

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

IN presenting an account of the economic trends in the district of Mandya, it is essential to describe the livelihood pattern of the population, the employment-level, the price and wage fluctuations with their impact on economic and social conditions and the role of the community development programme in the district ; in addition to these, a brief survey of the socio-economic structure of the district also becomes necessary. In dealing with these aspects, we have to bear in mind what has been said in some of the earlier chapters of this volume, particularly Agriculture and Irrigation, Industries, Banking, Trade and Commerce.

Mandya district is not dissimilar to other contiguous districts in its main occupational pattern, which is, of course, predominantly agricultural. From the perusal of census reports, it appears that the livelihood pattern of the district has been more or less constant for the last fifty years. Though the percentage of population engaged in agriculture remained, to some extent, constant, the character of agricultural practices underwent considerable changes after 1932, thanks to the bold plan of the statesman-engineer, Dr. M. Visvesvaraya, whose dream of a dam across the Cauvery was fulfilled. According to the 1951 Census, out of the total population of 7,17,545, about 85 per cent of the population or 6,09,827 persons were found to be dependent on agriculture. In the 1951 Census, the population, in the first instance, was divided into two broad livelihood categories, namely, agricultural and non-agricultural, and each category was subdivided into four livelihood classes, thus making in all eight classes. The four sub-divisions under the agricultural classes were (i) cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents, (ii) cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents, (iii) cultivating labourers and their dependents and (iv) non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent-receivers and their dependents. The four sub-divisions under the non-agricultural classes were those engaged in (i) production other than cultivation, (ii) commerce, (iii) transport and (iv) other services and miscellaneous sources. The following table shows the distribution of population according to livelihood categories in the district as in 1951 :—

**Livelihood
pattern**

Distribution of population in Mandya district according to livelihood categories as in 1951.

Sl. No.	Livelihood Classes and Sub-Classes	Self-supporting persons		Non-earning dependents		Earning dependents		Total	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
1. Agricultural Classes :									
	(a) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents ..	1,11,299	16,454	1,49,623	2,47,059	10,531	7,302	2,71,453	2,70,815
	(b) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents ..	3,924	684	5,727	9,010	416	415	10,119	10,109
	(c) Cultivating labourers and their dependents ..	6,984	3,289	9,135	11,525	933	907	17,052	15,721
	(d) Non-cultivating owners of land or agricultural rent-receivers and their dependents ..	1,943	2,610	3,702	5,849	287	167	5,932	8,626
	Total of Agricultural Classes ..	1,24,200	23,037	1,68,187	2,73,443	12,169	8,791	3,04,556	3,05,271
2. Non-Agricultural Classes :									
	(a) Persons who derive their livelihood from production other than cultivation ..	9,102	876	9,115	15,476	942	685	19,159	17,037
	(b) Persons who derive their livelihood from commerce ..	3,470	719	4,286	7,128	393	182	8,149	8,029
	(c) Persons who derive their livelihood from transport ..	585	7	579	1,085	48	8	1,212	1,100
	(d) Persons who derive their livelihood from other services and miscellaneous sources ..	13,018	3,127	13,509	21,714	927	737	27,454	25,578
	Total of Non-Agricultural Classes ..	26,175	4,729	27,489	45,403	2,310	1,612	55,974	51,744
	Total of All Classes ..	1,50,375	27,766	1,95,676	3,18,846	14,479	10,403	3,60,530	3,57,015

It is apparent from a perusal of the figures that the pressure on the land is enormous, 75.6 per cent of the total population or 5,42,268 (2,71,453 men and 2,70,815 women) were owner-cultivators and their dependents, 2.8 per cent or 20,228 (10,119 men and 10,109 women) tenant cultivators and their dependents, 4.6 per cent or 32,773 (17,052 men and 15,721 women) cultivating labourers and their dependents and 2 per cent or 14,558 (5,932 men and 8,626 women) non-cultivating owners and their dependents. If we look at the total agricultural population of all the districts of the State as disclosed by the 1951 census, it is significant that the percentage of the total agricultural population to the total population in Mandya district was the highest (85 per cent) and Tumkur district had the second place (83.6 per cent). Another significant feature was the predominance of owner cultivators (75.6 per cent of the total population or 5,42,268 persons) and it was also the highest in the State. So far as industries were concerned, persons engaged in them were five per cent of the total population of the district (36,196 persons or 19,159 men and 17,037 women). Persons engaged in commerce and transport constituted 2.3 and 0.3 per cent, respectively (16,178 persons or 8,149 men and 8,029 women and 2,312 persons or 1,212 men and 1,100 women, respectively). Other services and miscellaneous sources accounted for 7.4 per cent of the total population (53,032 persons or 27,454 men and 25,578 women). From 1951 to 1961, there was an increase of 25.49 per cent in the population, the 1961 census having disclosed that the population of Mandya district was 8,99,210; the variation between the two censuses was 1,81,665.

The 1961 Census, unlike the 1951 Census, has broadly classified the population under two heads, *viz.*, workers and non-workers. The following table shows the total number of workers and non-workers in Mandya district as per the 1961 Census :—

New classification

Category			Men	Women	Total
Workers	..	..	2,80,761	1,45,934	4,26,695
Non-Workers	..	..	1,76,382	2,96,133	4,72,515
Total	..	..	4,57,143	4,42,067	8,99,210

It is seen from the above table that out of a total population of 8,99,210, more than 50 per cent were non-workers. The workers were classified under nine sub-heads as follows :—

Sl. No.	Workers		Men	Women	Total
1.	As cultivators	.. ..	2,01,385	1,10,260	3,11,645
2.	As agricultural labourers	.. ..	26,801	19,418	46,219
3.	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities	.. ..	2,011	573	2,584
4.	In household industry	.. ..	11,426	7,605	19,031
5.	In manufacturing other than household industry	.. ..	8,667	825	9,492
6.	In construction	.. ..	3,794	929	4,723
7.	In trade and commerce	.. ..	6,252	1,414	7,666
8.	In transport, storage and communications	.. ..	1,467	3	1,470
9.	In other services	.. ..	18,958	4,907	23,865
	Total	.. ..	2,80,761	1,45,934	4,26,695

Another feature of the 1961 Census is the classification of persons into urban and rural population with workers and non-workers and men and women break-ups as shown in the following table :—

Area	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Rural	2,52,703	1,40,052	3,92,755	1,51,896	2,54,487	4,06,383
Urban ..	28,058	5,882	33,940	24,486	41,646	66,132
Total ..	2,80,761	1,45,934	4,26,695	1,76,382	2,96,133	4,72,515

The rural population of the district as per the 1961 Census was 7,99,138 (4,04,599 men and 3,94,539 women) as against 6,39,769 (3,20,032 men and 3,19,737 women) in 1951. The urban population according to the 1961 Census was 1,00,072 (52,544 men and 47,528 women) as against 77,776 (40,498 men and 37,278 women). The proportion of rural/urban population to 1,000 of population in Mandya district as per the 1961 Census was 889

rural/111 urban. The population—both rural and urban—was further sub-divided into nine categories as indicated below :—

Rural

Sl. No.	Workers	Men	Women
1.	As cultivators	1,95,322	1,08,738
2.	As agricultural labourers	25,107	18,406
3.	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities ..	1,703	526
4.	In household industry	9,246	6,638
5.	In manufacturing other than household industry ..	4,948	632
6.	In construction	2,278	534
7.	In trade and commerce	2,826	1,074
8.	In transport, storage and communications	464	3
9.	In other services	10,809	3,501
	Total ..	2,52,703	1,40,052

Urban

Sl. No.	Workers	Men	Women
1.	As cultivators	6,063	1,522
2.	As agricultural labourers	1,694	1,012
3.	In mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting and plantations, orchards and allied activities ..	308	47
4.	In household industry	2,180	967
5.	In manufacturing other than household industry ..	3,719	193
6.	In construction	1,516	395
7.	In trade and commerce	3,426	340
8.	In transport, storage and communications	1,003	..
9.	In other services	8,149	1,406
	Total ..	28,058	5,882

The general level of prices of the staple agricultural commodities, particularly of a district like Mandya, where the mainstay of the economy is agriculture, largely determines the economic condition of the people. One of the prominent economic phenomena of modern times is the striking fluctuation in the level of prices and wages. Adequate statistics for a comparison of the present with the past economic condition of the district are not available, though statistics are available for the State as a whole. Still, an attempt may be made with the available records. In analysing the price trends, it is necessary to go back to the primary data as far back as possible. Dr. Buchanan states that the prices in 1800 were : Ragi 12 *sultani fanams* per *khandaga* of 200 seers ; rice best sort 28½ seers and coarse 66½ seers.¹ If converted into rupees, ragi was 50 seers per rupee and rice best sort nine seers per rupee and second sort 21 per rupee.

