

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Introduction

IN the beginning of the century, public administration in the State largely consisted in providing security of person and property and realising the revenue necessary to maintain several departments. The Police, Prisons and Judiciary represented the security departments, while Land Revenue, Excise, Registration and Stamps formed the main revenue part of the administration. The Public Works Department was an important limb of the Government. With the passage of time and gradual introduction of liberal measures, nation-building departments such as Education, Health, Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Co-operation attained growing importance. After the achievement of independence, continuous efforts are being made to promote all-round welfare of the people at a quicker pace.

Deputy

Commissioner

In the general pattern of the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner is the custodian of Government property in land (including trees and water), wherever situated, and at the same time the guardian of the interests of members of the public in land, in so far as the interests of Government in land have been conceded to them. All land, wherever situated, whether put to agricultural or other uses, is liable to payment of land revenue except in so far as it may be expressly exempted by a special contract (*vide* Section 45 of the Land Revenue Code). Such land revenue is of three kinds: (1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. The Deputy Commissioner's duties are in respect of (1) fixation, (2) collection and (3) accounting of all such land revenue. The collection of land revenue rests with the Deputy Commissioner, who has to see that the revenue due is recovered punctually and with the minimum of coercion and that the collections are properly credited and accounted for. The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various other Acts in respect of irrigation, stamps, courts, tolls on roads and bridges, prohibition, etc. He is also responsible for the collection of dues declared as arrears of land revenue.

The Revenue District of Chitradurga has been divided into two Sub-Divisions, with headquarters at Chitradurga and Davangere, respectively, in charge of officers who are in the cadre of Assistant Commissioners. In addition to these two officers, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted in his office work by two officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioners designated as Headquarters Assistant and District Development Assistant and one officer of the rank of Tahsildar styled as Gazetted Office Assistant. Besides these officers, there is a Food Assistant as also a District Treasury Officer assisting the Deputy Commissioner.

The revenue administration of the district vests in the Deputy Commissioner under the provisions of the Mysore Land Revenue Code, 1964. He is also the District Magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure (Mysore Amendment), 1965, and is in charge of the administration of law and order in the district. In addition to his duties as the revenue head of the district, the Deputy Commissioner holds *ex-officio* posts such as District Registrar with power of supervision over all the Sub-Registrars, Chairman, District Development Council for general supervision over developmental activities, Chairman, District Advisory Committee on Employment and Chairman, Regulated Market Committees located at Davangere, Challakere, Hiriya, Hosadurga, Harihar and Chitradurga.

As the head of the revenue administration of the district, the Deputy Commissioner exercises all the powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Code, 1964. In addition, he exercises powers under the provisions of various other Acts such as the Land Acquisition Act, Mysore Tenancy Act, Mysore Irrigation Act, Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Mysore Land Improvements and Taccavi Loans Act, Mysore Agricultural Income-Tax Act, Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1958, and the Town Municipalities Act. The Deputy Commissioner is the chief executive authority under the Mysore Police Act, 1963, and his functions as District Magistrate are governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure (Mysore Amendment), 1965. In short, he is the pivot of the district administration and exercises direct and indirect supervision over all departments at the district level. He is directly responsible to the Divisional Commissioner, Bangalore Division.

As regards the control over the essential commodities, the Deputy Commissioner is enjoined to give effect to the notifications issued by the Government from time to time in respect of essential commodities.

Besides being the head of the Revenue Department, the Deputy Commissioner is also the co-ordinating authority among various officers of the other departments in the district except the

judiciary. He presides over the District Co-ordination Committee meetings to which all the officers in the district except those of the Judicial Department are invited.

The Deputy Commissioner is also the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council. This Council has to supervise and co-ordinate the development activities of all the departments in the district and of the Taluk Development Boards, which help in the implementation of the development programmes.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, the National Extension Service was set up through which improvements of all aspects of village life were undertaken. Under this scheme, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the supervision of the departmental activities of the Community Development Scheme. He has to possess a clear picture of the normal working of several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities.

**Other
Revenue
Officers**

Assistant Commissioners.—The two Assistant Commissioners at Chitradurga and Davangere are in direct charge of the revenue administration in their respective sub-divisions. These two officers are responsible to the Deputy Commissioner. In all revenue matters, these Sub-Divisional Assistant Commissioners are appellate authorities over the orders passed by the Tahsildars. They exercise such of the powers as are imposed and conferred by the Deputy Commissioner under the Land Revenue Act.

Tahsildars.—There are nine Tahsildars in charge of the nine taluks in the district. Their duties and powers as Taluk Revenue Officers are such as are specially imposed or conferred upon them under the Mysore Land Revenue Code, 1964, and rules framed thereunder. The Tahsildars are the key-men in the revenue set-up of the different revenue taluks.

There are 30 hoblies in the district and each hobli is under the charge of a Revenue Inspector. The Revenue Inspectors assist the Tahsildar in the revenue administration of the taluk.

