

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

AFTER the achievement of independence, increased attention is being bestowed on the improvement of service conditions and general welfare of labour, especially of industrial labour. Efforts are made to avert strikes and lock-outs and ease the occasional tensions by negotiations and conciliations. When disputes arise between employees and employers, they are referred for conciliation at Government-level or they are settled by mutual negotiations between the parties themselves. The Labour Department helps in bringing about conciliation between the parties by adopting all possible means within the framework of the relevant labour enactments. In the industrial sphere in South Kanara, disputes have arisen between the employers and the employees, but many of them have been settled by mutual negotiations.

Labour
Welfare

The conditions of the labour population in the district have improved considerably in recent years. Health and sanitation in the labour colonies are attended to and various ameliorative measures have been adopted. *Shishuviharas* or centres for child welfare have been opened wherever possible. Canteens have been provided near the workspots for the use of the workers. Maternity benefits have been provided for women workers. There are statutory provisions for giving leave to the workers. Provident Fund benefits, workmen's compensation, holidays with pay, etc., have been introduced giving to the workmen a sense of security and contentment.

In 1946, a dispute between the employees in the *beedi* industry and their employers ended in an award by the District Judge, as a result of which the wages went up and there was also a payment of bonus. In the same year, transport workers agitated for payment of bonus. They too secured it after negotiations. The workers in the various tile factories got increased benefits due to an award given in Malabar and which was made applicable to the workers in South Kanara also. In 1948, the workers in the

cashewnut industry agitated for better wages and payment of bonus and obtained what they wanted because of the Labour Department's ready intervention. The conditions of the handloom industry workers, motor transport workers and the engineering industry workers were all improved gradually and they were assured of better prospects for the future. Since the first decade after 1947, labour in South Kanara has had a better deal than in any previous decades, due to the various ameliorative measures initiated by the Government at the instance of the popular representatives in the Legislature.

During the first decade after attainment of independence, on an average, South Kanara had 50 to 60 industrial disputes in a year, which were generally decided by mutual negotiations. With the progress in the sphere of industries and increasing awareness among the workers about their rights, the number of industrial disputes has also registered an increase in recent years. On an average, there were about 150 disputes in a year in the district during the period from 1967-68 to 1971-72.

Various labour enactments are in force in the district to protect the interests and improve the living conditions of workers. They are :—

1. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
2. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
3. Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.
4. Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
5. Trade Unions Act, 1926.
6. Maternity Benefits Act, 1961.
7. Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.
8. Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.
9. Factories Act, 1948.
10. Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1966.
11. Mysore Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) Act, 1963.
12. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
13. Plantation Labour Act, 1951.
14. Mysore Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1965.

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, are yet to be brought into force after finalisation of State Rules.

The administration of the various Acts and the performance of other duties connected therewith in the district rest with the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mangalore Division, and the Labour Officer, South Kanara District. In 1955, the erstwhile Madras Government set up a Labour Office for the districts of South Kanara and Cannanore, with headquarters at Cannanore. However, realising the importance of South Kanara district in respect of labour matters, the headquarters was shifted to Mangalore during the same year and placed under the charge of a Labour Officer, who was responsible mainly for conciliation of disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, in both the districts. Some of the other labour legislations such as the Factories Act, Madras Shops and Establishments Act, Payment of Wages Act, etc., were being enforced by the factory wing of the department headed by an Inspector of Factories with the assistance of three Assistant Inspectors of Labour.

**Administration
of Labour
Law**

After the re-organisation of States in 1956, the Government of Mysore thought it fit to re-organise the Labour Department and accordingly, both the conciliation and enforcement aspects of the work under the various labour laws were entrusted to the Labour Officer and two more posts of Labour Inspectors were created. Apart from restricting the jurisdiction of the Labour Officer exclusively to this district, a post of Assistant Labour Commissioner was also created with jurisdiction, in the first instance, over the district only and later it was extended to Shimoga district. Thus, there are now an Assistant Labour Commissioner, a Labour Officer and five Labour Inspectors in the district to enforce the various labour enactments. In addition, there is also an Inspector of Factories at Mangalore with jurisdiction over the entire district.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner is the Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, in respect of industrial establishments employing more than 200 workers. He is the Deputy Registrar of Trade Unions under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, and Appellate Authority under the Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961. He is also an Inspector under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, and an Additional Inspector under the Factories Act, 1948.

The Labour Officer is also a Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, but in respect of industrial establishments employing less than 200 workers. He is also an Inspector under several of the labour enactments referred to above and an additional Inspector under the Factories Act, 1948. The Labour

Inspectors are also Inspectors under the Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, etc. Of the five Labour Inspectors, three are stationed in Mangalore and one each at Udipi and Puttur. The Inspector of Factories is responsible for the enforcement of the Factories Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, in the registered factories in the district.

**Shops and
Commercial
Establishments**

The Mysore Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1961, is an important labour legislation which regulates the working conditions of persons employed in shops and commercial establishments. It provides for compulsory weekly holidays, fixed hours of work, giving of proper notice of termination and grant of suitable compensation for wrongful dismissal. The Act is in force in all important towns in the district, *viz.*, Mangalore, Udipi, Coondapur, Puttur, Sullia, Karkal, Moodabidri, Mulki, Ullal, Belthangady and Buntwal. Recently, the provisions of the Act have also been extended to Surathkal.

The Labour Inspectors have to go round in their respective jurisdictions and see to it that the owners of shops and commercial establishments strictly adhere to the provisions of the Act and take necessary steps in cases of omissions or irregularities. The following statement indicates the category-wise number of shops and commercial establishments in the district and the number of persons employed in them during the period from 1967 to 1971 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
1.	No. of Shops ..	6,979	7,976	8,060	7,866	7,491
2.	No. of persons employed therein	2,872	3,512	3,930	6,119	6,721
1.	No. of Commercial Establishments	1,079	1,203	1,115	860	626
2.	No. of persons employed therein	2,608	2,714	2,840	3,620	3,544
1.	No. of Hotels and Restaurants ..	540	563	555	649	674
2.	No. of persons employed therein	1,679	1,799	1,800	2,826	2,912
1.	No. of Theatres and Cinemas ..	13	14	15	14	16
2.	No. of persons employed therein	130	136	142	139	166

<i>Particulars</i>	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Total No. of Establishments ..	8,611	9,756	9,745	9,389	8,807
Total No. of persons employed ..	7,289	8,161	8,712	12,704	13,343

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, ensures the fixation of minimum rates of wages for workers employed in certain scheduled industries involving hard manual labour. The scheduled industries in the district include agriculture, rice, flour, oil and *dal* mills, tobacco manufactory including *beedi*-making units, rubber plantations, public motor transport, tile and cashewnut factories, printing presses, coffee-curing works, residential hotels and eating houses, local authority, stone-breaking and crushing, construction works and the like. The Act, which is in force throughout the district, provides protection in respect of payment of minimum wages to the workers employed in these industries. The Labour Inspectors in the district, who are also notified as Inspectors under this Act, have to enforce the provisions of the Act in their respective jurisdictions.