Price trends

1. Lewis Rice, Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. I, 1897, p. 562.

1881 to 1913

A statement indicating the average whole-sale prices of staple foodgrains, rice and ragi, between 1881-82 and 1912-13, is given at the end of this chapter (Table-1). The characteristic phenomenon of this period (1881 to 1913) was violent fluctuation in prices due to the changing agricultural conditions. The table not only shows a state of frequent fluctuations in prices, but also indicates that the prices of rice were gradually rising, particularly after 1903-04, whereas the prices of ragi continued to fluctuate markedly. The following table shows the variations in the average quinquennial prices of the chief foodgrains from 1886 to 1911 expressed in terms of the average for 1886 taken as 100.¹

<i>Year</i>		<i>Rice</i>	<i>Ragi</i>
1886-90	..	124.2	114.1
1891-95	..	167.3	148.9
1896-1900	..	206.2	148.7
1901-05	..	177.2	126.4
1906-11	..	264.0	163.7

Marked rise

It is apparent that there was a general rise in prices and it was marked after 1906. In 1907, the rise in prices of commodities attracted the attention of the Government and in 1910, the Government of India appointed a committee to undertake a full and a detailed investigation of the problem and the task was entrusted to Mr. Datta, a senior and experienced officer of the Finance Department. His report was received in 1913 and was recognised as a valuable contribution for understanding the economic and financial situation in India. The "Prices Enquiry Committee", as it was known, divided the causes into two, *viz.*, (a) causes peculiar to India and (b) causes which forced up the prices all over the world. But in the opinion of the committee, a distinct line of demarcation could not be drawn between the two sets of causes, because they were reacting on each other. Under the former head, some of the causes suggested were (i) a comparative shortage throughout the period under enquiry in the production of foodstuffs, (ii) the increased demand for India's food products and raw materials, both in India itself and world markets, (iii) the development of communications, internal and external, and the decrease in the cost of transport and (iv) growth of banking and monetary facilities. Under the head of world influences, some of the causes he listed were (i) the increased supply of gold, (ii) the development of credit, (iii) the destruction of wealth in wars and the expenditure on armaments. In Mr. Datta's view, it was in the combined action of these numerous factors that the explanation for the great rise in the price-level all over India was

1. Statistical Abstract of Mysore, 1945, p. 48.

to be found. Among the relative importance of causes, Mr. Datta chose the development and expansion of communications as of a special importance. A still further influence was attributed to the large additions which were made to the monetary circulation during the years from 1903-04 to 1907-08 by the coinage of new rupees. Amongst the other possible causes of a rise in prices, he devoted special attention to the interesting but difficult problem of the relation between the supply and the demand for food as measured by the growth of population.

The conclusions he arrived at, in his own words, were : **Lowest level of supply**
 "Considering the growth of the population and the increase in the external demand, the supply has been short during the greater part of the period embraced in the enquiry. The demand for both internal consumption and exports having increased at a quicker rate than the production of foodgrains, it is only natural that the general level of prices of foodgrains over a series of years would rise, although in a particularly favourable year, it might have fallen to some extent. The food supply in India, compared with the demand, both internal and external, reached its lowest level in the quinquennium 1905-09, and this shortage of supply has doubtless contributed, in no small measure, to the unusual rise in prices during that quinquennium."¹

During the year 1905-1906, the retail prices were higher than in the previous year. This was due to the general failure of the harvest and want of rains during the year. Prices were also affected between 1870 and 1912 by several famines and distress conditions in Mysore and outside.

Before the outbreak of the First World War (1914-1918), **1914 to 1923** prices were generally rising and the declaration of the war only added momentum to this tendency and spurred the prices upto an unprecedented degree, especially from 1916 to 1921. The period of the First World War and the decade that followed were marked by high prices of agricultural products. Tables giving the average annual wholesale prices of staple foodgrains in each year from 1913 to 1924, the retail prices of the principal foodgrains in each year from 1913 to 1921 and the fluctuations in the price-levels from the year 1919 to 1923 are attached at the end of the chapter (Tables 2 to 4).

The decade between 1921 and 1930 may be said to have been **1930 to 1939** prosperous on the whole. But this did not last long. In the wake of the great world depression, there was a reversal in the early thirties of this century. The slump in prices of agricultural commodities, which began in the year 1930, continued almost unabated during that decade. For over a decade since 1920

1. Report on the Enquiry into the Rise of Prices in India, by K. L. Datta, 1915, Vol. I, p. 61.

(though it is said to be a prosperous period because of some stability in prices), the prices of all commodities had remained at a very high level compared to pre-war conditions and the agriculturists increased their commitments by raising their standard of living and by borrowing more and more on the assurance of the higher income and the higher security that the lands offered. The abnormal and sudden fall in the prices, which in many cases was nearly half of the original value, reduced the income of the agriculturists and they could not adjust themselves to the altered conditions.

**Disastrous
effect**

The effect of the fall in prices was disastrous in several branches of the economy, but more than anybody else the peasant was hit the hardest since his income was gravely affected. The condition of the tenant was worse than the peasant proprietor. In the case of the tenant, who had to pay fixed cash rents, the burden was probably doubled. But in the case of those who grew the bulk of their agricultural produce for their own consumption and met their cash requirements from the income derived from other sources, the effect was comparatively less. The incomes of owners of large and medium-size holdings were also seriously affected by the fall in prices. Prices of agricultural commodities fell more than those of manufactured goods, which meant that the peasant was selling cheaper and buying dearer than before. The result of the diminution of income was that in many cases the expenditure had to be met by the sale of gold and jewellery of the family. There was also some dislodgement of the peasant from the land. It is interesting to note that there was no general reduction in the area and volume of production consequent on the fall of prices. On the contrary, in many cases the tendency to increase production to compensate for the reduced prices was predominant. The general fall in prices not only affected agriculturists, but also trade and industry. The Government tried to come to the rescue of the agriculturist with periodical ameliorative measures such as granting liberal loans, concessions in recovery of land revenue, starting of land mortgage banks and debt relief. In spite of such measures, recovery from the depression was slow and it was only World War II that brought a favourable change. The war and its after-effects of inflation brought about a steady and steep rise in the general level of prices.

