

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

THE administrative history of the district and the various changes effected in the administrative set-up from time to time have been set forth in Chapter I. The pattern of general administration is dealt with in the following paragraphs.

Public administration in the State, in the beginning of this century, largely consisted in providing security of person and property and realising the revenue necessary for maintaining several departments. The Police, Prisons and Judiciary represented the security departments, while Land Revenue, Excise, Registration and Stamps formed the main sources of revenue for the administration. The Public Works Department formed an important unit of the Government. With the gradual introduction of liberal measures, nation-building departments such as Education, Health, Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Co-operation attained growing importance. After the achievement of independence, continuous efforts are being made to promote all-round welfare of the people at a quicker pace.

Prior to 1939, the Mandya district formed a part of the Mysore district. With the development of irrigation under the Visvesvaraya canal, there was a great increase of work in all departments and the special and intricate problems connected with irrigation in the canal area occupied a good deal of time and attention of the Deputy Commissioner and his staff of the composite district. The number of offices, which the Deputy Commissioner and his assistants had to inspect regularly, was also very large and as the area of the Mysore district was also comparatively very extensive, the Government came to the conclusion that in the interest of efficient administration of the area, the bifurcation of the district was an urgent necessity and accordingly, they ordered the bifurcation of the Mysore district and the constitution of a new district called the Mandya district with effect from 1st July 1939.

**Formation of
Mandya
district**

There are seven revenue taluks in the district, which have been grouped into two revenue sub-divisions for administrative convenience. The Mandya sub-division consists of the three taluks of Mandya, Maddur and Malavalli, while the Pandavapura sub-division consists of Pandavapura, Srirangapatna, Krishnarajpet and Nagamangala taluks. These sub-divisions are under the charge of Assistant Commissioners, who were formerly known as Sub-Divisional Officers.

**Deputy
Commis-
sioner**

The Deputy Commissioner of the district plays the most important and pivotal role in the district administration. With the advent of the democratic set-up and increased tempo of developmental activities, his functions and responsibilities have further increased. He bears the main brunt of the district administration, from land revenue work to that of planned development. In general, his functions as the head of the district administration may be defined as executive. His duties may be broadly divided as under :

- (i) Revenue,
- (ii) Law and order,
- (iii) Development,
- (iv) Co-ordination and
- (v) Public welfare in general.

In the general pattern of the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner is the custodian of Government property in land (including trees and water), wherever situated, and at the same time, the guardian of the interests of members of the public in land, in so far as the interests of the Government in land have been conceded to them. All land, wherever situated, whether put to agricultural or other uses, is liable to payment of land revenue, except in so far as it may be expressly exempted by a special contract. Such land revenue is of three kinds—(1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. The Deputy Commissioner's duties are in respect of (1) fixation, (2) collection and (3) accounting of all such land revenue. He has to see that the revenue due is recovered punctually and with the minimum of coercion and that the collections are properly credited and accounted for. He has wide powers under the Land Revenue Act. The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various Acts in respect of irrigation, stamps, ferries and bridges, prohibition, etc. Any arrears, Central or State, may be recovered as land revenue under the provisions of tax laws. If a party does not pay the tax in time, the tax-collecting authority sends a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who has powers to recover the amount in the same way as he does in respect of land revenue. He is also responsible

for the maintenance of land records. In addition, he exercises powers under the provisions of various Acts such as the Land Acquisition Act, Mysore Tenancy Act, Mysore Irrigation Act, Mysore Land Improvements and Taccavi Loans Act, Mysore Land Reforms Act. He discharges also a quasi-judicial function in revenue disputes. Under the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large portion of the revenue from land is assigned to the Panchayats and Taluk Boards and the allocation of these funds is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner.

As the District Magistrate of the district, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. He is the head of all executive magistrates in the district. He has specified powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Since 1956, when the judiciary and the executive were separated, the Deputy Commissioner has nothing to do with the actual dispensation of justice. His law and order responsibility involves two distinct functions. Firstly, he has to enforce law and order through the police. Secondly, he has to take regulatory and penal action.

