

## CHAPTER XI

### REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

**T**HE land tax has been one of the oldest sources of revenue to the Government from time immemorial. It has become customary to trace its evolution from the days of Manu. According to him, the kings were justified in collecting one-twelfth or one-sixth of gross produce of all lands put together in each village in normal days. But during the days of war and such other calamities this share was generally raised to one-fourth of the produce. This was generally the guide-line for the Hindu kings of those days. In the old days, it was a very important source of revenue to the Government, whose incidence fell on a large number of people.

During early days

It is stated that during the rule of the Kadamba kings, who ruled over portions of the present district of Hassan early in the Christian era, they got all the lands measured and the boundaries of each farm-land marked.

The Ganga kings, who ruled over a large part of the district from early in the Christian era to the beginning of the 11th century, levied the land tax at the rate of one-sixth of the gross produce during normal years and one-fourth during periods of war and other calamities. It appears that there was the practice of collecting land tax at one-sixth of the produce from communal lands, one-fifth from forest tracts and lands on which dry crops were raised, and one-third from lands which were irrigated by tanks. In order to fix a fair rent, all cultivable lands were measured, though no uniform method in the measurement of land was followed, and they were classified according to the fertility of the soil. A moderate assessment was made for the first two years, giving allowance for the vagaries of rainfall and the nature of the soil, and during the third year the assessment rates were finally fixed. Remissions of land revenue were granted whenever there used to be failure of rain or shortage of irrigated water. The Gauda and the *Karanam* in villages and the Nayak and Nadagavunda in larger villages and towns, assisted by a group of officials, collected the revenue. Allocation of land-gifts for various purposes was also in vogue. The system does not appear to have undergone any marked changes during the period of the Hoysalas who ruled over this district and

other parts from about the 11th century to the 14th century. During the reign of Vishnuvardhana, a raiyat, who handed over a good number of worn-out plough-shares to the king, secured a special recognition or distinction from the court. This was probably a device adopted by Vishnuvardhana to encourage the raiyats and extend the area under cultivation. It is surmised that a *Kula* was a pole, eighteen lengths of rod, which was used as the measure of a piece of land and formed the standard unit of measurement for all assessment during the days of the Hoysalas. One-fifth of the produce on dry lands and one-third of the produce on wet lands appears to have been levied as assessment on all cultivated lands by some of the Hoysala rulers.

Later on, during the Vijayanagara rule, the system of revenue administration underwent several changes. In the days of Krishnadevaraya and Achyutaraya, the revenue collections were improved and a regular system of keeping the accounts and a vigilant watch over the methods of collection were introduced. Regulations to augment the resources from arable lands were also issued. The assessment was fixed on the extent of sown area which was, in turn, determined by the quantity of seed sown and the nature of the soil. The chiefs of Balam who had their capital at Aigur encouraged colonisation of the *malnad* areas by granting lands, with or without rent, to new settlers and made some of the influential immigrants as Patels. It seems that during this period, the inhabitants gradually obtained proprietary rights on lands and the Patels hereditary feudal powers. The rents to the Government were being paid in cash. Parts of the district had been also under the rule of the Keladi Nayaks for some time. Shivappa Nayaka, a famous chief of this family, divided the lands into five distinct classes based on the soils and their fertility. The cost of cultivation, the quantity of gross produce and its value were also taken into consideration while fixing the rents. A few acres of land in some villages were cultivated directly under the supervision of the Government in order to know a fair rent for the lands. In order to help fix a fair rent on areca garden lands, Shivappa Nayaka had planted arecanut trees in his own garden. Generally, the average for the previous five years was calculated and one-third of this average figure was fixed as the rent. The system was known as Shivappa Nayaka's 'shist'

**During  
Vijayanagara  
rule and later**

Maharaja Chikka-Devaraja Wodeyar (1672-1704), one of the most distinguished Wodeyar rulers of Mysore, introduced a number of changes in order to augment the resources of the Government. The revenue was collected with great regularity and precision. It appears that he exacted from every village a written renunciation, ostensibly voluntary, of private property in the land and an acknowledgement that it belonged to the State. A land tax of two gold *fanams* per *Kudu* was levied upon dry cultivation, while one-fourth of the produce of wet and garden lands and of coconut

**Under  
Wodeyars  
of Mysore**

and arecanut orchards was the share of Government. Haidar Ali continued the fiscal institutions of Chikka-Devaraja Wodeyar and levied new cesses. He kept a rigorous watch over the prompt recovery of revenue and appointed Harikars in all taluks for this purpose. Tipu Sultan abolished the post of Harikars and in their places appointed special officers for each *tukadi*. He also followed most of the regulations issued by Chikka-Devaraja Wodeyar and also imposed extra cesses to augment his resources.

#### Purnaiya's Reforms

Soon after the power was restored to the Mysore royal family in 1799, a proclamation of un-qualified remissions of all balances was issued. Dewan-Regent Purnaiya addressed himself to the task of rationalisation and stabilisation of the various rates of assessment. He went about conferring property rights of the soil and allowed the collection of revenue both in cash and kind. He ordered a general *paimayish* or measurement of fields. But this *paimayish* could not but be imperfect under the conditions of his days and the work done was irregular and incomplete. Generally speaking, the farmers of dry lands paid an assessment equivalent to about one-third of the gross produce and those of wet or paddy lands at about one-half of the crop; this was charged at the average price-rates prevailing in the district. The old system of renting out the villages to highest bidders was abolished and the whole system of revenue administration was brought under the direct management of Government. In the *malnad* parts of the district, Shivappa Nayaka's 'shist' was followed.

Later, Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar III continued the system introduced by Dewan Purnaiya. Now in parts of Manjarabad the lands were measured, as the same had not been done previously. The general average *kandaya* or rent was usually about one-third of the gross produce. The rates of assessment at the time of this ruler, within the confines of the Manjarabad Faujdari, were Rs. 12, Rs. 10 and Rs. 5 for wet variety of lands; Rs. 10, Rs. 5 and Rs. 8 for dry lands; Rs. 25, Rs. 15 and Rs. 10 for coconut gardens. The rates in respect of fields where sugarcane was grown, were Rs. 22, Rs. 15 and Rs. 10 depending upon the nature of the soil.

#### Under British Commission

During the period of the administration by the British Commission, the Manjarabad Faujdari was merged with the Ashtagram division. The Raiyatwari System was liberalised and made as simple as possible, and a review of cases, where money-rents were felt to be high, was made. The system of exacting *khists* before the harvest was given up and the farmers were allowed to pay the assessments in five instalments. Under the Batayi Method, the raiyats had to share the produce of the land equally with the Government and this was now converted into a money payment wherever feasible. Later, that is about eight years after the rendition of the State to the royal family, the Land Revenue Code

was brought into force with effect from 1st April 1889. After the stabilisation of the Revenue Department, the *halat* or excise duty, which pressed heavily on the people of the *malnad* parts, was abolished in 1907. These arrangements were in force until they were superseded by the new system introduced after a regular survey and settlement.

Though Inam tenures have now been abolished, it would be of interest to sketch a few facts as they are of historical interest. After 1799, the British authorities advised Dewan Purnaiya not to alienate lands without the approval of the British Resident. Owing to this measure, the grant of fresh Inams between 1799 and 1811 was limited though not completely stopped. From 1811 to 1831, Krishnaraja Wodeyar III alienated some lands besides conferring on others *kayamgutta* or permanent tenure. During the British administration (1831 to 1881) the number of such grants made were very small in number. An investigation into the Inam tenures in the State was taken up. In 1863, when the revenue survey was introduced in the State, some skeleton Inam Rules were framed. The Inams in existence were *Devadaya*, *Dharma-daya*, *personal*, *Kodagi* and Inams for miscellaneous services.

In 1918, an Inam Enquiry Commission of seven members was appointed and after considering its recommendations, the Government passed orders amending the Mysore Land Revenue Code. Under this amendment, the rights of *Kadim* or permanent tenants were protected, even when the principal's rights were forfeited. In all Inam villages, an attempt was made to secure for the tenants rights similar to those of registered occupants under Government. Inam villages were also brought under the Village Improvement Schemes.

