

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

As already stated elsewhere, the area of the district consists of *malnad* on the west and *maidan* on the east and a long strip of land between them, which exhibits the characteristics of both of them. The district occupies 3.6 per cent of the geographical area of the State and in 1961 had about 3.8 per cent of its population. Among the districts of the State, Hassan gets the 16th place in respect of area (being bigger than Coorg and Mandya and smaller than all other of its contiguous districts), the 15th place in so far as the population is concerned (being more populous than Coorg and Chikmagalur, two of its contiguous districts) and the 8th place in point of density of population.

The rural area in the district is about 99 per cent of the geographical area of 2,679.7 square miles. The rural population accounts for 88 per cent of the total population of 8.95 lakhs living in 2,291 villages as per the 1961 Census. Leaving Kolar, Tumkur and Bangalore districts, the district is having the largest number of villages in the State, while the average population per village is the lowest. In 1961, out of the total rural population of 7,88,311 as many as 4,02,518 lived in 1,832 villages, each of which had a population of less than 500 persons on an average. There are only a dozen towns with a total population of 1,07,536.

Preponderance
of rural
population

The economy of the district is primarily based on agriculture and about 80 per cent of the people derive their livelihood from agriculture. According to the available data, based on the 1951 Census, cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents constituted about 72 per cent of the population, while cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents were only three per cent. Agricultural labourers and their dependents constituted about six per cent of the population, whereas non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent-receivers and their dependents formed about three per cent. According to the Rural Credit Survey Monograph on Hassan district* "the pattern of distribution of the population according to the livelihood

Livelihood
pattern

*All-India Rural Credit Survey, District Monograph, Hassan, 1959, p. 2.

classes in the various taluks of the district is largely similar to that for the district as a whole. However, divergence in livelihood pattern is noted in Manjarabad taluk, where the proportion of cultivators is lower and the proportion of agricultural labourers higher than that in the other taluks. Among the non-agricultural occupations, 'other services and miscellaneous sources' are generally the more important; production other than cultivation was found to be the principal means of livelihood of only about five per cent or less of the population in different taluks". Only 24 per cent of the total population were self-supporting persons and less than two per cent were earning dependents, the rest being wholly dependent on self-supporting persons. A small percentage of the self-supporters among non-agricultural classes (11 per cent) followed non-agricultural operations as secondary means of livelihood.

In the overall livelihood pattern of the district, there has not been any large change in recent years. Agriculture continued to be by far the main occupation of the people, since the development has been mainly in the fields of irrigation and agriculture. The 1961 Census has broadly classified the total population of 8,95,847 into 4,23,738 workers and 4,72,109 non-workers, the percentage of non-workers being 52.70. The working population is further classified under nine categories according to the means of livelihood. A table showing the distribution of population among the nine categories and the percentages of such distribution is given at the end of the chapter. (See also Chapter III). The following were the percentages of population pertaining to primary, secondary and tertiary sectors in 1961:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Taluk</i>		<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Tertiary</i>
1.	Alur	..	89.82	3.25	6.83
2.	Arkalgud	..	87.20	5.97	6.83
3.	Arsikere	..	81.66	5.66	12.68
4.	Belur	..	87.70	5.19	7.11
5.	Channarayapatna	..	91.08	3.95	4.97
6.	Hassan	..	82.21	5.33	12.46
7.	Holenarsipur	..	88.88	4.67	6.45
8.	Manjarabad	..	77.20	4.49	18.31
	District Total	..	85.71	4.94	9.35

Comparatively, a large divergence is noticed in the tertiary sector in Manjarabad taluk (where the proportion of workers in other services is greater since it is a plantation area), in Hassan taluk where more of professional workers are found since it includes the headquarters town of the district, and in Arsikere which is a big

trading centre. Comparing the district with that of other districts of the State in respect of the distribution of the population between the three sectors and ranking them in the descending order, the district of Hassan gets the first place in the primary sector, last place in the secondary sector and the 17th place in the tertiary sector.

In this context, it would be of interest to note an analysis of the population figures in respect of the Gorur village, in Hassan taluk, which is located at the meeting place of the *malnad* and the *maidan* regions and partakes of the characteristics of both the regions. (The village was selected for a socio-economic survey in 1941 and again in 1961). Out of its total population of 1,507 the workers numbered 555 and the non-workers 952. Among the workers, 412 persons depended on agriculture, having either cultivation or agricultural labour as their sole or principal occupation, while the total number of those who followed completely non-agricultural pursuits as their principal means of livelihood was only 143. In another village, Kurubathur, a typical *malnad* village of the paddy and cardamom-growing area of Manjarabad taluk, which was also selected for a socio-economic survey in 1961, out of its total population of 367 persons, 99 were workers and 268 non-workers, the percentage of non-working population being 73. Of the workers, 38 persons had agriculture, 18 agricultural labour and 13 household industry as their means of livelihood. According to the Kurubathur Village Survey Monograph* (1961) agriculture was the principal occupation of 22 households and the subsidiary occupation of four households. To five households, it was the subsidiary occupation; 12 households had trade as their principal occupation and two other households were having it as their subsidiary occupation, while 16 households were engaged in 'other services'; to 15 of them, these services were their main occupation and to only one household, 'other service' was the subsidiary occupation. Hotel-keeping afforded employment to as many as six households, five of whom had it as their main occupation, the other having it as its subsidiary occupation.

**Gorur and
Kurubathur
Village Survey**

In 1961, the rural and the urban proportions of population in the district were about 12 per cent and 88 per cent respectively. According to provisional population figures of 1971, the corresponding percentages in 1971 would be 13.60 and 86.40. The decennial growth rates in this decade (1961-71) in the rural and the urban areas would be 20.44 per cent and 38.95 per cent respectively when worked out on the basis of the provisional figures. The corresponding growth rates in the previous decade (1951-61) were 25.58 and 23.04, while the growth rates over the period of six decades

**Population
shift from
agriculture
to industry**

*Village Survey Monograph—No. 15, Kurubathur village, Census of India, 1961, Vol. XI (typescript).

1901-61 were 50.72 per cent and 134.28 per cent in the rural and the urban areas, respectively. The urban decennial growth rate in the district during the latest decade was higher than the State average which was 35.09 per cent. There is a movement of population from the country-side to the urban areas as towns offer diversified occupational opportunities. The growth of towns is largely associated with industrial development. If urbanisation is the 'twin sister' of industrialisation, increased urbanisation which is taking place would indicate population shift to a certain extent from agriculture to industries and other occupations.

**Size of
cultivated
holdings**

The cultivated holdings may be taken as the size of the farm business and as such they broadly indicate the economic position of the cultivators. Generally speaking, the size of the cultivated holding in the district is small. Arranging all the cultivated families in the order of size of cultivated holdings and dividing them into ten strata or deciles, the Credit Survey Monograph, referred to earlier, has disclosed that the cultivators in the last three deciles have generally small holdings, less than two acres in extent; most of those in the last decile had extremely small holdings measuring one acre or even less. The table* given below supplements these particulars :—

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. of holders</i>	<i>Percentage to total</i>	<i>Total area of holdings</i>	<i>Percentage to total</i>	<i>Average area per holder</i>
I Group—upto 10 acres	73,364	83.50	2,83,977	46.84	3.9
II Group—10 to 45 acres	13,581	15.46	2,40,716	39.71	18.3
III Group—45 to 100 acres	731	0.84	44,992	7.43	61.5
IV Group—100 to 1,000 acres	176	0.20	36,671	6.02	208.0
Total ..	87,852	..	6,06,356	..	6.9

The average size of land-holdings per holder is nearly seven acres. But about 57.40 per cent of the holders in the district possess 20.3 per cent of the total holdings, the average size of holding per holder in this group being 2.4 acres. That apart, more than 83 per cent of the holders possess 46.84 per cent of the total holdings, the average size of holding, here again, being only 3.9 acres. It has to be remembered that any piece of land which is less than four acres in extent is uneconomical and there is a statute in force in the State to help prevent further fragmentation of land and to help consolidation of uneconomical holdings.

*Based on the Report of the Mysore Tenancy Agricultural Land Laws Committee, Bangalore, 1957.

Agriculture, forestry and mining are the three important Agricultural extracting industries of the district, wherein a large majority of the people are engaged. The entire superstructure of the economy of the district is based on agriculture which is the basic industry. About 50 per cent of the geographical area of the district is used for purposes of cultivation. Another 7.5 per cent of the area is covered by forests noted for sandalwood, timber and minor forest produce. The whole of the district is mainly a foodgrains producing area, more than 76 per cent of the sown area being under food-crops. The total sown area in the district had remained almost constant over a period of 25 years from 1924-25 to 1951-52 at about six lakh acres (with only slight fluctuations), and by the end of 1968-69, the sown area had gone up to 8,12,601 acres. The main food-crops are paddy, ragi and pulses. Among the plantation crops, coffee, cardamom and coconut are predominant. The percentage of net irrigated area to the sown area is far above the State average of 10.2 per cent and is approximately equivalent to the all-India average (19 per cent). In this respect, the district is better placed than its contiguous and other districts of the State. But still the irrigational facilities is inadequate and a great deal needs to be done. The eastern parts of the district are often subjected to scarcity conditions owing to failure of rains. The increasing attention being given to well irrigation, the opening of lift irrigation societies and Hemavathy irrigation project, which is under execution, will bring in more and more areas under irrigation in the coming years.