**Village
Administra-
tion**

Until recently, the village establishment consisted of five hereditary offices, *i.e.*, those of Patel (village headman), Shanbhogue (village accountant), Talari (village scout), Thoti (village watchman) and Nirganti (distributor of water from irrigation tanks). The remuneration of the Patel and the Shanbhogue consisted of Inam lands subject to *jodi* or full assessment and cash allowances called *potgi* on the basis of the land revenue demand. The other village servants received a certain quantity of grain from each cultivating raiyat and certain cash payments

from non-agriculturists, in addition to the remuneration by rent-free or lightly assessed lands.

These village offices, which were held hereditarily, were abolished by the Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the State on 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of the Act, Village Accountants have been already appointed as full-time Government servants on a salary basis. They are also liable to be appointed as *ex-officio* Panchayat Secretaries, in addition to their duties relating to revenue matters. They have to perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them by the Deputy Commissioner and also carry out instructions of the Tahsildar and Revenue Inspector, in so far as they relate to the discharge of their duties as Village Accountants.

The present incumbents of the posts of Patels are being, however, continued for the time being, without hereditary rights and they get an annual remuneration equivalent to the *Potgi*, which they were receiving prior to the abolition of their hereditary offices.

The Executive Engineer stands a little apart. Since his work is purely technical, he is not directly subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner though in a sense he plays a part subsidiary to the general administration of the district, of which the Deputy Commissioner is the head, and he is expected to help the Deputy Commissioner whenever required to do so. For example, the Deputy Commissioner can ask the Executive Engineer to investigate the extent of utility of certain minor irrigation works. In times of scarcity, the Executive Engineer, in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, has to draw up plans and programmes of relief works suitable for scarcity areas and to execute them.

**Executive
Engineer**

Law and Order.—The other department which is next in importance on the executive side is the police, headed by the Superintendent of Police who has his headquarters at Chitradurga. The Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the Deputy Commissioner in so far as their functions regarding the maintenance of law and order are concerned. He is assisted in his work by two Deputy Superintendents of Police in charge of the two Sub-Divisions, seven Circle Inspectors, 29 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 133 Head Constables and 599 Police Constables, one Reserve Circle Inspector, 2 Reserve Police Sub-Inspectors, 3 Assistant Reserve Police Sub-Inspectors, 25 Reserve Head Constables and 123 Reserve Police Constables.

**Police
Superintendent**

Judicial.—The functions of the District and Sessions Judge have been described in the appropriate chapter on Law, Order and Justice (Chapter XII). He has a separate and independent sphere of work and as head of the judiciary in the district he

**District and
Sessions
Judge**

exercises appellate and supervisory powers over the subordinate judicial officers in the district. On the civil side, there is a Civil Judge at Chitradurga and a Munsiff each at Chitradurga and Davangere. For magisterial work in connection with criminal justice, there are two Ist Class Magistrates, one at Chitradurga and another at Davangere.

Other Officers

Other Officers at District-level.—The other district-level officers are mentioned below. It is unnecessary to describe their functions here as in the case of most of them, their designations give a fair idea of their functions, while the functions of others have been described in the relevant chapters.

The other officers in the district are :—

- (1) Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Chitradurga Division.
- (2) District Educational Officer.
- (3) District Surgeon.
- (4) District Health Officer.
- (5) Deputy Director of Agriculture.
- (6) District Officer, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.
- (7) Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce.
- (8) Executive Engineer, Chitradurga Division.
- (9) Executive Engineer, Davangere Division.
- (10) Commercial Tax Officer.
- (11) Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
- (12) Assistant Superintendent of Fisheries.
- (13) District Statistical Officer.
- (14) Probation Officer, Davangere.
- (15) Executive Engineer, Mysore State Electricity Board.
- (16) Divisional Forest Officer.
- (17) Depot Manager, Mysore Road Transport Corporation.
- (18) District Employment Officer.
- (19) District Horticultural Inspector.
- (20) District Publicity Officer.
- (21) District Social Welfare Officer.
- (22) Regional Transport Officer.
- (23) District Labour Officer.

The Central Government has its officers in the district for the collection of income-tax and excise duties, administration of postal, telegraph and telephone services and Railways. For purposes of income-tax, the entire district is administered by the Income-Tax Office situated in Davangere.

Divisional Commi- sioner

In the general administration of the district above the Deputy Commissioner, the Divisional Commissioner plays a prominent role not only in the administration of land revenue but also in the

activities of other departments. The Divisional Commissioner, Bangalore Division, exercises jurisdiction over Chitradurga district. He is enjoined to speed up all developmental activities initiated by Government. He acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities in pushing forward public welfare activities. The Divisional Commissioner often tours in the district and supervises the general activities of all development departments. In view of the developmental activities under the Five-Year Plans and the tempo of the Community Development and National Extension Services, the role of the Divisional Commissioner has assumed added importance. Floods, famines, scarcity—all demand his earnest attention. He holds occasional co-ordination meetings to step up the tempo of developmental activities.