After 1939

Immediately on the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, prices of commodities took an upward turn mainly as a result of speculation. This speculative rise in prices lasted only for a brief period and the prices settled down afterwards. In 1940, there was 'latent' inflation all round. It should be noted that under this 'latent' inflation, there was certainly some amount of excess demand, which was neutralised

mostly by gradual dishoarding or decumulation of stocks. In other words, in 1940, there was inflation as excess demand was there, but the inflationary effects were substantially neutralised by the gradual dishoarding policy of the dealers and wholesalers, who had accumulated huge stocks on the eve of the war. It was in 1941 that the 'latent' inflation in the district, as elsewhere, was converted into a real type of inflation and the people seriously felt the impact of the rising trend of prices. The prices of rice and ragi in the district which were, in 1939-40, Rs. 16-2-0 and Rs. 6-0-0 per palla of 100 seers, respectively, increased to Rs. 25-0-0 and Rs. 14-8-3, respectively, in 1944-45. A table showing the price-trends in the district between 1923-24 and 1944-45 is given at the end of the chapter (Table 5). Scarcity of consumer goods, accompanied by a serious food shortage, had made the situation gloomy. It was during the last quarter of 1943 that the Government introduced price-control and rationing of food, cloth, sugar and other necessities of life. After 1943, the Government also slowed down the pace of issuing paper currency, intensified borrowing programmes for mopping up the extra purchasing power of the people and launched several schemes for increasing agricultural production. The irrigational facilities afforded by the construction of the Visvesvaraya canal in the district also contributed towards this endeavour. These anti-inflationary measures partially stabilised the price situation.

The partially suppressed inflation of the war period made a jerky outburst in the post-war period under the impact of pent-up demand. During the war period, there was some amount of voluntary abstinence on the part of the people, but once the war ended, they were eager to consume more goods. This outburst of demand for consumer goods could not be immediately met in the post-war period, because adequate replacements and modernisation of plants and equipments were not undertaken by the manufacturers during the war period. In other words, the immediate post-war period was characterised by an increase in the community's propensity to consume without an appreciable increase in the volume of new productive investment. This discrepancy between consumption and production was made more serious by further expansion of paper currency during the immediate post-war period. Added to all these, the loss of supplies of rice from Burma, the shortage of rolling stock on the railways, the inflation of currency, the smuggling of foodgrains across the border of the State and the exploitation of the war conditions by the profiteering producers and tradesmen—all contributed to the spiral in prices of foodgrains. Black-markets appeared in many of the consumer goods all over the country and the impact of this was also felt in Mandya district. People were put to great hardships. Rationing in food and cloth and the control on the

**More demand
for consumer
goods**

prices of other essential materials did not fully remedy the situation. In 1947, the Government of India's decision to de-control foodgrains, sugar and cloth resulted in a sharp upward turn in prices, which forced the Government to impose cloth-control in July 1948. In 1949, the devaluation of the rupee had a considerable effect on the domestic price-line; prices started falling and it appeared that the harmful effects of the earlier rise in prices were slowly wearing out but actually prices did not decline much. The worsening of the food situation compelled the Government to take steps to curb the rise in prices. Compulsory procurement of paddy and ragi was ordered and essential foodgrains were rationed in urban areas. The free movement of foodgrains from rural to urban areas was kept in check by the issue of control orders. Eventually, controls were removed. As the prices continued to rise, fair price shops were opened to alleviate the difficulties of the consuming public. During 1960, the price of rice in Mandya district was one and a quarter seer per rupee and that of ragi two and half seers per rupee. The prices of staple commodities in Mandya district during 1964-65 and 1965-66 were as shown below :—

Commodity		1964-65		1965-66	
		Per kilogram		Per kilogram	
		Rs.		Rs.	
	<i>Locally procured.</i>				
Rice (fine)	..	0	92	0	97
Rice (medium)	..	0	86	0	88
Rice (coarse)	..	0	79	0	84
Rice (boiled)	..	0	92	0	96
Wheat (white)	..	0	80	0	84
Wheat (red)	..	0	78	0	80
Jowar (white)	..	0	70	0	72
Jowar (yellow or red)	..	0	68	0	70
Maize	..	0	70	0	72
Bajra	..	0	75	0	78
Ragi	..	0	95	1	10
	<i>Imported.</i>				
Raw-boiled rice	..	0	90	0	91
Coarse rice (American)	..	0	85	0	86
Wheat	..	0	60	0	62
Jowar (Madras)	..	0	80	0	82
Maize (Punjab)	..	0	80	0	84
Milo	..	0	40	0	45
Wholemeal atta	..	0	60	0	64
Sojee	..	0	80	0	85
Bran	..	0	35	0	36
Bengalgram	..	1	50	1	60

In this abnormal situation of rising prices, the policy of the Government has been to mop up the excess purchasing power, which tends to push up demands above the level of available supplies. The new taxation principles adopted aim at keeping down consumption to the limits provided in the Five-Year Plans. The State seeks to put a check on the creation of an excess purchasing power and its monetary policy regulates credit formation through institutional endeavour.

Due to the failure of rains in 1964-65 and 1965-66, the district experienced an unprecedented rise in the prices of foodgrains. The failure of monsoon, on the one hand, and the rapidly growing population, on the other, aggravated the situation and there was an acute shortage of foodgrains in the State as elsewhere in the country. The Government, who were alive to the problem, issued a series of regulatory orders from time to time, all aimed at tiding over the food shortage in the State, by regulating the wholesale and retail sale of foodgrains, fixing the selling and purchasing prices of food articles, requiring the foodgrains dealers to declare their stocks periodically, controlling the movement and export of foodgrains, arranging for the procurement (levy) of foodgrains from the growers, mills, etc.

As a measure of augmenting the available supplies, import of several commodities from outside the district was resorted to. The distribution of foodgrains through a chain of consumer co-operative stores and village panchayats, at reasonable selling prices, greatly alleviated the hardships of the people. Informal rationing has not been introduced in this district. The Deputy Commissioner through his Food Assistant looks after the distribution of foodgrains and enforces the various regulatory orders issued by the Government from time to time. These helpful measures have brought considerable relief to the people of the district.

It has been recorded that there was a rise in wages during the last quarter of the last century as a result of "the great development of industries and the extensive scale on which railways and public works of all kinds have been carried out, following upon the loss of population incurred in the famine of 1877-78"¹. The rates of daily wages in 1893 prevalent in Mysore district of which Mandya was a part (till 1939) were—eight to twelve annas for skilled labour and two to four annas for unskilled labour and ten annas to one rupee for cart hire². The corresponding wage-rates in 1876 were : for skilled labour four annas to one rupee a day, for unskilled labour two annas to eight annas a day and for cart-hire eight annas to one and a quarter rupee a day³.

1. Lewis Rice, Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. 1, 1897, p. 561.

2. Ibid, vide Table on p. 561.

3. Ibid, p. 561.

About the same period (1870 to 1890), almost the same rates of wages with slight differences were recorded by the Provincial Gazetteers of India¹. The daily wages of skilled labour varied in different parts from six annas to Rs. 1-8-0 and for unskilled labour from two annas to eight annas. It was recorded in the aforesaid publication that "while the latter has remained at about the same figure, as regards the minimum, with the tendency to rise, the former has increased in the last twenty years from 50 to 100 per cent²." The payment in kind which was customary till 1870 had become less common by 1890, probably owing to the influence of railways, mining and industries and large public works, the labourer being less tied down to single localities and having greater facilities to travel at a cheap rate³.

Rise in wages

Figures of comparison are not available for any long period in the past, but in 1876, Lewis Rice observed that the price of unskilled labour had doubled since 1850 and that of skilled labour had risen three-fold. According to Buchanan, the wages paid daily to labourers in 1800 were : men, one-third to half a *fanam* and women, quarter of a *fanam*; in other words, about two annas to two annas eight pies and one anna and four pies, respectively.⁴ In 1902, the wages generally were eight annas to one and a quarter rupee a day for skilled labour, one to eight annas per day for unskilled labour and cart-hire was about 12 annas to one and a half rupees per day according to locality and necessity.⁵ The rise in wages between 1893 and 1902 was mainly due to expenditure on public works and house building and also the plague which occurred during the 1890's. Extension of cultivation and subsequent occupation of agricultural labourers on their village lands considerably diminished the supply of local labour and in consequence, labourers were attracted from surrounding districts, which was also one of the causes for the rise in wages. There was a steady rise in wages after 1902.