Several methods to conserve moisture and increase the fertility of the soil have been tried. Contour-bunding, taken up on an extensive scale, and dry-farming methods as also the increased use of improved strains have been an added fillip to food production. As a result of these and other developmental activities relating to agriculture, the district has been in a position to produce more than what is required for purposes of local consumption and this has to be stabilised and augmented during the years to come.

The pressure of population on land has not been yet reduced to any appreciable degree. The land *per capita* comes to about two acres, while the sown area has averaged slightly more than an acre *per capita*. Taking the workers engaged in cultivation alone into consideration, the *per capita* sown area comes to about two to three acres. In point of agricultural development, the Reserve Bank of India* has ranked the district as seventh among the districts of the State.

The district is rich in minerals like chromite, kaolin, asbestos, copper, etc. It is reported that the chromite deposits of the Mineral resources

*Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, October, 1969, p. 1951.

district are classed among the best chromite deposits in India, Byrapur in Holenarsipur taluk being the chief centre. The reserve of high grade chromite in the district is estimated at one million tonnes, Byrapur mines alone possessing about 8 lakh tonnes. Though the production of this ore had shown a downward trend in the past years and many of the mines were closed owing to some reason or other, it has been almost doubled during the past five years increasing from 2,830 tonnes in 1964 to 5,018 tonnes in 1969. The amphibole variety of asbestos, which yields stiff fibre, is exploited in the Holenarsipur area. It is estimated that about 1,000 tonnes of asbestos are mined every year, on an average, the production in 1969 being 725 tonnes. The factory located at Holenarsipur is, at present, making use of this mineral for the manufacture of asbestos fibre which can be used in making corrugated sheets, pipes, mill boards, etc. Deposits of kaolin (china clay) of pleasing colour are found at Bhageshpur in Arsikere taluk. The washing plant at Bhageshpur is estimated to produce about 100 tonnes of china clay and 700 tonnes of aluminous clay per month. Fuller investigations about commercial exploitation of copper deposits are yet to be made. The other minerals are not of much importance.

Transport and power

As at present, the district has 20.1 kilometres of railway line for every 1,000 sq. kilometre area, which is higher than that of all its contiguous districts, the State average being only 14.4 kilometres. Hitherto, there have been two metre-gauge railway lines—one from Bangalore to Talaguppa passing through Arsikere and the other from Mysore to Arsikere passing through Holenarsipur—running to a total distance of 137 kilometres in the district. The Hassan-Mangalore railway line, which is being presently laid out, will be an important line of communication from Hassan (a busy junction on Mysore-Arsikere section) to Mangalore, the terminus of the west coast broad-gauge line. This rail-link will help development of trade, commerce and industries in the district. The district is not served by any National Highway. But there are four important State Highways connecting the district with other parts of the State. Barring Mandya and Bangalore districts, the district has the highest road mileage (0.55 mile) for every square mile area in the State. Again, leaving Mandya, Mysore and Bangalore districts, it has the longest road-length of 446 kilometres for every 1,000 kms. in the State. Thus, the road transport facilities in the district are comparatively better. There are no generating stations in the district for production of hydro-electric power. But it gets its power requirements fully from the Mahatma Gandhi and Sharavathi Hydro-Electric Stations which are in the neighbouring district of Shimoga. However, it has the lowest percentage of towns and villages electrified (13.68 per cent) among the districts of the State, excluding North Kanara and Belgaum.

A notable development in the district as elsewhere has been the gradual replacement of private agencies of credit supply by co-operatives and commercial banks. There were, at the end of 1969-70, 31 branches of commercial banks and about 614 co-operative institutions of various types in the district, the coverage of villages by co-operative institutions being 80 per cent. An important feature of the development in this field is the assistance being rendered by the Government, particularly to co-operative institutions. With the nationalisation of major commercial banks in the country, the co-operative movement in the district may gain further momentum, as such banks have begun to provide more finance to the people through co-operative societies. The establishment of several branch offices of commercial banks at various trade centres of the district has also aided the development of trade, commerce and small-scale industries in the area.

The district which is rich in agricultural, forest and mineral resources is not yet industrially developed. The industries are providing employment to a slightly more than three per cent of the total working force. "The district is assessed to be fairly rich in agricultural, mineral and livestock resources, but these do not seem to have been extensively utilised for its development, because of the lack of entrepreneurial talent and certain deficiencies in infra-structure of the district", says S. T. Mirani, the then Development Commissioner, in his foreword to the Report on Industrial Development Potentialities of Hassan District published in March, 1967. The district being mainly agricultural, several of the industries are of a processing type, such as rice mills, coffee-curing works and cotton ginning and pressing factories. There are forest-based industries like saw mills and splints (matches), mineral-based industries like asbestos at Holenarsipur and kaolin works at Bhageshpur. In addition to these, there are 200 small-scale industries which are not fully developed. The only large-scale industry of the district of any economic significance is the Mysore Implements Factory at Hassan, which is a public undertaking.

Industrial pattern

At Hassan and Arsikere there are wholesale traders, some of whom are engaged in the export trade. About 75 per cent of the traders in general live in the urban parts. Retail traders are spread all over the district, each village possessing one or two or more shop-keepers who supply to the inhabitants the day-to-day necessities of life. Small cultivators, artisans and hawkers take the agricultural produce and other products to the nearby shandies and fairs and sell them to the people. The sale of livestock in some of these fairs and shandies is an important feature. The peddlers, who move about from village to village, form a connecting link between rural and urban parts. The main exportable products are coffee, cardamom, coconut, groundnut, cotton and foodgrains. Cardamom and coffee have a good market in the European countries. Arsikere is a well-known centre for trade in coconut

Trade pattern

and groundnut, while Hassan town is noted for potato and manufactured goods.

Price trends

The general tendency of the prices in the district in respect of every article of food has been a marked increase from period to period, with intermittent fluctuations, owing to the effects of war, prevalence of scarcity conditions in parts or whole of the district or general failure of rains or the general rise in the cost of living indices as evidenced in recent years. Adequate statistics for a regular comparison of price changes of, say from 1800, are not available for the district as such. Yet, an attempt can be made to trace the development. According to Dr. Buchanan, the prices in 1800 were—ragi 12 Sultani fanams per *khandaga* of 200 seers; rice best sort 28½ seers and coarse 66½ seers. In other words, ragi was sold at 50 seers a rupee and rice (best sort) nine seers a rupee and second sort 21 seers a rupee. A statement indicating the average wholesale prices of staple foodgrains (rice and ragi) between 1881-82 and 1912-13 is given at the end of the chapter (Table II). These figures represent the average wholesale prices in the former Mysore State as such, which can be taken as an indication of price fluctuations in this district also. The prices showed a more or less steady tendency to rise, so that, during the period of 25 years from 1886-90 to 1906-11, the prices of ragi had more than doubled and those of rice had increased by more than 50 per cent. A perspective of the ranges in prices from 1886 to 1911 can be had from the following average quinquennial prices of the chief foodgrains in erstwhile Mysore State expressed in terms of the average for 1886 taken as 100.

Quinquennium	Rice	Ragi	Bengal-gram	Jowar
1886—90	95.4	94.3	103.0	71.5
1891—95	138.5	130.6	127.8	183.5
1896—00	139.8	168.9	143.9	218.4
1901—05	127.2	157.2	131.1	286.0
1906—11	160.6	240.3	155.6	..

The retail price of ragi in 1912-13 was 16.04 seers per rupee and rice of best variety 6.36 seers per rupee (quantity expressed in seers of 80 tolas a rupee in the district) being above the State average of 15.30 and 5.48 per rupee respectively. The outbreak of the first world war in 1914 had its effect on the prices of staple foodgrains. The average annual wholesale prices of ragi and rice in the State shot up from 6.9 seers and 14.28 seers per rupee in 1913-14 to 5.0 and 8.51 seers per rupee in 1924-25 respectively.

