

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

#### Labour Welfare.

✓ COORG is a small district with a population of 3,22,829 people, according to the 1961 Census. Of these, 30,610 people belonged to the Scheduled Castes and 27,102 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. [The majority of them are labourers working either in paddy fields, plantations or in the forest areas. Apart from this, there are about 40,000 people working in the plantations as regular labourers. These labourers were a neglected set in the past, when some of the unscrupulous masters used to take the best out of them and give very little in return. Wages were low and welfare measures were very inadequate. Only a few honest and good employers looked after the labourers well, and the rest fell into the category of masters whose sole aim was to take maximum work out of the labourers, make money, and do nothing for those who were really responsible for their wealth and prosperity. This situation was, however, in existence all over the country and was not peculiar to Coorg.]

Immediately after the popular ministry came into office in the year 1952, the Government of Coorg realised that freedom had no meaning unless the people in the lower rungs of society and the hard-working labourers were looked after properly and their standard of life improved. Therefore, [special measures were taken to improve the lot of labourers falling under the different categories, and the Labour Welfare Department under the control of the Labour Commissioner was entrusted with this task.]

✓ The labourers in Coorg can be classified into two categories, viz., the unattached labourers and the attached labourers. The unattached labourers are those who work on contract basis and have no permanent lien in the service of any single master. They work and earn wages at will. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes come mostly under this category. The attached labourers are those who work in the plantations (coffee, cardamom and rubber plantations). The Labour Welfare Department which consists of the Labour Welfare Officer and his assistants, working

under the guidance of the Labour Commissioner, is in charge of the work connected with the welfare of both the attached and unattached labourers.

✓ The various labour laws which were in force in the ex-State of Coorg were :—

- (1) The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.
- (2) The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.
- (3) The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933.
- (4) The Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
- (5) The Employment of Children Act, 1938.
- (6) The Weekly Holidays Act, 1942.
- (7) The Industrial Statistics Act, 1942.
- (8) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
- (9) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (10) The Factories Act, 1948.
- (11) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- (12) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951  
and
- (13) The Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1956.

Besides the above mentioned Acts, certain sections of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, were also in force in Coorg, but the Act as a whole had not been extended to this State.

All the above Acts are Central enactments and the ex-State of Coorg had not enacted any separate labour legislation. These Acts continued to be in force even after the merger of Coorg with Mysore. In addition, the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, and the Maternity Benefit Act, 1959 were also brought into force in Coorg, after the States' Reorganisation.

The salient features of some of these important Acts are indicated below :—

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for the settlement of industrial disputes by mediation, conciliation, adjudication and arbitration. There is scope for payment of compensation in cases of lay-off and retrenchment.

The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, is another important piece of legislation which aims at defining precisely the conditions of employment, and to make such conditions known to workmen. These rules once certified are binding on the parties for a minimum period of six months.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926 recognises the right of workers to organise into trade unions for purposes of collective bargaining.

These unions, when registered, have certain rights and obligations, and are autonomous bodies.

The Factories Act, 1948 regulates the working conditions in establishments which employ a minimum number of 10 workers in factories using power, and a minimum number of 20 workers in factories not using power.

The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 covers the plantation workers and goes further to provide them with housing accommodation, drinking water facilities, etc.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 ensures the fixation and revision of minimum rates of wages in respect of certain scheduled industries involving hard labour.

The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 guarantees payment of wages to workers on fixed wage periods, and also prevents the employers from effecting unauthorised deductions.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 contemplates the provision of medical benefits, and payment of sickness benefit to insured workers in case of sickness, indisposition, disability, etc.

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1959 provides for the payment of maternity benefit to women workers for a period of four weeks before and four weeks after confinement. This period of eight weeks is proposed to be enhanced to 12 weeks so as to make this legislation fall in line with the international standards.

The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952 provides for retirement benefits to workers.

Besides, there are several other legislative enactments which are being enforced in respect of labour. In the field of legislation, the State has adopted a progressive policy, and is keeping pace with the labour policy of the Government of India and the standards laid down by the International Labour Organisation. These laws also deal with the regulation of industrial relations between the management and the workers.

#### **Administration.**

The Labour Officer, Coorg, is the officer in charge of the administration of the Labour Department in the district. He works under the supervision and guidance of the Assistant Labour Commissioner and Conciliation Officer, Chikmagalur Division, and is responsible to the Commissioner of Labour in all matters pertaining to the administration of the Department.

#### **Minimum wages for labour.**

There are two Labour Inspectors with headquarters at Mercara and Virajpet to enforce the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, and the Rules framed thereunder and the provisions of the

Weekly Holidays Act and the Rules framed thereunder. They work under the direct control of the Labour Officer, Coorg.