**Minimum
Wages
for Labour**

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is another important labour legislation which provides for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes arising between the employers and their workers. Both the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Labour Officer are conciliation officers under the Act in respect of disputes arising in establishments employing 200 workers or more and less than 200 workers, respectively. Apart from the role of the conciliation officers in settling industrial disputes, the part played by the employers and the trade unions of employees is also important. According to the Labour Officer, Mangalore, "the number of industrial disputes that arise in this district are comparatively higher and complicated in nature due to the enlightenment of the labour force and the well-organised trade unions".

**Industrial
disputes**

The conciliation officers are required to mediate under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act and strive to bring about conciliation between the parties. They have to submit reports regarding the outcome of their efforts to their superior officers. If their attempts at conciliation fail and the disputes drag on, they have to refer the matter to Government through the Labour Commissioner. The Government, in turn, refer the disputes to the Labour Court or Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The sub-joined table indicates the number of industrial disputes registered in the district, the number disposed

of and the number pending disposal during the period from 1967-68 to 1971-72 :—

Year	No. of industrial disputes registered (including those brought forward from previous year)	No. of disputes disposed of during the year	No. of disputes pending disposal at the end of the year
1967—68 ..	170	150	20
1968—69 ..	158	171	7
1969—70 ..	242	227	22
1970—71 ..	97	110	9
1971—72 ..	124	123	10

Factories Act

The Factories Act, 1948, is being enforced in the district by the Inspector of Factories, Mangalore. The Act is intended to safeguard the interests of workers in respect of their safety, health and other working conditions. The Payment of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefit Act are also enforced by him. He is required to see that all the factories coming under the purview of these Acts, follow the statutory obligations imposed under them. In case of infringement of any of the obligations, he has to bring in his executive duties by an Assistant Inspector of Factories. The matter before the appropriate court of law. He is assisted by the total number of factories registered under the Factories Act in the district and the total number of workers employed in them during the period from 1967 to 1971 are given below :—

Particulars	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
No. of registered factories.	317	306	295	307	303
Daily average number of workers employed.	16,286	16,394	17,654	16,009	16,986

Strikes and Lockouts

Now-a-days strikes and lockouts are the common weapons in the hands of the employees and the employers respectively, which are used for achieving their respective objectives. Strikes are resorted to by workmen generally for higher wages, payment of bonus, betterment of service conditions, as a protest against dismissal, discharge or retrenchment of fellow-workmen, etc. While there have been several strikes in the district during the period from 1967 to 1971 by workmen, there have not been however, any

lockouts, by the employers, as could be seen from the following table :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of strikes</i>	<i>No. of workers involved</i>	<i>No. of man-days lost</i>	<i>No. of lockouts</i>
1967	73	2,298	37,519	Nil
1968	36	7,156	2,26,304	Nil
1969	39	11,035	80,012	Nil
1970	15	1,540	14,376	Nil
1971	31	13,374	24,779	Nil

The Trade Unions Act, 1926, recognises the right of workers to organise themselves into trade unions for purposes of collective bargaining and redressal of their grievances. The development of trade unionism has been particularly noticeable in the district. The industrial workers in the district have been quick to realise the advantages of collective bargaining and to organise trade unions in order to further their welfare. According to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mangalore Division, who is also the Additional Registrar under the Act, there were 40 registered trade unions in the district in 1958, with a total membership of over 17,200. This number had increased to 59 by 1st January 1972, while the total membership had gone up to about 22,000. The following is a list of bigger trade unions in the district with a membership exceeding 500 :—

Trade Unions

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Union</i>	<i>Membership</i>
1.	The South Kanara Tile Workers' Union, Mangalore	4,114
2.	The Mangalore Beedi Kelasagarara Sangha, Mangalore	2,662
3.	The Cashew Workers' Union, Mangalore	1,759
4.	The Cashewnut and Allied Workers' Union, Mangalore	1,509
5.	The Bunder Workers' Union, Mangalore	1,136
6.	The Udipi Taluk Beedi Labour Union, Udipi	1,129
7.	The South Kanara Coffee, Cardamom and Allied Workers' Union, Mangalore	778
8.	The Mangalore Workers' Union, Mangalore	752
9.	The Buntwal Taluk Beedi and General Labour Union, Buntwal	707
10.	The Dakshina Kannada Hanchina Kelasagarara Sangha, Mangalore	652

Labour welfare amenities

While most of the bigger industrial units have provided welfare amenities such as canteens, drinking water facilities, educational and medical facilities, creches and free housing accommodation in plantations, some others have also made available recreational facilities like indoor and outdoor games, reading rooms, co-operative societies, housing accommodation at nominal rent, etc., to their workmen. The Labour Department has established a Labour Welfare Centre at Mangalore for the benefit of the workers and their families. This centre has provided reading room and library, facilities for indoor games, etc., to the workmen. It is also conducting a tailoring class for the benefit of women workers. Film shows are arranged by the Department in labour colonies and other localities where there is a concentration of working class. Increased attention is being paid towards provision of health and sanitation facilities in labour colonies. Centres for child welfare have been opened at some places. Maternity benefits are being provided to women labourers. Facilities for workers' education and training have also been provided.

Workers' Education Scheme

Realising the fact that a strong, free, responsible and democratic trade union movement can make significant contributions not only to the economic development of the country, but also to the realisation of a better life for the workers, the Government of India sponsored a Workers' Education Programme, under which a Regional Directorate of Workers' Education was established at Mangalore in 1965, with jurisdiction over four districts, *viz.*, South Kanara, Coorg, Chikmagalur and Hassan. The central objective of the scheme is to promote a responsible trade union movement competent to participate effectively in the economic and social development of the country.

