shifted base year at 1970=100, the index numbers were 184 for Hassan and 209 for Bhadravati in 1970; these numbers had risen to 312 and 345 respectively by 1976.

The Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi, is computing index numbers for urban non-manual middle class employees for Bangalore, Mangalore, Hubli-Dharwad and Gulbarga centres with the base year 1960=100. Among them, Mangalore is the nearest centre to Chikmagalur. Hence, the index numbers of Mangalore centre are noted here for some recent years.

(Base : 1960 = 100)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Mangalore centre</i>
1961	104
1965	137
1969	167
1973	216
1974	259
1975	286
1976	283
1977	304
1978	314
1979	33
1980	368

Statement showing the industry-wise classification of estimated employment in public and private sectors in the District of Chikmagalur as on 31st March 1979.

<i>Description of industry</i>	<i>No. of establishments</i>	<i>Total employment as on 31-3-79</i>
Coffee plantations	63	4,196
Livestock hunting	1	131
Horticulture and nursery services	2	60
Planting and replanting in forests	2	395
Soil-conservation	1	56
Logging and cutting of trees	1	30
Production of fish	1	34
Mining and quarrying	2	292
Manufacture of edible oils and fats	3	39
Tea-processing	8	1,514
Coffee-curing	5	655
Sawing & planing of wood	12	151
Manufacture of pepper and pepper products	4	64
Manufacture of rubber and rubber products	2	16
Manufacture of drugs	1	11
Manufacture of matches	1	21
Manufacture of bricks & tiles	1	97
Manufacture of iron & iron products	1	267
Distribution of electrical energy	13	782
Construction of buildings	11	566
Construction of roads & buildings	22	1,132
Wholesale trade in cereals & pulses	2	26
" " textile products	6	81
" " chemicals	1	2
" " agricultural equipments	1	9
Wholesale trade in furniture	1	8
Dealers in ready-made dress	1	9

1	2	3
Restaurants and hotels	14	122
Passenger transport by bus	3	202
Freight transport by motor vehicles	1	8
Transport and communications	2	7
Banking services	26	338
Provident fund services	1	5
Insurance careers	1	46
Legal services	8	223
Public Service in Central Govt.	3	39
„ State Govt.	58	2,385
„ local bodies	16	602
„ quasi-Govt.	7	288
Sanitary services in public health engineering	2	36
Educational services in technical and vocational colleges	3	87
- do - in schools	64	4,332
Research and scientific services	1	54
Health and medical services	2	1,027
Veterinary services	1	182
Religious services	1	20
Library and Museum	1	22
Recreational services	10	137
Total	394	20,587

TABLE—1

Itemwise rankings and weights assigned by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics to Chickmagalur district as in 1968-69

Sl. No.	Indicators	Weights assigned to indicators	Ranks	Product
1	Density of population (1961)	2	4	8
2	Percentage of workers in agricultural sector to total no. of workers (1961)	20	4	80
3	Cultivable area <i>per capita</i> per agricultural worker (1961-62)	4	3	12
4	Net area sown <i>per capita</i> per agricultural worker (1961-62)	4	10	40
5	Percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown (1961-62)	20	4	80
6	Percentage of double cropped area (1961-62)	10	8	80
7	Output in agricultural sector <i>per capita</i> rural population (1960-61)	8	2	16
8	Number of workers in registered factories per lakh of population (1962)	10	16	160
9	Length of roads per 100 sq. km of area (1962-63)	5	9	45
10	Goods vehicles per lakh of population (1963-64)	5	7	35
11	Literacy (in total population of 1961)	5	7	35
12	Technical training seats per lakh of population (1963-64)	3	4	12
13	Hospital beds per lakh of population (1962)	4	9	36
		100		639

The mean weighted [639 % — 6.39] ranking
[composite index] — 3

TABLE-2

Figures relating to Chikmagalur district in respect of indicators of development as accepted by the Programme Administration Division of the Planning Commission as in 1969