The average retail prices of these two articles of food were also affected seriously due to war and they had gone up from 5.97 seers and 14.03 seers per rupee in 1913-14 to 4.23 seers and 9.01 seers per rupee in 1921-22. Then for about a decade or more, there was a fall in average prices of foodgrains, on the whole. But this did not last long. The great economic depression of the thirties had its disastrous effects on the prices of foodgrains, which began to rise in the year 1930 and continued almost unabated during that decade. The wholesale prices of the principal commodities that prevailed in the district for 25 years from 1923-24 to 1947-48 were as given in the sub-joined table :—

(Prices are per palla of 100 seers by the standard seer of 80 tolas)

Year	Rice			Ragi			Bengalgram		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1923—24	25.	0.	0	11.	01.	0	19.	4.	0
1924—25	23.	10.	0	10.	11.	6	16.	2.	6
1925—26	21.	12.	0	10.	4.	0	17.	12.	6
1926—27	22.	10.	0	10.	0.	0	17.	12.	0
1927—28	23.	4.	0	10.	8.	0	18.	12.	0
1928—29	22.	8.	0	8.	12.	0	17.	0.	0
1929—30	20.	0.	0	7.	12.	0	18.	12.	0
1930—31	16.	4.	0	7.	0.	0	17.	8.	0
1931—32	12.	8.	0	5.	4.	0	15.	0.	0
1932—33	12.	0.	0	5.	2.	0	12.	2.	0
1933—34	10.	4.	0	4.	13.	0	12.	6.	0
1934—35	12.	4.	0	6.	12.	0	12.	0.	0
1935—36	12.	6.	0	6.	4.	0	11.	11.	0
1936—37	12.	8.	0	5.	12.	0	12.	8.	0
1937—38	12.	3.	0	5.	1.	0	12.	13.	0
1938—39	14.	8.	0	5.	8.	0	13.	14.	0
1939—40	14.	12.	0	6.	2.	0	14.	8.	0
1940—41	15.	10.	0	6.	0.	0	14.	0.	0
1941—42	18.	4.	0	6.	0.	0	17.	4.	0
1942—43	26.	0.	0	8.	8.	0	30.	4.	0
1943—44	24.	2.	0	12.	4.	0	40.	0.	0
1944—45	32.	3.	0	15.	9.	0	43.	12.	0
1945—46	32.	3.	0	15.	9.	0	44.	0.	0
1946—47	32.	3.	0	15.	9.	0	48.	0.	0

The prices from 1940 onwards began to rise further and the Government took steps to check the soaring price level. The Government had virtually a monopoly trade in foodgrains between 1943 and 1952. In spite of this, the prices did not come down and the increasing tendency persisted. The Government of Mysore

introduced the Foodgrains Procurement Order which made the growers to part with a certain quantity of their stock compulsorily. In view of the prolonged war, the prices in the market registered a steep rise when the Government introduced rationing of rice, ragi, sugar, etc., in urban areas and bigger villages. Even then the prices did not come down; on the contrary they were increasing further. The Government was compelled to revise the prices of foodgrains in view of the rise in other commodities essential both from the agriculturists' and consumers' points of view.

In 1952, all control measures were abolished in regard to rice, ragi, jowar and other commodities, but the prices did not show any downward trend and as a precautionary measure and to maintain supply of essential commodities, especially foodgrains, the Government began to build up huge stocks of foodgrains. This could check the possible inflationary tendency and ensure continuous supply of foodgrains. During the years between 1957 and 1960, the scheme of voluntary procurement of foodgrains was also in force and large quantities of foodgrains were procured by the Government in the open market at fixed prices. This stock was sold in the scarcity areas and populous cities at fixed prices through fair price shops. Although these measures were also aimed at checking the soaring prices, prices in the district continued to rise. According to a Gazette notification issued by the Government of Mysore, the prices of principal crops in Hassan market from 1954-55 to 1958-59 were as follows :—

(In Rupees per Bengal Maund)

Year	Paddy	Ragi	Horsegram	Coconut (per 100 nuts)
1954—55	10.75	10.75	9.00	158.40
1955—56	12.00	9.50	12.00	157.00
1956—57	12.00	11.75	11.76	199.30
1957—58	12.62	12.25	12.75	211.10
1958—59	14.13	13.75	14.00	222.20
Average	12.30	11.60	11.90	189.60

Wages

The steady rise in the price-level of consumer articles, especially of foodgrains, as evidenced in the preceding paragraphs, had its effect on the wage structure also and the wages showed a general tendency to rise. But the rise in wages was not commensurate with the rise in the price-levels. The rates of wages as quoted by Buchanan for the State as a whole may be taken as applicable to Hassan district also for our purpose. According to him, men got one-third to half a *fanam* and women one-fourth of a

fanam ; in terms of British currency, men were paid at two annas to two anna and eight pies and women at one anna and four pies. By 1876 the average daily wage rate in the State had risen to four annas to one rupee a day for a skilled worker, two annas to eight annas for an unskilled worker and eight annas to one and a quarter rupee for cart-hire. During the year 1893, the rates of daily wages, as they prevailed in the district of Hassan, ranged from eight annas to one and a quarter rupee for a skilled worker, two annas to four annas for an unskilled worker, and twelve annas to one rupee for cart-hire. This tendency, even in those early days, could be attributable, to some extent, to the developments that were taking place in the fields of transport, particularly railways, and public works of various kinds, and the loss of population owing to the devastative famine of 1877-78 followed by cholera. Added to this, the availability of labour had not been uniform throughout the district and there was the usual influx of labourers from the South Kanara district to work in the coffee and tea estates of the district.

From 1893 to 1916, during a period of 23 years, the rates of wages, both skilled and unskilled, remained almost stationary in the district. This might be due to the fact that agriculture being the main industry of the district, there was comparatively less demand for skilled labour and the wages of unskilled labour, however, depended on custom and there was hardly any competition. In the subsequent years, there was the influence of the First World War. As such, in 1923-24, the daily wages of unskilled worker had gone up to six annas to eight annas and that of skilled worker to one rupee to two rupees. Though adequate details of wages, occupation-wise, for different years are not available, some particulars could be gathered from Settlement Reports for the years 1930-31 to 1947-48 in respect of agricultural labour as they prevailed in the taluks of Hassan and Manjarabad, as detailed below :—

(In Rupees, Annas and Pies)

<i>Period</i>	<i>Hassan</i>	<i>Manjarabad (Sakleshpur)</i>
1931 to 1939 ..	0. 5.0 to 0.6.0	0. 6.0 to 0. 8.0
1939 to 1946 ..	0.12.0 to 1.0.0	0.10.0 to 0.12.0
1946 to 1948 ..	1. 0.0 to 1.4.0	0.12.0 to 1. 0.0

Wages kept on rising after 1948. In 1951-52, the skilled labourer was paid at Rs. 2.75 to Rs. 3.75, the unskilled labourer at Rs. 1-12 to 1-50. The particulars of agricultural wages for that year are given in the following table. (Owing to the seasonal

condition of employment, the wages fluctuated during the course of a year):—

Month	Skilled labour			Field labour	Other agricultural labour
	Carpenters	Black-smiths	Cobblers		
	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.	Rs.As.Ps.
September 1951	3. 0.0	3. 0.0	3. 0.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
October 1951	3. 8.0	3. 8.0	2. 8.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
November 1951	3. 4.0	3. 8.0	3. 0.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
December 1951	3. 4.0	3. 0.0	3. 4.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
January 1952	3.12.0	3.12.0	2.12.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
February 1952	3.12.0	3.12.0	2.12.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
March 1952	3.12.0	3.12.0	2.12.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
April 1952	3. 0.0	3. 0.0	3. 6.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
May 1952	3. 0.0	3. 0.0	3. 6.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0
June 1952	3. 0.0	3. 0.0	3. 4.0	1. 8.0	1. 8.0

From the data available for subsequent years, it could be seen that the wages showed a further rising trend. The particulars of rise in wages from 1950 to 1964 were as shown below :—

Year	Skilled labour			Field labour	Other agricultural labour
	Carpenters	Blacksmiths	Cobblers		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1952 to 1954	2.8.0	1.8.0	0.14.0	0.12.0	0.14.0
	to	to	to	to	to
	3.0.0	2.8.0	2. 8.0	2. 0.0	2. 8.0
1955 to 1960	2.50	1.50	2.50	1.00	1.06
	to	to		to	to
	3.50	2.50		2.50	2.50
1961 to 1964	2.50	2.25	2.50	1.87	1.55
	to	to		to	to
	3.50	2.75		3.00	2.50

Especially the agricultural labourers found it very hard to make both ends meet and their standard of living was much affected. Therefore it was felt necessary to assure them of minimum wages. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Central Act XI of 1948), the State Government had fixed, in 1959, the minimum rates of

wages in respect of several categories of employment in agriculture. These rates were revised in 1968. The statement given below shows the old and the revised rates of wages of the several categories :—

Class of employment	Dry areas (all inclusive minimum daily rates)		Irrigated areas (all inclusive minimum daily rates)		Perennial garden areas (all inclusive minimum daily rates)	
	1959	1968	1959	1968	1959	1968
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Class A						
1. Ploughing ..						
2. Digging ..						
3. Harrowing ..						
4. Sowing ..	1.25	1.85	1.50	2.20	1.75	2.55
5. Inter-culturing ..						
6. Irrigating or watering.						
7. Uprooting ..						
Class B						
1. Manuring ..						
2. Transplanting ..						
3. Weeding ..						
4. Reaping—						
(a) Harvesting ..	1.00	1.45	1.12	1.65	1.37	2.00
(b) Thrashing ..						
(c) Winnowing ..						
5. Picking in the case of cotton.						
Class C						
1. Cattle, sheep and goat-grazing.	0.50	0.75	0.50	0.75	0.50	0.75

The monthly minimum rates fixed in 1968 for youths and children employed permanently under Class A are Rs. 22.05 with food and clothing and Rs. 44.05 without food and clothing. The corresponding rates under Class B are Rs. 14.70 with food and clothing and Rs. 22.05 without food and clothing and under Class C Rs. 7.35 with food and clothing and Rs. 22.05 without food and clothing. Recently the Government of Mysore have decided to enhance the minimum wages for agricultural labourers from Rs. 1-50 to Rs. 2-50.