Under this programme, worker-teachers are trained in trade unionism, union-management relations, economics of trade unionism labour laws and workers' education, the duration of training being three months. These worker-teachers, in turn, impart training to other selected workers, the duration of this training also being three months, but on a part-time basis. Care is taken to relate the contents of the training course to the needs of the participants. In addition to these long-term training programmes, short-term programmes like one-day schools, three-day seminars and study-circles are also organised for the benefit of rank and file. In addition, special training programmes for trade union officials, members of works committees and joint management councils, as also refresher courses for worker-teachers are also conducted. Apart from organising its own training programme, the Workers' Education Centre also encourages trade unions to undertake their own programmes by reimbursing 90 per cent of their expenses in that respect.

These programmes of the Centre are carried out by a Regional Director, assisted by three Education Officers and necessary ministerial and other staff. In South Kanara district, 140 worker-teachers and 3,484 workers were trained by this Centre since its inception upto the end of November 1972. Besides, 3,152 workers participated in the short-term training programme and 80 in the refresher course.

The contribution of the industrial workers to the economic development of the country is immense. But their wages are not high enough to enable them to accumulate any savings. When old age or illness renders them unfit for work, they are forced to lead a life of abject poverty and dependence. In the event of a worker's pre-mature death, his dependents are left destitute. Therefore, as a measure of social security to the industrial workers, the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Act, 1952, was adopted providing for retirement benefits and a recurring pension to their families in the event of their untimely death. Till 1971, the scheme was limited only to provide a lumpsum benefit to the members of the Fund and or their nominees. During that year, the Government of India introduced a scheme called the Family Pension-*cum*-Life Assurance Scheme, providing for long-term recurring benefits to the families of the employees in the event of the latter's pre-mature death.

**Employees'
Provident Fund
Scheme**

All establishments which have completed five years of infancy period and have an employment-strength of 20 or more are covered under this scheme, while all employees, working in such establishments, who have put in a continuous service of one year or 240 days of actual work during a period of 12 months or less and whose basic wages retaining allowance (if any) and dearness allowance, including cash value of any food concession, do not exceed Rs. 1,000 per month, are eligible to become members of the Provident Fund. Both the members and their employers have to contribute at the rate of 6½ per cent or 8 per cent of the salaries of the members every month if the employment-strength of the establishment is 20 and above but below 50, and 50 and above, respectively. Members may contribute even at a higher rate with the permission of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner. These contributions, with interest thereon, are refunded in full to the members or their nominees in case of completion of 15 years of membership, permanent physical or mental disability, superannuation, retrenchment or death. In other cases, only the members' own contribution along with a certain percentage of the employers' contribution is refunded. Advances and loans are allowed to the members from the Fund for purposes of payment of life insurance premia, purchase or construction of a dwelling house, medical treatment, children's marriage, etc.

Family Pension Scheme

From and out of the contributions paid by the members to the Provident Fund, each month a part of the contribution representing $1\frac{1}{6}$ per cent of the pay of the member with an equal amount from and out of the employers' contribution is credited to the Family Pension Fund. The Central Government also contributes an equal amount to the Fund, and also pays an interest of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum on the total amounts credited to the Fund. These funds remain in deposit with the Central Government in the Family Pension-cum-Life Assurance Fund Accounts, and are utilised for extending the benefits of the scheme to its members. The scheme ensures payment of a long-term minimum monthly pension of Rs. 40 to the surviving members of the families of workers who become members of the Fund at the age of 25 years or less, and also an immediate life assurance benefit in cash to the extent of Rs. 1,000. In respect of workers, who join the Fund after 25 years of age, a slightly lesser rate of benefit is extended depending upon their actual age of entry. The maximum amount of pension payable under the scheme is Rs. 150 per month, while the maximum lumpsum retirement benefit admissible is Rs. 4,000. All employees, who are less than 60 years of age and who are enrolled, for the first time, as members of the Employees' Provident Fund on or after 1st March 1971, are being compulsorily brought under the Family Pension Scheme, while those who were already members of the Provident Fund prior to that date and of less than 60 years of age, are given option to join the scheme.

During 1972, there were 422 establishments covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Scheme in South Kanara district, of which 108 establishments were employing 50 or more workers and the rest 20 or more workers, the total contributions received from the establishments being Rs. 3,60,000 per month. The following four establishments in Mangalore which had been granted exemption under Section 17(1) of the Act, were having their own Provident Funds, subject to the inspection of the authorities concerned: (1) Messrs. City Press (Private) Ltd., Mangalore; (2) Messrs. New Taj Mahal Cafe, Car Street, Mangalore; (3) the South Kanara Agriculturists' Marketing Society Ltd., Mangalore, and (4) the South Kanara Central Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Mangalore.

Death Relief Fund

A Death Relief Fund has also been constituted under the Provident Fund Scheme for the benefit of families of workers who die pre-maturely. The main objective of the Fund is to ensure that a minimum sum of Rs. 750 is paid to the family or nominee of a worker in the event of his death, if his contribution along with the contribution of the employer falls short of Rs. 750.

For the administration of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Scheme, there is a Regional Provident Fund

Commissioner for Mysore State at Bangalore. He is assisted in this work by Divisional Inspectors, one of whom is stationed at Mysore and who has jurisdiction over the district of South Kanara also. The Divisional Inspector, in turn, is assisted by two Provident Fund Inspectors in the district proper, both of whom are stationed at Mangalore. These Inspectors inspect the establishments within their respective jurisdictions periodically so as to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented by the employers and suitable action is taken against the defaulters.

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme is another social security measure, which is being implemented in the district for the benefit of industrial workers, by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation under the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. This scheme was extended to Mangalore City with effect from 21st January 1962 and is expected to be extended to Coondapur town shortly and to Udipi, Manipal, Malpe and Panambur later, when the insurable population of these towns exceeds 500. The workers covered under the scheme are eligible for cash benefits against sickness (including extended sickness benefit), temporary disablement benefit, permanent disablement benefit, maternity benefit and dependents' benefit. Provision has also now been made for payment of a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 to the families of deceased workers, to cover the funeral expenses.

**Employees'
State Insurance
Scheme**

The scheme is applicable to employees whose monthly salary does not exceed Rs. 500 and who work in perennial factories using power and employing 20 or more persons. It is compulsory and is financed out of employers' and employees' contributions. The State Government also shares a portion of the expenditure towards medical care. While the employers' contribution is fixed at 4 per cent of the total wage bill, the contribution of the employees is on a graded scale, the weekly contribution for the highest wage slab being Rs. 1.75. As at the end of 1972, 118 establishments in Mangalore, with a total number of 15,500 employees, had been covered under the scheme. In addition, 12 more establishments employing about 950 workers, in Coondapur town are expected to be brought under the purview of the Act in the near future.