Sl. No.	Indicators	Number	Rank
1	Density of population per sq.km-1965	93	5
2	Number of workers engaged in agriculture as percentage of total workers—1961.	60.03	4
3	Cultivable area per agricultural worker—(1964-65) (acres)	7.10	4
4	Net area per agricultural worker (1964-65) (acres)	3.10	9
5	Percentage of gross irrigated area to gross sown area—(1964-65)	20.57	5
6	Percentage of area sown more than once to net sown area—(1964-65).	3.96	9
7	Per capita gross value of agricultural out-put—(1965-66)	576.78	2
8	Establishments using electricity (total number) (1965-66)	16,961	12
9	Number of workers per lakh of population employed in registered factories—(1965)	165	16
10	Mileage of surfaced roads—(1965-66)		
	(a) per 1,000 sq. miles	290	9.5
	(b) per lakh of population	137	3
11	Number of commercial vehicles registered (1965-66)	419	16
12	Percentage of literate population-1961		
	(a) Men	37.6	9
	(b) Women	16.4	7
13	Percentage of school-going children—(1962-63)		
	Age-group		
	(a) 6 to 11 Boys	101.46	14
	- do - Girls	81.17	7
	(b) 11 to 14 Boys	47.29	10
	- do - Girls	15.59	11
14	Seats for technical training per million population (1965-66) (Diploma-level)	121	16
15	Hospital beds per lakh of population—(1964-65)	68	12
	Total number of weights	194.5	
	Rank assigned to the district	9	

TABLE 3

Development of Chikmagalur district in various aspects from about 1960-61 to 1970-71

Sl. No.	Category/Indicator	Year	Index	Year	Index
1	Density of population (Population per Sq km)	1961	83	1971	102
2	Percentage of urban population to total population	1961	15	1971	15.6
3	Percentage of agricultural workers to total No. of workers	1961	60	1971	56.0
4	Net area sown as percentage of total area	1959-60	28.7	1969-70	31.7
5	Double-cropped area (area sown more than once) as percentage of net area sown	..	2.9	..	8.0
6	Net area sown as per cent of cultivable land	..	72.5	..	75.1
7	Average yield per hectare in (kgs) Cereals	..	1,097	..	1,256
8	do Pulses	..	389	..	143
9	do Oil-seeds	..	429	..	736
10	Number of industrial establishments as percent of State total	1958	1.25	1969	1.05
11	Net area irrigated as per cent of net area sown	1959-60	27.0	1969-70	13.2
12	Number of vehicles per lakh of population	1960-61	156	1970-71	235
13	Road length in km. per 100 sq.km. of area	1961	28.5	1970-71	38.2
14	Number of people (in 000's) served by a bank office (commercial and co-operative)	1960	25.4	1972	13.4
15	Value of turnover per regulated market	1960-61	2.7	1971-72	4.3
16	Percentage of literates in total population	1961	27.5	1971	35.0
17	Number of schools (General, professional and special education) per lakh of population	1959-60	163	1970-71	180
18	Population served by one University Education Institution	..	584	..	184.2
19	Population served by one Health Unit, hospitals, dispensaries, primary unit	1960	66	1970	13
20	Number of beds (in hospitals and dispensaries) per lakh of population	..	46	..	56
21	Number of towns and villages electrified as per cent of total number of towns and villages	..	21.4	..	56.0
22	Number of irrigation pumpsets electrified as per cent of the State total	..	1.0	..	1.1

TABLE 4

Extent of development or infrastructural facilities in Chikmagalur District as compared with averages of India and Karnataka

Sl. No.	Indicators	India	Karnataka	Chikmagalur district	Rank of Chikmagalur district in Karnataka
1	Net area sown as percentage of total area according to village papers (1969-70)	45.7 1967-68	53.84	31.7	15
2	Net area irrigated per 1,000 persons as percentage of net area sown per 1,000 persons (1969-70)	25.8*	14	13.2	11
3	Number of school students (IV Std.) as percentage of total population in each district (1970-71)	11.0	10.93	11.8	7
4	Percentage of literacy (total) (1971)	29.46	31.5	35.0	7
	do male	39.45	41.9	44.1	7
	do female	18.72	20.7	25.2	6
5	Surfaced road length per 100 sq.km. (in km.) (1970-71)	11.75 (1969-70)	21.4	24.9	8
6	Population per unit of hospitals/dispensaries (1970)	33,373	29,679	33,708	15
7	Population per Primary Health Unit (1970)	—	64,315	18,386	1
8	Population served by each commercial/co-operative bank (1972)	40,000	23,000	13,371	6

* Mainly certain taluks of the district, viz., Mudigere and Sringeri, have been identified as backward tracts in terms of road facilities.