In certain parts of the district, particularly in the *malnad* tracts, there is paucity of labour. In order to attract more labourers, there has been the practice of offering them food, tiffin,

pansupari and sometimes coffee also. The system of *jeetha* though it has mostly disappeared, is still lingering on in some parts of the district. According to this system, the head of the family, who receives loan from the landlord, allows his sons and grandsons to work in the house of the landlord for an indefinite period in return for the loan. The system of exchange of labour has been in vogue in some parts of the district; during the times of busy agricultural seasons, the members of a family go and work on the lands of other families and members of the latter in turn do like-wise in the fields of the former. A nominal amount of about 15 paise is ordinarily received in order to cover the 'chewing expenses'. In the *malnad* parts, wages are also paid in kind, in addition to cash payment. In some areca gardens, the labourers take up the work on contract basis.

Cost of living

Consequent on the soaring prices during the past few decades, the cost of living has been increasing. The following table shows the increase in cost of living indices at the Hassan centre from 1955 to 1966 :—

Working class consumer price indices at Hassan centre. (Base year: July 1935 to June 1936=100).

<i>Year</i>		<i>Food</i>	<i>General</i>
1955	..	307.5	294.3
1956	..	349.6	325.7
1957	..	398.7	363.2
1958	..	392.0	362.4
1959	..	476.4	408.6
1960	..	485.2	422.1
1961	..	478.9	429.8
1962	..	480.4	432.6
1963	..	505.5	446.4

By September 1966, the index numbers for food had gone up to 873.6 and for general items to 687.6. Thus during the period of ten years from 1955 to 1966, the index numbers had risen by 666.1 points for food and 413.3 points for general items. By the end of March 1969, they had risen to 879.2 for food and 714.0 for general items. The following table indicates the consumer

price index numbers for the working class for the months of October and November 1969 at Hassan centre :—

(Base year : July 1935 to June 1936 = 100)

Groups	Weights proportional to total expenditure	General index numbers for the month of		
		November 1968	October 1969	November 1969
Food ..	54.4	923	880	895
Fuel and light ..	9.0	690	786	786
Clothing ..	9.1	498	531	557
Rent ..	2.6	100	100	100
Miscellaneous ..	24.9	495	499	498
All groups ..	100.0	735	724	724

It could be seen from the foregoing statement that there had been a fall in index numbers by 11 points between November 1968 and November 1969. The consumer price index numbers for the month of September 1970, as reported by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, showed a rise by 3 points at Hassan centre when compared with that of the previous month, and compared with the position of a year ago, they had increased by two per cent at Hassan centre.

The socio-economic condition of the people of an area is usually reflected in the levels of their income and expenditure. An analysis of income and expenditure patterns of the people residing in the district would indicate the features of their standard of living. An exact analysis is not feasible in the absence of regular and systematic surveys. It is all the more difficult in a district like that of Hassan which has three distinct areas, *viz.*, *malnad*, *semi-malnad* and *maidan*. However, an attempt will be made here to analyse the income and expenditure patterns, in a broad outline, of the economically significant sections of the people, with approximate figures.

Income and
Expenditure
pattern

The hierarchy of agricultural society in the district is composed of mainly three economically significant groups, *viz.*, the owner-cultivators, the tenant cultivators and the agricultural labourers, the lowest rung of the society. Absentee land-lords or agricultural rent-receivers form only a very small part of the total population. They allow their lands to be cultivated by others in return for a share in the farm produce. With the progressive land legislations, their share in the produce has been reduced, and in the future there will be no such absentee land-lords. In the same way, very big cultivators, whose family incomes

may exceed Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 like planters and rich landlords form a very small proportion of the total population. However, their number being very small, their income and expenditure patterns do not exert much influence on the general standard of living of the people. The rural population pursuing non-agricultural avocations are mostly artisans, weavers, wage-earners and others who are self-employed in cottage industries. Since Holenarsipur taluk has a large number of handlooms, the weaving community there forms a class by itself.

Owner-cultivators

The owner-cultivators are aristocrats of the rural parts. Many of them have joint families with instances of the number of members of such families going up to 30 or more in some cases. The house they live in is quite spacious, having separate apartments for storing the grain, kitchen, dining, sleeping, etc., and with cattle sheds built adjacent to their houses. There are instances of a few new constructions which conform to modern standards. The family feels proud of its livestock, which consists of about four or more pairs of bullocks, some cows and she-buffaloes and sometimes goats and sheep. Sufficient stocks of foodgrains, fodder and other cattle-food are always held by such families. Most of the members, except some women-folk of the older generation, in this group are literates. They provide education to their children up to about the secondary stage and in a few cases the boys are sent for higher education.

Farming is a family occupation and most members of the family are connected with it in one way or other. Farming affords ample scope for division of labour. Harder types of work are mostly attended to by the male members, while the women-folk engage themselves in light works like carrying of food, tending of cattle, milching of cows and buffaloes, etc., in addition to domestic work. Grown-up boys and girls sometimes help their parents in the farm-work. As such families have more work on hand than they themselves could attend to, they usually take the help of hired labour.

Calculated in terms of money, the income of such a family varies, on an average, from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 8,000 per annum. Some of the family units of this class try to supplement this income by sale of hay, vegetables, dairy products, etc., and by hiring out the carts. Making an allowance for the cost of farm production and usual expenditure, there is a surplus of income left over which helps the family to live with a sense of security. This surplus is reflected in savings and capital investments also. The fact that such a family derives its foodgrains, dairy products and vegetables and fodder for its livestock from its own sources and does not purchase them makes it difficult to have even an approximate assessment of its expenditure. On an average, this type of family unit which may be taken to be consisting of 12 members, spends

annually about Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 on clothings. Annual repairs of its residential house may claim a recurring item of expenditure of Rs. 250 to Rs. 350 per annum. Performance of occasional religious ceremonies would entail an expenditure of about Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 on an average. This includes visits of the family to some nearby fair or temple which often serves as a source of entertainment, relaxation and also spiritual solace. Medical treatment would be a regular item of expenditure accounting for Rs. 100 to Rs. 150. As to the items of current expenses, cereals and pulses account for Rs. 120 to Rs. 200; edible oil, spices, gur and sugar Rs. 100 to Rs. 180; fuel and kerosene Rs. 20 to Rs. 60; education Rs. 30 to Rs. 80; tobacco and *pansupari* Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. At times when maintenance of a servant or two whose services are found necessary in domestic as well as farm work, it would mean an additional expenditure of Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 a year. The family uses a part of the gross produce for personal consumption. It makes in some circumstances additional expenses towards capital expenditure and repayment of debts. Farmers of this class use earthenware, besides copper, brass and aluminium vessels. Of late, stainless steel plates and cups and china-ware are also coming into some use in such families. Articles like cupboards, time-pieces, radio sets and items of furniture are also found along with clothings of different varieties in such households.

Between the owner-cultivators of the above type and the **Medium-size cultivators** group of villagers who are part-time farmers or landless labourers at the bottom, there is a rural middle class formed by the tenant cultivators, some of whom possess their own lands. Farming is the family occupation of this class also. The average family of this class consists of five to six adults and possesses a pair of plough cattle, a cow, a buffalo and in some cases goats and sheep. Some of the members of these families are literate, except the women-folk of the older generation. The members of the family live in a house of their own. The average monthly income of such a family would be between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000. It produces just enough to satisfy its basic needs.

The annual expenditure of the family, on an average, comes to about Rs. 220 to Rs. 250 on clothings and Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 on festivals and guests. For foodgrains, dairy products and vegetables and fodder for their cattle, they depend entirely on their own sources. Annual repairs to their houses account for Rs. 70 to Rs. 80. Expenditure on medical treatment comes to about Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and visits to jatras may entail them an additional expenditure of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. Cereals and pulses may account for Rs. 60 to 90; on edible oils and spices Rs. 30 to Rs. 65; on gur and sugar Rs. 45 to Rs. 80 and fuel and kerosene Rs. 20 to Rs. 35; on education Rs. 15 to Rs. 30; on *pansupari* and beedi Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. Sometimes, the family borrows money for productive and non-productive purposes. Articles like items of

furniture, time-piece, radio set are yet hardly found in their houses. Though the use of earthen-ware is common, they are being gradually replaced by aluminium vessels.

Agricultural Labourers

Of all the rural sections, the lot of the agricultural labourers is the hardest. The demand for their services is mainly seasonal. A few of them have small pieces of land which form only a secondary source of income for them. For its cultivation they borrow bullocks and agricultural implements. It is very difficult for them to eke out a living and they are forced by circumstances to borrow money and they remain indebted continuously.