Four whole-time and one part-time dispensaries have been established under the scheme in Mangalore to cater to the medical needs of the insurers and their families. Arrangements have been made for hospitalisation facilities at the Government Wenlock Hospital, Mangalore. There is, however, a proposal for construction of a full-fledged E.S.I. Hospital at the place. A Medical Board to assess the loss of earning capacity of the insurers who sustain employment injury, a Medical Appeal Tribunal to settle disputes arising out of the Medical Board's decisions and an Employees' Insurance Court to settle disputes of employers and employees insofar as the scheme is concerned, have also been

established. There is also a Local Office at Mangalore to extend cash benefits to the insured persons and it has making about 1,625 payments every month under the various benefits mentioned above.

**Old-Age
Pension
Scheme**

Another social security measure introduced by the Government of Mysore in recent years is the Old-Age Pension Scheme. Persons who have attained 65 years of age or more, and without any source of income to maintain themselves, are eligible for pensions under the scheme, the quantum of pension being Rs. 30 per month. Another condition laid down is that the applicant should be a resident of the State at least for a period of three years continuously, preceding the date of his application for pension and should have no son or grandson of 20 or more years of age and also no wife or husband. Persons not exceeding 60 years of age are also eligible for pension under the scheme, if they are incapacitated to earn a living due to blindness, insanity, leprosy, paralysis or loss of one or more limbs. Upto the end of August 1972, 905 persons in the district had been sanctioned old-age pensions of Rs. 30 per month.

Prohibition

Prohibition was first introduced in the entire district of South Kanara on 1st October 1946, when the district was administered by the Madras Government. Before that, the various intoxicating drinks were being sold in licenced shops and the Government was deriving a large excise revenue. But after the introduction of prohibition, all such dealings and use of intoxicating drinks were forbidden in the district except for medical, scientific, industrial and such like purposes. Permits for possession and consumption of liquor were issued only in exceptional cases. Licences were also prescribed for the possession and sale of denatured and rectified spirits, for the possession and sale, on prescription, of brandy and medicated wines by chemists, for the possession of brandy in hospitals for medicinal purposes, etc.

In the beginning, the staff of the Prohibition Department was in charge of enforcement of prohibition in the district. It consisted of one District Prohibition Officer, 3 Deputy Prohibition Officers, 6 Assistant Prohibition Officers, 36 Sub-Inspectors, 39 Petty Officers and 400 Guards. The enforcement of the prohibition laws by the Department was found not quite satisfactory and there was insistent public demand that enforcement should be entrusted to the police who, it was thought, were in a better position to enforce the law. Consequently, the duties of enforcement were transferred completely to the police with effect from 1st November 1955 and the prohibition staff that existed then was merged with the police department. Even then, detection of prohibition offences, especially of illicit distillation, was relatively more difficult problem in South Kanara, because of the hilly nature of the district, its long sea-coast and the numerous rivers and streams. Large quantities

of liquor were being smuggled from Goa. Illicit distillation was rampant in the countryside in spite of the efforts made to track down offenders. The following table indicates the various prohibition offences reported, true cases handled and the number of cases convicted in 1956 and 1957 in the district :—

Head of Crime	1956		1957	
	Cases reported	Convicted	Cases reported	Convicted
Illicit distillation ..	471	241	814	283
Smuggling ..	197	161	2,242	1,319
Drunkenness ..	3,824	3,333	3,920	2,927
Total ..	4,492	3,735	6,976	4,529

Meanwhile, the existence of different sets of prohibition laws in the different integrated areas of the new Mysore State caused considerable administrative and procedural difficulties in the enforcement of prohibition on a uniform basis throughout the State. Hence a revised uniform Act, applicable to the entire State, called the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1961, was brought into force throughout the State in 1962. The general feeling among the public was that in spite of the efforts of the enforcement staff and despite a considerable number of cases of detection and prosecution, out of which many ended in conviction, the prohibition law was contravened on a large scale and prohibition was, therefore, not a success. Besides, there was a considerable loss of excise revenue to the Government. In view of this, the State Government decided to amend the law and accordingly, the Mysore Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1967, was enacted which empowered the Government to exclude the operation of the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1961, in any specified area of the State. Thereafter, the State Government lifted prohibition in all the districts of the State except in a few pockets, with effect from the 15th October 1967.

Another aspect of social services sponsored by the State Government is rendered through certified institutions like Remand Homes, Vigilance Shelters, etc., which are established for the protection and rehabilitation of destitute children, juvenile offenders, uncared for women and girls and the like. There is a Remand Home and also a Vigilance Shelter at Mangalore, which were started in the years 1958 and 1959, respectively. The Remand Home, Mangalore, was established under the provisions of the Mysore Children's Act, 1943, which was later replaced by the Uniform Mysore Children's Act of 1964, with the main objective of taking care, protecting and rehabilitating destitute and delinquent children. There is also a Juvenile Court at Mangalore.

for trying juvenile cases under the Act. The Act empowers a Sub-Inspector of Police or any other person authorised by the State Government, to take charge of children, under the age of 16 years in the case of boys and 18 years in the case of girls, who are found to be neglected, uncared for, destitute and delinquent. They are then produced before the Juvenile Court for enquiry and trial. During the pendency of such enquiry or trial, they are remanded to the Remand Home, where they are normally retained for about three months.

During the period of their stay in the Remand Home, the children are looked after by the Superintendent of the Home, who is also the Probation Officer of the district under the Children's Act. He studies and observes the children's behaviour, their character and antecedents, their feelings and aptitudes and also their relationship with the other members of their families in order to find out the factors which led them to go astray or to commit offences. He then submits a detailed report of his findings to the Juvenile Court. After considering the relevant facts of each case, the court may release the child to the care of parents or guardians or direct the child to be sent to a certified school for further protection and care till the age of 18 years is attained in the case of boys and 20 years in the case of girls.