In spite of these measures, the relationship between the Inamdars and their tenants did not much improve. The tenants were still doubtful of the security of their rights, while the Inamdars complained of irregular payment of rents by tenants. In 1932, the Government appointed another Inam Enquiry Commission. The important recommendations of this Commission were that survey and settlement operations may be introduced in all the Inam villages without waiting for the Inamdars' consent; the scope for taking over Inam villages under Government management may be enlarged; the rules for granting remissions owing to failure of rains may be extended to these villages and the Inam tenure of villages may end when the Inamdars relinquish their rights. These recommendations were accepted and accordingly the Land Revenue Code was amended in 1939 and 1940. The Alienated Villages Purchase Act, 1944, enabling the Government to purchase the alienated villages at the request of the holders at a price agreed to by the latter, was also passed. But these steps did not much help the tenants and another committee was appointed in 1948

to enquire into the question of Inams. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, the Mysore (Personal and Miscellaneous) Inams Abolition Act, 1954 and the Mysore Religious and Charitable Inams Abolition Act, 1955 were passed. The work of resumption of the Inam lands and payment of compensation was taken up thereafter. The extent of Inam lands in the various taluks of the district was as follows :—

| Sl. No. | Taluk           | Extent in |        |
|---------|-----------------|-----------|--------|
|         |                 | Acres     | Guntas |
| 1.      | Channarayapatna | 7,634     | — 28   |
| 2.      | Hassan          | 3,681     | — 06   |
| 3.      | Arkalgud        | 1,981     | — 26   |
| 4.      | Belur           | 4,549     | — 29   |
| 5.      | Sakleshpur      | 3,201     | — 04   |
| 6.      | Arsikere        | 5,257     | — 27   |
| 7.      | Alur            | 1,092     | — 08   |
| 8.      | Holenarsipur    | 2,799     | — 00   |
|         | Total           | 30,202    | — 08   |

#### Survey and Settlement

After 1799, the work of a general topographical survey was entrusted to Col. Mackenzie. During the regime of Dewan Purnaiya, a revenue survey was conducted which was by no means thorough. Though the importance of systematic survey of lands and assessment of rates based thereon was realised by the Government, however, this important task was taken up much later. The new Department of Survey and Settlement commenced its work only in 1963-64 under the supervision of Survey and Settlement Commissioner. The several operations incidental to the introduction of survey and settlement in a taluk were measurement and demarcation of lands, classification of soils and fixing of the rates of assessment. Each survey number was demarcated by boundaries such as stones or mounds. The classification of fields according to soil was conducted in accordance with certain principles, soils being first divided into three categories, differing in composition and colour; each category was then placed under one of the nine classes according to its depth from the surface and to each such class a relative value was affixed expressing in fractions of sixteenth of a rupee. Before finally fixing the assessment, the tract which was subjected to settlement operations was divided into a number of groups of villages homogenous as to its characteristics and other factors such as climate, rainfall, general fertility of the soil, communications and markets; the revenue history of the previous 30 years relating to the tracts was also taken into

consideration. The amount of assessment was then apportioned to different villages. An account of original settlement in the several taluks of the area forming the present Hassan district is given below.

*Belur taluk.*—The first taluk where the original settlement was introduced in 1877 was the Belur taluk. It was found that the old rates of assessment were based partly on the Vijayanagara *Varaha shist* and partly on Shivappa Nayaka's *Rekha shist*. It appears that in the old days for many of the dry lands of the taluk, hardly any assessment was paid except in a few villages to the south where the dry land was included in the assessment of wet lands. The area of the taluk at the time of the original settlement, including various classes of lands, was 1,09,603 acres. After a close examination of the revenue history of the taluk and taking into account the peculiar modes of assessment, the new rates were fixed on a moderate scale. The total revenue demand of the taluk for 1891-1892 was Rs. 1,84,679.

*Arsikere taluk.*—After the fall of Vijayanagara in 1565, the area came into the possession of the Tarikere palegars and it was taken over by Shivappa Nayaka of Bednur in the 17th century. In 1690, the area was incorporated in the Mysore territory by a treaty. The next taluk which was taken up for original settlement was the Arsikere taluk. The actual work of its settlement started in 1879. At the time of the original settlement, the cultivable area was 1,00,893 acres and the unoccupied area was 33,667 acres. The total revenue demand for 1891-1892 was fixed at Rs. 1,60,995 and the amount increased to Rs. 1,86,722 in the next year.

*Hassan taluk.*—This area was in the principality of Balam for a long time and was incorporated with Mysore in 1690 by virtue of a treaty with the Bednur chief. The revenue settlement in the Hassan taluk was initially effected in the Alur, Palya and Chikkanagal hoblies in 1881 and subsequently extended to other areas and the settlement work was completed in 1882. The eastern part of the taluk is a *maidan* area, while the portion to the south-west of the district headquarters is mainly semi-*malnad*, presenting in some parts the appearance of grassy open lawns and in others being covered with small scrub jungles. The climate and soils in this region were well suited to the production of paddy of a superior variety. Sugarcane was raised under big tank achkats. Dry cultivation was scarce and any crop raised in patches under favourable conditions was sufficient for some three years. The revenue demand for 1891-1892 was Rs. 2,78,876 and this increased to Rs. 3,23,693 in the next year.

Alur, now a separate taluk in the Hassan district, was the headquarters of the old Maharajanadurga taluk till 1875. In 1894, Alur was made a sub-taluk under the Hassan taluk. The revenue

settlement of this area was finalised in 1881 along with the Hassan taluk.

*Manjarabad taluk.*—The whole taluk is a *malnad* area, presenting a scenic splendour of great beauty. The soils on the hills are of deep red, while in the valleys it is red and black. The principal crop grown is paddy which grows luxuriantly in the valleys and fields cut in terraces. Double crop is raised in the western parts of the taluk. The coffee crop has assumed great importance in this taluk. Cardamom is also grown in the taluk.

The old name of the region, which included this taluk as its central part, was Balam, said to be derived from the Kannada word *Bala* meaning strength. The area was in possession of the Aigur chiefs. After the withdrawal of the British forces in 1792, the Aigur chief's territory was annexed to Mysore by Tipu Sultan and he was allowed an estate yielding a revenue of 5,000 pagodas, composed of Kavodi, Yeslur, Aigur, Bisale and Uchchangi.

In 1882, the original settlement of the Manjarabad taluk was taken up. The area of the taluk, at the time of the original settlement, in 1882, was 2,72,906 acres, of which the cultivated portion was stated to be 72,930 acres. The total revenue demand for 1891-92 was Rs. 2,08,087 and this revenue was increased to Rs. 2,33,457 during the next year.

*Arkalgud taluk.*—This taluk had formed a part of the Balam province till 1647 when it was conquered by the Mysore ruler. Then for a short period, it formed a part of the Bednur kingdom and in 1694 it was retaken by the ruler of Mysore. In 1883, the original settlement of the Arkalgud taluk was taken up. The taluk is partly *malnad* and partly semi-*malnad*. At that time also, it had arecanut and coconut plantations. At the time of the original settlement, the cultivable area was 74,667 acres. The total revenue demand for 1891-92 was Rs. 1,47,148 and the next year it was Rs. 1,51,953.

*Holenarsipur taluk.*—The area of this whole taluk was conquered by Maharaja Dodda Devaraja Wodeyar of Mysore in 1667 from the Paleyagar of Holenarsipur. The revenue settlement of the Holenarsipur taluk was effected in 1884, the cultivable area of the taluk being 72,205 acres. The total revenue demand for 1891-1892 was Rs. 1,05,716 and this amount was increased to Rs. 1,19,172 in the subsequent year.

*Channarayapatna taluk.*—This region was conquered by Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar in 1633 from the chief of Holenarsipur and annexed to Mysore. The last taluk to be taken up under the scheme of original settlement was Channarayapatna and its settlement was completed in 1885; the cultivable area of the

taluk was 1,52,364 acres. The total revenue demand for 1891-92 was Rs. 1,89,870 and this was raised to Rs. 2,07,335 during the next year.

The basis on which the original settlement had to be revised was laid down in Section 115 of the Mysore Land Revenue Code. The revised assessment was fixed with reference to general considerations of the value of land, soil or situation, prices of produce, facilities of communication and improvement of the land made from time to time.

**Revisional Settlement**

The first taluk which was taken up for revisional settlement was Belur and its work was completed during 1916-1917. At that time, the total cultivable area of the taluk was 72,985 acres. The amount of revenue which accrued to Government in 1919-1920 was Rs. 2,21,764.