According to the 1961 Census, the agricultural labourers formed about six per cent of the total population of the district. They are at the bottom of the economic ladder. An agricultural labourer's family is generally small. Rarely he possesses milch or plough cattle. Of course, women-folk seek casual agricultural work of a lighter nature and earn wages to supplement the income of the male members. Though many of their children now go to schools, most of the grown-up people are illiterate.

The income of these labourers fluctuates as the chances of their getting work on the fields depend on seasonal conditions. It is only during the busy seasons of agricultural operations that he hopes to earn good wages, when he has a fair satisfaction of his primary needs. During the agriculturally slack seasons, they have to spend days in idleness and hardships. However, the average annual income of this type of family may be put at Rs. 350 to Rs. 600. But indebtedness afflicts a majority of these families. The position of this class becomes most vulnerable during the times of scarcity and when practically no agricultural work is available and they have to depend on relief works.

Village Artisans

The village artisans continue to function on traditional lines of offering useful services in return for cash or kind. The carpenter, the blacksmith, the leather worker, the potter, the washerman, and the barber form the important members of this group. The average annual income of this group comes to about Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 a year. Many of them possess one or two acres of land, which they cultivate. They have their own small houses or huts to live in. The other possessions of this group are implements necessary for their trade. Their families are medium-sized and their dependents are a few in number. Most of the members of these families or older generation are illiterate. The boys of these families are trained by the elders in the traditional occupations of the families. The women-folk of these families, except in the case of potters, washermen and leather workers engage themselves in domestic work only. Some men and women of these families supplement their income by taking to agricultural labour during

the busy seasons. Approximately there may be an annual expenditure of Rs. 200 on clothing; Rs. 50 on medical treatment; Rs. 60 on visits to fairs or places of pilgrimage; Rs. 50 on repairs to house and implements. The cost of foodgrains may come to Rs. 200 to Rs. 300; milk and milk products may take away Rs. 60; edible oils and spices would cost Rs. 80 to Rs. 90; gur and sugar Rs. 50; vegetables Rs. 50 and fuel Rs. 50. Some of these people take also to agricultural labour to supplement their income.

The district has medium-sized and small towns. According **Urban area** to the classification of towns and cities of the State made in 1961, the district ranked 12th in urbanisation and it possessed 12 towns; one town of class III with a population of 32,172, two towns of class IV and five towns of class V. While the villages have a predominantly agricultural population, the urban area has a preponderance of non-agricultural population. These towns have a diversified occupational base, with a large tertiary sector engaged in small-scale and medium-sized industries. There is not a town without at least a small section of its population engaged in agriculture. There is a wide range of incomes in the towns. On the one hand, there are the business men, land-lords, money-lenders, etc., whose annual income may exceed Rs. 15,000 and on the other, casual labourers some of whose earnings may not even come up to Rs. 2 per day. The number of well-to-do families of the type mentioned above is very small. They live in comfortable houses and many of them maintain automobiles and employ domestic servants. They possess ornaments and have good furniture and other articles of comfort. They spend much on clothings and the education of their children. Festivals and ceremonies are celebrated on a grand scale by them. Taking an overall picture of this class of families, it can be said, that their income not only ensures adequacy on several items of expenditure, but also enables sizeable savings.

The upper middle-class is made up of medium traders small- **Upper-middle**
scale industrialists, other businessmen, lawyers, doctors, better-paid **class**
Government and other employees. With the families of this class, there is no big surplus left over after making allowance for reasonable comforts. They stand above the lower middle class in that the minimum wants of the former are usually satisfied even in times of distress. The annual income of this group comes to about Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000. Some of them possess a few acres of land in the rural parts. The family of the average size has about five adults. Many of such families have their own houses to live in. They generally provide higher education to their children and spend much on clothings and other comforts. Generally speaking, a fair degree of adequacy is assured for these, the margin of surplus over expenditure is meagre and as such savings and investments are not significant.

Lower-middle class

The lower-middle class is composed of petty shop-keepers, employees like clerks and teachers, skilled artisans, etc., whose income may not be more than Rs. 4,200 a year. The rising cost of living has made the life of these people considerably hard. Often they run into debts, especially to meet the needs of special occasions. The difference between the poor and this class of families is that the latter need not have to go without essential things. The average size of this middle class family may have about five members. Generally, the head of the family is the working member and almost all others are his dependents. Many of the families provide higher education to their children and the expenditure, on this item, tells heavily on their purse. As such, many of the employees try to supplement their income by additional part-time work.

Poorer class

Those families whose annual income is less than Rs. 1,500 can be taken as belonging to the poorer class. This inadequate income is barely sufficient to satisfy the normal needs of an average family, say of three to five persons, owing to the present high cost of living. Many hawkers, casual unskilled labourers and similar other persons would come under this class. Their income often fluctuates and at times they find it very hard to meet the barest minimum of needs and they may have to face privations. The expenditure on food claims the biggest slice of their income. They live in slums and can spend extremely little on clothing and cannot spend any money on education. Many a time, they are forced to borrow at a high rate of interest which makes their plight still worse.

Survey of Kurubathur Village

A socio-economic survey of two typical villages of the district, Kurubathur—a backward *malnad* village in Sakleshpur taluk and Gorur, a thriving and progressive village in Hassan taluk—conducted by the Census authorities as a part of the 1961 Census operations has thrown much light on the conditions prevailing in the rural areas of the district at the time. The levels of monthly income and expenditure of the main livelihood classes in Kurubathur village as disclosed by the survey were as detailed below :—

Class/Group	No. of households	Average monthly income	Average monthly expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.
Owner-cultivators ..	11	240.75	226.34
Agricultural labourers ..	22	64.83	83.35
Household industry ..	5	109.75	110.51
Others ..	34	114.25	125.23

From the above, it can be seen that the owner-cultivators were better off, while the condition of other classes, especially that of the agricultural labourers, was vulnerable. The work of agricultural labourers is seasonal and therefore, except when agricultural operations are going on and they are hired for work, they would have no earnings. This position and the rising cost of living make their lot hard. "An income of Rs. 100 may be taken as a fairly good income for any household in the rural part and the average income per household under different occupational classes compared with this standard. Judging from this standpoint, the households of owner-cultivators (income of Rs. 2,889 per annum), the households following household industry as their occupation (with the income of Rs. 1,317 per annum) and the households classified as 'others' (with an income of Rs. 1,371 per annum) are in a good position. Households dependent on agricultural labour as their occupation have an annual income of Rs. 778 and their economic position is not so good as that of the categories mentioned first," says the Monograph referred to earlier. The table given below shows the number of households according to income-groups in Kurubathur village as in 1961 :—

<i>Income-group</i>	<i>Number of households</i>
Rs. 25 and below ..	Nil
Rs. 26 to Rs. 50 ..	6
Rs. 51 to Rs. 75 ..	16
Rs. 76 to Rs. 100 ..	16
Rs. 101 and above ..	34
Total ..	<hr/> 72 <hr/>

The owner-cultivators spent a little more than 50 per cent of their total expenditure towards food and drinks. Most of the remaining 50 per cent was spent on clothing, house rent, fuel and light, education, payment of interest on money borrowed, remittances, hiring of labourers, etc. Of these, the biggest items of expenditure were towards clothing (8.03 per cent) and hiring of labourers (17.07 per cent). They are comparatively better fed and better clothed. In the case of agricultural labourers, food and drinks took away nearly three-fourths of the expenditure (72.76 per cent). About 10 per cent of the expenditure was on clothings. The families in the group of household industries incurred 73.30 per cent of their expenditure on food and drinks, 11.30 per cent on clothing and 1.50 per cent on education. About the families in other services, the expenditure on food and drinks accounted for 63.35 per cent of the total expenditure and 10.80 per cent on clothing and 0.47 per cent on education. The most striking feature of all the categories of families was that only a very small percentage of the expenditure was for education.

Survey of Gorur village

But the survey of Gorur village revealed a much better picture of rural life. A broad analysis of the number of households in the village under different income-groups as in 1961 is given below :—

<i>Income-group</i>	<i>Number of households</i>
Rs. 25 and below ..	4
Rs. 26 to Rs. 50 ..	39
Rs. 51 to Rs. 75 ..	65
Rs. 76 to Rs. 100 ..	56
Rs. 101 and above ..	137
Total ..	301

It is significant that the larger income-groups outnumbered the lower income-groups in this village disclosing a relatively prosperous condition. The following table indicates the position of agricultural families :—

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Number of households in the income-groups of</i>	
	<i>Rs. 76 to Rs. 100</i>	<i>Rs. 101 and above</i>
Cultivation of owned lands	26	75
Cultivation of lands taken on lease ..	7	5
Agricultural labour ..	7	5

This meant that among the households depending on agriculture for their living, about 80 per cent of owner-cultivators, about 50 per cent of those who were cultivating the lands taken on lease and 40 per cent of the agricultural labourers were in the higher income-groups. Taking all the households into consideration, the average monthly expenditure of a household came to about Rs. 117.32. The table given below shows the pattern of the average expenditure among the different income-groups :—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Average monthly expenditure of the income-groups of</i>				
	<i>Rs. 25 and below</i>	<i>Rs. 26 to Rs. 50</i>	<i>Rs. 51 to Rs. 75</i>	<i>Rs. 76 to Rs. 100</i>	<i>Rs. 101 and above</i>
Cultivating owned lands ..	49.88	63.83	87.07	218.45	
Cultivating leased lands ..	37.52	63.79	86.61	139.71	
Agricultural labourers ..	43.92	161.88	85.33	119.08	
Household industry ..	38.85	64.17	84.60	273.71	
Other services	25.00	39.37	63.78	80.59	171.36

Summarising the developments in the village of Gorur over the past two decades the Monograph, referred to earlier, says, "the existing agricultural economy which is in a flourishing condition, the few crafts which are affording work to people, the urban facilities which have grown through the years and the available facilities for leading a cultured life have tended to make it possible for sizeable portion of the population to lead a fairly decent life as compared with the people of many other villages."