In the Remand Home, the children are provided with food at a prescribed scale, two sets of clothings, a set of bedding, bathing and washing soaps, etc. Medical aid, as and when necessary, is also given for which purpose a Medical Officer from the local Government hospital pays periodical visits to the Remand Home. They are engaged in physical training for some time in the morning and in indoor and outdoor games in the evening. The Remand Home is at present (1972) housed in a small private building in the Bijai Church area and is looked after by the Superintendent, assisted by a matron, a clerk, two male guards, a female guard, a cook, a sweeper and a peon. The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the Home during 1971-72 was Rs. 44,805. The following figures indicate the number of children admitted into the Remand Home during the period from 1961-62 to 1971-72 although the normal sanctioned strength is only 40 (30 boys and 10 girls):—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
1961—62	57	2	59
1962—63	84	..	84
1963—64	81	1	82
1964—65	108	12	120
1965—66	148	22	170

Year	Boys	Girls	Total
1966—67	124	14	138
1967—68	169	18	187
1968—69	72	20	92
1969—70	66	5	71
1970—71	54	7	61
1971—72	54	17	71

The Vigilance Shelter, Mangalore, was established under the Social and Moral Hygiene Programme during the Third Five-Year Plan period. Destitute women, unmarried mothers, deserted wives, uncared-for women and girls, shelterless widows and the like from the district are admitted into the Vigilance Shelter. It also serves as a rescue home for women and girls dealt with under the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956. They either come to the Shelter voluntarily or brought by the police or social workers or by guardians, after obtaining their willingness to stay in the institution, their normal period of stay being about three months. The Shelter aims at providing training and after-care facilities to these unfortunate women and girls in order to see that they are rehabilitated properly in life. Children below seven years are also admitted to this institution along with their mothers. The institution is located in a private building on the Bijai Church Road.

Vigilance Shelter

Although the sanctioned strength of the institution is only 40, there were 84 inmates in it in 1970-71. This number further went up to 94 during 1971-72, but came down to 66 in 1972-73. The inmates are looked after by a Lady Superintendent, assisted by a matron, a female guard, a cook, a part-time Weaving Instructor and a part-time Literacy Teacher. The inmates are provided with boarding and lodging facilities, as also clothings and beddings on a prescribed scale. An adult literacy class is run for their benefit, in addition to conducting moral instruction classes. The local Gandhi Peace Foundation and some social workers are extending their co-operation in this respect. Provision for vocational training in spinning, knitting, tailoring, etc., has also been made. A few *ambar charakhas* and sewing machines have been maintained for this purpose. There are also facilities for indoor games. A lady medical officer pays periodical visits to the institution to look after the health of the inmates. Efforts are made to rehabilitate the women and girls by releasing them to willing parents or guardians, by providing them with employment, by marrying them to proper suitors, etc. In some cases, they are transferred to the State Rescue Homes at Mysore or

Bellary for long term training and further protection. There is a committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the district to guide the working of the institution. The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the institution during 1971-72 was Rs. 36,400.

Probation of offenders

The Probation of Offenders Act is another piece of social legislation which provides for probation services to offenders. There is also another Probation Officer in the district, with his headquarters also at Mangalore, for the administration of this Act. The Act aims at reformation and rehabilitation of offenders of certain categories so as to make them useful and self-reliant members of the society, without subjecting them to prison life. Under the provisions of this Act, the courts are empowered to release offenders of certain categories, particularly the young and the 'first offenders', on probation and it is the duty of the probation officer to assist such persons and arrange for their rehabilitation. For this purpose, he has to keep himself in regular touch with the judicial courts in the district so that suitable cases are referred to him for home enquiry and release on probation. During the period of probation, the offenders are placed under the surveillance of the Probation Officer, about whom he has to send periodical reports to the courts concerned. He is also required to conduct home enquiries in respect of cases falling under the Children's Act, Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, Habitual Offenders Act and such other social legislations.

A District Probation Advisory Committee has also been constituted to advise on the proper working of the Probation of Offenders Act in the district and to seek the co-operation of the public in the handling of probationers and their rehabilitation. While the District Magistrate of South Kanara is its chairman, the District Probation Officer functions as its secretary.

Advancement of Depressed Classes

During the closing decades of the last century, a few individuals and institutions in the district did pioneering work in the field of promoting the welfare of depressed sections of the society. Foremost among such individuals was the late Kudumal Rangarao who was a devoted worker and sacrificed much for the cause. Some time in 1897, he is said to have bought some lands in a few places at Mangalore and Udipi and constructed schools for the children of the neglected sections of the people. Mahatma Gandhi, who visited Mangalore in 1927, is understood to have paid glowing tributes to Rangarao for his constructive work in the field of Harijan welfare. The late Karnad Sadashiva Rao followed in his footsteps and rendered yeoman service to the Harijans of the district. Since then, a number of individuals and institutions have worked in their own humble way for the betterment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the district.

The Government of the then Madras Presidency entrusted the welfare work relating to the depressed classes to its Labour Department in 1923. The Department reserved lands for assignment to Harijan families in order to settle them permanently in a particular place. As Harijan children could not get easy admissions then to general schools, the Department opened schools exclusively for their benefit. In 1949, a separate Harijan Welfare Department was started to look after the needs and amenities of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The collector of the district was directed to initiate welfare measures with the assistance of the District Welfare Officer. The work done by this Department related to provision of house-sites to Harijan families, grant of educational concessions to Harijan boys and girls, provision of drinking water wells, assignment of land for cultivation, grant of subsidies for house construction, supply of bullocks, seeds and agricultural implements, etc. With the launching of the First Five-Year Plan in 1951, the programme for welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes received an impetus and more number of schemes were drawn up and implemented. With the integration of the district in the new Mysore State in 1956, the social welfare work in the district passed into the hands of the Department of Social Welfare of the new State, headed by a Director. At the district-level, the responsibility of implementing these schemes was entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner. As already stated elsewhere in this volume, the Deputy Commissioner is assisted in this aspect of the work by a District Social Welfare Officer at the district-level and by Social Welfare Inspectors at the taluk-level.

According to the 1961 census, there were 77,364 persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 48,678 persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the district. This number had gone up to 99,687 and 63,596 respectively as per the census of 1971. The following figures indicate the taluk-wise break-ups of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the district as in 1971 :—

Population of
Scheduled
Castes and
Tribes

Taluk	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Belthangady ..	5,420	5,502	10,922	3,879	3,759	7,638
Buntwal ..	5,593	5,218	10,811	6,037	5,866	11,903
Coondapur ...	3,806	4,254	8,060	2,913	2,547	5,460
Karkal ..	5,975	6,330	12,305	3,513	3,957	7,470
Mangalore ..	7,949	8,304	16,253	1,081	1,275	2,356
Puttur ..	8,321	7,921	16,242	4,555	4,522	9,077
Sullia ..	5,302	4,973	10,275	3,612	3,369	6,981
Udipi ..	7,319	71,500	14,819	6,273	6,458	12,731
Total ..	49,685	50,002	99,687	31,863	31,733	63,596

The standard of living of the people belonging to these classes is generally low in the district, as elsewhere in the State. Though compared to other districts, the percentage of literacy among them is slightly higher (it was a little over nine per cent in 1961), they are still far behind others. They were subject to various social disabilities in the past. While a few vestiges of disabilities are still lingering on in remote villages, they have disappeared in the towns. A section of the Scheduled Caste population is engaged in tanning and leather work and some have taken to occupations like fishing, masonry, carpentry and blacksmithy. The educated persons among them are generally absorbed in Government services. A majority of people of these classes, especially those living in the rural parts, are agricultural labourers, cultivating tenants and wage-earners and a very small number own lands.