The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Chikmagalur Division, **Industrial** Chikmagalur and the Labour Officer, Coorg, are the Conciliation **disputes.** Officers under the Industrial Disputes Act to bring about conciliation in disputes arising out of labour troubles. They are required to mediate under the law and submit reports regarding the outcome of their efforts, to their superior officers. If their attempts at conciliation fail, Government have discretionary powers to refer the disputes for adjudication, or the parties themselves may submit it jointly for arbitration even by a private arbitrator. The settlements and awards forthcoming from such conciliation, adjudication and arbitration proceedings are binding on the parties.

During the year 1963, 37 industrial disputes were reported in Coorg District of which 16 were settled amicably by conciliation, and nine by adjudication.

There is an Inspector of Factories with his headquarters at **Factories and** Mysore to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act, Payment **other establish-** of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefit Act, in the district. He **ments.** is under the direct administrative control of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers, Bangalore. It is the duty of the Inspector to see whether all the factories, coming under the purview of the Factories Act and the Rules thereunder, follow the statutory obligations imposed under them. In cases of any infringement, he takes action to bring them before a proper court of law.

There were 19 factories in Coorg District as on the 1st January 1964 employing 627 workers, the average number of workers in each factory being 33.

In addition to these factories, the number of workers employed in the various other establishments in the district, as on the 1st January 1964, was, as indicated below :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Establishment</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total number of workers employed</i>
1.	Commercial Establishments	98	480
2.	Shops .. ..	1,496	990
3.	Restaurants .. ..	196	540
4.	Cinema Theatres ..	9	78
Total ..		1,799	2,088

Most of these shops and establishments were managed by the owners themselves.

**Strikes and  
Lock-outs.**

The following statement indicates the number of strikes, the number of workers involved and the number of man-days lost, during the years 1962-63 and 1963-64, pertaining to the district.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Strikes</i>	<i>Number of workers involved</i>	<i>No. of man-days lost</i>
1962-63 ..	4	211	211
1963-64 ..	2	443	318

**Trade Unions**

The following nine trade unions, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act were functioning in the district, during the year 1964-65.

- (1) Huvinakadu Estate Workers' Union, Kutta Post.
- (2) Coorg District Estate Workers' Union, Mercara.
- (3) All Coorg Scavengers and Sweepers' Union, Virajpet.
- (4) All Coorg Local Body Employees' Association, Mercara.
- (5) Coorg District General Workers' Union, Virajpet.
- (6) Coorg Rubber Estates Workers' Union, Makut.
- (7) Karnataka Plantations Shramika Sangha, Suntikoppa.
- (8) Consolidated Coffe Estates Workers' Union, Pollibetta, and
- (9) Coorg Estate Workers' and General Labourers' Union, Siddapur.

There were no employers' unions in the district.

**Labour  
Welfare  
measures.**

✓ Apart from seeing that the labourers are paid fair wages as contemplated in the Minimum Wages Act, officers of the Labour Department often visit the plantations and inspect the welfare measures provided by the managements. Housing conditions, medical help, work conditions, sanitary and recreational measures, and educational facilities, are all inspected from time to time and where things are not up to the required standard, suggestions for improvement, both in writing and in person, are given to the managements and matters got rectified. Petty disputes are also sometimes attended to by the labour welfare staff with a view to giving immediate relief to the labourers. More serious disputes are settled by the Conciliation Officers under the Industrial Disputes Act.

During the visits to the labour lines by the labour welfare staff, the labourers are contacted by paying house-to-house visits, their difficulties are enquired into and the managements requested to rectify matters wherever necessary. During these visits, the labourers are also given advice to lead their lives on right lines. They are told that in addition to knowing their rights, they must

also know their responsibilities, and work with good understanding with their managements. The visits are made usually in the evenings as it is only then that the labourers return from work and are available for personal contacts. Quite a lot of time is spent amongst the labourers, and this has given them the confidence that Government is with them whenever they are in trouble, and whenever they have reasonable complaints to make.

The managements in several places have also now realised the changing conditions as well as their responsibilities towards the welfare of the labourers. Accordingly, they have improved the labour lines as per specifications, put up creches, provided recreational facilities, improved the sanitary and medical conditions and provided educational facilities to the children of their workers. But, it has to be said that these welfare measures have been carried out at a slow pace by most of the managements and require to be intensified.

In several cases, however, it was found that though the managements provided the required facilities, the labourers were averse to making use of them because they were not accustomed to such amenities. For example, the bath rooms and lavatories were found mostly unused. It was here that the Labour Welfare Department played its part in bringing to bear upon the minds of the labourers the need to make use of them. The labour welfare staff also saw to it that the Works committees functioned in the required form for the betterment of the labourers. Complaints of improper payment of wages and ill-treatment by estate staff were also enquired into, and to a large extent, immediate settlements were brought about, and good understanding between the managements and their labourers restored.