The rates fixed were Rs. 12 for garden, Rs. 8-8-0 for wet and Rs. 2-10-0 for dry lands under group-I and Rs. 12 for garden, Rs. 7-12-0 for wet and Rs. 2-10-0 for dry lands under group-III. The revisional settlement of Arsikere taluk was done during 1918-1919. It was ascertained by the settlement officer that there were 71,067 acres of cultivable land, fetching a higher yield of revenue. The total amount of revenue as a result of revision in 1919-20 was Rs. 2,42,035. In Hassan taluk, the revisional assessment was completed by the end of April 1922, including the sub-taluk of Alur; the total cultivable area was 1,26,918 acres. The revised assessment for the year 1923-24 was Rs. 2,55,310.

The settlement authorities then took up Holenarsipur taluk for revisional settlement during 1923-24, when it was found that there were 63,371 acres of cultivable land in the taluk. The final demand in the taluk for the year 1924-25 was Rs. 1,19,176. In the same year, the revision work of the Arkalgud taluk was also done. At that time, there were 1,25,486 acres of cultivable land in this taluk. The revenue demand after the revisional settlement stood at Rs. 1,88,672. Then during the next year followed the revision work relating to the Channarayapatna taluk. The total cultivable area of the taluk at that time was found to be 1,29,770 acres. The revenue demand after the fixation of the revised rates was Rs. 1,92,621. The last taluk for the revisional settlement was Manjarabad, the work of which was completed in 1924-25. The cultivable area of this taluk at the time was 51,406 acres and the amount of the revenue demand came to Rs. 2,02,713.

It has been an accepted practice that after a lapse of about thirty years, the circumstances of various types of lands should be investigated afresh and new rates of assessment fixed. Therefore, just before the formation of the new State of Mysore, a new

**New Settlement**



revision was done in this part of the State. Since it was found that different land revenue systems were prevailing in the various areas of the new State, the Government of Mysore appointed Sri K. M. Mirani, the then Deputy Commissioner for Settlement, to formulate uniform principles and procedure of settlement, applicable to the entire State of new Mysore. Having studied the various measures adopted by the neighbouring Governments to reform the system of assessment and bearing in mind the suggestions of the Taxation Enquiry Committee and such other factors, Sri K. M. Mirani formulated his suggestions, most of which were accepted for the new system of settlement operations.

**New principles  
of settlement**

The pitch of the assessment of land revenue, under the new system, is the zone which forms the unit of settlement operations. This unit comprises a taluk or a group of taluks, or portions thereof, of one or more districts, which, in the opinion of the Government or an officer authorised by it, in this behalf, is contiguous and homogeneous in respect of physical configuration, climate and rainfall, principal crops grown in the area and soil characteristics. It must be noted here that no zone, however scientifically formed, can give a completely homogeneous area without at least a little variation from place to place. All lands falling within the zone or homogeneous in respect of the above factors are brought under groups, so as to admit of the application to them the same standard rates. Lands are then classified in each group according to the relative valuation of land as recorded in the survey records, having regard to its soil, water and other advantages. This standard rate is not, ordinarily, to exceed 1/16th of the average gross yield of the principal crops grown on that class of land in a group. While arriving at the standard rates, the Settlement Officer has to take into consideration the exact share of the average gross yield (in terms of money) that will represent an equitable rate of assessment for any particular zone, having due regard to other factors like climate and rainfall, proximity to the market, developments in communication, the standard of husbandry, etc. He collects statistics of rainfall for the last 30 years prior to the commencement of the settlement operations in order to assess the effects of the existing rates by correlating them with the seasonal conditions of the past. He has to know whether the tract is having excessive population without sufficient lands to till which will have an adverse effect on the standard of living, or whether it is scarcely populated which would again bring in another malady of insufficient labour. The livestock position has also to be taken into consideration. A study of wage-rates and prices of agricultural commodities has also to be made. The price of each principal crop for five years, viz., 1954-55 to 1958-59, was taken into consideration. The average yield of various crops was converted in terms of money on the basis of the average prices prevailing during those five years. Any settlement, under which the assessment is fixed and remains

so, for a number of years, is based on the presumption that prices would behave as anticipated at the time when settlement operations were undertaken. Any large fluctuations in the prices would upset the calculations. But there is scope for providing against such large variations in price-levels by allowing rebates or levying surcharge as the case may be. Ordinarily, no rebate is granted if the total decrease is less than 25 per cent and no surcharge is levied if the total percentage increase is below 33 1/3 per cent of the basic price-level.

While arriving at the gross yield from a particular class of land in a group, the results of all the crop-cutting experiments of the principal crops done during the previous ten years was also taken into consideration. The standard rates arrived at on the basis of the gross produce of the principal crops for each category were recommended by the Settlement Officers. The settlement reports were published calling for objections and after a reasonable time was allowed the reports and the objections with the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner thereon were forwarded to the Government through the Commissioner for Settlement for the purpose of placing them before the Legislature for consideration. These reports were considered by both the Houses of the Legislature and the standard rates in respect of the zones were approved with modifications in 1965 and published in the Gazette in December 1965. After this also there were various representations from the people of the *malnad* districts in particular. One of the main points raised by them was that the rain-fed wet rates approved by the Government for the *malnad* districts were very high and did not reflect the true fertility of the lands and their productivity. The Government, after making an objective assessment of the entire question, came to the conclusion that there were some anomalies in the fixation of standard rates which needed further examination. But when once the standard rates were approved by the Legislature, they could not be revised except by resettlement operations, which again could not be undertaken within the guaranteed period as per the Act. So, a suitable amendment to the Mysore Land Revenue Act was made. Under Section 114(a) it was provided that the Government may order resettlement operations during the currency of a settlement period, where the Government, for reasons to be recorded, comes to the conclusion that such a step is necessary. By this measure, it became possible to reconsider the standard rates, if necessary, and remedy all cases of faulty standard rates.

The *malnad* area of Chikmagalur and Hassan districts is **Zone II** included in Zone II. The three taluks of Hassan district, *viz.*, Sakleshpur (Manjarabad), Alur and Belur came under this Zone. Coffee and paddy crops are grown in all these three taluks. Cardamom is the special crop grown in Sakleshpur taluk and as such, this taluk is treated separately. Considering the physical

configuration, climate and rainfall and such other factors, the eastern parts of Alur and Belur taluks consisting of 204 and 296 villages respectively, were brought under Group-I wherein paddy and ragi are the principal crops and the central parts and the remaining parts of the two taluks and Sakleshpur taluk (consisting of 60 villages in Alur taluk, 88 villages in Belur taluk and 227 villages in Sakleshpur taluk) under Group-II. The standard rates worked out at 1/16th of the cash value of the average gross yield per acre, came to Rs. 16.13 for wet and Rs. 7.10 for dry lands under Group-I and Rs. 14.38 for wet lands under Group-II. The Settlement Officer, after giving several reasons, proposed to lower the ratio of standard rates from 1/16th to 1/20th in the case of dry lands in Group-I. Comparing the proposed rates with those of the rates existing just before the announcement of the rates, the percentages of increase in the proposed rates were 85.4 in respect of wet lands and 180.6 in respect of dry lands under Group-I and 116.7 in respect of wet lands under Group-II. Considering all the suggestions and hearing objections, the rates of land revenue sanctioned were as follows :—

Group I—Dry : Rs. 4.54 ; Wet : Rs. 10.33 ; Garden lands :  
Rs. 43.30.

Group II—Dry : Rs. 1.72 ; Wet : Rs. 9.21 ; Garden lands :  
Rs. 43.30.