Earliest attempts have been made by the Government for raising the economic and social conditions of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the district. But experience has shown that the problem requires continuous endeavour and more efforts for bringing them on par with the other progressive sections of the society. Necessary steps are, therefore, being taken in this direction. The provisions of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, are being enforced and instructions have been issued from time to time to the authorities concerned for taking steps to see that the members of these castes are treated like equal citizens without any kind of discrimination. The several ameliorative measures sponsored in the district for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes may be broadly classified into three categories, viz., (1) educational aid, (2) economic uplift, and (3) health, housing and sanitation. These schemes are implemented through the Taluk Development Boards.

With a view to providing more educational facilities to the Scheduled Caste children, the Government was formerly maintaining 32 Harijan Welfare Schools in the district. They were later converted into non-denominational schools in order to promote the integration of the Scheduled Castes with the rest of the community. However, 15 Scheduled Caste hostels are being maintained in the district, of which 10 are boys' hostels and five girls' hostels. The number of students in them was 557 in 1972. Of these hostels, two are at Mangalore (Kadri and Kodialbail), two each at Udipi, Coondapur and Puttur and one each at Belthangady, Buntwal, Karkal, Moodabidri, Padubidri, Sullia and Mulki.

Each of these hostels is under the charge of a Superintendent and the inmates are provided with free boarding and lodging facilities as also clothings. Besides these 15 hostels run by the Government, there are also a few hostels run by private agencies, which are given grants-in-aid by the Department of Social

Educational
aid

Welfare of
Scheduled
Castes

Welfare. The main intention in running these hostels is to provide facilities for deserving students to pursue their studies. There is a managing committee for each of the hostels and the Tahsildar of the taluk, in which the hostels are situated, is the chairman of this committee. The total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these hostels during 1971-72 was Rs. 1,55,218.

Scholarships.—As an incentive to the Scheduled Caste students studying in the primary and secondary schools in the district, scholarships are granted to a large number of poor and deserving candidates. While students studying in primary schools are granted Rs. 50 per annum, those studying in secondary schools are given Rs. 75 per annum. During 1971-72, about 800 primary and 320 high school students were awarded pre-matric scholarships at a total cost of about Rs. 65,000. Besides, merit scholarships are also awarded to bright students who secure high marks in the annual examinations, the amounts of scholarships being Rs. 75 per annum for primary school students and Rs. 100 for high school students. A sum of Rs. 7,000 was spent for this purpose during that year benefiting thereby 69 primary and 37 high school students. For selecting students for the award of these scholarships, there is a scholarship committee for the district presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the district. Further, fee concessions are also granted on a liberal scale to all the Scheduled Caste candidates, both in schools and colleges, on production of caste certificates from competent authority.

Residential Schools.—A Residential School for the benefit of the Scheduled Caste children has been established at Buntwal with a strength of 75 students. The children admitted to this residence-cum-school, which is recognised by the Education Department, receive primary education, with free boarding and lodging facilities. They are also provided with books and uniforms free of cost.

Supply of text-books, etc.—Many of the parents of the Scheduled Caste children do not evince any interest in the education of their children, owing, primarily, to their poverty. Hence, in order to induce them to send their children to school, the Government have formulated a scheme under which poor children are supplied with text books, slates and clothings free of cost. Besides, a large number of them are also provided with free mid-day meals.

The Government have been taking several measures aimed at improving the economic condition of these sections of the people. Cultivable lands are being assigned to them wherever possible. During the year 1971-72, 1,240.75 acres of land were granted to 628 persons including those of the Scheduled Tribes

Economic aid

also in the district. Aid is being given for purchase of plough-bullocks, seeds, manures and agricultural implements. About one hundred families received such agricultural aid during 1970-71 amounting to about Rs. 17,000. Subsidy is also being given to poorer families to enable them to take up sheep-breeding and poultry-farming; milch-cows and she-buffaloes are also supplied to selected families. During the Third Plan period, 100 families in the district were given such assistance amounting to Rs. 29,700. Aid is also extended to co-operative societies of the Scheduled Castes for development of crafts.

Agricultural Colonies

A programme of establishing agricultural colonies for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the State was implemented during the Second Five-Year Plan period. Under this Centrally-Sponsored Scheme, eleven such colonies were established in the different parts of the district at a total cost of about Rs. 2.51 lakhs. These colonies were located at Ajjavar and Subramanya in Sullia taluk, Nalkur and Nettanigemudnur in Puttur taluk, Indabettu, Naravi and Neriya in Belthangady taluk, Hirebettu and Puttur in Udipi taluk and Idu and Mala in Karkal taluk. Five to ten acres of cultivable land were granted to each of the families settled in these colonies, in addition to a subsidy of Rs. 400 for construction of houses and Rs. 300 for purchase of plough-bullocks. Each colony was also provided with a community centre-cum-school building at a cost of Rs. 2,500 and a community radio set at a cost of Rs. 300. Provision of drinking water facilities, approach roads, etc., were also made.

For the benefit of women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, two tailoring training centres and a tailoring production centre have been established. While the training centres are located at Mangalore and Udipi, the production centre is located at Kodialbail in Mangalore City. Twelve women are trained in each of the tailoring centres and all the trainees are paid a stipend of Rs. 25 per month for 12 months. Besides, they are provided with a sewing machine each at the successful completion of their training. Some of them are also absorbed in the tailoring production centre, the total number of persons working in the centre during 1971-72 being about 40. There is also a coir training centre at Kadri in Mangalore city, which imparts training to the Scheduled Caste women in the manufacture of coir products. The intake capacity of this centre is 25 and the trainees are paid a stipend of Rs. 50 each. During 1971-72, a total sum of Rs. 43,345 was spent by the Social Welfare Department on these centres.