The effects of the First World War contributed to a further rise in wages and the monthly wages of an able-bodied agricultural labourer and unskilled worker which were Rs. 7 to Rs. 10 between 1912 and 1918, had further increased by 1922. Though adequate details of wages, occupation-wise, for different years are not available, some particulars are found in a publication⁶ of the year 1917 for six taluks of Mandya district and the table given on the next page relates to the same.

1. These figures relate to the entire old Mysore State, but may be taken as applicable to the Mandya district also.

2. & 3. Provincial Gazetteers of India, Mysore State, p. 61.

4. Quoted by Lewis Rice, Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. I, 1897, p. 561.

5. Atlas of the Mysore State, 1902, pp. 20-21.

6. Essential Statistics of Mysore District for 1916-17, Mysore Economic Conference, Mysore District Committee, 1917, pp. 176 to 179.

Rates of daily wages for carpenters, masons, etc., in six taluks of Mandya district during the year 1916-17.

Taluk	Daily Wages for				
	Bricklayer	Carpenter and house-builder	Mason	Fitter	Unskilled worker
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. As. Ps.	Rs. As. Ps.	Rs. As. Ps.	Rs. As. Ps.	Rs. As. Ps.
Srirangapatna	0 12 0	0 10 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	0 6 0
Pandavapura	0 12 0	0 10 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	0 5 0
Mandya	0 12 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	2 0 0	0 4 0
Nagamangala	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	..	0 3 0
Krishnarajpet	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	..	0 6 0
Malavalli	0 10 0	0 8 0	1 0 0	..	0 5 0

MANDYA DISTRICT

It is clear, therefore, that wages had risen by 1917 compared to the pre-war rates and also that the rates of wages for different kinds of skilled and unskilled labour were almost the same in several taluks of the district. During 1923-24, the daily wages of unskilled and skilled labour varied from district to district and in Mysore district (which included Mandya district also) the wages of unskilled labour, on an average, were between eight annas to one rupee and that of skilled labour between one rupee to two rupees.¹ It was calculated that between 1893 and 1916, during a period of 23 years, the minimum wage of skilled labour rose by 50 per cent in Mysore district (which included Mandya also).² In the year 1934, the wages of skilled labour ranged from eight annas to four rupees and of unskilled labour from three annas to one rupee. The rate of cart-hire per day ranged from one rupee to five rupees.³ The rates of daily wages of labour in 1934 remained practically the same as in the previous two or three years and the depression and the fall in the price of commodities, particularly of foodgrains, had not much effect on the rates of labour and cart-hire.⁴ Though there was no noticeable fluctuation in wages, the establishment of a sugar factory at Mandya and the construction of irrigation canals in the district had brought about a slight variation in the wage structure by 1940.⁵

Since the Second World War, the wage level has undergone similar fluctuations as the price level. A table showing the rates of daily wages in Mandya district for the year 1951-52⁶ is given on the next page.

Further rise

The rates of wages in 1951-52 show that there was a general rise in wages in keeping with the general rise in the cost of living. Rates of wages, taluk-wise, in Mandya district, during 1965-66, are given in a tabular form on page 262. They show that there was a further rise in wages of different categories of workers :—

1. Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. III, C. Hayavadana Rao, 1929, p. 387.
2. Ibid, p. 388.
3. Report on the Administration of Mysore for the year 1933-34, 1934, p. 69.
4. Ibid, p. 70.
5. Report on the Administration of Mysore for the year 1940-41, 1942, pp. 84-85.
6. Season and Crop Report of the Mysore State for the Agricultural Year 1951-52, Department of Statistics, 1956, pp. 62-67.

Rates of daily wages in Mandya district during the year 1951-52.

Month and year	Skilled labour			Others	
	Carpenters	Blacksmiths	Cobblers	Agricultural labourers	Herdsmen
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.	Rs. As.
July 1951	4 0	4 0	3 0	1 8	1 0
January 1952	4 0	4 0	3 0	1 8	1 0

(Normal number of working hours—8)

Taluk-wise Rates of Wages in Mandya district during the year 1965-66.

Sl. No.	Taluk	Skilled Labour			Others		Herdsmen
		Carpenters	Black-smiths	Cobblers	Field labour	Agricultural labour	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.	Rs. Ps.
1. Mandya	6 50	6 00	4 50	3 00	2 00	2 00
2. Maddur	6 50	5 00	3 50	2 00	2 00	1 75
3. Malavalli	6 00	5 00	2 00	2 50	1 25	1 50
4. Pandavapura	5 00	4 00	1 75	2 00	1 25	1 50
5. Krishnarajpet	5 00	4 25	2 00	2 00	1 25	1 25
6. Nagamangala	5 25	4 00	2 50	2 00	1 50	1 25
7. Srirangapatna	6 00	4 25	3 00	2 25	1 50	1 25

The foregoing table shows variations in wages among the several taluks of the district. On the whole, wage rates for skilled and unskilled labour were comparatively higher in Mandya, Maddur, Malavalli and Srirangapatna taluks than in the other taluks. This is because of a comparatively higher demand for labour in the former taluks on account of the existence of industries in them, particularly sericulture. The services of carpenters and blacksmiths are required for the manufacture of equipments like stands and trays which are necessary for rearing of silk-worms.

The district's economy, which has been marked out by a series of Five-Year Plans, has passed that stage of exhibiting characteristics of what Rostow calls the "traditional stage"¹ of economic evolution. The district is now having a changing economic face with new vitality, in contrast with the long stagnation of the past. In presenting a brief socio-economic survey of the district, among other things, the progress achieved in the prominent economic sectors, *viz.*, agriculture, industry, commerce or trade and communications has to be analysed.

Natural resources are the inherent wealth of a district. A proper exploitation of this wealth by the people can become the key factor in the process of economic growth. The district of Mandya, by and large, offers excellent possibilities for economic advancement by virtue of its natural resources. Three prominent rivers, Cauvery, Hemavathi and Lokapavani, flow through the district. At Kannambadi, a dam has been constructed across the Cauvery, nine miles on the upstream side of the historic town of Srirangapatna and 12 miles from Mysore city. The dam is situated below the confluence of the river Cauvery with its tributaries, the Hemavathi and the Lakshamanathirtha rivers. The dam was constructed to supply water for irrigation for about 1,25,000 acres of land situated in Mandya district. This lake (Krishnarajasagar), at maximum water-level, has a water-spread of about 50 square miles extending upto 25 miles above the site of the dam. The dam, which is 8,600 feet long and 130 feet high above the river bed, is intended to store 124 feet depth of water at full reservoir level. In the words of the late Dr. M. Visvesvaraya, the construction of the dam was to "open out a vista of possibilities of ever increasing value in the State by adding to the productive power of the people with the increase in agricultural produce and the development of industries and manufacture."

Natural resources

Among the mineral resources of economic value, alkaline earth, which, on efflorescence, yields earth soda, is found at a number of places in Mandya taluk. Gold is reported to be available in the district on Bellibetta hill, west of Krishnarajpet, near Nagaman-gala at Hunjanakere, seven miles east of Srirangapatna, and at

1 Rostow : Stages of Economic Growth.

Butgahalli, north of Bannur. Rich iron ore concentrations, free from impurities, are found near Malavalli, Halagur and Shivasamudram. In addition, china clay of good quality is seen at a few places near Melkote.

The human factors available in the district form the base for economic progress. The population of the district, which was 4,83,201 in 1901, had increased to 8,99,210 by 1961. The following table indicates the growth of population during the last sixty years.

