

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

PREVIOUS chapters have dealt with the principal sectors of the economy of the district such as agriculture, industry, trade and commerce and transport, in which a major portion of the working population is engaged. The census of 1951 recorded that out of the total population of 13,30,917 in South Kanara, 62.8 per cent depended directly or indirectly on cultivation, 12.7 per cent on industries, 6.5 per cent on trade and commerce and 1.9 per cent on transport. In 1961, about 64.8 per cent of the working population was engaged in agriculture, 3.8 per cent in mining, fisheries, etc., 6.7 per cent in household industries, 7.6 per cent in manufacturing, 1.1 per cent in construction, 4.5 per cent in trade and commerce and 1.6 per cent in transport, the total population being 15,63,837. Fisheries occupy an important place in the economy of the district. In absolute numbers, as many as 10,355 persons were recorded as fishermen and related workers in the 1961 census. In 1971, the percentages of various categories of working population were: 29.37 cultivators; 24.79 agricultural labourers; 4.70 fishermen, hunters and allied workers; 0.28 mine and quarry workers; 20.42 manufacturers, repairers, etc.; 1.80 construction workers; 7.55 traders; 2.77 transport workers, etc. and 8.32 those in other services. The non-workers constituted 61.39 per cent. (The figures of 1951 census given here and elsewhere in the chapter included the figures of Kasaragod taluk also which then formed a part of the district).

This does not, however, exhaust the whole field of economic activities. Not an inconsiderable percentage of the working population is engaged in other occupations like public administration, learned professions, fine arts, domestic services, tailoring, hair-cutting, running of hotels and restaurants, laundries, etc., which are attracting an increasing number of persons to the urban areas. With the growth of urbanisation, the miscellaneous occupations have also grown. No detailed surveys have been made about these various occupational groups and as such, any attempt

to describe these groups would inevitably be limited in scope. Except the census figures, the rest are roughly estimated figures.

A considerable number of persons are engaged in the several branches of public administration. They include those working in the various offices under the State and the Central Governments and in the establishments of the various local bodies and the village officials. According to the census of 1951, there were 2,925 employees of the State Government, 189 of the Central Government, 382 of local boards and 892 village officers. As per the 1961 census, the number of persons engaged in offices of the Central Government and the State Government stood at 553 and 3,559 respectively; there were also 890 persons in the police force of the State Government. Quasi-Government organisations like municipalities and local boards employed 1,558 persons. These employees enjoy various benefits like security of service, provident fund, gratuity, advances, free medical aid, etc. The bulk of them, of course, are working under the State Government. Especially, the rise in the volume and variety of developmental activities taken up under the Five-Year Plans has necessitated the increase in the number of employees in this sphere.

In order to maintain statistics of persons engaged in the services of the State Government, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics has been taking a census since 1959. The first report was published in 1961. This Census gives classification of Government employees as on 31st March of the year for which the census was taken. Since then an annual census was taken for some years. However, these census figures were not complete by themselves as the reports from some of the offices were not received in time. From 1968 onwards, the figures were compiled only for each department as such and not for each of the districts as a unit. The subjoined statement gives an idea of the number and periodical increases therein of State Government employees in the district.

Sl. No.	Year (as on 31st March)	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted	Class IV	Total
1.	1959	198	3,145	1,545	4,888
2.	1962	209	4,439	1,551	6,199
3.	1965	185	4,637	1,983	6,805
4.	1968	263	5,202	2,220	7,685

A large number of these employees are working in the district headquarters town. In 1968, as many as 52 class I officers, 108

class II officers, 2,313 class III officers and 1,157 class IV officials were working in Mangalore city. The emoluments of the Government employees have been increased from time to time so as to enable them, as far as possible, to meet the increased cost of living. It is stated that the Bureau has now (1973) taken up the work of the census of Government employees in order to compile them district-wise.

Learned Professions

The persons coming under the category of learned professions have a good educational background or training in their particular field. They can be classified under various small distinct groups like lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers, authors, journalists, musicians, actors, priests, etc.