With a view to establishing a cordial atmosphere, labour rallies, which were a special feature in Coorg, were being organised on a planned scale by the Labour Welfare Department. Although the Government bore the entire cost of organising these rallies, the planters also co-operated fully in these celebrations to make them a success. They gave holidays to the labourers on the days of the rallies and met the cost of tea and other refreshments served to the competing mazdoors of the respective estates. Some planters had helped also to the extent of picking up their best sportsmen and giving them intensive training for the championship events held at these meets.

The labour rallies were days of rejoicing for the labourers, and they participated in them in large numbers. There was a free mingling of the labourers and their employers in these rallies, which served to establish friendship and good understanding between the employer and the employee.

**Employees'  
Provident  
Fund Scheme.**

The Employees' Provident Fund Act is a Central Act passed in 1952 and the provisions of the Act and the schemes thereunder are made applicable to scheduled industries from time to time under certain conditions.

Every employee of an establishment to which the Provident Fund Scheme applies is eligible for membership of the Fund after completion of one year's continuous service or 240 days of actual work during a period of twelve months. Contribution at the rate of  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent is deducted from the basic pay, dearness allowance (inclusive of cash value of food concessions if any, admissible) and retaining allowance of employees who get a pay of Rs. 1,000 per month or less. An amount equal to the workers' contribution is contributed by the employer every month. The expenses of administration and supervision of the Fund are met from the administrative and inspection charges. The employees may, however, at their option, raise their contribution to  $8\frac{1}{3}$  per cent or more.

Under the amended Provident Fund Scheme, any employee who is not eligible to join the scheme, can also be now enrolled as a member, on the joint application of both the employer and the employee, provided that the employer agrees to pay his own share of the fund contribution and also administrative charges in respect of contributions of such employees.

According to an official notification issued in 1964, the rate of provident fund contribution by both the employers and workers has been increased from  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent to 8 per cent in respect of eighteen industries including newspapers, with effect from the 31st October 1963. Six more industries have since been added to this list. The enhanced rate of contribution is applicable to such of those establishments which employed 50 or more persons. The industries coming under the purview of the notification include textiles, matches, electricity, tea, printing and heavy and fine chemicals excluding fertilizers. So far as newspapers are concerned, the enhanced rate of provident fund contribution is applicable to every newspaper establishment as defined in clause (d) of section 2 of the Working Journalists (conditions of service and miscellaneous provisions) Act, 1955 in which 50 or more persons are employed.

Provision has also been made under the scheme for grant of advances under certain conditions to the members for (i) financing life insurance policies, (ii) construction of houses and (iii) to defray medical expenses, from their share of contributions to the fund.

A sum of about Rs. 74,000 was being realised every month, as on the 1st June 1964, as the total contributions to the Fund,

in the district. Half of this sum represented the employees' share and the balance, that of the employers. This amount together with the three per cent administrative charges on the total contributions, is deposited in the nearest branch of the State Bank of India for being credited to the Provident Fund account, within the 15th of every month.

Two hundred and sixty-eight establishments in the district had been brought under the purview of the scheme, as on the 1st June 1964. The following table indicates the names of the important major establishments in the district, together with the number of employees in each of them, as on the 1st June 1964.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Establishment</i>	<i>No. of employees</i>
1.	M/s. Anaporai and Huvinkadu Estate, Kutta Post, Coorg .. ..	430
2.	M/s. Belgunda Estate, Somwarpet, North Coorg ..	204
3.	M/s. Balmany Estate, Tithimathi Post, Coorg ..	236
4.	M/s. Baljatrie Estate, Mercara, Coorg ..	208
5.	M/s. Cotebetta Group of Estates, Pollibetta P. O., Coorg .. ..	491
6.	M/s. Connanulad Estate, Siddapur, Coorg ..	202
7.	M/s. Coovercolly Group of Estates, Somwarpet, Coorg .. ..	626
8.	M/s. Chowdicadoo Estate, Siddapur, Coorg ..	195
9.	M/s. Dubarry Group of Estates, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	231
10.	M/s. Fairlands and Silipi Estates, Siddapur, Coorg ..	286
11.	M/s. Hardoor Estate, Suntikoppa, Coorg ..	209
12.	M/s. Korthikad Estate, Mercara, Coorg ..	200
13.	M/s. Koorehally Estate, Suntikoppa, Coorg ..	249
14.	M/s. Margolli Group of Estates, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	261
15.	M/s. Mullore Group of Estates, Suntikoppa, Coorg ..	454
16.	M/s. Pollibetta Group of Estates, Pollibetta, Coorg .. ..	420
17.	M/s. Netley Yemmingundy Estate, Suntikoppa Post, Coorg .. ..	255
18.	M/s. Raigodu Estate, Siddapur, Coorg ..	304
19.	M/s. Suntikoppa Estate, Suntikoppa, Coorg ..	465
20.	M/s. Taneerhullu Estate, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	280
21.	M/s. Wosully Group of Estates, Pollibetta, Coorg (together with Doddabetta and Hope) ..	458
22.	M/s. Wooligooli Estate, Suntikoppa, Coorg ..	234
23.	M/s. Yenigoondi Estate, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	606
24.	M/s. Kedamakal Estate, Mercara, Coorg ..	307
25.	M/s. Glen Lorn Tea Estate, Hudikeri, Coorg ..	491
26.	M/s. Guttacalahulla Estate, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	217
27.	M/s. Malagomany Estate, Pollibetta, Coorg ..	261
28.	M/s. Jamboor Group of Estates, Madapur, Coorg ..	525