#### Zone XVI

The Holenarsipur, Arkalgud and Hassan taluks of this district were included in Zone XVI. Paddy and ragi are the principal crops grown in all these three taluks. The eastern portions of Hassan taluk and the northern portions of Holenarsipur taluk were put under Group-II. The principal crops of this group are ragi, paddy, horsegram and coconut. Group-III included the semi-*malnad* parts of the western tracts of Arkalgud taluk and Kattaya hobli of Hassan taluk, adjoining parts of Coorg, Sakleshpur and Alur taluks. The rest of the portions of the above mentioned three taluks of Hassan district came under Group-I. The standard rates in different groups for the several classes of lands worked out on the basis of the gross yields and the cash value of the principal crops were : Rs. 4.90 for dry and Rs. 20.87 for wet lands under Group-I ; Rs. 4.59 for dry and Rs. 17.55 for wet lands under Group-II ; Rs. 4.17 for dry and Rs. 16.44 for wet lands under Group-III. The Settlement Officer proposed that the standard rates per acre of wet garden be fixed at Rs. 23. Considering all aspects of the suggestions made by the Settlement Officer and taking into account the objections from the public the rates of settlement were fixed at Rs. 3.14 for dry, Rs. 13.36 for wet and Rs. 14.72 for garden lands under Group-I ; Rs. 2.94 for dry, Rs. 11.23 for wet and Rs. 9.52 (mot), Rs. 11.23 (pot) for garden lands under Group-II ; Rs. 2.67 for dry, Rs. 10.53 for wet, Rs. 10.53 for garden lands under Group-III.

The State Government have very recently decided to abolish land revenue on dry holdings of not more than ten acres in extent with effect from July 1, 1971. (For this purpose, one acre of garden land and two acres of wet land are treated as equivalent to ten acres of dry land).

The Arsikere and Channarayapatna taluks of Hassan district, Zone VII (along with Chikkanayakanahalli, Tiptur and Turuvekere taluks of Tumkur district) comprised Zone VII. A distinct feature of these taluks is the cultivation of coconut. Ragi, horsegram paddy and coconut are the principal crops under Group-I of the zone, which covers 364 villages of Arsikere taluk and 318 villages of Channarayapatna taluk. Ragi, horsegram, paddy and coconut are the principal crops under Group-II which covers 13 villages of Arsikere taluk and 50 villages of Channarayapatna taluk. The standard rates arrived at were Rs. 4.88 for dry, Rs. 20.64 for wet, Rs. 19.11 for garden (dry) lands and Rs. 21.37 for garden (wet) lands under Group-I; Rs. 4.88 for dry, Rs. 16.80 for wet, Rs. 19.11 for garden (dry) and Rs. 21.37 for garden (wet) lands under Group-II. Considering all aspects of the proposals and objections from the public, the rates made applicable to the Zone were as under:—

Rs. 3-13 for dry, Rs. 13-21 for wet and Rs. 12-23 (W.H.B.), Rs. 13.68 (P.B.) for garden lands under Group-1; Rs. 3-12 for dry, Rs. 10.76 for wet, Rs. 12.23 (W.H.B.), Rs. 13.68 (P.B.) for garden lands under Group-II.

Under the old arrangement, consolidated wet assessment was levied on all lands that came under irrigation from a Government source, whereas wet assessment under the new arrangement is levied on only what is termed as 'rain-fed' wet lands not deriving advantage of water from any Government irrigational source. Lands coming under a Government irrigation source are liable to levy of dry assessment in addition to water-rate under the Mysore Irrigation (Levy of Betterment Contribution and Water-rate) Act, 1957. The water-rate is not included in the land revenue assessment under new settlement.

The Rules relating to the water-rates were issued in 1965. Subsequently the water-rates were enhanced by 33 1/3 per cent of the existing rates and the revised rates came into force from 1966. The Government appointed a Committee to go into the question of water-rates. The committee reviewed the entire issue and recommended that the water-rate may be scaled down and levying maintenance charges may not be continued. The Government accepted the recommendations and passed orders accordingly. However, the Government had to reconsider the issue in view of the mounting expenditure of irrigation projects and the maintenance

cess was restored. Now maintenance cess is levied in accordance with the Mysore Irrigation Act of 1965. The existing rates of water charges including maintenance levy are as given hereunder :

(Rates in rupees per acre)

| Sl. No. | Crops   | Rates in respect of irrigation works capable of irrigating |                     |
|---------|---|--|---------------------|
|         |   | not more than 100 acres                                    | more than 100 acres |
| 1       | 2   | 3  | 4                   |
| 1.      | Sugarcane :   |  |                     |
|         | (a) to be harvested within a period of 12 months ..   | 20.00  | 30.00               |
|         | (b) to be harvested over a period of 12 months but before 18 months ..  | 30.00  | 45.00               |
| 2.      | Paddy ..  | 11.00  | 16.00               |
| 3.      | Jowar, maize, ragi, navane, sajje, pulses, greengram, wheat, cotton, groundnut, vegetables, sweet potato, gingelly, onion, chillies, tobacco and coriander .. | 5.50   | 8.00                |
| 4.      | Arecanut, plantains, betel leaves, turmeric, lime, oranges, pomegranates, coconut, pepper, mulberry or any fruit crop ..                                      | 12.00  | 20.00               |
| 5.      | Paddy crops grown on the land for the second time in any revenue year ..  | 5.50   | 8.00                |
| 6.      | For crops as shown in item 3 above, grown for the second time in any revenue year ..  | 2.75   | 4.00                |
| 7.      | Manurial crop ..  | 3.00   | 4.00                |

The revenue demand of betterment contribution according to the figures furnished by the Deputy Commissioner was Rs. 3,007 in 1965-66 and it increased to Rs. 12,028 in 1968-69. It appears that no collections of betterment contribution were made during these years. On the other hand, the water-rate portion of land revenue is being levied and collected since 1967-68. According to the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan, the total revenue realised by way of water-rate in 1968-69 stood at Rs. 1,24,565.95, as against the total demand of Rs. 26,69,263.50.

In the old Mysore area, the assessed rate is called "*kandaya*" in Kannada. The land revenue matters are regulated by the Mysore Land Revenue Act, 1964 (Mysore Act 12 of 1964) and the Rules framed thereunder. The assessment is subjected to revision once in thirty years. The duty of collecting the land revenue is the responsibility of the revenue officers who have powers to fix convenient dates for the payment of the revenue. Ordinarily, the land-owners cannot resort to excuses for delayed or irregular payment of revenue and the Deputy Commissioner of the district has powers to get the harvested crops released for sale and then collect the revenue dues from the sale proceeds in case of willful default. The Mysore Land Revenue Code gives powers to the revenue authorities to declare defaulters and proceed against them according to law. A statement showing the land revenue demand, collection and balance of the district for the years from 1958-59 to 1968-69 is given at the end of the Chapter.

Land Revenue  
collection

*Remission Rules.*—There has been a liberalisation of the remission rules applicable during scarcity years. In tracts, which suffer badly from drought, the State Government has powers to suspend the revenue or order a remission of a part of the demand as a special concession. A hobli in the taluk is to be treated as a tract for purposes of suspension of dry assessment. For the first time in 1922, Rules regarding grants of suspension and remission were issued, solely on the grounds of adverse seasonal conditions. There were no specific Rules prior to 1922 and when occasions for grant of relief arose, as in 1908-09, the Government passed special orders for the occasion. The Remission Rules of 1922 were mainly based on the Bombay pattern. The Rules of 1922 provided that when owing to failure of rains throughout a tract, any tank which did not receive an adequate supply of water, and more than half the area under the tank was left uncultivated or if cultivated, yielded a crop of not more than four annas (one-fourth), the recovery of half the wet assessment on all wet lands under it should be suspended, provided the tract was already so impoverished or the previous harvests had been so poor as to require such a measure of relief. The suspended assessment was to be collected during the following year unless there was a failure of crop that year also, in which case it was to be remitted. The Remission Rules of 1922 were then revised from time to time, the latest revision being in 1965, so as to make them more liberal and the grant of relief more prompt.