<i>Year</i>			<i>Population</i>
1901	..	..	4,83,201
1911	..	..	5,04,755
1921	..	..	5,42,996
1931	..	..	5,82,576
1941	..	..	6,35,588
1951	..	..	7,17,545
1961	..	..	8,99,210

Urbanisation

With the growing pace of industrialisation, there has been a definite evidence of a shift from agricultural occupations to non-agricultural ones. A consequence of this transformation is the rapid growth of the urban population. It is found that between 1871 and 1901, there were five towns in the district with a population of above 3,000. The table below indicates their population trends between 1871 and 1901.¹

Sl. No.	Town	Year			
		1871	1881	1891	1901
1.	Mandya	3,241	3,770	4,100	4,491
2.	Malavalli	5,114	5,078	6,308	7,270
3.	Srirangapatna	10,594	11,734	12,553	8,584
4.	Nagamangala	2,494	2,397	2,928	3,516
5.	Melkote	2,891	2,302	2,789	3,129

It is seen from the table above that the population had increased in all the towns between 1871 and 1901 except in Srirangapatna where there was a fall, which was due chiefly to the prevalence of malaria and plague. The number of towns in the district now is ten. The table on the next page indicates the population of the towns in Mandya district with variations from 1901 to 1961:

1. Atlas of the Mysore State, 1902, p. 21.

Population of towns in Mandya district with variations from 1901 to 1961

Sl. No.	Name of Town	1901		1911		1921		1931		1941		1951		1961	
		Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation	Per-sons	Vari-ation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Mandya ..	4,496	..	4,255	-241	4,887	+632	5,958	+1,071	11,374	+5,416	21,158	+9,784	33,347	+12,189
2.	Malavalli ..	7,270	..	5,461	-1,809	7,400	+1,939	8,348	+948	9,055	+707	12,063	+3,008	13,561	+1,498
3.	Srirangapatna	8,584	..	7,457	-1,127	7,217	-240	6,300	-917	7,678	+1,378	10,433	+2,755	11,423	+990
4.	Krishnarajpet	2,131	..	2,337	+206	3,226	+889	2,750	-476	3,127	+377	6,972	+3,845	8,331	+1,359
5.	Pandavapura	1,983	..	1,922	-61	2,407	+485	3,016	+609	4,271	+1,255	5,750	+1,479	7,508	+1,758
6.	Nagamangala	3,516	..	3,633	+117	3,474	-159	3,780	+306	4,258	+478	5,492	+1,234	6,524	+1,032
7.	Maddur ..	2,597	..	2,279	-318	2,816	+537	3,093	+277	3,838	+745	5,331	+1,493	8,120	+2,789
8.	Belakavadi	5,183	..	4,060	-1,123	5,817	+1,757	4,001	-1,816	4,250	+249	4,602	+352	4,875	+273
9.	Bellur ..	1,734	..	1,676	-58	1,723	+47	1,937	+214	2,391	+454	3,129	+738	3,602	+473
10.	Melkote ..	3,129	..	2,535	-594	6,307	+3,772	2,733	-3,574	2,787	+54	2,846	+59	2,781	-65

**Rise in
urban
population**

The foregoing table reveals that between 1901 and 1961, the urban population had increased considerably. During 1941, the urban population of the district was 53,029, which was eight per cent of the total population.¹ The corresponding figures for 1951 and 1961 were 77,776 and 1,00,072, which were 10.8 and 11.1 per cent, respectively. The subjoined table shows the total population of all towns put together in the district between 1901 and 1961 :—

<i>Year</i>		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Variation</i>
1901	..	40,623	..
1911	..	35,615	— 5,008
1921	..	45,274	+ 9,659
1931	..	41,916	— 3,358
1941	..	53,029	+ 11,113
1951	..	77,776	+ 24,747
1961	..	1,00,072	+ 22,296

The table given below shows the net variation of population from 1901 to 1951 and 1961 of the different towns in the district :

<i>Town</i>	<i>Variation since 1901</i>	
	<i>Upto 1951</i>	<i>Upto 1961</i>
Mandya	.. + 16,662	+ 28,851
Malavalli	.. + 4,793	+ 6,291
Srirangapatna	.. + 1,849	+ 2,839
Krishnarajpet	.. + 4,841	+ 6,200
Pandavapura	.. + 3,767	+ 5,525
Nagamangala	.. + 1,976	+ 3,008
Maddur	.. + 2,734	+ 5,523
Belakavadi	.. — 581	— 308
Bellur	.. + 1,395	+ 1,868
Melkote	.. — 283	— 348

The population since 1901 has increased in all towns except Melkote and Belakavadi where, however, the decrease is negligible. The decline in population of Srirangapatna town between

1. Census of India, 1941, Vol. XXIII, Mysore, Part I, Report by P. H. Krishna Rao, 1943, p. 61.

1871 and 1901 continued upto 1931. This was due as much to the growing importance of Mysore city closeby, as to the general unhealthiness engendered by vacant sites and houses and rank vegetation and also to the prevalence of malaria.¹ The population of Mandya town has increased considerably during the last three decades. This is due to the establishment of the sugar factory and the importance of the place as the headquarters town of the district after it was bifurcated from Mysore district in 1939. It has been said: "Of all the towns in the Southern Maidan, Mandya is growing most rapidly and promises to develop at an accelerating rate. Development of towns at this rapid pace, unless properly planned, is bound to lead to haphazard fringe or ribbon development...."² Among the other causes for concentration of population may be mentioned the fertility and the nature of the soil, the facilities for natural and artificial irrigation and the situation of the place in respect of communication, all of which play their part. The process of urbanisation, in fact, has been comparatively slow in the district and the increase of the urban population as between 1951 and 1961 was only 22,296.

Out of the total land area of 12,31,185 acres (according to villages papers, it is 11,78,659 acres), 6,75,817 acres were, in 1964-65, under different crops. The forest area is not much and extends over 18,330 acres and only Malavalli, Pandavapura, Krishnarajpet and Nagamangala taluks have some forest areas. The district is principally an agricultural region, about 50 per cent of the total area being under a variety of food crops. The main food crops grown in the area are paddy and ragi. Other food crops are jowar, millets and pulses. Among other crops, sugarcane (which was grown over an area of 31,695 acres during 1964-65) is prominent, and to some extent mulberry, groundnut, tobacco and castor are also grown. Paddy and sugarcane are confined mostly to the wet areas of Mandya, Srirangapatna, Maddur and Krishnarajpet taluks. In the dry area of Nagamangala, monsoon ragi is the main crop.

This district, upto 1932, was an arid tract of land and backward economically. Out-moded agricultural practices were followed and the district was often faced with droughts and famines. With the construction of the Visvesvaraya canal immense irrigation facilities were made available from 1932 onwards. Agricultural development received great attention under the successive Five-Year Plans with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

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1. Census of India, 1941, Vol. XXIII, Part I, Report by P. H. Krishna Rao, 1943, p. 13.
 2. A Regional Synthesis, Mysore State, Volume II, A. T. A. Learmouth, Indian Statistical Institute, 1960, p. 140.

Industry

Agriculture being the mainstay of the district, the occupational pattern naturally permits of small-scale industries like rice mills, oil mills and sericulture. There are two sugar factories, one at Mandya and another at Pandavapura, started in 1933 and 1955, respectively. There is a chemicals and fertilisers factory at Belagola started as early as 1939 and was one of the earliest to manufacture super-phosphate in the country. A paper factory, which is the first in India to manufacture paper out of baggase, has been started in the same place recently. There is a proposal to start one more sugar factory at Maddur.