Arts and letters.—This broad class covers artists, journalists, authors, actors, etc. The 1951 census recorded that there were 37 artists, sculptors and image-makers, 32 journalists and 59 photographers. The number of actors and dancers in the district stood at 554, comprising 520 men and 34 women. The number of musicians and pipers in the district in that year was 559. In the 1961 census, about 754 persons were enumerated as artists, writers and related workers. Of these, 483 were musicians and related workers and 475 were males.

Teaching Profession.—Among the learned professions, the educational service has a much larger number of persons than the legal and medical fields. Education has been recognised as “a built-in-condition for economic progress” and large funds are being spent on it. In recent years there has been a phenomenal progress in the educational sphere in the district. The number of educational institutions, students and teachers is steadily increasing. In 1951, the total number of persons engaged in educational services and research was 3,675. There were 84 lecturers in colleges, 72 of them being men and 12 women. Besides, there were in that year 5,254 school teachers, out of whom 3,570 were men and 1,684 women. The number of managers of schools in that year was 12. Further, there were, in all, 161 clerks and 170 servants in the educational institutions. In 1961, as many as 9,480 persons were engaged in educational and scientific services. Of these, 8,891 were working in educational services such as those rendered by colleges, schools and similar other institutions of a non-technical type, 5,717 of them being males and 3,174 females. Of the total figure, 422 were teachers in various colleges, 1,058 in secondary schools and 5,913 in primary and middle schools.

Medical profession.—This profession is composed of doctors, dentists, nurses, health visitors, midwives, pharmacists, etc. A large number of them are working in Government, semi-government and

private institutions and the rest are in private practice. This profession has been found to be a lucrative one and an increasing number of persons aspire to get themselves qualified for joining this profession.

In 1951, there were 302 registered medical practitioners, 287 of them being men and 15 women. Apart from this, there were 998 practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine. The number of dentists, nurses, midwives, vaccinators and compounders were 24, 97, 172, 16 and 175 respectively. In 1961, the number of physicians, surgeons and dentists stood at 933, of whom 399 were Ayurvedic physicians. It was also recorded that there were 1,380 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. Of these, 290 were nurses, 191 midwives and health visitors, 215 nursing attendants and related workers, 195 pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians and 430 medical and health technicians, etc.

Legal Profession.—The legal profession includes lawyers and their clerks and petition writers. These people serve the community in securing justice in civil and criminal matters according to the prevailing Acts and Rules and natural justice. They live in urban areas where the courts are situated. The fee charged by each lawyer varies according to the seriousness of the case and also his popularity. Sometimes it depends upon the capacity of the client to pay. But the client has to pay the fee fixed whether the case ends in his favour or not. Established reputation matters much in this field and it is difficult for new entrants to sustain themselves for the first few years.

The profession demands great ability on the part of persons who enter the field, especially as it has now quite a large number of practitioners. However, there is a special attraction in that it is an independent profession of considerable prestige giving a good deal of scope for participating and rising in public life. In 1951, there were 221 lawyers and 337 clerks of lawyers and petition writers in the district. All of them were men. As per the 1961 census, there were 421 jurists, eight of whom were females. Out of the total number of jurists, 305 were classified as legal practitioners and advisers. According to the figures furnished by the Secretary, Mangalore Bar Association, there were 174 member-associates in 1971 as against 192 in 1962. The decrease in the number of members is attributed to the fact that many of them have settled in other towns consequent on the opening of courts there.

The working proprietors are those who are self-employed in shops and other establishments of their own. A good number of them can be found in urban centres. While the proprietors of bigger establishments employ shop assistants, salesmen and the like,

**Working
proprietors**

the smaller ones are managed by the proprietors themselves who may take the help of members of their own family. According to the 1951 census, there were 8,875 general merchants and shopkeepers, 690 cutlery dealers, commission agents and brokers in cutlery, 5,182 fish merchants, 2,469 dealers in foodstuffs, 1,090 beeda and beedi sellers, and 1,185 cloth merchants. Ten years later, *i.e.*, in 1961, there were 18,952 working proprietors in wholesale and retail trade, included in whom were hawkers, pedlars and street-vendors numbering about 6,445.