Housing

A housing programme for the Scheduled Castes was initiated by the Government during the First Five-Year Plan and it was continued under the successive plans. A large number of families of these classes have been living in thatched huts under unhygienic

conditions. It was, therefore, felt that unless suitable lands were acquired for distribution as house-sites, their living conditions were unlikely to improve. Therefore, the Government have acquired suitable house-sites in healthy surroundings and distributed them free among the needy families. During the period between 1968 and 1971, about 725 families were thus provided with free house-sites in the district. Recently (1972-73), this programme of distribution of house-sites has been intensified and a large number of persons are being provided with house-sites. In addition to providing free house-sites, subsidies at the rate of Rs. 700 per house were also sanctioned to deserving families to enable them to put up houses on those sites.

There is a house-building co-operative society for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in each taluk headquarters of the district. These societies provide financial assistance, by way of loans, to houseless families of these classes for construction of houses, the amount of loans varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 per family. These loans are repayable in 20 equal annual instalments. In addition, timber worth Rs. 200 is also supplied free to the loanees. During 1971-72, these societies together had sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs. 4,88,550 to 177 families in the district. Of these, 136 houses had been completed and construction work in respect of others was in various stages of progress.

Community Centres are found to be of considerable advantage for promotion of unity and fellow-feeling among the different sections of the community. Buildings for these centres have been constructed in all the taluks of the district. During 1971-72 there were, in all, 31 such centres in the various parts of the district, of which 24 were for the Scheduled Castes and the rest for the Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. **Community Centres**

The foregoing is only a brief account of some of the more important schemes undertaken in the district for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes. There are also other schemes like those relating to provision of drinking water wells, formation of approach roads to Harijan colonies, aid to voluntary agencies engaged in Harijan welfare work, grant of legal aid to the poor, publicity and propaganda against the practice of untouchability, supply of wheel-barrow and hand-carts to sweepers and scavengers, payment of boarding grants to the Scheduled Caste students in general hostels, and so on. These and other schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes have been implemented in the district under the successive Five-Year plans. A certain number of posts in Government departments are also reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

The welfare of the people of the Scheduled Tribes, who are in considerable number in the district, has also received the attention of the Government and several similar schemes for the

amelioration of this section of the people have also been formulated and implemented in the district. These include, among other things, establishment of Ashram Schools, educational aid, aid for agriculture and cottage industries, establishment of tribal *ad hoc* development blocks, construction of houses and several other schemes.

**Educational
aid**

In the field of education, four hostels, with a total intake capacity of 207 students, have been established, one each at Vittal, Mundaje, Ajekar and Belthangady. In addition, there is an aided hostel at Adyanadka with an intake capacity of 50 students. Pre-matric scholarships of Rs. 50 and Rs. 75 have been granted to a large number of middle school and high school students, respectively, in the district. A sum of Rs. 48,425 was spent for this purpose during 1971-72, the total number of students benefited being about 820. Further, about 800 children were provided with clothings and equipment at a cost of nearly Rs. 16,000 during that year. Again, another 600 students were supplied with school uniforms in the tribal *ad hoc* development blocks at a cost of Rs. 6,000.

Residential or Ashram Schools.—Another important measure undertaken for the promotion of educational advancement of the Scheduled Tribes, is the establishment of Residential or Ashram Schools. There were 13 such schools in the various parts of the district with a total intake capacity of 625 students. The children admitted to these residence-*cum*-schools are provided with primary education upto the fourth standard. In addition to free boarding and lodging, they are also provided with dresses, books, etc., free of cost. A sum of about Rs. 1.25 lakhs was spent by the Government for the maintenance of these schools during 1971-72.

Economic aid

With a view to improving the economic conditions of the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, cultivable lands have been granted to several of them. They are also provided with agricultural requisites like plough-bullocks, implements, seeds, manures and the like. Irrigational loans are also granted to some. During 1971-72, a total agricultural aid worth Rs. 28,000 was given to about a hundred families in the district, while four families received irrigational loans amounting to about Rs. 1,500. In order to encourage them to take up animal husbandry as a means to supplement their meagre income, sheep and goats, pigs and poultry, milch-cows, etc., are distributed among the deserving families. About 20 families received benefits under this scheme during 1971-72, the amount spent for the purpose being about Rs. 5,000.

With a view to rehabilitating the poor and landless tribal families on cultivable land, a Multi-purpose Co-operative Rehabilitation Centre has been established at Shishila in Belthangady

taluk. About 25 families have been rehabilitated in this centre on a plot of about 125 acres of land which has been put to agricultural use by the settlers. A sum of Rs. 1.65 lakhs has been spent for the implementation of this scheme. To enable the Scheduled Tribe people to undertake contract for the supply of minor forest produce and thereby earn their living, a Scheduled Tribe Forest Labourers Co-operative Society has been organised at Puttur. This Society has jurisdiction over Puttur, Sullia and Belthangady taluks.

Another important welfare scheme for the Scheduled Tribes undertaken in the district is the starting of three *Ad hoc* Tribal Development Blocks at Udipi, Karkal and Belthangady. This Centrally-Sponsored Scheme is designed to improve the economic condition of the Scheduled Tribes in these blocks by extending them all possible assistance such as supply of plough-bullocks, facilities for land reclamation, housing facilities, facilities for sheep-rearing and poultry-farming, drinking-water facilities, medical facilities and the like. During 1971-72, a sum of Rs. 1,20,570 was spent for providing these various facilities to the people of this community in these blocks.

**Ad hoc Tribal
Development
Blocks.**

There are also other schemes and facilities relating to construction of community centres, formation of approach roads to tribal colonies, grant of housing subsidies, provision of drinking-water facilities, reservation of a certain proportion of posts in Government Departments, holding of tribal conferences, and the like for the benefit of the Scheduled Tribes.

The other backward classes for whose welfare also the Government have sponsored some schemes include the Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and Denotified Tribes. A hostel for the children of other backward classes has been established at Mangalore. In addition, there is another aided hostel at Kaniyana in Buntwal taluk. About a hundred students were residing in these hostels during 1971-72. About 200 students belonging to the Nomadic Tribes and 500 belonging to the other backward classes were granted pre-matric scholarships amounting to about Rs. 42,000 during that year. The Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes have been a wandering people not remaining at any one place for long. With a view to creating some interest in them to remain at a place and improve their economic conditions, they are also granted lands for agriculture and house-sites for construction of dwelling houses. However, since the number of people belonging to these tribes in the district is not large, the schemes drawn up for their welfare and the amount spent thereon are also not large.