The tenancy problem originated, when the land-owner, who was the occupant of the land, asked someone else to cultivate it on terms defined by contract or custom. In fact, the distinction between such a tenant and an agricultural labourer was quite clear and well defined. The agricultural labourer got a fixed or agreed wage and worked under the supervision and control of the men who owned the land. The labourer had no right or

Land Reforms:  
Tenancy

whatsoever to the land he tilled and was not directly concerned with the produce. He merely did his job in return for the wages and there his responsibility ended. On the other hand, the tenant, who subsisted on a contract or a custom, worked on his own. He agreed to pay the land-owner a certain cash rent or more often a specified share of the produce. The tenant utilised his own labour, got help from the members of his family and in busy seasons employed hired labour to assist him. In many cases, the land-owner supplied some capital and equipment and in some others only the land and took no interest in agricultural operations. The tenants became his own manager, but also in part an entrepreneur. His reward fluctuated according to the crops he obtained and the prices the crops fetched. Under the Raiyatwari System, which has been in vogue in the Mysore area, the owner of the land did not cultivate the land himself but gave the land to others under tenancy. During an exhaustive enquiry by a committee appointed in connection with the revision of the land revenue system in Mysore in 1948, it was found that, to a certain extent, rock-renting and allied evils existed. It was also stated that the tenants were actually dictating terms to the land-owners and that the protection should be given to the land-lord and not to the tenants. There was also an opinion that the contract or usage be allowed to govern the relationship between the land-lord and the tenant without any specific legislation. The opinion from the *malnad* areas indicated a definite cleavage of opinion some favouring tenancy legislation and others being not for it. The land-holders were all agreed that due to the paucity of cultivators in the *malnad*, the tenants were an asset and that no land-holder would rock-rent a tenant or evict him as tenants were always in great demand and difficult to get. The representatives of the *Genidars* (tenants) who had formed themselves into a union, however, urged that legislation should at once be enacted, fixing minimum rent at the scales prescribed in the Bombay Act and giving the protected tenant the right to compel the land-lord to sell the land to him for a reasonable price. In the circumstances, the committee thought that legislation might actually make the relationship between the land-lords and the tenants worse; this was because all the small points which were covered by local usage could not be brought under legislation. It was also felt that such a tenancy legislation might be harmful to the tenants, as it would result in litigation. It was also felt by some that while the provisions of the Bombay Tenancy Act of 1948 were too drastic for application to Mysore, a simple tenancy act would serve the needs in Mysore.

At the time when the need for protecting the tenant arose, there was no separate law on tenancy in Mysore. The law courts were applying the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act (Act IV of 1918) to agricultural leases on the ground of justice, equity and good conscience. The only other provisions governing the relationship between the land-lords and the tenants were in Chapter

VII of the Mysore Land Revenue Code but the Sections relating to the powers of officers to enforce the provisions appeared to be applicable only to tenants of alienated holdings.

Prior to the enactment of the Mysore Tenancy Act of 1952, the tenancy rights were being regulated by the Mysore Land Revenue Code of 1888. According to the provisions of the code, there were three classes of tenants in the old Mysore State area with absolutely permanent rights, namely, *kadim* tenants in respect of Inam lands paying only land revenue but with permanent rights; permanent tenants in both alienated and government villages holding lands for more than 12 years, or recognised as such by contract or exercising the right of transfer and tenants-at-will. The Mysore Tenancy Act of 1952 and Rules framed thereunder gave some security to certain classes of tenants, *i.e.*, tenants in possession at the commencement of the Act were given a period of five years and were liable to ejection at the end, unless the land-lord allowed them to continue. Tenants, who had been in continuous possession for a period exceeding 12 years before 1st April 1951, were given further security inasmuch as the land-lord could eject them on the sole ground of personal cultivation only from a part of the holding. The maximum rent was also stipulated at one-half of the produce. The land-lord could resume half the area of a tenant holding ten acres or less. In the case of tenants holding more than ten acres, the land-owner could resume 50 to 75 per cent of the tenancy area. In October 1954, the State Government introduced in the legislature a bill to amend the 1952 Act in order to further protect the interests of the tenants. But the measure had not completed all the necessary stages for becoming law when the State was reorganised in 1956. Therefore, as a temporary measure, the 1952 Act was amended by an Ordinance dated the 11th March 1957, continuing all leases, where the period of five years had expired and also requiring that surrenders of land should be in writing and duly verified and registered in the office of the Tahsildar.

Mysore  
Tenancy Act,  
1952

In the various parts of the new Mysore State, different tenancy laws were in force and there was a persistent demand for examining afresh the tenancy problems in detail and for adoption of a uniform measure. Accordingly, the Mysore Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws Committee was appointed on 10th May 1957 under the chairmanship of Shri B. D. Jatti. This Committee went into the question of fixation of rent, security of tenure, right of resumption of land by land-lords for personal cultivation, right of purchase by tenants and payment of compensation to land-lords, ceilings and land-holdings and other cognate matters. The committee after fully examining all these aspects submitted its report in 1958. The Government then introduced a bill called the Mysore Land Reforms Bill, 1958, in the Mysore Legislature. After a general discussion, the bill was referred to a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses consisting of 46 members. This Joint Select Committee



heard witnesses, considered a number of representations, comments and memoranda. The Committee also considered the views of the Planning Commission. In the light of these and in the light of the discussions that had taken place in the Mysore Legislature, the Joint Select Committee examined all the provisions of the bill and submitted its report on 25th March 1961. The bill was adopted with certain changes by the State Legislature in November 1961 and it received the assent of the President of India in March 1962. However, as it was found necessary to amend certain provisions of the Act, its implementation was held up for some-time. It was accordingly amended in 1965 by Act No. XIV of 1965.

**Mysore Land  
Reforms Act,  
1961**

The Mysore Land Reforms Act, 1961 (Mysore Act X of 1962), as amended in 1965, which came into force throughout the State with effect from the 2nd October 1965, the Gandhi Jayanti day, is a highly important piece of legislation in the State relating to agrarian reforms. The enactment has made comprehensive provisions in respect of tenants' rights, ceiling limits of present holdings and future acquisitions, payment of compensation for surplus lands taken over from land-owners and other connected matters.

Under the provisions of the Act, no tenancy can be terminated merely on the ground that its duration, whether by agreement or otherwise, has expired. Tenants who were cultivating the lands prior to 10th September 1957, but who had been dispossessed either by surrender or eviction, are entitled for restoration of possession. Eviction of tenants can only be done in accordance with Section 22 of the Act. Land leased to permanent tenants or those leased by a company, association or other body of individuals (not being a joint family), whether incorporated or not, or by a religious, charitable or other institution capable of holding property cannot be resumed.

From the date of vesting, all non-resumable lands leased to tenants would stand transferred to the State Government. Lands in excess of 27 standard acres in the case of existing holdings would be treated as surplus land, which would be vested in the Government. The ceiling area for future holdings is limited to 18 standard acres. A standard acre means one acre of first class land or an extent equivalent thereto as laid down in the Schedule to the Act. The future ceiling would be, therefore, as below :—

| <i>Class of land</i> |    | <i>Ceiling area in acres</i> |
|----------------------|----|------------------------------|
| I Class              | .. | 18                           |
| II Class             | .. | 24                           |
| III Class            | .. | 30                           |
| IV Class             | .. | 36                           |
| V Class              | .. | 72                           |
| VI Class             | .. | 108                          |
| VII Class            | .. | 144                          |

The ceiling provisions do not apply to regimental farm lands or to plantations as defined in the Act. Compensation would be paid for all lands vested in the State at the rates prescribed in the Act. The Act does not apply to lands belonging to or held on lease from the Government or from religious or charitable institutions managed by or under the control of the State Government or from a public trust or a society established for public educational purpose, created or formed before the 18th November 1961, and which was in existence on the 18th July 1965.

The existing tenancies would, however, continue till the resumable and non-resumable lands are determined and resumable lands are resumed by the land-owners under Section 14 of the Act. Under Section 44 of the Act, the Government has to issue a notification declaring the date from which the non-resumable land vests in the Government. This can be done only after the Land Tribunals determine the non-resumable lands. From the date of vesting, all non-resumable lands leased to tenants would stand transferred to the State Government. The surplus lands vested in the State Government are to be granted in the order of preference as indicated below:—

- (1) Displaced tenants having no land;
- (2) Landless agriculturists and agricultural labourers;
- (3) Co-operative Farms;
- (4) Tenants, displaced tenants and owner-cultivators with less than a basic holding;
- (5) Tenants, displaced tenants and owner-cultivators with less than a family holding; and
- (6) Other persons desiring to take up personal cultivation.

It has been also provided that in granting the surplus lands, preference has to be given to the tenant, sub-tenant or other person who, immediately prior to the vesting of the land in the State Government, cultivated the lands. The grantee would have to pay the purchase price to the extent of ten times the average net annual income of the land in question in a lumpsum or in annual instalments not exceeding twenty.

According to Section 2 (3) of the Act, a standard acre means one acre of land of the first class or an extent equivalent thereto consisting of any one or more classes of land specified in the following schedule:—

*First Class* : Wet land or garden land possessing facilities for assured irrigation where two crops of paddy can be raised in a year.