Hotels and Restaurants

The hotel industry is a flourishing one in South Kanara. The name 'Udipi' has earned a wide reputation in the country as distinguishing a class of hotels and restaurants noted for tasty dishes and good facilities and management. The 'Udipi hotels' managed by enterprising men from this district are to be found in various parts of the country.

The hotel industry in South Kanara may be classified as urban, semi-urban and rural, depending upon the location. With the rapid development of transport and consequent easy access to place to place, boarding and lodging establishments, coffee and tea clubs, meals hotels and cool drink shops have emerged in large numbers. In the urban areas like Mangalore, Udipi, Puttur and Coondapur, the hotel industry is developed on modern lines in recent decades. Well-planned and comfortable lodging houses with facilities for board are found in all towns. In several other places like Moodabidri, Mulki and Ullal, lodging facilities are available but not on modern lines. In the smaller places, the rooms are cheap, and are sparsely furnished, with hardly any sanitary conveniences. Generally, in the rural areas, there are hardly any facilities for lodging.

In addition to boarding and lodging houses, restaurants abound in the urban areas where an attractive bill of fare is provided. There is keen competition in the restaurant business. Wooden tables have been replaced by marble-topped tables and comfortable chairs or sofas are provided. Ceiling fans are quite common in the restaurants situated in the urban areas.

Restaurants, where only refreshments are served, are opened in the early hours of the morning. The morning and evening hours are very busy and customers form a constant stream. In the semi-urban areas, restaurants are not well planned and the customers, who patronise them, too are not very particular. Though tables and chairs have been provided, they are of a rough type. In the rural areas, restaurants have no other facilities except a few long wooden benches with rough tables in some places. Dishes in many of them are being supplied on leaves and coffee or tea is served in brass or aluminium tumblers.

Boarding and lodging facilities in places like Mangalore may be said to be of two varieties ; first class and second class. In a few establishments in Mangalore, delux facilities are available ; air-conditioned single rooms with radio and telephone facilities are provided in them. In the first class variety, the set-up and the furniture and the service are better. The rooms are well-ventilated and reasonably furnished. A cot with a comfortable mattress and a bedsheet are provided and a table with a dressing mirror, a coat-stand and a water-jug are the other usual articles generally provided. In the second variety, single, double and treble-bedded rooms with some furniture with or without fans are provided at moderate rates. In the semi-urban areas, lodging houses have only ' charpoys ', three, four or five in a long room, or a dozen in the long *verandah*.

**Boarding and
Lodging**

There are " pan-supari " shops attached to many of the lodging houses and restaurants. The dining halls are spacious and food is served generally on the tables, while there is provision in some of them for squatting on *manes* and eating in a separate room. Many of the lodging houses, especially in semi-urban areas, have no buildings of their own. They are housed in rented buildings, the upstairs rooms being used as lodging rooms.

Meals in the hotels are usually of a standard type. Monthly ticket books at concessional rates are also issued for regular boarders. The food consists of rice, *sambar* and *rasam*, sometimes *pachadi*, *puri* or *chapati*, vegetables, pickles and *happala* with butter-milk or curds at the customer's choice. There are a good number of non-vegetarian hotels and restaurants serving various dishes made of mutton, poultry, fish, etc., which cater to the needs of customers who prefer them.