Trade

Trade and commerce are mainly carried on in towns and in villages, which have a large population. The buoyancy of economic life during 1760-1799 was reflected in the flourishing trade in a large number of centres in the State. *Shahar* Ganjam in Srirangapatna taluk was a grand bazaar opened by Haidar Ali, where he assembled, under his protection, merchants and artisans from many parts of the country. Kirmani in his "History of Hydr Naik" has stated that Haidar Ali brought merchants to the Mysore territory from many parts and gave them pledges of safety and aid to carry on their business. Tipu is stated to have carried on trade on his own account and made considerable profit.¹ Shandies were being held at Ganjam and other prominent places in the district.

The changes from the old traditional method of weekly shandies to one of organised pattern are of particular interest. There is a swing towards better organisation in trade after the advent of regulated markets and there is now one regulated market in Mandya. The retail establishments in towns cater to the needs of the consuming public and small shops exist even in villages. These, together with weekly shandies in several places, account for a large turn-over in trade.

Finance

In the old days, there were no institutional financing agencies in the district supplying credit to those who needed it. The traditional money-lenders, who supplied loans to the agriculturists and village craftsmen were, of course, there. As a result of urbanisation, institutional banking has come into prominence in the district and a branch of the Bank of Mysore, which is now the State Bank of Mysore, was established in Mandya in 1940. The District Co-operative Central Bank was established in 1953 and it had, in 1967, seven branches. Branches of the Canara Bank, the Indian Bank, the Vijaya Bank, the Karnataka Bank and the Pangal Nayak Bank were also established in the district. There were 662 co-operative institutions of all types in 1966 in the district. These institutions are supplementing Governmental efforts by supplying credit to cultivators and industrialists.

1. Modern Mysore, Vol. II, M. Shama Rao, p. 315.

The development of transport is largely dependent on the improvement in communications. The state of communications more than a century ago in old Mysore, of which Mandya was a part, has been described thus in the previous Mysore Gazetteer : "The roads were running through swamps, the passage of which would detain the baggage of a regiment an entire day; other places bore the appearance of water-courses with beds of river-sand, the soil having been washed away far below the level of the surrounding country. Bridges were almost totally absent."¹ Conditions have vastly changed now. The Bangalore-Mysore metre gauge railway line, which was completed and opened for traffic in February 1882, offered good scope for the flow of trade. This railway line has been linked to several important places, situated in and out of Mysore State. During the last century roads in the district were not in a good condition. Road communications are now fairly adequate in the district linking every taluk with the district headquarters town and also Bangalore, the administrative capital. In the domain of inter-village communication also, a good deal of improvement has been done.

**Transport
and
communi-
cations**

Mysore has been a pioneer in the generation and utilisation of electricity, having installed and commissioned her first hydro-electric station in 1902 at Shivasamudram. The Cauvery Falls were harnessed for power generation in the beginning mainly to feed the requirements of the Kolar Gold Mines. It was in the Mandya region that this pioneering effort was made at generation of electricity. This early power house is situated "amid the gorges and wooded plateaus of Shivasamudram"² and the power generated flows "across the beautifully terraced emerald-green rice fields of the Visvesvaraya canal area."³ The Shivasamudram station has an installed capacity of 42,000 kw. and the Shimshapura station 17,200 kw.

Power

The Mysore District Gazetteer published in 1869 has described the condition of agriculturists of the area in those days thus :

**Standard of
living**

"Agriculture is not the sole source of emolument of the Mysore ryot; silkworm rearing, sheep breeding, weaving and iron smelting, all are among the occupations of the spare moments of himself and his family and eke out his means. And a number of absurd and vexatious taxes have been removed, which, in former times, brought the assessment to within one-third of the value of the crop; for the Hindu rulers were unwilling to incur the obloquy, which attached itself to a raising of the fixed *Kandayam*, and so resorted to

1. Hayavadana Rao, C., Mysore Gazetteer, Vol. III, Economic, 1929, p. 320.
2. A Regional Synthesis, Mysore State, Vol. II, A. T. A. Learmouth, Indian Statistical Institute, 1960, p. 105.
3. Ibid, p. 105.

informal measures to increase their revenue. It is not therefore to be wondered at that the ryots are as a body very much contented with their lot.”¹

As regards the condition of tenants and *jitgars*, it is relevant to quote the following :

“Sometimes they (landlords) employ a ryot to till it, and stipulate for a certain number of *Kandis*, but generally, the crop is evenly divided between holder and cultivator. In some cases also, they employ ‘jitgars’. This class, which is happily fast dying out, and whose condition was formerly hardly superior to that of a Russain serf, deserves some notice here. They receive Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8-0 per mensem, and a *Kandi* of rice at harvest time, or two coarse and scanty meals a day. They are retained in service by a debt to their employer, in liquidation of which they are always under stoppages to the extent of half their stipend, and as soon as their debt is discharged, their employer lends them a fresh sum, which is at once squandered on a marriage or a feast. Thus they are kept in a state of perpetual bondage. In most cases they and their ancestors have been attached to the same land since time immemorial”.²

**Better
standard**

It is clear from the fore-going paragraphs that the economic condition of the agriculturists was somewhat good and that of the *jitgars* was none too happy, about the middle of the last century. In 1905, the standard of living of the population was much better than what is described earlier, as is evident from the following paragraph :

“The general condition of the people has been steadily improving since the middle of the last century, and has made special progress in the past thirty years, as shown by the rise in both wages and prices, and in the standard of living. A moderate assessment has relieved the cultivators, while the easy means of communication provided by roads and railways, together with freer postal facilities, have stimulated the enterprise of traders and benefited all classes. The prosecution of extensive public works has given labourers and artisans ready employment, and public servants have had exceptional opportunities of rising to good positions and in important centres the population are better

1. The Mysore District Gazetteer, 1869, p. 47.

2. Ibid, pp. 46-47.

housed, better clothed and better fed than in the generations past.”¹

The growth of communications and the improvement in trade helped to bring about a change in the outlook of the people. Education was improved and the number of literates was much larger than what it was in 1869. The hydro-electric power generation at Shivasamudram in 1902, the construction of the Krishnarajasagar dam and the consequential irrigational facilities provided to the district through the Visvesvaraya canal from 1932 and the starting of the Sugar Factory at Mandya in 1933 and the establishment of other industries in later years—all these have contributed to a better standard of living in the district. The living conditions of the people of the district since the publication of the above quoted gazetteers have much changed. Even at the first session of the Mysore Economic Conference held in June 1911, the importance of economic betterment was stressed by His Highness the Maharaja Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV in the following words :

**Change in
outlook**

“ It will be your privilege to consider measures for the economic development of the country With the growth of communications and the increasing use of steam and electricity, questions of economic interest are assuming new aspects closely associated with the well-being of the people We have to give increasing attention to our economic problems The economic inefficiency of our people will be patent to any one who looks beneath the surface of things ”².

In recent years, literacy and general, technical and professional education have made much headway. After the advent of independence and the inception of the Five-Year Plans, concerted efforts are being made to achieve all-round progress. There has been more of urbanisation through the years and also more lands have been brought under cultivation. A definite improvement has been noticeable in the sphere of industrialisation and the growth of a sense of new social values is apparent. The various land laws enacted with a view to helping the tillers of the land as also the Intensive Agricultural District Programme have pushed up agricultural production. The industrial and agricultural labourers have grown in strength. The produce from the fields and the farms is fetching a higher return. Though agriculture has remained the main occupation, development of the village and small-scale industries has helped to assure an extra income, thus contributing to a better standard of living.

**Definite
improvement**

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1. Provincial Gazetteers of India, Mysore State, 1908, p. 62.
 2. Modern Mysore, Vol. II, by M. Shama Rao, 1936, p. 238.

The most popular method of assessing the standard of living is through family budget enquiries. It is not, however, possible to know the standard of living of the people of Mandya district through this method, as there is no authentic record or survey report throwing light on the income and expenditure of different classes of families in the entire district. So, an attempt is made here to sketch only the general standard of living in the district with the help of cost of living index numbers.