The small income of the workers, generally, did not permit any scope for savings from their earnings. The result was that on their discharge from work, the workers were compelled to lead a life of utter helplessness. In the event of their death, their dependants became destitute. The Employees' Provident Fund Act providing for compulsory contribution of Provident fund is therefore a blessing for these workers and their families. The scheme provides for a substantial saving at the time of the retirement of the employee, and in the event of his premature death, secures ample relief to the members of his family.

### Prohibition

It has been laid down in the Constitution as a directive principle of State policy, that the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption—except for medical purposes—of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health. Drink has generally been responsible for the poverty and misery of man, sinking him lower and lower into depths of danger and despair. There is no gainsaying the fact that prohibition is a social as well as an economic necessity and it acts as the fulcrum and force in our economic programme for social amelioration.

Prohibition was first introduced in the district on 2nd April 1956, under Act I of 1956 of the Old State of Coorg, which prohibited the manufacture, possession, export, import, purchase, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs. Though prohibition was formally inaugurated on the 2nd April 1956, effective enforcement began only on 25th April 1956, leaving reasonable time for consumers to adjust themselves to the new circumstances. All dealings in liquor and intoxicating drugs were prohibited except for medical, scientific, industrial or such like purposes. Permits for possession and consumption of liquor were issued only in exceptional cases; they were issued to (i) those who were accustomed to take liquor, (ii) non-proprietary clubs for sale to such of their members as held permits and (iii) the church authorities for sacramental purposes. Licences were also prescribed for the possession and sale of denatured and rectified spirits, of brandy and medicated wine by chemists, and for the possession of brandy in hospitals for medicinal purposes.

Government have sustained a loss of about twelve lakhs of rupees annually, consequent on the introduction of prohibition in the district.

The burden of implementing the Prohibition Act has fallen on the Police Department, in addition to their other regular duties. In addition to the Station staff, a separate staff of one Sub-Inspector and five Head Constables has also been sanctioned, with jurisdiction over the entire district and working under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police. One Assistant

Prohibition Officer and three Prohibition Inspectors are also working directly under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, their duties being confined to the issue and checking of liquor permits and other allied matters. The erstwhile Government of Coorg had opened three Police Stations and eight outposts for effectively dealing with the enforcement of prohibition, and had sanctioned an extra staff of three Sub-Inspectors, nine Head Constables and fifty-three Constables for the purpose.

There were eleven police stations and twelve out-posts in the district as on the 1st April 1964, and in addition to the regular police staff, there was a separate Prohibition Squad consisting of one Sub-Inspector and five Head Constables having jurisdiction over the entire district to deal with the enforcement of prohibition.

As is to be expected, illicit distillation followed in the wake of prohibition. According to the statistics furnished by the Superintendent of Police, Coorg District, the incidence of illicit distillation cases was high in the year 1962, 1846 cases having been detected during that year, of which 1,110 ended in conviction. The following table indicates the number of cases detected and the number in which convictions were given, during the years 1956 to 1963.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of cases detected</i>	<i>No. of cases in which convictions were given</i>
1956 ..	26	23
1957 ..	43	39
1958 ..	313	230
1959 ..	570	295
1960 ..	480	356
1961 ..	528	284
1962 ..	1,846	1,110
1963 ..	1,635	525

Since the bordering districts are all declared dry areas, no cases of smuggling have been reported.

Coorg district is situated in a hilly country enjoying cold weather in almost all the seasons of the year. A large number of its inhabitants were addicted to drink prior to the introduction of the Prohibition Act. In fact, on many occasions of festivals or social gatherings in Coorg, alcohol was served. But the people, being well-educated, have now adjusted themselves to the changed circumstances. The introduction of prohibition has already

brought a change in the social out-look of the people who were once accustomed to drink. It has brought peace to their homes and enabled them to save money, pay old debts, purchase new clothes, eat better food and lead healthier lives. On the whole, the general standard of living has shown a distinct improvement.