*Second Class* : Wet land or garden land other than first class land possessing facilities for assured irrigation, that is land in channel area (*nala pradesh*) where one crop of paddy can be raised in a year.

*Third Class* : Wet land or garden land other than that of second class land possessing facilities for irrigation from tanks.

*Fourth Class* : Wet land or garden land other than first, second or third class of land irrigated (i) by rain water ; (ii) by seepage water from tanks, canals or other sources of water ; or (iii) by water lifted from a river or channel by electrical or mechanical power.

*Fifth Class* : Dry land or garden land not falling under the first, second, third or fourth class in areas in which the average annual rainfall is more than thirty-five inches or dry-cum-wet land or dry garden land, that is, light irrigated dry land or garden land.

*Sixth Class* : Dry land or garden land not falling under the first, second, third, fourth or fifth class in areas in which the average annual rainfall is not more than thirty-five inches and is not less than twenty-five inches.

*Seventh Class* : Dry land or garden land not falling under the first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth class in areas in which the average annual rainfall is less than twenty-five inches or uncultivable dry land in areas in which the average annual rainfall is not less than seventy-five inches.

The formula for determining equivalent extent of land of different classes is as follows : One acre of first class land equals one and one-third acres of second class, one and two-thirds acres of third class, two acres of fourth class, four acres of fifth class, six acres of sixth class and eight acres of seventh class.

A Commissioner of Land Reforms has been appointed recently with a view to co-ordinating and expediting the work of implementing the land reforms. Judicial officers of the rank of Munsiff have been appointed to perform the functions of a tribunal. The appellate authority is the District Judge. Any question of law is to be decided by the High Court of Mysore.

#### Consolidation of holdings

In order to remedy the excessive fragmentation of lands which has taken place on account of the law of succession or economic necessities of the parties, a uniform measure to consolidate the holdings and prevent further fragmentation of lands called the Mysore Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1964, was adopted. According to this Act, a holding of land

of lesser extent than the appropriate standard area determined under Section (3) of the Act, which is not profitable for cultivation, is considered a fragment. The unit of standard minimum area varies from half an acre to four acres according to the classification of lands. Any unit of land which has an area less than this is regarded as a fragment. No person can dispose of such a fragment to any one other than the contiguous holder. According to the provisions of the Act, no fragment shall be divided or partitioned. In addition, the Act also provides for the consolidation of holdings in respect of the existing fragments. In the scheme of consolidation, there is provision for compensation to the owner. Every person, to whom a holding is allotted according to the consolidation scheme, gets a certificate of transfer without any stamp duty or registration fee.

The Bhoodan movement launched in the country by Acharya Bhoodan Vinoba Bhave aims at obtaining lands by means of voluntary land-gifts and distributing them to the landless. The movement was started in Karnataka by about 1952 and Acharya Vinoba Bhave conducted *padayatra* in this State in 1957. The following are the particulars of the land-gifts as in 1970 in each of the taluks of the district, as furnished by the Chief Executive Officer, Mysore Bhoodan Yajna Board, Bangalore :—

| Taluks          | Number of doners | Extent of land donated in acres and guntas |      |        |
|-----------------|------------------|--|------|--------|
|                 |                  | Garden                                     | Wet  | Dry    |
| Alur            | .. 2             | ..   | ..   | 5.00   |
| Arkalgud        | .. 1             | ..   | ..   | 0.25   |
| Arsikere        | .. 11            | ..   | 1.00 | 6.02   |
| Belur           | .. 22            | 0.14                                       | 7.00 | 33.13  |
| Channarayapatna | .. 10            | ..   | ..   | 8.20   |
| Hassan          | .. 18            | ..   | 1.00 | 22.08  |
| Holenarsipur    | .. 9             | ..   | ..   | 26.20  |
| Manjarabad      | .. 3             | ..   | ..   | 30.00  |
| Total           | .. 76            | 0.14                                       | 9.00 | 132.08 |

Out of the total extent of 141.22 acres of land donated by 75 persons, nearly 50 per cent of it was gifted by one-third of the total doners in Belur and Manjarabad taluks of the district. Not all the *danapatras* (gift-deeds) have been yet regularised. In Arsikere taluk about five *danapatras* with an extent of 4.14 acres and only one *danapatra* with an extent of 24.39 acres in Manjarabad taluk were regularised by the end of May 1969. Efforts are also being made to regularise the remaining. In order to remedy

certain anomalies in regularising the *danapatras* and distribution of lands among the landless persons, the Mysore Bhoodan Act, 1963, was enacted in the State. (Please see Chapter IX for rural wages and conditions of agricultural labour).

#### OTHER TAXES

##### State Excise

Leaving land revenue, the State Excise brings in a sizable amount of revenue to the State exchequer. This revenue is being collected in the form of rentals from toddy and arrack shops by issue of licences for sale and consumption of *ganja* and opium, fines and penalties, etc. Among these the revenue derived from rentals forms the major item. There were about 33 arrack shops and 186 toddy shops in the district, giving regular rentals to the Government. The taluk-wise particulars of rentals collected from these shops for the years 1947-48 and 1958-59, were as detailed below :—

| <i>Taluk</i>        | <i>No. of shops</i> | 1947-48 | 1958-59 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|
| <b>Arrack shops</b> |                     |         |         |
| Alur ..             | 2                   | 384     | ..      |
| Arkalgud ..         | 4                   | 900     | ..      |
| Belur ..            | 7                   | 1,883   | ..      |
| Arsikere ..         | 4                   | 3,025   | 10,501  |
| Channarayapatna ..  | 2                   | 1,176   | 7,112   |
| Holenarsipur ..     | 1                   | 1,204   | 3,321   |
| Hassan ..           | 4                   | 2,554   | 12,314  |
| Sakleshpur ..       | 9                   | ..      | ..      |
| Total ..            | 33                  |         |         |
| <b>Toddy shops</b>  |                     |         |         |
| Alur ..             | 10                  | 672     | ..      |
| Arkalgud ..         | 11                  | 4,928   | ..      |
| Belur ..            | 28                  | 5,064   | ..      |
| Arsikere ..         | 21                  | 9,600   | 27,000  |
| Channarayapatna ..  | 28                  | 3,684   | 11,000  |
| Holenarsipur ..     | 12                  | 4,164   | 15,561  |
| Hassan ..           | 18                  | 8,080   | 35,505  |
| Sakleshpur ..       | 68                  | 2,522   | ..      |
| Total ..            | 186                 |         |         |

As prohibition was lifted in the district in the year 1967 according to the provisions of the Mysore Excise Act, arrack and excise shops have been again opened. There are about 89 arrack shops and 204 toddy shops in the various taluks of the district. The right of retail vending of arrack, toddy and beer are leased out by annual auctions. These contractors who obtain the lease from the Government have to pay rentals to the Government. The particulars of rentals and the taluk-wise distribution of arrack and toddy shops by the end of 1968-69 were as given hereunder :—

| <i>Sl. No.</i>      | <i>Taluk</i>          | <i>No. of shops</i> | <i>Current shop rentals</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Arrack shops</b> |                       |                     |                             |
|                     |                       |                     | Rs.                         |
| 1.                  | Hassan .. ..          | 13                  | 16,050                      |
| 2.                  | Channarayapatna .. .. | 12                  | 7,000                       |
| 3.                  | Arsikere .. ..        | 12                  | 13,400                      |
| 4.                  | Holenarsipur .. ..    | 6                   | 4,200                       |
| 5.                  | Arkalgud .. ..        | 9                   | 6,550                       |
| 6.                  | Alur .. ..            | 6                   | 2,900                       |
| 7.                  | Sakleshpur .. ..      | 14                  | 10,050                      |
| 8.                  | Belur .. ..           | 17                  | 60,300                      |
|                     | Total ..              | 89                  | 67,650                      |
| <b>Toddy shops</b>  |                       |                     |                             |
| 1.                  | Hassan .. ..          | 22                  | 29,700                      |
| 2.                  | Channarayapatna .. .. | 28                  | 6,000                       |
| 3.                  | Arsikere .. ..        | 30                  | 19,600                      |
| 4.                  | Holenarsipur .. ..    | 13                  | 8,350                       |
| 5.                  | Arkalgud .. ..        | 12                  | 12,500                      |
| 6.                  | Alur .. ..            | 10                  | 4,750                       |
| 7.                  | Sakleshpur .. ..      | 66                  | 9,050                       |
| 8.                  | Belur .. ..           | 23                  | 5,200                       |
|                     | Total ..              | 204                 | 95,150                      |

As the result of lifting of prohibition, the revenue collected for the year 1967-68 rose to Rs. 8,01,684. The total demand at the beginning of the year 1969-70 was Rs. 61,89,818 and out of this the total collection made during the year was to the tune of Rs. 55,27,654.