Leaving agriculture, the other avenues of employment in the district are industry, trade and commerce, transport, professions and miscellaneous services. Hassan, being the headquarters town of the district, accounts for the bulk of the persons belonging to the professional classes. Hassan and other urban centres offer varied opportunities of employment.

**Avenues of
Employment**

There is a District Employment Exchange which is functioning since 1961 at Hassan town. This Exchange is assisting the employment-seekers in finding suitable jobs and employers in meeting their requirements of personnel. The Exchange collects employment market information both from the public and private sectors and studies the trends to ascertain the employment situation, to find out the personnel in short supply and to decide the vocational training to be imparted and the results of such study are published at quarterly and annual intervals.

There were 6,249 applicants on the Live Register as at the end of November 1968. Of these, 89 per cent were persons without previous experience, 42 per cent of them being matriculates and about 12 per cent illiterates. The year-wise particulars relating to the number of persons on the Live Register of the Employment Exchange in Hassan district from 1961 to 1967 were as given below :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
1961 ..	2,019	273	2,292
1962 ..	2,191	291	2,481
1963 ..	2,819	379	3,198
1964 ..	3,464	440	3,904
1965 ..	3,144	397	3,541
1966 ..	2,737	622	4,232

The number of persons on the Live Register had increased almost twice during the period between 1961 and 1967. The period of waiting for the candidates may be a year or two and in some cases more than three years depending upon the availability of vacancies. The following table shows the percentages of

such persons waiting on the Live Register during the years from 1961 to 1967 :—

Year	Less than one year	One to two years	Two to three years	Three years and above
1961	40.3	20.2	15.7	23.8
1962	46.4	21.3	19.3	13.0
1963	48.2	19.1	8.2	24.3
1964	36.2	28.2	13.1	22.5
1965	39.1	30.1	16.2	14.6
1966	32.3	21.2	18.2	28.3
1967	24.6	27.2	29.8	18.4

The year-wise particulars of the number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchange were as detailed below :—

Year	Public sector establishments				Private sector establishments	Grand total
	Central	State	Quasi-Govt.	Total		
1961	12	568	8	588	..	588
1962	12	824	48	884	..	884
1963	9	543	6	558	3	561
1964	18	486	35	539	1	540
1965	7	525	86	618	..	618
1966	17	642	88	747	6	753
1967	25	600	72	697	..	697

About 3,714 persons secured employment during the period of six years. The number of vacancies filled up in the private sector through the Employment Exchange was negligible. The year-wise particulars of vacancies filled up during the period were as noted below :—

Year	Public sector				Private sector	Grand total
	Central	State	Quasi-Govt.	Total		
1961	7	525	8	540	..	540
1962	3	677	18	700	..	700
1963	12	432	25	469	..	469
1964	19	445	34	498	..	498
1965	12	363	35	440	..	440
1966	12	517	38	567	2	569
1967	3	456	37	498	..	498

The subjoined table shows that employment opportunities have been on the increase in the district :—

<i>Category</i>	<i>Employment during March 1965</i>	<i>Percentage of increase over previous year</i>
Public Sector		
Production of raw cotton	7	16.6
Conservation of forests	146	9.8
Fishing	22	10.0
Manufacturing of sundry hardware	286	3.2
Public Service—Administration	2,342	8.3
Educational Service—non-technical	4,573	11.1
Public Health and Medical Service	674	20.4
Veterinary Service	171	3.5
Community Service	314	9.4
Private Sector		
Processing of coffee in curing works	343	28.4
Manufacturing of bricks and tiles	123	3.4
Medical—Health and Sanitation	67	4.1
Retail trading	15	7.2
Personal service (Boarding and Lodging)	200	2.1

The following are the employment indices for the year 1967-68 as reported by the District Employment Exchange Office, Hassan, which throws further light on employment trend in the district :—

(Base year and month : March 1966=100)

<i>As on</i>	<i>Public Sector</i>	<i>Private Sector</i>	<i>Total</i>
31-3-1967	101.2	102.3	102.00
30-6-1967	98.8	109.7	100.10
31-12-1967	96.4	100.0	95.60
31-3-1968	99.6	101.1	101.60

The fluctuations noticeable above are attributable to seasonal employment opportunities in some of the establishments like coffee curing works, occasional employment of additional number of workers by the Mysore State Electricity Board and some retrenchment in a few manufacturing establishments. Most of the educated women employed have been in the teaching profession and in the public administrative service. In the offices of a few private sector establishments like coffee curing works, factories manufacturing wood and wooden products, there are a

few women working. But, on the whole, the employment of educated women in the industrial establishments of the public and private sectors is not considerable.

It is reported that there is man-power shortage in respect of certain categories like typists, stenographers, mid-wives, nurses, physical training instructors, Ayurvedic doctors, cinema operators, Kannada pandits, doctors and trained graduate teachers, but there is surplus in respect of other categories like diploma-holders in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, trained primary school teachers, graduates and matriculates (fresh) besides unskilled workers. But, on the whole, the employment opportunities have not kept pace with the increasing number of employment-seekers.

**Rural
Man-power
Utilisation
Scheme**

A Rural Man-Power Utilisation Scheme has been in operation in the district in the Community Development Blocks of Hole-narsipur and Arkalgud since 1964. The main work under this scheme is to provide employment to unskilled labourers especially during agricultural slack seasons. Under this scheme, about 65 tanks have so far been constructed with utilisation of about 2,24,068 man-days in Holenarsipur Block, whereas in Arkalgud Block, the number of tanks constructed was 170, man-days utilised being about 3,16,660, since the inception of the scheme. This scheme helped the agricultural labourers to some extent.

In order to help solve the local rural un-employment and under-employment problems, a far larger number of local landless workers could have been encouraged to obtain gainful employment in the large railway project and the Hemavathy Project that are being executed in this district. The labour force for them has been recruited largely from other States. To a certain extent, this applies to some of the coffee plantations also. Response for the recruitment to the army and other branches of the defence forces has also not been considerable in this district.

**Community
Development
Programme**

The Community Development Programme was launched in Mysore State as in the rest of India on the 2nd October 1952 and the entire State was covered under this programme by 2nd October 1963. More and more emphasis is being laid on improvement of agriculture and ancillary programmes like animal husbandry and irrigation. Development of small-scale industries is also receiving increasing attention for creating more employment opportunities and to step up production. Other features of the programme include provision of amenities like drinking water, village primary schools, communications, adult literacy, social education and promotion of community organisations. During the Third Five-Year Plan period, several of the blocks were converted from one stage to another on a phased programme. In 1959, a three-tier Panchayat Raj system was ushered in. Since then, the Blocks are being handled by the Taluk Development

Boards which are statutory bodies. In the district of Hassan, the first Development Block was started at Holenarsipur and the second at Arkalgud. From 1955 onwards, new Blocks were formed year after year, Belur in 1956, Arsikere in 1957 and another at Banavara during the same year; the Alur and the Manjarabad Blocks were inaugurated in 1958 and 1959 respectively. So by the beginning of the present decade, six out of the eight taluks of the district were covered under the programme and during the first two years of the present decade, two more Blocks each at Hassan and Channarayapatna were opened making the total number of Blocks in the district 11 and covering the entire district. A table showing the stages of development of the Blocks since inception is given at the end of the Chapter.