The general feeling among the public, however, remained that in spite of the large number of cases of detection and prosecution, the prohibition law was contravened on a large scale and the percentage of convictions was very low. Action has, however, been taken to launch an intensive prohibition drive and make the enforcement of the prohibition law more vigorous and thorough. At the same time, meetings were also held under the auspices of the State Social Welfare Board at all the Nad Headquarters of the district, giving wide publicity to the Prohibition Act and Rules and requesting the people to extend their whole-hearted co-operation and support to make prohibition a complete success. Leaders of the district, both men and women, also toured the district and impressed upon the people how they could improve their lot, if they only gave up drinking intoxicating liquor and gave their unstinted co-operation to Government in putting down this drink-evil.

The Prohibition Act envisages the granting of liquor permits to those addicts who possess valid medical certificates, and also to foreigners or persons visiting Coorg temporarily and who desire to possess and consume liquor. The number of permits issued in respect of both country liquor and foreign liquor during the years 1956 to 1963 were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Country liquor permits</i>	<i>Foreign liquor permits</i>
1956	..	345	146
1957	..	456	166
1958	..	499	182
1959	..	582	227
1960	..	436	254
1961	..	422	274
1962	..	296	347
1963	..	269	465

Compared to the density of population, it has to be admitted that the number of permits issued appears to be large. Action is being taken to restrict the number, only to deserving cases.

There has been an unprecedented expansion of ameliorative work among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes after the dawn of independence and the establishment of democratic Government. The social disabilities of the Harijans were removed by legislation. A Directorate of Social Welfare was specially set up by the Government to give undivided attention to the various problems connected with the work of amelioration. District Social Welfare Officers were appointed in each district to implement the various schemes sponsored under the plan programmes.

**Advance-  
ment of  
Backward  
Classes and  
Tribes.**

The District Social Welfare Officer in Coorg is assisted, in implementing the various schemes, by Social Welfare Inspectors in each of the three taluks, and a Tribal Welfare Inspector, besides other technical staff.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are labouring classes working either in the paddy fields, plantations or in the reserved forest areas of the district.

Particular attention is being paid to housing and acquisition of lands, economic aid to cottage industries, supply of bullocks, supply of seeds and manure, opening of Community Centres, provision of agricultural implements, educational facilities and rural health and sanitation, in regard to the amelioration of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

During the First Plan period, a sum of two lakhs of rupees was spent for tribal welfare work in Coorg, unlike in the other parts of the State where much attention was not being bestowed on this work. More than 20,000 persons belonging to the various tribes are living in the dense forest areas of the district. Their main professions are cultivation, forest labour, taming and rearing of elephants, collection of minor forest products like honey, soap-nuts and fuel and planting of forest trees.

**Welfare of  
Scheduled  
Tribes.**

The following schemes were being implemented in the district for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, during the year 1962-63 under the State sector :—

(1) The subsidy granted by Government for the construction of tribal houses was raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 per house from the year 1960-61. Fourteen new houses were constructed during the year 1962-63, for which a sum of Rs. 11,250 had been sanctioned; one hundred and fifteen tribal families were supplied with agricultural implements like pick-axes, koluguddali, bill-hooks, etc., at a cost of about Rs. 17,400.

**Housing and  
colonisation  
and economic  
aid to crafts.**

(2) The tribals of Coorg district are well versed in rattan and bamboo crafts. There were four craft centres working in the district, one in Mercara taluk and the other three in Virajpet

taluk, giving training in these crafts to the tribal people. Out of a sum of Rs. 12,500 sanctioned for the purpose, a sum of about Rs. 5,500 was spent during the year 1962-63. A poultry farming centre had also been started for the benefit of these people in the Basavanahalli tribal colony, Somwarpet taluk.

(3) The Scheduled Tribes of Coorg district are adepts in the bee-keeping industry. Two bee-men are working under the District Social Welfare Officer, at Kutta and Balele centres. They had collected about 8,000 lbs. of honey during the year 1962-63 from the different tribal colonies to whom about 300 bee-hive boxes had been previously supplied.

#### Education

One Women's Welfare *cum* Nursery school was functioning in the Basavanahalli tribal colony in Somwarpet taluk. There were 38 children attending the Nursery school during the year 1962-63. All the women in the colony were taking part in the activities of the Women's Welfare Centre. Out of a sum of Rs. 3,750 sanctioned for the purpose, a sum of about Rs. 3,400 had been spent during the year 1962-63.

(ii) Two Ashram schools were functioning in the district for the benefit of the boys and girls of the Scheduled Tribes, one at Basavanahalli tribal colony and the other at Adinadur tribal colony, both situated in Somwarpet taluk. These Ashram schools are residential institutions in charge of a teacher, a cook and a peon being also attached to each of them. There were 112 children studying in these institutions during the year 1962-63. A sum of about Rs. 15,800 had been sanctioned for the maintenance of these institutions, and this sum was fully utilised during that year. The Social Welfare Department have started four more Ashram schools in the district from the year 1964-65. They are located at Begoor, Channangi-Basavanahalli, Gonigadde and Nagarhole.