In the residential hotels of a medium type, the cost of equipment may range from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000. The premises of boarding and lodging houses are larger and better than those of restaurants. The boarding hotels provide meals two times a day. There is also facility for baths for which an extra charge is made. The residential hotels, besides providing accommodation and two meals a day, also supply tea or coffee in the morning and afternoon. The customers can be classified as regular members or monthly boarders or lodgers and casual visitors. Monthly boarding charges vary from about Rs. 60 to Rs. 90 and more, whereas a casual customer has to pay from Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2.50 per meal. The number of regular members taking meals in the case of small establishments may be about 20 and the number of casual boarders which fluctuates may be between 15 to 25. The larger establishments may have as many as 50 to 80 regular members and an equal number or more of casual boarders. Rice, vegetables, pulses, spices, wheat, oil, milk, ghee, etc. form the bulk of the raw materials. The larger establishments purchase the

raw materials from the wholesalers, whereas the smaller ones purchase on a retail basis. The daily cost of raw materials may be between Rs. 30 and Rs. 80 in the small establishments, between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150 in the medium establishments and between Rs. 150 and Rs. 500 in the bigger establishments. Generally, the Mangalore establishments have more turnover than their counterparts in Udipi, Coondapur, Karkal, etc. The monthly earnings of a small or medium sized establishment ranges from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600. The owners of the bigger establishments earn between Rs. 600 to Rs. 1,500 a month and a few large and decent boarding houses and hotels in Mangalore earn much more.

The industry provides whole-time employment throughout the year. According to the census of 1951, there were 817 hotel-keepers with 9,073 employees in the district (including Kasaragod taluk). With the growth of industries and commerce, the number of hotels and restaurants in the district is increasing. In 1961, 11,618 persons were recorded as engaged in this industry. Of this total figure, 10,587 were males and 1,034 females. These were spread all over the district, the total number working in the urban areas being 3,890. All the workers in these establishments are given free tiffin and meals, the cost of which varies from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 a day. The wages vary from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month in the case of workers like table cleaners, cleaners of vessels, etc. and from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 in the case of cooks, in addition to the above free tiffin and meals. Before the introduction of the Shops and Establishments Act, there were neither fixed house of work nor were there any holiday facilities for these workers. Now their service conditions have much improved. They have a weekly holiday, and in addition other leave facilities at 20 days per year.

Bakeries

In almost all towns, there are bakeries where bread, biscuits, cakes, etc., are prepared and sold locally. Most of these bakeries are small in size, each engaging about two to four persons. A few larger ones engage about a dozen persons. Many of the bakeries are family establishments where the owners, with the help of the members of the family, run the concerns. The 1961 census recorded that there were, in the district, 723 bakers, confectioners, candy and sweet-meat makers, of whom 582 were men. As many as 393 of the total number resided in the urban areas. This occupation provides full-time employment throughout the year.

The equipment of a bakery consists of a large wooden table to prepare the dough, an oven with its accessories such as tin trays, small iron-sheet boxes, moulds, cupboards and baskets. The cost of equipment in general may range from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000 depending upon the size of the establishment. Most of the bakeries are housed in rented buildings, the rent varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per month. The work is done mostly by the physical

labour of experienced persons and there is no clear-cut division of labour. The major portion of the work, which requires some skill and also entails greater physical labour, is done by the more experienced and stronger persons and the rest is done by others. The raw materials that are required are wheat flour, sugar, yeast, butter, flavouring essence, eggs, etc. Wages of employees are paid in cash. The monthly wage of an adult employee varies from about Rs. 80 to Rs. 100, whereas boys are paid between Rs. 50 and Rs. 80 per month. These wages are paid either weekly or monthly.

The bakeries sell most of their products to hotels and restaurants which are found in large numbers in the district. Some of them maintain their own shops where they sell their products and a few bakeries employ boys for carrying their goods from door to door. In addition to the products manufactured by the bakeries in the district, varieties of biscuits are imported from Bombay, Madras, etc., in closed tins by cutlery dealers and these find a ready sale in Mangalore and other towns. In the case of small establishments, the earning of the owner may be between Rs. 250 and Rs. 400 per month and in the case of larger establishments, it may be between Rs. 400 and Rs. 600 and more per month. The annual turnover of this occupation is estimated at about Rs. three lakhs per year. It is thus an important occupation in this district.