Cost of living index

In the past, prices of foodgrains were low and the purchasing power of the rupee was high. But after 1939 the consumer was hit hard due to price-spiral. Rising prices invariably upset the standard of living. Those of low income groups and especially those with fixed salaries, suffer heavily. The following statement shows the increase in the cost of living index in Mandya town from 1954 to 1966 :

Working class consumer price index numbers in Mandya town (Base year : July 1936 to June 1936=100).

Year	Food	General
1954	339.2	321.6
1955	318.8	306.0
1956	357.9	335.4
1957	400.6	369.6
1958	406.7	376.9
1959	459.8	411.4
1960	484.2	441.9
1961	490.9	445.9
1962	471	438
1963	474	444
1964	525	473
1965	716	582
1966	875	690

The general cost of living index number in Mandya town rose to 321.6 in 1954, while the index number for food was 339.2 in that year. During the following year, there was a slight fall in the index numbers. Thereafter, both the general index number and the food index number increased from year to year upto 1961. However, during 1962 and 1963, the numbers registered a slight decrease, while in the subsequent years, the numbers again shot up reaching an all-time high of 875 and 690 for food and general respectively. From the figures available from the Directorate

1. Cost of living index numbers prior to 1954 were not available.

of Statistics, the working class consumer price index number in May 1967 for food was 850, while the general index number was as high as 699. It is interesting to note here that in 1901, in Mandya district, the cost of bare living per head of the great mass of the labour population was calculated between three rupees to four rupees a month, as follows¹ :—

<i>Per day</i>			Rs. As. Ps.		
Ragi (1 seer)	..	..	0	1	0
Tamarind, salt and chillies	..	..	0	0	3
Curd	..	..	0	0	1
Fuel	..	..	0	0	2
Betel-nut and tobacco	..	..	0	0	3
Oil	..	..	0	0	3
Total			0	2	0

This worked out to Rs. 3—12—0 per month.

It was also calculated that the average cost of jail diet for prisoners was three rupees per head per month in 1901.² In the pre-war days, a rupee could purchase commodities worth sixteen annas on an average; the same rupee could purchase commodities worth eleven annas in 1941-42, six annas and six pies in 1942-43 and four annas and nine pies in 1943-44. The value of the rupee in 1966, it has been calculated, was between two annas to three annas, *i.e.*, between 12 and 19 paise only. In spite of all these, it must be said that the standard of living in general is better now than in the past two or three decades due to implementation of various developmental programmes. The goal of socialistic pattern of society adopted as a measure of State policy and the rising tempo of industrial and agricultural activities under the successive Five-Year Plans are expected to usher in a better standard in the years to come.

The District Employment Exchange at Mandya started functioning from 24th March 1960. The general object of an employment exchange is to bring together employers needing workers and the workers seeking employment in such a manner that the employers find suitable workers and the workers find the jobs best suited to their qualifications, experience and tastes, as quickly as possible. The employment exchange follows a scientific technique. It sorts out the vacancies notified to it by employers and classifies the employment-seekers registered with it according to their qualifications, degree of skill and previous

**Employment
Exchange**

1. Atlas of the Mysore State, 1902, p. 21.

2. Ibid, p. 21.

experience. All particulars are noted on cards and they are arranged in a manner that they could be picked out quickly whenever a candidate has to be matched against a vacancy. When the vacancy is notified, the exchange examines the cards of persons of the appropriate category on its register and matches the vacancies with men most suitable for filling them. The employment exchanges are manned by staff, who are able to assess the aptitudes of the persons seeking their assistance in securing employment, and fit them into jobs where their qualifications and skills will have scope and will be of advantage to the community.

Under a pilot scheme, an Employment Information and Assistance Bureau has been established at Mandya with jurisdiction over the entire district. The object of the Bureau is to disseminate information about the state of the employment market in the urban and rural areas and the facilities available for employment assistance.

**Employment
Information**

Under another scheme, the Employment Exchange gathers facts and figures and prepares reports on the employment situation and determines as to what types of persons are in short supply ; secondly, it provides information which will be needed to improve and add to the services being rendered by the exchange and thirdly, it provides a method by which to measure continuously the changes in the level of employment in the Exchange area or other areas constituting specific employment markets. The information unit of the Exchange renders free and voluntary service both to the employers and the employment-seekers. The two tables on the next two pages show the number of applicants and placements effected by the District Employment Exchange since its inception to end of June 1966 :—

TABLE 1

Number of applicants on the Live Register of the District Employment Exchange, Mandya, by broad groups.

Year	Industrial Supervisory	Skilled and semi-skilled	Clerical	Educational	Domestic services	Unskilled	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1960	6	46	616	592	4	610	258	2,132
1961	18	187	719	865	22	812	765	3,388
1962	26	194	1,001	1,262	34	1,000	888	4,505
1963	198	165	2,647	198	123	1,977	459	5,767
1964	216	183	1,852	210	213	1,647	654	4,975
1965	256	142	1,434	236	167	968	704	3,907
1966 [Upto June]	299	112	1,547	350	198	988	711	4,205

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TABLE 2

Number of placements effected by the District Employment Exchange, Mandya.

Year			Central Government	State Government	Quasi-government/ Local Bodies	Non-Government establishments	Total
1			2	3	4	5	6
1960	..	..	11	334	11	..	356
1961	..	..	2	527	6	..	535
1962	..	..	3	619	7	..	629
1963	..	..	3	582	7	..	592
1964	..	..	..	735	6	1	742
1965	..	..	4	621	43	2	670
1966 [Upto June]	..	..	..	206	6	..	212

Community development projects have a marked beneficial effect upon the welfare of the rural population. Intensive efforts are made in the project areas in which the various development agencies of the Government work together as a team in programmes which are planned in advance. The activities comprised within the community development programme may be regarded as an integral part of a scheme for improving all aspects of rural life. The essence of the approach is that the villagers co-operate with the Government agencies for bringing about a social change in the village life. Self-help and co-operation are the key factors on which the movement rests.

Community Development

The community development programme was started in Mandya district on 2nd October 1952 with the inauguration of the Rural Community Project at Malavalli. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, the entire district except Maddur and Srirangapatna taluks was covered by the community development programme. These two taluks were also brought into the fold during 1962 and 1963, thus covering the entire district under the programme. The Maddur Stage I and Stage II Blocks were started on 1st April 1962 and 2nd October 1962 respectively, while Srirangapatna Stage I Block was started on 1st April 1963. There were in all 10½ Blocks in the district at the end of the Third Five-Year Plan, the particulars of which are given in the following table :

Sl. No.	Name of Block	Date of inauguration	Present stage	Date of entry into present stage
1.	Mandya—Full Block ..	1-4-1956	Stage II	1-4-1962
2.	Mandya—Half Block ..	1-4-1957	Stage II	1-4-1963
3.	Malavalli—Full Block ..	1-4-1957	Post-Stage II	1-4-1965
4.	Malavalli-Quarter Block ..	1-4-1957	Stage II	1-4-1963
5.	Maddur—I ..	1-4-1962	Stage I	1-4-1962
6.	Maddur—II ..	2-10-1962	Stage I	2-10-1962
7.	Pandavapura ..	1-10-1957	Stage II	1-10-1964
8.	Srirangapatna ..	1-4-1963	Stage I	1-4-1963
9.	Krishnarajpet—Full Block	1-4-1955	Post-Stage II	1-4-1966
10.	Krishnarajpet—Half Block	1-4-1957	Stage II	1-4-1964
11.	Nagamangala—I } ..		Stage I	1-4-1961
			(Extended period)	
12.	Nagamangala—II } ..	1-4-1960	Stage I	1-4-1961
	(Bellur Block) } ..		(Extended period)	