The other important function of the Deputy Commissioner is in the field of all-round development of the district. He is *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council, which has to guide and co-ordinate the developmental activities of several departments in the district and those of the Taluk Development Boards, which help in the execution of the community development programmes in the rural areas. He has also the over-all responsibility for successful implementation of the Plan schemes. Co-ordination forms an important part of the work of the Deputy Commissioner. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-level officers except the judicial officers, with a view to reviewing the progress of work done by the several departments and to co-ordinating and intensifying their efforts. He has to possess a clear picture of the normal working of several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities.

Co-ordination of development work

The Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, exercises supervision over the Intensive Agricultural District Programme (Package Programme), local administration, census operations, elections, excise and prohibition, food and civil supplies. He is enjoined to give effect to the notifications issued by the Government from time to time in respect of essential commodities. He is the custodian of all Muzrai institutions in the district under the provisions of the Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act. He is also the licensing authority under the Mysore Cinematograph Act and he exercises powers vested in him also under the Indian Explosives Act, Indian Arms Act, Prevention of Untouchability Act, etc. He is *ex-officio* District Registrar in

which capacity he exercises control over the Sub-Registrars and is also *ex-officio* Collector of Stamps and Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority.

The Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, is assisted in his work by a Special Deputy Commissioner, who looks after the work relating to land revenue, stamps and registration as also some of the developmental activities. The Deputy Commissioner has under him two officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioners designated as Headquarters Assistant and District Development Assistant. Besides these officers, there is a Food Assistant, an Office Assistant as also a District Treasury Officer and a District Social Welfare Officer assisting the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner, Mandya, is directly responsible to the Divisional Commissioner, Mysore Division.

**Other
Revenue
Officers**

Assistant Commissioners.—The two Assistant Commissioners at Mandya and Pandavapura are in direct charge of revenue administration in their respective sub-divisions. These two officers are responsible to the Deputy Commissioner. In all revenue matters, these sub-divisional Assistant Commissioners are appellate authorities over the orders passed by the Tahsildars. They exercise such of the powers as are conferred on them by the Deputy Commissioner under various Acts and regulations and they are *ex-officio* First Class Magistrates.

Tahsildars.—The revenue affairs of each taluk are managed by the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar derives his powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act and his functions are defined in Section IV of Chapter I of the Mysore Revenue Manual. The Tahsildar is the key-officer in the revenue set-up of the taluk and is also *ex-officio* Second Class Magistrate.

The district has 31 hoblies and each hobli is in charge of a Revenue Inspector, who is responsible to the Tahsildar in the administration of revenue matters.

**Village
Administra-
tion**

The village establishment, until recently, consisted of five hereditary offices, *i.e.*, those of Patel (village headman), Shanbhogue (village accountant), Talari (village scout), Thoti (village watchman) and Nirganti (distributor of water from irrigation tanks). The remuneration of the Patel and the Shanbhogue consisted of Inam lands subject to *jodi* or full assessment and cash allowances called *potgi* on the basis of the land revenue demand. The other village servants received a certain quantity of grain from each cultivator and certain cash payments from non-agriculturists in addition to the remuneration by rent-free or lightly assessed lands.

The Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the State on 1st February 1963, abolished these hereditary offices. Under the provisions of this Act, Village Accountants have been already appointed as full-time Government servants on a salary basis. They are also liable to be appointed as *ex-officio* Panchayat Secretaries, in addition to their duties relating to revenue matters. They have to perform such other duties also as may be entrusted to them by the Deputy Commissioner and also carry out instructions of the Tahsildar and the Revenue Inspector.

The present incumbents of the posts of Patels and other village officers are being, however, continued for the time being without hereditary rights. The Patels get an annual remuneration equivalent to the *potgi* which they were receiving prior to the abolition of their hereditary offices.