Domestic services include personal services rendered by cooks, domestic servants, etc. The total number of cooks in 1951 stood at 1,094 and domestic servants at 3,690. According to the 1961 census, the total number of domestic servants, cooks, etc. was 7,983, of whom 5,114 were women. As many as 4,543 persons of them were living in the urban areas. Their monthly wages may be put at Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 and in addition, many of these workers are provided with free food and clothing and sometimes shelter. Those who are not given food and clothing, get a higher rate of wages. Many middle class families engage servants on a part-time basis for attending to various items of routine domestic work.

**Domestic
services**

The occupation of tailoring is attracting an increasing number of persons to Mangalore, Udipi, Coondapur, Puttur and other important places in the district, though a good number continue to have their business in the rural areas. According to the census of 1951, there were on the whole, 2,366 tailors in the district, of whom 2,211 were men and 115 women. In 1961, the total number of tailors, cutters and related workers stood at 3,695, of whom 3,369 were men and 326 were women. Out of the total number, as many as 1,589 were in urban areas. A majority of the tailoring firms are small establishments where the owners, with the help of one or two relatives, carry on the work. In bigger concerns, about 5 to 8 persons are engaged on the basis of payment of

Tailoring

either time-wages or piece-wages. This occupation provides employment throughout the year.

The equipment consists mainly of sewing machines, scissors, tables, cupboards, ironing machines, etc. The capital invested may range from Rs. 800 to Rs. 2,500 in the case of smaller firms employing one or more outsiders and from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 in the case of firms employing five to six persons. Some establishments, who have prospered, have also supplemented their occupation with arrangements for sale of readymade clothes. Sewing machines are purchased generally on instalment basis from the local agents of the manufacturing companies. There is no division of labour in small establishments. But in the larger ones, this is in evidence. The owner or, in some cases, a specialist, takes measurements, cuts the cloth according to the measurements and stitches only a few important clothes like woollen or silk coats or trousers. The other workers stitch ordinary clothes. Minor pieces of works like preparing button-holes and stitching buttons are done by boys.

Customers usually purchase the cloth and give it to the tailors for stitching. The materials required by the tailors are purchased in the local market and the cost of the materials may range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month according to the size of the business.

The value of the business done daily may be estimated as varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 36 according to the size of the establishment. During the marriage season and on other festive occasions, the tailors are very busy. During such periods, some of the leading tailoring shops do good business, often to the extent of Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 a day.

Laundries

Laundries are many in Mangalore, and in each town in the district there are a few laundries. A majority of these are family concerns where the owners with the help of the members of their families carry on their business and only the bigger establishments employ a few workers. The equipment in most of the laundries consists of some iron boxes, one or two large tables for ironing and one or more show-cases for keeping washed clothes, the total cost of which may vary between Rs. 400 and Rs. 600. The materials required for carrying on the work are soap, washing soda, blue powder, petrol and charcoal for ironing (where electricity is not made use of). A special type of soap powder, which is costlier than the ordinary one, is used for washing silks and other costly clothes. Electricity and machinery are used by the bigger shops which do dry-cleaning of woollen and silk clothes and for ironing.

In 1951, there were 19 big laundries where hired labour was employed, of which 12 were in Mangalore city alone. The total number of workers employed by these laundries was 50 (39 males

and 11 females). Apart from these, there were 32 washing concerns where the members of the family and the relatives of the owners only worked. According to the census of that year, the total number of persons, who may be described as washermen, was 771 consisting of 480 men and 291 women. The figures included those of Kasaragod taluk also which formed part of the district in 1951. According to the 1961 census, there were 771 launderers, dry-cleaners and pressers, of whom 252 were males.