(iii) A Scheduled Tribes' hostel was established in Kallahalla in Virajpet taluk during the year 1962-63. It was in charge of a full-time Superintendent. There were forty-five boys residing in the hostel. In addition to free boarding and lodging facilities, clothes were also supplied to all the boys. The tribal hostel at Kutta already established was continued during the year with a strength of 35 boys.

(iv) Two hostel buildings were constructed at Adinadur tribal colony, and Basavanahalli tribal colony, at an estimated cost of Rs. 10,000 each, for the use of the tribal boys and girls studying in schools.

(v) The tribal children attending the schools come from interior forest areas and the supply of mid-day meals to them is

quite essential. A sum of about Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned during 1962-63 for the purpose, and this amount was utilised for the benefit of about 200 children studying in the various schools. This free supply of mid-day meals helped regular attendance of tribal children in all the schools.

(vi) Generally, tribal children are so poor that they have hardly any clothes to wear. About 300 children studying in the various schools were therefore supplied with ready-made dresses during 1962-63, for which a sum of Rs. 4,000 had been sanctioned.

(vii) As an incentive for studies, 136 boys and girls of the Scheduled Tribes were granted scholarships for ten months in a year. Forty-two scholarships of Rs. 10 per month and 94 scholarships of Rs. 5 per month were awarded, for which a sum of Rs. 8,900 had been sanctioned during the year 1962-63.

Two drinking water wells were sunk in tribal colonies where there was dearth of drinking water. A sum of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned during the year 1962-63 for the purpose.

**Health and  
Sanitation.**

(ii) Tribal children studying in Ashram schools and in Nursery schools attached to women's welfare centres were supplied with medicines, whenever necessary.

(iii) Three Maternity Health Assistants working in the Department of Social Welfare have been posted to look after the health and sanitation of tribal people residing in thickly populated tribal colonies. These Health Assistants contact the tribal women and children and guide them in regard to cleanliness, sanitation, family planning, maternity problems and child welfare.

(iv) Government have sanctioned a scheme called the Mobile Tribal Health Unit, with headquarters at Kallahalla. The unit consisting of a doctor, a junior health inspector, two mid-wives, a compounder, an attender and a peon is serving the tribal people who are living in the midst of forest and other interior areas, by affording timely medical relief. It is under the control and supervision of the District Health Officer, Mercara. Since a jeep has been attached to the unit, it has been possible to render medical aid at the doors of the ailing patients in emergent cases.

The tribal people in Coorg district have mostly settled down in places where there are patches of agricultural lands in interior forest areas, and colonies have been constructed only in such places. Approach roads are therefore very necessary connecting these colonies with the main roads. Out of a sum of Rs. 6,000 sanctioned for the purpose, a sum of about Rs. 5,630 was spent during 1962-63. About eleven miles of approach roads have so far been formed connecting six colonies.

**Rural Commu-  
nications—  
Approach  
Roads.**

**Miscellaneous Schemes**

About 30 acres of land have been reserved for 15 Scheduled Tribes families in Hebbalepatna village, Tithimathi range, Virajpet taluk, for collective farming under co-operative principles. A co-operative society has been organised to enable the smooth working of the scheme, for which a Government grant of Rs. 5,000 has also been made.

(ii) Most of the tribal colonies are situated in interior forest areas. The tribal people find it very difficult to protect their crops against the ravages of wild elephants and other animals. Hence, guns have been provided to eleven tribal colonies to scare away the wild animals attacking agricultural lands.

**Schemes sponsored under Central sector for welfare of Scheduled Tribes**

Fifteen houses were constructed for the tribal people for which a sum of Rs. 12,000 was sanctioned during 1962-63.

(ii) Agricultural implements worth about Rs. 4,000 were supplied to 17 tribal families during 1962-63.

(iii) A Community Centre building was constructed in Adinadur tribal colony at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,800.

(iv) A new metalled road was formed connecting Kushalnagar, Adinadur and Somwarpet at an estimated cost of Rs. 49,000. The length of the road is about ten miles.

(v) An agricultural colony for the Scheduled Tribes was formed in Kanthur, Kallahalla range, in the interior forest area at a total estimated cost of Rs. 44,500. Thirty-five tribal houses were constructed and each of the tribal families residing therein was supplied with a pair of bullocks and the necessary agricultural implements for cultivation.

(vi) As there was scarcity of drinking water in the tribal colonies, four wells were sunk during the year 1962-63 at a total estimated cost of Rs. 5,000.

(vii) A sum of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned for the formation of an approach road to the Igoor-Sajjalli tribal colony and the work was completed during the year 1962-63.

A four mile road has been formed from Madalapur to Kanive tribal colony and the sanctioned amount of Rs. 3,505 has been completely spent.