The self-help programme of the Community Development Blocks implies the development of the entire rural community, extending its benefits especially to the weaker and the under-privileged sections. It is an experiment of planned economic and social changes through the joint efforts of the people and the official agencies. People's support and participation form an integral part of the programme. In the early stages, advisory committees of local people were set up to assist block development officers. Later, these were replaced by block development committees. Though the response from the people was quite encouraging, the planners, in order to make it a people's programme in the real sense of the term, entrusted it to the elected representatives. Now it is the complete responsibility of the Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats to implement the scheme. A separate schematic budget allotment for a full block (unit) for stage I is Rs. 12 lakhs and for stage II Rs. 5 lakhs with a certain degree of flexibility in the diversion of funds from one account to another. The pattern of expenditure remains almost uniform among all the Blocks. The major items of expenditure are towards Block headquarters, agriculture, irrigation and reclamation, animal husbandry, rural health and sanitation, education, communication and rural arts, crafts and industries, in addition to 'Q' loans and advances made for irrigation, reclamation and industries. As against the total provision of Rs. 63,30,000 provided in the schematic budget of the Blocks, a sum of Rs. 47,79,764 was incurred during the First and Second Plan periods. A proper understanding of the pattern of expenditure and the nature and extent of development, need a type-study of a particular Block, preferably the oldest in the district. For this purpose an economic survey was conducted in the Holenarsipur Block in the year 1965 for assessing the progress made by the Block during the period of 12 years, which is given below :—

The Holenarsipur Community Development Block, which entered the post-stage period in October 1964, comprises 200 *charak* and 50 *becharak* villages, excluding the town covering a total area

**Holenarsipur
Block**

of 653.9 sq. kilometres and a population of 75,750 as in 1961. The density of population in the Block was 384 per square mile in 1961. Agriculture received the first importance and all efforts were directed towards it. The quantity of improved seeds distributed was of the order of 8,787 B.Mds. of paddy, 725 B.Mds. of ragi, two B.Mds. of jowar, 8 B.Mds. of groundnut and 73 B.Mds. of cotton seeds. About 1,14,772 B.Mds. of ammonium sulphate and 96,009 B.Mds. of other chemical fertilisers and green manure seeds to an extent of 6,344 B.Mds and 843 iron ploughs, 11 seed drills, 326 paddy weeders and 58 dusters and sprayers were distributed. For preparation of composts, 9,434 new pits were dug in the Block area. As many as 2,921 demonstration plots were laid out on the fields of the agriculturists. Pesticides worth Rs. 4,432 during the I stage of the development of the Block and a total quantity of 5,716 lbs. during II stage were distributed. An extent of 30,413 acres of land was brought under the Japanese method of cultivation with an average area of 3,130 acres per year. Seven oil engines were supplied to the cultivators for the purpose of irrigation. A Government seed farm was functioning at Jakka-valli. An extent of 526 acres of land was reclaimed besides bunding 654 acres.

Under the minor irrigation programme nine *katcha* and 19 *pucca* wells were sunk, 70 minor tanks renovated, three pumpsets installed and six pick-ups constructed. As a result of this, 1,130 acres of fresh land was brought under irrigation.

Two veterinary dispensaries were functioning in the Block area in 1965, one at the Block headquarters and another at Hallimysore and there was a poultry farm attached to the veterinary dispensary at Holenarsipur. Fifteen breeding bulls and 74 rams were supplied to raiyats for purpose of breeding. For the development of poultry, 600 male birds and 364 female birds and 4,992 improved hatching eggs were supplied to the cultivators. About 1,650 animals were artificially inseminated at the Artificial Insemination Centre at Holenarsipur, and 24,338 animals were castrated.

In respect of health services also, the progress was considerable. Four primary health units were functioning in the Block area in 1965. A grant of Rs. 10,000 was made for the construction of two health units, one at Doddakunche and another at Hallimysore, at the rate of Rs. 5,000 each. About 120 rural latrines were constructed; 15,223 yards of *pucca* drains were laid out; 42 drinking water wells were sunk and three drinking water wells were renovated and 1,573 drinking water wells were disinfected; 1,269 soakpits were prepared.

Under the head Social Education, 89 adult literacy classes were started and 1,311 adults including 60 women were made literates. For the benefit of such persons, 45 reading rooms and

libraries were started. About 150 youth clubs with a total membership of 3,605, two farmers' unions with a membership of 92 and 68 respectively, and functional *gram sahayak* camps were organised. Eight radio sets were supplied to the villagers under Block funds at a cost of Rs. 1,050.

With a view to increasing the women's participation in the programme, 47 *mahila mandals* and 25 *balawadis* and nurseries were started with total membership of 904 and 927 respectively. Six women's camps were held and nearly 125 women took part in them; 23 baby shows, six social camps, two gramalakshmi camps and a visual education tour were conducted. In addition to these, several demonstrations on kitchen gardens, construction of smokeless *chulas*, soap-making, home-management, cleanliness, etc., were held and 189 smokeless *chulas* were installed.

In respect of communications, 213 furlongs of *katcha* roads were constructed, an improvement of 1,761 furlongs of the existing roads was effected and about 65 culverts were constructed.

In the field of industries, 101 *ambar charakas*, 66 bee-hives and 26 sewing machines were distributed among the villagers so that they could engage themselves during agricultural slack seasons. Improved tools and appliances worth Rs. 1,123 and Rs. 1,924 were supplied to blacksmith and goldsmith families respectively. There were 43 co-operatives, including five industrial societies and an industrial training institute functioning in the Block as in 1965. The following statement shows the cumulative totals of actual expenditure (in rupees) from the inception of the scheme to the end of 1969 in Holenarsipur Block :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
1.	Block Headquarters ..	3,30,952
2.	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry ..	1,10,233
3.	Minor Irrigation ..	4,00,000
4.	Rural Health and Sanitation ..	91,466
5.	Education ..	1,30,675
6.	Social Education ..	65,373
7.	Communication ..	1,63,742
8.	Rural Arts and Crafts ..	1,25,702
9.	Rural Industries and Housing ..	1,50,315
10.	Irrigation and Reclamation ..	1,61,240

According to the figures gathered by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Bangalore, in 1960-61, the income from the agricultural sector formed about 59.15 per cent of the total income in the district, while animal husbandry and other transport and

commerce accounted for 12.1 and 5.72 per cent respectively. The table given hereunder shows the amounts of income under various major sectors in the district as in 1960-61 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Major sectors</i>	<i>Income in lakhs of rupees</i>
1.	Agriculture	1,591.20
2.	Animal husbandry	327.34
3.	Forestry	10.59
4.	Fishery	6.94
5.	Mining	6.38
6.	Factory establishments (including electricity)	68.27
7.	Small-scale establishments	84.32
8.	Communications (posts and telegraphs)	20.68
9.	Railways	52.95
10.	Organised banking and insurance	27.08
11.	Other transport and commerce	154.94
12.	Professions and liberal arts	86.07
13.	Government services (administration)	103.64
14.	Domestic services	7.47
15.	House property	140.35
	Total	2,688.22

The per capita income of the district as worked out by the National Council of Agricultural and Economic Research, New Delhi, was Rs. 188 in 1955-56. Later for the year 1960-61, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics found it to be Rs. 307 which was above the State average of Rs. 289, and the Hassan district lagged behind its contiguous districts like Coorg (Rs. 558), Chikmagalur (Rs. 495), Shimoga (Rs. 319) and Mandya (Rs. 317) and it occupied the 8th place among the districts of the State in this respect.

Present position

In an assessment made under the 1961 Census all the districts of India were ranked under four levels of development, *viz.*, the bottom, the second, the third and the top levels, taking into account 63 different factors for purposes of ranking districts at the four levels. The district of Hassan was grouped under districts having the third level of development which meant that it had attained relatively a better level of living. Again in the year 1968, the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics ranked the districts of the State on the basis of certain indicators as suggested by the Planning Commission. These several indicators were assigned weights in proportion to the importance of the indicators of development. Because of the importance of irrigation and of diversification of the economy, the indicators "percentage of net area irrigated to the net sown area" and "percentage of workers in agricultural

sector to the total workers" were assigned comparatively heavy weights. Similarly, two other indicators, namely, double cropped area and the number of workers in registered factories per lakh of population, were accorded relatively higher weights. The weighted mean ranking of the districts in the State worked out in this way put the Hassan district in the 12th place among the other districts of the State. According to the indicators of development adopted by the Programme Administration Division of the Planning Commission, in their study, 'Level of Economic Development', the district of Hassan obtained the 10th rank among the districts of the State in the year 1968.

The pace of economic development and the nature of such development in the district have been influenced, to a considerable extent, by organised planning since 1951. In the last quarter of 1968, formulation of district plans as such was also commenced. Considering the natural resources and other facilities available in the district, the scope for development in different sectors is very considerable. In the agricultural sector, the district has already attained self-sufficiency in respect of food-grains. This has to be stabilised and further efforts have to be made to increase agricultural production in the years to come. The cultivable waste and the fallow lands can be brought under the plough by a phased programme. Agricultural prosperity depends both on extensive and intensive cultivation. Except about one-third of the geographical area of the district, which is *malnad*, the cultivated lands in the rest of the district depend on irrigation to supplement the rain water. The Hemavathy River Project which is under execution will bring about an additional area of about 50,000 acres of land under cultivation in the district. The lift-irrigation schemes taken up on a co-operative basis and sinking of more wells for purposes of irrigation in the scarcity areas, will be of much help.

Possibilities
of development

It has been realised that complete dependence on agriculture by a large number of people for their livelihood retards the progress of agriculture and affects the common well-being of the people. This problem becomes more acute in the scarcity areas where the yields are often poor. Therefore, diversification of agriculture and pursuit of activities allied to agriculture are necessary for remedying this position. Realising this fact, development of animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries and such other occupations allied to agriculture are being now increasingly encouraged. This would provide the families of agriculturists enough work all through the year and a good additional source of income which would help to raise their standard of living.