The majority of the laundries are housed in rented buildings, occupying one or two rooms. The rent may vary from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 in the case of small establishments and Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 in the case of bigger ones. There are no definite hours of work for operations like washing, cleaning, bleaching, etc., all of which are carried on at home. The occupation provides employment throughout the year. The old system of house delivery of washed clothes is still in vogue, besides delivery at the laundries, particularly in Mangalore city. Business in the laundries is slack during the rainy season. A few establishments also undertake dyeing work, besides washing. Many poor people generally do not give clothes to laundries. Some middle-class people are also used to washing their clothes at home and sometimes they get them ironed in the laundries, especially for festive and marriage occasions. The earnings of the owners, including the members of the family, range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 400 per month depending on the size of business they do. The earnings of the laundries which specialise in dry cleaning of clothes, are naturally higher.

In 1951, there were about 800 hair-cutting saloons in the district, which gave employment to more than 1,300 persons (including those persons in Kasaragod taluk which formed part of the district in 1951). The advance of fashionable ideas has made people in the rural parts also to have the habit of taking frequent shaves. According to the 1961 census, there were 1,538 barbers, hair dressers, beauticians and related workers in the district. The initial capital required is not much and the equipment is simple. The equipment consists of a couple of chairs, big mirrors, scissors, razors, combs, cropping instruments, pincers, nail-parers and leather straps to sharpen razors. The cost of the equipment may range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 in the case of small shops and from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,500 or even more in the case of a few saloons well equipped and nicely decorated.

**Hair-cutting
saloons**

The saloons have to incur current expenditure on oil, soap, face powder and other toilet requisites, lighting charges, etc. The average daily expenditure may vary from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 according to the size of the business. The monthly earning of one-man establishments may amount to about Rs. 80 and those of larger ones may range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 a month per person.

The monthly earnings of a few large and decent saloons, situated in busy localities, are much higher. In many of the villages, the individual barbers go round to the houses of their customers for shaving and hair-cutting. In the urban areas only a few people call the barbers to their residences.

Florists

The South Kanara district has a luxuriant vegetation and flower plants are grown to a considerable extent. Being a coastal area with excessive humidity, flowers usually grown in the plateau are not grown here except jasmine which is a popular variety. The plants of this flower are grown, for instance, in the areas of Bijai, Derebail and in the neighbourhood of Mangalore city. Roses of different varieties—white, red and pinkish—are grown in private home-gardens. The whitish and pinkish jasmine is largely grown in Udipi taluk, particularly in Shirva, Shankarapura and Katpadi. Usually, the pre-monsoon period from February to June is the flower season. With the great improvement in transport facilities, flowers are procurable from the old Mysore region and they have also a good sale on important festive days, especially in the pilgrim centres. Some merchants get loose flowers from Bangalore for supply to marriage parties and also to the various temples on important occasions. With the recent facility of air transport, many well-to-do families in Mangalore are able to get flowers from Bangalore through established florists. The jasmine flowers are also exported from this district to Bombay by air.

The daily supply of flowers for domestic use is made through florists who have built up a well-organised trade. The flower merchants obtain their supply from owners of gardens and the retailers get their requirements from the farmers. The bulk of retail trade is handled by women more than men, because they are more suitable for the artistic work of stringing flowers into garlands. A good number of Roman Catholic women, sitting in vantage places, attend to the sale in Mangalore. Flowers are sold also in front of some temples, in market places, etc. The retail sellers buy loose flowers and make them into acceptable varieties like strings, garlands and bouquets. The usual places where florists congregate in Mangalore town are the Mangaladevi temple, Webster Market, Kadri temple, Ganapati temple, Hampanakatta bazaar, Kodialbail bazaar, etc. In Udipi, many florists gather in the car street near the Krishna temple. In Dharmasthala, Kollur and Subramanya, florists keep their shops on the two sides of the roads in front of the temples.

The ordinary flower-sellers carry on their business in the morning hours and in the evenings. They usually get loose flowers on payment of a stipulated advance and pay the balance after the business hours. Each retail seller may get loose flowers worth about five to ten rupees, paying some advance and the rest is paid in the evenings. The profit may range from 15 to 30 per

cent on special occasions and 10 to 15 per cent on ordinary days. The retail flower-sellers sit in rows, each with a basket and a tray, and prepare flower strings and spread them on the trays for display. The stringed flowers are sold by the length.