Registration  
and Stamps

The work of registration of documents and collection of registration fees is administered by the Deputy Commissioner of the district who is also the *ex-officio* District Registrar. There was not much change in the total number of documents registered and the properties transferred in the district, but the amount of gross receipts has more than doubled because of the increase in the rates of fees. This can be seen from the table given below :—

| Year       | No. of registrations | Receipts (Rs.) | Expenditure (Rs.) |
|------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1961-62 .. | 28,339               | 1,53,036.02    | 80,443.27         |
| 1962-63 .. | 25,549               | 1,68,202.08    | 80,568.99         |
| 1963-64 .. | 26,625               | 2,22,316.33    | 85,829.37         |
| 1964-65 .. | 26,300               | 2,34,137.97    | 93,776.80         |
| 1965-66 .. | 25,655               | 2,45,720.73    | 1,08,745.71       |
| 1966-67 .. | 33,244               | 2,84,500.00    | 1,25,928.65       |
| 1967-68 .. | 27,247               | 3,05,775.70    | 1,36,706.28       |

The Indian Stamp Act, 1955, was made applicable to the entire State of Mysore in 1956 and the Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps was made the competent authority under the Indian Stamp Act. The uniform Mysore Stamp Act and Rules made thereunder were brought into force in the district in 1965. The following statement shows the amounts of revenue collected under stamps in the district during the years from 1964-65 to 1968-69 :—

| Year       | General      |    | Court fee   |    | Revenue   |    | Copying   |    | Special adhesive |    |
|------------|--------------|----|-------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|------------------|----|
|            | Rs.          | P. | Rs.         | P. | Rs.       | P. | Rs.       | P. | Rs.              | P. |
| 1964-65 .. | 12,45,366.85 |    | 2,04,918.89 |    | 72,859.25 |    | 7,969.41  |    | 48.00            |    |
| 1965-66 .. | 14,97,638.80 |    | 1,94,038.56 |    | 74,941.25 |    | 8,353.82  |    | 5.25             |    |
| 1966-67 .. | 13,45,655.00 |    | 2,47,707.06 |    | 81,470.80 |    | 5,653.40  |    | 12.00            |    |
| 1967-68 .. | 13,84,728.30 |    | 2,48,711.95 |    | 85,230.65 |    | 14,210.00 |    | 3,181.00         |    |
| 1968-69 .. | 17,06,319.75 |    | 2,55,689.35 |    | 94,443.75 |    | 12,180.00 |    | 1,888.00         |    |

## Sales-Tax

The sales-tax has been considered a very important and elastic source of revenue under the State budget. This tax is a levy imposed on the sales or on the elements incidental to sales. It is imposed on the first stage of transaction in some cases and on all stages of transactions in some other cases. This tax is levied and collected under the provisions of the Mysore Sales-Tax Act, 1957, the Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956 and the Mysore Entertainment Tax Act, 1958. The uniform Mysore Sales-Tax Act, 1957, came into force in the district in October 1957. All

goods which are liable to be taxed at single stage of transaction or on all stages of transactions are listed in the schedules of the Act. Some goods which are exempted from taxation are also listed. Such of the goods as do not find a place in any of the five schedules of the Act are taxable at every stage as per Section 5(1) of the Mysore Sales-Tax Act, 1957. The Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956 came into force in the district in October 1956. It is a levy on sales of goods which take place in the course of inter-State trade and commerce. Under the provisions of this Act, coal, cotton, hides and skin, iron and steel, jute, oilseeds, rayon or artificial silk fabrics are declared as goods of special importance to inter-State trade and commerce. No law of a State can impose a tax on the sale or purchase of these goods at a rate exceeding three per cent of the sale-price thereof and at more than one stage in the series of sale by successive dealers in a State. The Mysore Entertainment Tax Act, 1958 came into force in the district in January 1959. The rate of entertainment tax leviable ranges from 20 per cent to 35 per cent on the payment for admission (excluding the amount of tax). As per Section 3(a), a surcharge of 50 per cent on the rate of such entertainment is also leviable. As per Section 4, in the case of cinematograph show, in addition to the tax and surcharge leviable under Sections 3 and 3(a) of the Act, a show tax ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 per show depending upon the population of the city is leviable. The collection of tax under all these three Acts is the responsibility of the Commercial Taxes Department. As at the end of 1969, the total number of assessees coming under the Central Sales-Tax Act, 1956, were 642 and those under the Mysore Sales-Tax Act, 1957, and the Mysore Entertainment Tax Act, 1958 were 2,470 and 18 respectively. The amounts of tax collected under each of these three Acts for the past ten years from 1959-60 to 1968-69 were as given below :—

| Year    | Central<br>Sales-Tax<br>Act |     | Mysore<br>Sales-Tax<br>Act |     | Mysore<br>Entertainment<br>Tax Act |     |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
|         | Rs.                         | P.  | Rs.                        | P.  | Rs.                                | P.  |
| 1959-60 | 3,525                       | .25 | 5,92,261                   | .32 | 97,820                             | .29 |
| 1960-61 | 3,906                       | .50 | 5,95,722                   | .87 | 1,33,337                           | .87 |
| 1961-62 | 3,801                       | .60 | 7,79,556                   | .21 | 1,35,772                           | .68 |
| 1962-63 | 5,178                       | .79 | 9,72,455                   | .71 | 1,48,193                           | .91 |
| 1963-64 | 4,919                       | .47 | 8,71,484                   | .73 | 1,79,696                           | .89 |
| 1964-65 | 3,93,309                    | .68 | 12,47,094                  | .14 | 1,71,528                           | .40 |
| 1965-66 | 2,82,377                    | .36 | 15,26,509                  | .47 | 1,72,152                           | .64 |
| 1966-67 | 2,49,080                    | .35 | 22,26,910                  | .66 | 1,74,517                           | .97 |
| 1967-68 | 1,51,695                    | .46 | 22,24,171                  | .32 | 2,16,520                           | .73 |
| 1968-69 | 1,46,106                    | .93 | 21,22,717                  | .57 | 2,42,685                           | .66 |



Under the Mysore Sales-Tax Act, 1957, the licence-holders and registered dealers are *de-facto* collectors of sales-tax revenue from the public on behalf of the Government. Every dealer, whose turn-over of business exceeds Rs. 25,000, is required to get himself registered under the Act. He continues to be a registered dealer as long as his turn-over remains at Rs. 25,000 and above and when it falls below this limit for two consecutive years his registration can be cancelled.

There has been a steep rise in the Mysore Sales Tax and the Mysore Entertainment Tax collections, because of revision of rates and rationalisation measures. Early in 1970-71, the Sales-Tax Act was amended on the basis of the recommendations of the Taxation and Resources Enquiry Committee headed by Sri S. Bhoothalingam. The sales-tax rates for luxury goods were stepped up and the tax structure was rationalised.