The other department, which is next in importance on the executive side, is of the Police, headed by a Superintendent of Police with his headquarters at Mandya. The Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the Deputy Commissioner in so far as their functions in respect of the maintenance of law and order are concerned. As regards discipline, training and other administrative matters are concerned, they are under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mysore Range.

**Law and
Order**

For administrative convenience, the Police Department in the district has been divided into two divisions, the Mandya Division and the Srirangapatna Division. A Deputy Superintendent of Police was in charge of the Mandya Division, while the Srirangapatna Division was under the direct charge of the Superintendent of Police.

Consequent on the introduction of Prohibition in the district in July 1961, the police authorities were made responsible for the enforcement of the dry law. The Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent of Police have been appointed also as Special Police Officers in the district for dealing with offences falling under the Act relating to the suppression of immoral traffic in women and girls.

The functions of the Executive Engineer being purely technical, he is not directly subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner, though in a sense, he plays a part subsidiary to the general administration of the district, of which the Deputy Commissioner is the head. He is expected to help the Deputy Commissioner whenever required to do so. For instance, the Deputy Commissioner can ask the Executive Engineer to investigate the extent of utility of certain minor irrigation works. In times of floods,

**Executive
Engineer**

famines, scarcity and the like, the Executive Engineer, in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, has to draw up plans and programmes of relief works and to execute them.

**District
Surgeon**

The District Surgeon has also a separate and independent sphere of his own, but he has to place his professional and technical advice and assistance at the disposal of the general administration of the district, whenever required.

**District and
Sessions
Judge**

The District and Sessions Judge, Mandya, is the principal judicial officer in the district and is the administrative head for both civil and criminal courts. As Sessions Judge, he tries cases committed to sessions. His functions have been described in the appropriate chapter on Law, Order and Justice. He has a separate and independent sphere of work. As head of the judiciary in the district, he exercises appellate and supervisory powers over the subordinate judicial officers in the district. On the civil side, there is a Civil Judge at Mandya and a Munsiff each at Mandya and Srirangapatna.

In accordance with the scheme of the separation of the judiciary from the executive, brought into force in 1956, the functions of a Magistrate have been divided between two types of Magistrates designated as Judicial Magistrates and Executive Magistrates. There are two Judicial Magistrates' Courts in the district. They are the First Class Magistrates' Courts at Mandya and Srirangapatna.

**Other
district-level
Officers**

The other officers at the district-level are mentioned below. It is unnecessary to describe their functions here, as in the case of most of them, their designations give an idea of their functions while the functions of others have been described in the appropriate chapters.

The other officers in the district are :—

District Educational Officer

District Health Officer

Deputy Director of Agriculture

District Officer, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services

Assistant Superintendent, Government Gardens

Assistant Superintendent of Fisheries

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department

Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Canal Division

Executive Engineer, Krishnarajasagar Division

Executive Engineer (Electrical)

Assistant Director, Industries and Commerce

Assistant Commercial Tax Officer

Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies
 Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures
 District Statistical Officer
 District Social Welfare Officer
 District Probation Officer
 District Survey Officer
 District Employment Officer
 District Publicity Officer
 Regional Transport Officer

The Divisional Commissioner plays a prominent part in the general administration of the district, not only with reference to revenue matters, but also in respect of the activities of other departments, particularly of the development departments. The Divisional Commissioner, Mysore Division, has jurisdiction over Mandya district. He is the link between the Government and the district authorities in respect of all developmental and public welfare activities. He tours frequently in the district and supervises the general activities of all developmental departments. In view of the numerous activities under the Five-Year Plans and the increasing tempo of community development programme, added importance is attached to the role of the Divisional Commissioner. He holds co-ordination meetings of the district officers periodically with a view to removing difficulties and bottlenecks and to improving their work. He has to devote urgent attention to floods, famines and scarcity conditions, if they should occur within his jurisdiction. He also keeps a vigilant watch over the law and order situation in the district.

**Divisional
 Commi-
 ssioner**

The Central Government has its own offices in the district for the collection of income-tax and excise duties, administration of post, telegraph and telephone services and the railways.

**Central
 Government
 Offices**