The bigger florists have their own shops in the bazaars and they may employ one or more workers to make garlands, strings, and bouquets, etc., which are displayed. They have to meet the cost of the bulk supply of flowers, the cost of appurtenances, the rent of the shop, etc. Flowers from gardens are obtained either on payment of ready cash or on a loan basis. The profit yield may work out to 15 to 25 per cent and, at times, even more for these shop-keepers. There is also a good flower business at Udipi, because of the eight *mathas* and the celebrated Shri Krishna temple. Flowers have to be poured in for the daily pujas and every pilgrim who visits the temple, makes it a point to take at least a yard of stringed flowers to the temple. Florists in this place have their own stalls in rows and do brisk trade.

An article peculiar to this district and differing in shape from similar ones made elsewhere, is the grinding stone made of granite. It is a semi-circular, oval-shaped block with an oval bottom and a round hole in the middle of the circle. It has another oval-shaped block within and laying with one end so shaped as to fit in the hole in the larger block. These two together make the grinding stone which is used for grinding curry stuffs, rice, wheat, etc. The price of the grinding stone varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 according to its size and quality. A grinding stone of an ordinary size takes about four days to make. A class of people called Kallu-kuttis used to make such articles formerly, but the industry is now taken up by others also. Mile stones, slabs for temple door-frames, idols and other figures for temples, etc., are also made of granite.

Stone workers

In two villages in Karkal taluk (Naravi and Kutluru), utensils are made from soapstone. Big and small vessels are prepared for storing grain and for cooking and cake-making. This occupation is carried on in addition to agriculture. A man can make articles worth about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a day. Articles worth Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 are made every year by 15 to 20 families in those two places. They are sold in villages and shandies. The demand for them is due to their not being as brittle as earthen-ware nor as costly as metal-wares. These vessels are fairly durable but they require to be carefully handled. These utensils find a market in the district itself.

In addition to the above-mentioned two classes of workers, who are found engaged in stone work, there are also others who work in construction units. They prepare stone slabs, size

stones, polished stones, etc. Gravelly stone slabs are cut out of the numerous small hills and dales and dressed into large-size bricks for use in the construction of buildings. A considerable number of persons are found engaged in dressing such natural bricks. In 1961, there were about 468 quarrymen and 4,509 stone-cutters, stone-carvers and stone-dressers in the district.

As early as 1957-58, the wage rate for digging and dressing of different sizes of stone blocks was put at Rs. 10 and Rs. 10-50 for every 100 slabs. This rate has been significantly increased commensurate with the increasing cost of living. On an average, an individual worker can dig out and dress about 15 to 20 blocks per day.

Manufacture of Catechu

The catechu industry is peculiar to South Kanara and is carried on mainly in Coondapur taluk. Catechu is manufactured out of the tree called "Catechu tree," which is of a moderate size with bipinnate compound leaves. It is not cultivated, but grows naturally except in those soils in which sand predominates, the laterite soil being best suited. It is confined mostly to the villages north of the Wandse river and the Shankaranarayana-Hosangadi Road. The heartwood of catechu is said to be more durable than teakwood, but it is scarcely used for timber as the tree seldom grows straight or attains the dimensions necessary for yielding timber and also as it is considered more valuable as a source of catechu than timber. With the growth of tanning and arecanut industries in which catechu is used, the manufacture of this has gained much importance. As such, the number of persons engaged in this occupation has increased considerably in recent decades.

The riyats are not permitted to fell catechu trees except those standing on their own lands. The right of manufacturing catechu is vested with the Forest Department which controls the cutting of the trees. The catechu manufactured in South Kanara appears to command a high price on account of the careful and neat method employed in its preparation. The catechu is chiefly eaten with pan (betal-leaf) and administered as a medicine to women immediately after confinement. It is also used by tanners.