The development in the field of agriculture and horticulture will, to some extent, influence the growth of industries in the district which, at present, is not served by any large-scale organised industry, barring the single Implements Factory at Hassan. Taking

into consideration the resources available, the demand for various manufactured products and such other factors, the Small Industries Service Institute, Bangalore, has suggested the setting up of some wood, mineral and agro-based industries, both in the public and the private sectors. The forests of Hassan district contain various species of wood which are suitable for the manufacture of toys, especially educational toys. The saw dust, which is being wasted in saw mills now, may be used for the manufacture of briquettes. Since extensive deposits of china clay are found in the Bhageshpur area, there is ample scope for the manufacture of crockery articles. Refractory bricks can be manufactured out of the raw materials like chromite, magnesite and aluminous clay which are available in plenty in the district. It is understood that the copper deposits recently discovered in the district, if pooled together with such deposits found elsewhere in the State, can be commercially exploited with considerable advantage. (Very recently, deposits of sillimanite and molybdenum have also been discovered in the district). Among the agro-based industries, units for the manufacture of ragi malt food and dehydrated potatoes can be taken up. There is also scope for setting up one or two fruit preservation units in view of new development in horticulture. As coconut is grown in large quantities in the district a unit for the manufacture of particle boards and another for coconut shell powder and several units for manufacture of articles from coir can be started. A tannery unit, as large quantities of raw hides and skins are available in the district, a sprinkler unit in view of the growing demand for sprinklers in plantation areas, a few fertiliser mixing plants and umbrella assembling units can be set up.

On the whole, it can be said that the economic growth of the district has been well-planned in recent years, keeping in view its potentialities in the fields of irrigation, agriculture, transport and communications, industries, commerce, etc. The years since 1951 have seen a good deal of developmental efforts and an economic momentum has been generated. Of late, considerable headway has been made particularly in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, small-scale industries and banking and the many programmes carried out under the successive Five-Year Plans have brought about developments of a far-reaching importance which have laid the foundation for the district's future prosperity.

TABLE I
Pattern of distribution of population according to the livelihood classes—1961 Census

<i>Taluk</i>	<i>As cultivator</i>	<i>As agricultural labour</i>	<i>In mining, quarrying livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations and allied activities</i>	<i>At household industry</i>	<i>In manufacturing other than household industry</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
Alur ..	15,863 (69.97)* (5.05)**	1,744 (7.69) (7.39)	2,779 (12.26) (10.61)	354 (1.57) (2.64)	381 (1.68) (5.04)
Arkalgud ..	40,871 (80.14) (13.4)	3,046 (5.96) (12.92)	560 (1.10) (2.13)	2,598 (5.10) (19.34)	443 (0.87) (5.85)
Arsikere ..	51,782 (72.32) (16.53)	5,123 (7.15) (21.73)	1,567 (2.19) (5.98)	2,789 (3.90) (20.76)	1,254 (1.76) (16.72)
Belur ..	36,678 (69.44) (11.70)	4,103 (7.76) (17.4)	5,551 (10.50) (21.20)	1,152 (2.18) (8.57)	1,591 (3.01) (21.04)
Channarayapatna	63,159 (86.44) (20.16)	2,604 (3.56) (11.05)	790 (1.08) (3.01)	2,319 (3.17) (17.26)	567 (0.78) (7.50)
Hassan ..	54,678 (77.14) (17.45)	3,164 (4.46) (13.42)	432 (0.61) (1.65)	1,996 (2.81) (14.86)	1,786 (2.52) (23.62)
Holenarsipur ..	40,740 (85.68) (13.00)	1,037 (2.18) (4.40)	486 (1.02) (1.85)	1,716 (3.60) (12.77)	510 (1.07) (6.75)
Manjarabad ..	9,602 (28.11) (3.06)	2,754 (8.06) (11.69)	14,012 (41.03) (53.77)	511 (1.50) (3.80)	1,019 (2.99) (13.48)
Total ..	313,373 (73.96)	23,575 (5.57)	26,177 (6.18)	13,435 (3.18)	7,561 (1.76)

*Figures in brackets are percentages to the total working force of the taluk.

**Figures in brackets are percentages to the total population of the district under each category.

Pattern of distribution of population according to the livelihood classes—1961 Census—(contd.)

<i>Taluk</i>	<i>In construction</i>	<i>In trade and commerce</i>	<i>In transport, storage and communications</i>	<i>In other services</i>	<i>Total workers</i>	<i>Total non-workers</i>
1	7	8	9	10	11	12
Alur ..	179 (0.79) (4.80)	205 (0.90) (2.49)	36 (0.16) (1.61)	1,129 (4.98) (4.44)	22,670	26,512
Arkalgud ..	238 (0.47) (6.39)	794 (1.56) (9.65)	74 (0.15) (3.31)	2,370 (4.65) (9.32)	50,994	55,792
Arsikere ..	851 (1.16) (22.31)	1,915 (2.67) (23.27)	774 (1.08) (34.57)	5,560 (7.77) (21.87)	71,605	96,201
Belur ..	458 (0.87) (12.30)	839 (1.58) (10.19)	114 (0.21) (5.09)	2,332 (4.45) (5.21)	52,818	49,951
Channarayapatna	208 (0.29) (5.58)	861 (1.17) (10.46)	128 (0.18) (5.72)	2,429 (3.33) (9.56)	73,065	67,614
Hassan ..	578 (0.82) (15.52)	1,938 (2.73) (23.25)	775 (1.10) (34.60)	5,536 (7.81) (21.78)	70,883	90,88
Holenarsipur ..	305 (0.64) (8.19)	697 (1.47) (8.47)	118 (0.25) (5.27)	1,943 (4.09) (7.64)	47,552	41,788
Manjarabad ..	927 (2.7) (24.91)	981 (2.87) (11.92)	220 (0.65) (9.83)	4,125 (12.08) (16.18)	34,151	43,371
Total ..	3,724 (0.88)	8,230 (1.94)	2,239 (0.53)	25,424 (6.00)	4,23,738	4,72,106

TABLE II

Average wholesale prices of staple foodgrains in the State during each year from 1881-82 to 1913-14.

(Quantity is in seers of 80 tolas per rupee)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rice</i>	<i>Ragi</i>
1881-82	12.86	27.23
1882-83	15.23	33.68
1883-84	16.00	36.57
1884-85	14.19	25.85
1885-86	12.77	26.66
1886-87	14.32	54.85
1887-88	14.38	43.63
1888-89	12.69	40.85
1889-90	11.65	39.38
1890-91	9.68	28.97
1891-92	8.35	20.58
1892-93	10.77	27.82
1893-94	10.26	30.23
1894-95	9.87	31.47
1895-96	10.44	34.28
1896-97	9.41	23.91
1897-98	8.90	20.31
1898-99	10.59	23.80
1899-1900	9.35	17.34
1900-01	8.11	14.64
1901-02	10.03	17.88
1902-03	10.82	25.71
1903-04	10.18	36.81
1904-05	8.43	20.00
1905-06	6.68	14.50
1906-07	7.25	17.50
1907-08	6.18	15.18
1908-09	5.43	11.43
1909-10	6.43	14.93
1910-11	7.56	20.25
1911-12	5.87	14.50
1912-13	5.56	16.18
1913-14	5.50	14.12

TABLE III

Statement showing the stages of development of the Community Development Blocks since their inception in Hassan District

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>	<i>Date of starting</i>	<i>Stage I period</i>	<i>Stage II period</i>	<i>Post-stage II period</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Holenarsipur ..	2-10-1953	From 2-10-1953 to 30-9-1959	From 1-10-1959 to 30-9-1964	1-10-1964
2.	Arkalgud ..	2-10-1954	From 2-10-1954 to 31-3-1960	From 1-4-1960 to 31-3-1966	1-4-1966
3.	Belur ..	2-10-1956	From 2-10-1956 to 30-9-1961	From 1-10-1961 to 30-9-1966	1-10-1966
4.	Arsikere ..	2-10-1957	From 2-10-1957 to 30-9-1964	From 1-10-1964 to 30-9-1969	....
5.	Banavara ..	2-10-1957	From 2-10-1957 to 30-9-1964	From 1-10-1964 to 30-9-1969	....
6.	Alur ..	1-4-1958	From 1-4-1959 to 30-9-1966	From 1-10-1966 to 30-9-1971	....
7.	Sakleshpur ..	1-4-1959	From 1-4-1960 to 31-3-1967	From 1-4-1967 to 31-3-1972	....
8.	Hassan I ..	1-4-1961	From 1-4-1962 to 31-3-1968	....	....
9.	Hassan II ..	2-10-1961	From 2-10-1962 to 30-9-1967	....	....
10.	Channarayapatna I ..	2-10-1962	From 2-10-1963 to 30-9-1968	....	....
11.	Channarayapatna II ..	2-10-1962	From 2-10-1963 to 30-9-1968	....	....