**Motor Vehicles  
Tax**

Under the Mysore Taxation of Motor Vehicles Act, motor vehicles plying in the district and of contiguous districts are being registered in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Hassan. According to the figures furnished by him, the revenue realised from various fees, taxes and other receipts for the years from 1964-65 to 1969-70 was as given under :—

| Item                  | 1964-65            |    | 1965-66            |    | 1966-67            |    | 1967-68            |    | 1968-69            |    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
|                       | Rs.                | P. | Rs.                | P. | Rs.                | P. | Rs.                | P. | Rs.                | P. |
| <b>Fees</b>           |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |
| 1. Driving            |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |
| Licences ..           | 8,817.50           |    | 10,225.50          |    | 13,204.50          |    | 16,471.00          |    | 16,953.00          |    |
| 2. Registration       | 3,625.00           |    | 4,250.00           |    | 5,123.00           |    | 6,274.00           |    | 6,253.00           |    |
| 3. Fitness            |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |
| Certificates          | 10,125.00          |    | 13,175.00          |    | 13,864.00          |    | 21,573.00          |    | 28,473.00          |    |
| 4. Permits ..         | 10,924.00          |    | 13,534.75          |    | 14,217.50          |    | 27,690.00          |    | 3,956.50           |    |
| <b>Tax</b>            |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |
| 5. Passenger goods .. | 42,716.00          |    | 57,165.50          |    | 64,467.85          |    | 75,522.50          |    | 78,950.50          |    |
| 6. Lorries ..         | 4,81,006.00        |    | 6,05,738.00        |    | 7,45,047.95        |    | 6,75,346.00        |    | 7,52,644.00        |    |
| <b>Total ..</b>       | <b>5,57,211.50</b> |    | <b>7,04,038.75</b> |    | <b>8,55,924.80</b> |    | <b>8,22,876.50</b> |    | <b>9,14,236.00</b> |    |

The total revenue realised under various items as noted above has considerably increased since 1964-65 due to increased rates of taxation and also increase in the number of vehicles. The number of new vehicles registered in 1964 was 120, while the corresponding number for 1969 was 383. The total number of tractors and trailers at the beginning of the year 1964 were 176, whereas the figure for 1969 was 346.

The Mysore Agricultural Income-Tax Act, 1957 came into Agricultural Income-Tax force in the district with effect from September 1957. The

authority for administering the provisions of this Act was vested with the revenue authorities up to the end of March 1964. In order to make the enforcement of the Act more effective and increase the revenue by tapping all the sources, the work was transferred to the Commercial Taxes Department in 1964. Individuals whose income is below Rs. 3,500 per annum and Hindu undivided families having an annual income of less than Rs. 7,000 are not liable to be taxed. To facilitate the levy of tax equally, lands are classified into eight different classes depending upon the nature of crops grown. Lands below 50 acres of VIII class do not come under the purview of the Act. The tax is collected on the gross income from the land on the basis of slab rates; the percentage of taxation increases as the income rises. The percentage of levy ranges from 3 to 25 if the income is below Rs. one lakh, and 40 and above if it is more than one lakh. In addition to this, a super-tax is also levied on the income-slabs ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 at percentages varying from 9 to 15, the total percentage of tax going upto 20 in cases of income exceeding Rs. one lakh. About 708 cases of agricultural income-tax were taken up for assessment during 1968-69 as against 669 cases in 1964-65. The total revenue derived from agricultural income-tax for the five years from 1964-65 to 1968-69 was as follows:—

| Year    | Tax in rupees |
|---------|---------------|
| 1964-65 | 5,03,633.25   |
| 1965-66 | 11,21,277.86  |
| 1966-67 | 9,07,513.98   |
| 1967-68 | 13,44,520.49  |
| 1968-69 | 8,57,248.01   |

In 1968-69, there were about 404 assesses paying super-tax in addition to the agricultural income-tax, as detailed hereunder:—

| Sl. Classification No. of crops | No. of assessments | Total income assessed | Total tax demand |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Coffee                       | 342                | 53,19,622.00          | 6,99,448.57      |
| 2. Tea                          | 1                  | 3,36,703.00           | 1,31,942.20      |
| 3. Cardamom                     | 12                 | 1,37,910.88           | 8,019.79         |
| 4. Coconut                      | 49                 | 2,59,442.78           | 12,661.71        |
| Total                           | 404                | 60,53,678.66          | 8,52,072.27      |

The Central Excise duty is collected, in the district, under the Central Excise Act and Rules, 1944. The Act was brought into

force in the district with effect from 28th February 1944. The rates of duty on various items are levied according to Schedule I of Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944. There are two range offices—one at Hassan, which has jurisdiction over Hassan, Alur Holenarsipur, Channarayapatna and Arsikere taluks and another at Sakleshpur, which has jurisdiction over Sakleshpur and Belur taluks, administering the provisions of the Act. The total excise revenue collected for the ten years from 1958 to 1968 under various items was Rs. 1,50,02,195, out of which coffee alone accounted for Rs. 1,30,00,222, the average annual revenue derived for these years under Central Excise being Rs. 18,75,274.37.

## Income-Tax

For purposes of collection of income-tax, there are two Income-Tax Officers in the district. The total number of assessees coming under various income slabs on which tax is levied is given below :—

| Income slabs              |          | Rate of tax                        | No. of assessees |
|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|------------------|
|                           | Rs.      |                                    |                  |
|                           | 5,000    | 5 per cent of total income         | 637              |
| From                      | 5,000    | Rs. 250 plus 10 per cent of the    |                  |
| to                        | 10,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 5,000         | 583              |
| From                      | 10,000   | Rs. 750 plus 17 per cent of the    |                  |
| to                        | 15,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 10,000        | 492              |
| From                      | 15,000   | Rs. 1,600 plus 23 per cent of the  |                  |
| to                        | 20,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 15,000        | 98               |
| From                      | 20,000   | Rs. 2,750 plus 30 per cent of the  |                  |
| to                        | 25,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 20,000        | 73               |
| From                      | 25,000   | Rs. 4,250 plus 40 per cent of the  |                  |
| to                        | 30,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 25,000        | 38               |
| From                      | 30,000   | Rs. 6,250 plus 50 per cent of the  |                  |
| to                        | 50,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 30,000        | 20               |
| From                      | 50,000   | Rs. 16,250 plus 60 per cent of the |                  |
| to                        | 70,000   | amount exceeding Rs. 50,000        | 16               |
| From                      | 70,000   | Rs. 28,250 plus 65 per cent of the |                  |
| to                        | 1,00,000 | amount exceeding Rs. 70,000        | 9                |
| From                      | 1,00,000 | Rs. 47,250 plus 70 per cent of the |                  |
| to                        | 2,50,000 | amount exceeding Rs. 1,00,000      | 5                |
| Total number of assessees |          |                                    | 1,971            |

The total income-tax collected has been on the increase as evidenced from the following table :—

| Year    | Income-tax collected<br>(in lakhs of rupees) |
|---------|--|
| 1960-61 | 14   |
| 1961-62 | 17   |
| 1962-63 | 18   |
| 1963-64 | 23   |
| 1964-65 | 15   |
| 1965-66 | 15   |
| 1966-67 | 20   |
| 1967-68 | 21   |
| 1968-69 | 25   |
| 1969-70 | 33   |

The Income-tax Officer at Hassan is also responsible for collection of wealth-tax and gift-tax. The following table shows the demand and collection under each of these two taxes from 1965-66 to 1969-70 :—

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

| Year    | Wealth-Tax |            | Gift-Tax |            |
|---------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
|         | Demand     | Collection | Demand   | Collection |
| 1965-66 | 26         | 11         | 104      | 126        |
| 1966-67 | 34         | 8          | 158      | 150        |
| 1967-68 | 27         | 16         | 114      | 143        |
| 1968-69 | 13         | 11         | 180      | 152        |
| 1969-70 | 30         | 24         | 201      | 176        |

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Statement of Demand, Collection and Balance of land revenue in Hassan district from 1958-59 to 1968-69. (See page 403)

| Year    | Demand         | Collection   | Balance        |
|---------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
|         | Rs.            | Rs.          | Rs.            |
| 1958-59 | 22,98,793.80   | 21,90,708.95 | 1,08,084.85    |
| 1959-60 | 24,92,863.05   | 22,94,487.83 | 1,98,375.22    |
| 1960-61 | 28,33,365.38   | 25,93,761.34 | 2,39,604.04    |
| 1961-62 | 29,26,107.47   | 25,86,539.23 | 3,39,568.24    |
| 1962-63 | 45,46,344.78   | 31,46,354.84 | 13,99,989.94   |
| 1963-64 | 55,17,532.23   | 42,33,807.29 | 12,83,724.94   |
| 1964-65 | 38,47,475.14   | 27,35,050.14 | 11,12,425.00   |
| 1965-66 | 36,57,619.99   | 9,41,875.31  | 27,15,744.68   |
| 1966-67 | 79,26,018.67   | 5,59,941.48  | 73,66,077.19   |
| 1967-68 | 1,13,01,551.89 | 11,78,020.97 | 1,01,23,530.92 |
| 1968-69 | 1,38,25,819.90 | 41,53,099.47 | 96,72,720.43   |