**Welfare of Scheduled Castes.**

The social and economic conditions of these people are very unsatisfactory. Most of them are agricultural or plantation labourers.

The following schemes are being implemented in the district to ameliorate the social, economic and educational conditions of the people of the Scheduled Castes, under the State sector.

Generally in Coorg, house sites have been formed only on Government land and there has been therefore no necessity of acquiring any lands for building purposes. Subsidies were granted to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes for construction of dwelling houses, at the rate of Rs. 400 per house, and this concession was utilised by 50 people who were without houses, during the year 1962-63. **Housing and acquisition and economic aid.**

(ii) A sum of Rs. 3,900 was sanctioned during 1962-63 as aid to agriculture for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes. This was utilised for the purchase of plough bullocks, milch cows, manure and agricultural implements; seventeen Scheduled Caste families were benefited by this scheme.

(iii) A sum of Rs. 3,900 was sanctioned during 1962-63 as aid to persons of the Scheduled Castes to develop their arts and crafts, like leather-making, carpentry and tailoring; twenty-six persons were benefited under this scheme.

One tailoring training centre which was started at Ponnampet in 1960-61 was continued during the year 1962-63, and twelve girls were trained in this craft. Each of the trainees was paid a stipend of Rs. 25 per month. In addition, a sewing machine was also supplied to each of them. Out of Rs. 6,100 sanctioned for running the centre, a sum of about Rs. 5,400 was spent during 1962-63.

Three Women's Welfare-cum-Nursery schools already established at Hebbale, Kushalnagar and Channanakote were continued during the year 1962-63. In addition, three more schools were started at Nehru colony, Ponnampet, Begoor and Balele in Virajpet taluk. Out of Rs. 21,500 sanctioned, a sum of about Rs. 20,400 was spent during the year 1962-63. **Education**

(ii) Two Community Centre buildings had been constructed in Mullur (Somwarpet taluk) and Balele (Virajpet taluk) at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,800, for the benefit of the Scheduled Caste people. One more building was constructed during the year 1962-63 in Bengoor, Mercara taluk.

(iii) Five Scheduled Caste boys' hostels were functioning in the district during the year 1962-63 with 205 boarders. They were situated in Mercara, Somwarpet, Kushalnagar, Virajpet and Ponnampet. Out of Rs. 53,830 sanctioned, a sum of about Rs. 47,160 was spent during the year 1962-63.

Two new hostel buildings were constructed by the Public Works Department, one at Kushalnagar at an estimated cost of Rs. 36,000 and another at Mercara at an estimated cost of Rs. 89,000.



(iv) Supply of mid-day meals in schools to the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes is quite a necessity as these children come from remote interior forest areas. About 500 pupils were supplied with mid-day meals for ten months in the year 1962-63, and a total sum of about Rs. 22,650 was spent in that behalf. It may be mentioned that this scheme helped in a large measure the regular attendance of pupils in schools.

(v) Poor and deserving Scheduled Caste children studying in primary, middle and high schools were supplied with free clothes during the year. A sum of about Rs. 2,000 was spent for the purpose.

(vi) Three hundred lumpsum scholarships amounting to Rs. 20,000 were awarded to poor students belonging to the Scheduled Castes studying in the various schools in the district. In addition, twenty-two students studying in the middle and high schools who had secured more than 50% of the marks at their last annual examination were each awarded merit scholarships of the value of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 per month respectively. A sum of Rs. 1,325 was spent on this account during the year 1962-63.

**Rural Health  
and Sanitation.**

A sum of Rs. 2,224 was sanctioned during 1962-63 for sinking drinking water wells for the use of the people of the Scheduled Castes. Three well works were completed during that year.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 1,000 was sanctioned during 1962-63 towards encouragement grants to two Harijan co-operative societies, at Rs. 500 per each society.

(iii) Twenty-six Harijan farmers attended the village leaders' training camps held during 1960-61 and their expenses were met by the Department of Social Welfare.

**Schemes  
sponsored  
under the  
Central  
Sector for the  
Welfare of  
Scheduled  
Castes.**

A sum of Rs. 12,800 was spent during 1960-61 for establishing an agricultural colony at Bembalore in Somwarpet taluk. Ten Scheduled Caste families were provided with monetary aid for building houses and purchasing agricultural implements, at Rs. 800 per family. Another agricultural colony was established in Nittur-Eramane in Virajpet taluk during 1962-63 at a total cost of Rs. 8,800. Ten Scheduled Caste families were each granted two acres of land for cultivation. Each family was also provided with a house, a pair of bullocks and the necessary agricultural implements.

(ii) A Community Centre building was constructed at Ponnampet at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,800.

(iii) An approach road of about two miles was constructed connecting the Madalapur Harijan colony, at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,000.