**Welfare of
Other Back-
ward Classes**

**Welfare of
Women of
Backward
Classes**

The welfare of women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes has also received the attention of the Government. The Government have formulated some special welfare schemes for them, such as opening of women welfare centres, nursery schools, tailoring units, and the like. Apart from the two tailoring centres, a tailoring production centre and a coir unit referred to earlier which provide training and employment facilities to the women of backward classes, there were, during 1971-72, 22 women welfare centres in various parts of the district under the control of the Social Welfare Department. Of the 22 centres, 17 were for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and five for women belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

The women of these classes gather at these centres in the afternoons for recreation and also for learning crafts like tailoring and needle-work. *Bhajans* and social functions are also conducted occasionally. Talks aimed at imparting them elementary knowledge of sanitation, family-planning and care of children are also given in these centres. There are also facilities for indoor games. An important activity of these women welfare centres is the running of pre-primary or nursery schools for the benefit of children of backward classes in their respective areas. A Women Welfare Organiser, assisted by a Conductress, runs these classes in each of these centres. In addition to reading and writing, the children are also taught music and drill. About 50 children are admitted to each of these nursery schools and they are provided with free mid-day meal under the CARE programme and also with the assistance of the Social Welfare Department. During 1971-72, about a thousand children were availing of these benefits in the various women welfare centres in the district, and the total expenditure incurred for the maintenance of these centres during that year was Rs. 69,625.

According to the authorities concerned in the district, a total sum of Rs. 3.35 lakhs was spent during the First Five-Year Plan for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in the district. The expenditure had considerably increased to Rs. 20.30 lakhs during the Second Plan period, while the total amount spent during the Third Plan period was about Rs. 26.91 lakhs.

**Charitable
Endowments**

The administration of the religious and charitable endowments in the district is still governed by the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951. The Deputy Commissioner of the district is also the Deputy Commissioner for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments for the district under the provisions of the Act, with an Assistant Commissioner

for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments assisting him. While the Deputy Commissioner has jurisdiction over all the mutts and other *muzrai* institutions which have an annual income of Rs. 20,000 and above, the Assistant Commissioner exercises jurisdiction over the rest of the institutions.

There is also an Area Committee in the district to supervise the management of religious and charitable institutions which have an annual income of less than Rs. 20,000. It is a statutory body of non-official members appointed under Section 12(1) of the Act. The Assistant Commissioner, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, is the Chairman of this Committee. The main functions of the Area Committee, whose period of office is three years, are: (1) to pass the budget estimates of the institutions coming under its jurisdiction; (2) to exercise general supervision over the management of these institutions; (3) to sanction plans and estimates in respect of improvements and repairs to the institutions; (4) to appoint managers or executive officers, and (5) to review the audit reports of the institutions.

The religious institutions in the district are primarily administered by trustees. There are two kinds of trustees, *viz.*, hereditary trustees and non-hereditary trustees. Hereditary trustees are those who succeed to the posts of hereditary trusteeship, being next in the line of succession, as per the provisions of the Act. It had been provided under Sections 39 and 41 of the Act that the Area Committee may appoint trustees for a term of five years in respect of temples coming under its jurisdiction and the Commissioner for Endowments, Bangalore, in respect of others. However, it is reported that consequent on a recent (February 1970) judgement of the High Court of Mysore in a Writ Petition, all the temples in the district have been treated as denominational ones and so the practice of appointing non-hereditary trustees has since been discontinued. However, the denominational institutions have trustees chosen from amongst the members of the denomination and the names of such trustees are forwarded to the endowments office for record.

Temple administration

There are as many as 2,173 *muzrai* institutions in the district, of which 353 are major assessable institutions and the rest are minor ones. The Udipi taluk has the highest number of institutions, *viz.*, 706, while the taluk of Belthangady has the lowest. The subjoined statement indicates the taluk-wise number of major and minor *muzrai* institutions in the district:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Major institutions</i>	<i>Minor institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Udipi	95	611	706
2.	Coondapur	41	422	463
3.	Mangalore	72	204	276
4.	Karkal	49	218	267
5.	Puttur	19	156	175
6.	Buntwal	42	73	115
7.	Sullia	12	102	114
8.	Belthangady	23	34	57
Total		353	1,820	2,173

It is the duty of the Endowments Department in the district to inspect the temples and check up the jewels, etc., in them periodically. It has also powers to scrutinise the budgets, plans and estimates regarding construction works, etc., of the temples as also to audit their accounts. In short, the Department has to see that the administration of these temples is carried on smoothly by the trustees and that the interest of the institutions is protected and that the provisions of the law in force are carried out.

A number of important *jatras* and festivals are held annually with pomp and pageantry in the several taluks of the district. Festival committees are formed for making arrangements for conducting them with the co-operation of all concerned. The Endowments Department, in co-operation with the Health Services Department, supervises the sanitary and other related arrangements during the time of the *jatras* and festivals. It also makes arrangements for providing drinking water and shelter to the pilgrims who congregate on those occasions.

Wakf Institution

For the administration of Muslim religious and charitable endowment institutions, the Central Wakf Act, 1954, as amended by Central Acts 30 of 1959, 34 of 1964 and 38 of 1968, is in force in the State. Under the provisions of the original Act, the State Government constituted a Board of Wakfs consisting of seven members with the Commissioner for Religious and Charitable Endowments as its chairman. Necessary rules were also framed under the Act. Later, District Wakf Committees were also constituted for each district by the Mysore State Board of Wakfs to supervise Muslim endowments in the district. There is a district Wakf Committee at Mangalore for the purpose.

Consequent on the enforcement of the Amendment Act of 1964 in the State, the Commissioner for Religious and Charitable

Endowments was appointed as the Commissioner of Wakfs under Section 4(1) of the Act, and a non-official as the head of the Mysore State Board of Wakfs. There are a number of mosques, *darghas* and other Muslim institutions in South Kanara which are supported by specific endowments. The total number of such institutions in the district in 1972-73 was 333, the total value of (immovable) property endowed to them being Rs. 39,11,720. The gross income from these institutions during 1971-72 was Rs. 1,79,886. The institutions are managed by managing committees, *muthavallis* and trustees according to the usage and customs and terms of the deed and the scheme, under the general supervision and control of the District Wakf Committee and the Mysore State Board of Wakfs.