In formulating the programme and budget estimates of each block, the block and village organisations are regarded as basic units. The items and the amounts under the schematic budget for

the Third Plan period of the several community development blocks in the district according to their stages are noted below :

Head of expenditure	Mandya	Malavalli	Panda-vapura	Krish-naraj-pet	Naga-mangala	Maddur from 1962-63	Sriranga-patna from 1963-64
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Block Hqrs. ..	3,43,618	1,38,768	2,27,649	2,25,508	6,20,000	2,48,000	1,86,000
Agriculture and Animal Husbandry ..	1,02,472	58,324	71,721	87,673	1,90,000	76,000	57,000
Irrigation ..	2,15,673	20,000	1,71,890	31,673	1,10,000	44,000	33,000
Loans ..	2,07,015	1,02,725	1,34,925	1,43,000	6,00,000	2,40,000	1,80,000
Health and Sanitation ..	1,13,600	56,627	94,779	94,897	2,20,000	52,000	39,000
Education ..	1,12,732	60,122	71,980	80,805	1,20,000	88,000	66,000
Social Education	1,22,139	59,679	82,975	91,203	1,20,000	48,000	36,000
Communications	73,764	66,809	1,02,056	76,634	90,000	48,000	36,000
Rural Arts ..	1,44,669	63,872	1,02,149	1,02,500	1,30,000	36,000	27,000
Housing ..	39,824	51,674	67,855	77,799	2,00,000	80,000	60,000
Total	14,75,506	6,78,600	11,27,979	10,31,328	24,00,000	9,60,000	7,20,000

Panchayat Raj

In order to bring the villagers within the framework of the community development movement and to give them opportunities to plan and work for their own betterment, panchayats were constituted covering all the villages in the district, from 1st November 1959. Seven Taluk Development Boards (one for each taluk) and 357 Village Panchayats have been constituted under the provisions of the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. The District Development Council is at the apex of the system in the district.

The overall objectives of the community development programme are to assist each village in chalking out and implementing concrete village plans directed towards increasing agricultural production, improving the existing village crafts and industries and organising new ones, providing required educational facilities and programmes and improving housing and living conditions. With the introduction of Panchayat Raj, a new dynamism has been infused into the movement.

TABLE 1

Whole-sale prices of staple foodgrains between 1881-82
and 1912-13

(Quantity given in seers of 80 tolas per rupee)

Year				Rice	Ragi
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	..	..	..	11.26	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

(Source : Statistical Abstract of Mysore State, 1915, pp. 47-48.)

TABLE 2

**Average annual wholesale prices of rice and ragi from
1913-1924.**

(Quantity given in seers of 80 tolas per rupee)

Year			Rice	Ragi
1913	..	..	6.09	14.28
1914	..	..	6.12	12.61
1915	..	..	6.96	15.09
1916	..	..	7.13	16.95
1917	..	..	6.89	15.09
1918	..	..	6.14	12.42
1919	..	..	4.73	7.86
1920	..	..	4.47	7.79
1921	..	..	4.34	9.41
1922	..	..	4.50	9.00
1923	..	..	4.55	9.10
1924	..	..	5.00	8.51

TABLE 3

Retail prices of rice and ragi from 1913 to 1921

(Quantity given in seers of 80 tolas per rupee)

Year			Rice	Ragi
1913	..	..	5.97	14.03
1914	..	..	5.91	12.19
1915	..	..	6.48	14.39
1916	..	..	6.75	16.84
1917	..	..	6.64	14.76
1918	..	..	5.97	12.30
1919	..	..	4.44	7.52
1920	..	..	4.03	7.47
1921	..	..	4.23	9.01

(Source : Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of Mysore State, 1926,
pp. 113-114)

TABLE 4

Fluctuations in the price-levels from 1919 to 1923

MANDYA DISTRICT

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Sl. No.	Main Head	Number of items under each of the main heads	Standard index numbers July 1914	Total index numbers July 1919	Ave- rage	Total index numbers July 1920	Ave- rage	Total index numbers July 1921	Ave- rage	Total index numbers July 1922	Ave- rage	Total index numbers July 1923	Average
1.	Foodgrains and pulses ..	8	800	1,944	243	1,698	212	1,713	214	1,451	181	1,128	141
2.	Oils and oil- seeds ..	10	1,000	2,341	234	2,764	206	1,608	161	1,887	189	1,821	182
3.	Other food articles ..	15	1,500	2,712	181	2,455	164	2,358	157	2,548	170	2,392	160
4.	Textiles ..	6	600	1,323	220	1,393	232	1,233	205	1,340	223	1,088	181
5.	Others ..	15	1,500	2,712	181	2,470	165	2,497	166	2,495	166	2,550	170
	General average	54	5,400	11,032	204	10,080	187	9,409	174	9,721	180	8,979	166

(Source : Supplement to the Statistical Abstract of Mysore State, 1926, p. 115.)

TABLE 5

Annual average whole-sale prices of principal articles of food from 1923-24 to 1944-45

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

Sl. No.	Year	Rice First sort			Rice Second sort			Ragi			Jowar			Bengalgram			Salt		
		Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1.	1923-24	23	10	0	19	12	0	11	12	0	11	14	0	16	3	0	10	4	0
2.	1924-25	23	8	0	19	0	0	12	8	0	12	8	0	14	4	0	11	0	0
3.	1925-26	25	8	0	21	5	0	12	3	0	13	9	0	16	8	0	8	1	0
4.	1926-27	23	2	0	19	12	0	11	10	0	11	12	0	19	4	0	7	6	0
5.	1927-28	25	4	0	20	12	0	11	12	0	10	8	0	20	0	0	7	12	0
6.	1928-29	22	4	0	17	12	0	11	8	0	11	0	0	20	4	0	8	0	0
7.	1929-30	21	4	0	17	1	0	10	12	0	10	0	0	21	0	0	8	0	0
8.	1930-31	18	12	0	14	0	0	6	10	0	6	5	0	17	3	0	7	10	0
9.	1931-32	13	12	0	12	0	0	5	11	0	5	15	0	11	3	0	7	8	0
10.	1932-33	11	9	0	9	13	0	5	2	0	4	9	0	11	10	0	7	14	0
11.	1933-34	11	3	0	9	1	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	11	4	0	8	0	0
12.	1934-35	12	4	0	12	0	0	7	2	0	7	5	0	10	3	0	7	6	0
13.	1935-36	13	1	0	10	10	0	7	10	0	7	7	0	10	8	0	8	0	0
14.	1936-37	13	0	0	11	0	0	5	12	0	6	2	0	11	8	0	8	2	0
15.	1937-38	12	12	0	12	0	0	5	8	0	6	4	0	10	0	0	7	8	0
16.	1938-39	12	12	0	11	4	0	5	8	0	7	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0
17.	1939-40	16	2	0	11	12	0	6	0	0	8	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0
18.	1940-41	16	0	0	11	12	0	6	9	0	8	0	0	12	0	0	8	0	0
19.	1941-42	18	8	0	15	13	0	7	2	0	7	4	0	18	0	0	9	4	0
20.	1942-43	20	13	0	19	0	0	9	12	0	11	1	0	28	12	0	11	4	0
21.	1943-44	25	0	0	20	1	6	13	8	0	14	11	6	32	12	0	11	12	0
22.	1944-45	25	0	0	24	6	6	14	8	3	14	12	3	33	0	0	12	0	0

(Source : Statistical Abstract of Mysore, 1951, pp. 67-68.)

Note :—Since Mandya district was bifurcated from Mysore district on 1st July 1939, prices indicated upto 1938-39 refer to both Mysore and Mandya districts. Prices given from 1939-40 to 1944-45 are exclusively for Mandya district.