One hundred and forty-two scholarships of Rs. 5 and Rs. 7-50 per month were awarded to deserving Backward Class students studying in the middle and high schools in the district, for a period of ten months during the year 1962-63. A sum of Rs. 9,150 was sanctioned for the purpose.

(ii) A sum of Rs. 3,850 was sanctioned during the year for the award of encouragement grants to three Backward Class hostels run by voluntary agencies.

(iii) Backward Class students studying in the various schools in the district were supplied with free mid-day meals for a period of ten months in the year.

(iv) One housing and colonisation scheme sanctioned for Coorg district at a total cost of Rs. 29,200 has been implemented in Seegemaroor village in Somwarpet taluk. Thirty families are accommodated in this colony.

All the schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes have been satisfactorily implemented in the district. The total amount sanctioned for all the schemes during 1962-63 was Rs. 3,10,713 and the expenditure incurred, Rs. 2,64,873, the percentage of expenditure in relation to the allotment being 87.

A sum of Rs. 9.02 lakhs was spent for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes during the First Plan period. During the Second Plan period, a sum of Rs. 20.84 lakhs was spent for the same purpose. A total financial outlay of Rs. 24.77 lakhs has been proposed to cover these welfare schemes in the district during the Third Plan period.

The Coorg Temple Funds Management Act, 1956 (Act VIII of 1956) providing for the proper management of the temple funds in the ex-State of Coorg received the assent of the President of India on the 4th May 1956. The Act was extended to the whole of Coorg and applied to the following temples and institutions:—

**Charitable  
Endowments.**

1. Omkareshwara Temple, Mercara.
2. Rajas' Tombs, Mercara.
3. Bhagamandala Temple.
4. Irpu Rameshwara Temple.
5. Subraya Temple, Kunjila Village, Napoklu Nad.
6. Mahalingeshwara Temple, Palur, Napoklu Nad.
7. Harischandra Temple, Palur, Napoklu Nad.

Other temples in Coorg are all small village temples and are under private management.

The Act continued to be in force even after the reorganisation of States. Under Section 47 of the Act, rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of the Act have to be made. But Government have not framed any rules so far. Byelaws have also not been framed by the committee of management as required under Section 48 of the Act. However, for purposes of day-to-day administration, the rules issued by the Chief Commissioner of the ex-State of Coorg in January 1938, under the Central Regulation IV of 1892, are being followed in accordance with the savings provision laid down in Section 49 of the Act.

**Committee of Management.**

The committee for the management of temple funds in Coorg originally constituted by Government in the year 1959 with nine members, was reconstituted in November 1963 with twelve members. This included the Deputy Commissioner, the Tahsildar, Mercara Taluk, two members of the Legislative Assembly and the member of the Legislative Council belonging to the district. The term of office of each member of the committee was three years.

The president and vice-president are elected by the members of the committee from amongst themselves, and they hold office till the expiry of their term as members. But the president is permitted to continue in office even after the expiry of his term as member, until his successor is elected and enters upon his office.

**Obligations and functions of the Committee.**

The committee is bound to administer its affairs and to spend the temple funds so as to manage efficiently the properties attached to the temples and institutions. It is also responsible for the proper and efficient performance of *sevas* in the said temples and institutions in accordance with their usage.

**Constitution of Temple Funds.**

All temples and institutions coming under the purview of the Act are financed from the temple funds, which consist of :—

- (a) all bequests, gifts and offerings,
- (b) cash allowance paid by the Government for maintenance,
- (c) all funds invested or at the credit of the temples or institutions at the commencement of the Act, and
- (d) the income accruing from lands endowed to the institutions.

Subject to the annual estimate of income and expenditure, the proceeds of the temple funds are utilized for carrying out the duties and obligations imposed upon the committee.

**Finance**

The Coorg District Co-operative Bank, Mercara, is the authorised bank for the Coorg Temple Funds. All receipts are depo-

sited in the bank and amounts required for expenses are drawn by cheques signed by the president of the committee.

During the year 1963-64, the receipts under all the heads amounted to Rs. 66,332 and the expenditure, Rs. 59,800.

The annual cash grant payable by the Government for the conduct of services and sevas in the several temples and institutions, under Section 31 (b) of the Act, is furnished below :—

Sl. No.	Name of the temple or institution	Annual allowance in cash	
		Rs.	P.
1.	Omkareshwara Temple, Mercara ..	4,815.	37
2.	Rajas' Tombs at Mercara ..	2,000.	00
3.	Bhagamandala Temple. ..	6,276.	66
4.	Brahmadaya at Subramanya (South Kanara) ..	48.	00
5.	Iripu Rameshwara temple at the source of the Lakshmanathirtha river.	400.	00
6.	Subraya temple at Kunjila Village, Napoklu Nad.	20.	00
Total ..		13,560.	03

There were no other charitable endowments in the district apart from those connected with temples, as on the 1st January 1964.