

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL administration, insofar as a district is concerned, only means district administration. District administration may be defined as the management of public affairs within a territory demarcated for the purpose. The district, in some shape or the other, has always been an important administrative unit in India, though, in the past, it was being variously called as *Vishaya*, *Kampana*, *Nadu*, *Seeme*, *Sarkar* and so on at different times by different ruling dynasties. Even the code of Manu describes the village as, more or less, a self-contained republic with a headman, and that a number of such villages formed a bigger administrative unit which was placed under the charge of an officer. This position has not varied greatly over the centuries.

Early period

As already stated elsewhere, the region, which now constitutes the Raichur district, formed a part of the dominions of the great Mauryan king Ashoka and was ruled by an *Ayaputa* or prince of the royal family, who was the viceroy, with the assistance of *Dharmamatras* and *Mahamatras*. The Satavahanas held sway over Karnataka between 150 B.C. and 2nd Century A.D., and during their rule, the administration of the country was very smooth due to a system of local administration in which local bodies functioned with remarkable efficiency. The king's officers had only supervisory duties. The Kadambas, who later ruled over this area, divided the territory into *Nadus*, each *Nadu* being sub-divided into groups of villages ostensibly to make the collection of revenue easy. There was a marked decentralisation of administration since the *Mahajanas*, who were in charge of village administration, looked after the affairs of the villages under their charge without any interference from the provincial or imperial officers, except for an overall supervision.

Under the Chalukyas of Badami, most of these features of administration continued. The *Mahajanas* (Assembly of Elders) performed all the administrative functions at the lower level. They had considerable autonomy even in adjudication of civil and criminal cases pertaining to the area of their jurisdiction. The Rashtrakutas divided their empire into provinces called

Rashtras, the administration of which was looked after by Provincial Governors. A smaller territory than *Rashtra* was called a *Vishaya* (i.e., a district), and lower than the *Vishaya* was a *Bhukti* (*nadu*) made up of several rural units. At the lowest level was the *Grama*, forming a primary village unit. The Provincial Governor was called *Rashtrapati* or *Mahamandaleshwara*. Next to him was *Mandalika* and next below was *Vishayapati*, the head of a *Vishaya*, followed by *Bhogapati*, the head of a *Bhukti*. The latter was also called *Nadagavunda*. The headman of the village was called *Gavunda*. The villages were administered by the *Mahajanas*. The *Gavunda* or the village headman held a key-position among the village officials. Next to him was the *Senabova* or the village accountant. The *Urodeya*, who was the elective and executive head of the village assembly, played an important role in the life of the village. Under the Chalukyas of Kalyana, the Provincial Governors were almost invariably members of the royal household or princes. Local administration had elaborate ramifications. There were *Kampanas* or districts, of a smaller denomination. These smaller divisions were governed by *Prabhus*, *Nadgavundas* and *Dandanayakas*. The administration of justice was carried on by the *Mahajanas* and the village headmen in conformity with the *Dharma-Shastras* and local customs.

During the Hoysala period, the provinces were divided into *Nadus*. The officer under the direct charge of the Governor (*Mandalika*) was the *Heggade*, also called as *Heggade-Karana*, *Rajadhyakshara-Karana*, etc. The official hierarchy under him comprised *Nadagowda*, *Nadaprabhu*, *Nadasenabova* and *Urodeya*. During this period, the administrative charges appear to have been reorganised and modified to suit new conditions. The Vijayanagar kings did not much vary this administrative system. The kingdom was divided into several *Mandalas* and a number of *Urus* or villages formed a *Seeme*, a number of *Seemes* formed a *Rajya* or *Maharajya* and several *Rajyas* constituted a *Mandala*. During Hoysala period

Under the Bahmanis, the kingdom was divided into four divisions called *Tarafs*, each under the charge of a *Tarafdar*, who was supreme in his jurisdiction. He collected the revenue, raised and commanded the army and made all appointments, both civil and military, in his province. Each *Taraf* was sub-divided into *Sarkars* or districts which, in turn, were further sub-divided into *Paraganas*. The village was the smallest unit of administration and a number of villages formed a *Paragana*. The Adil Shahi rulers also divided their kingdom into *Sarkars* and *Paraganas*, the total number of their *Sarkars* being about sixteen.

During the rule of the early Nizams, there was no real administration in the modern sense. A good deal of land was given away in the form of grants, jagirs and inams to nobles and During Nizams' rule

others who promised to perform certain services, especially the maintenance of troops for use by the ruler. The land given to the nobles was known as *paigah* and those gifted to others for meritorious services rendered to Government were called jagirs. The ruler himself privately owned large extents of crown land called *Sarf-e-khas*. These three kinds of lands constituted about one-third of the whole area of the State. The Government land was called *Khalsa* or *Diwani* lands. The two taluks of Koppal and Yelburga in Raichur district were entirely the jagir of Nawab Salar Jung; similarly there were also a large number of small jagirs and other kinds of alienated villages in the other taluks of the district.

Between 1853 and 1857 A.D., the district of Raichur was administered by the British Resident in Hyderabad since the entire Raichur doab, along with two other districts, had been ceded to the British by the Nizam in lieu of arrears of payment for the contingent troops. After the restoration of the Raichur doab to the Nizam, he introduced administrative reforms at the district-level and made some territorial adjustments in the area. In 1867, the entire State was divided into five *Subas* or Divisions and seventeen districts. The number of Divisions were later reduced to four and each Division was placed under a Revenue Commissioner called the Subedar. Gulbarga was one of such Divisions in which was included the district of Raichur. These four Divisions were further divided into sixteen districts and each district was under a magistrate or collector called a Talukdar. The districts were further divided into sub-divisions, each under a sub-divisional officer called Second or Third Talukdar, according to his grade in the service; there were two or three such sub-divisions in each district. There were two or three tahsils in each sub-division and a Tahsildar was in charge of each of them. Each village had a patel or headman.

For the administration of justice, there was a Divisional Judge in each Division, and the Talukdars and Tahsildars in the districts had the powers of first, second and third grade magistrates. The Talukdars, in busy places, had Judicial Assistants, and from their courts complicated cases were sent to the Divisional Courts.

Considerable administrative changes and territorial adjustments were made in the Raichur doab in 1905 as already referred to in Chapter I. Lingsugur district was abolished and divided between Raichur and Gulbarga districts. Yadgir taluk from Raichur district and the taluks of Shahapur and Shorapur from Lingsugur district were transferred to Gulbarga district. Though there were certain changes in the superstructure of the State administration now and then, the administrative set-up of the districts, by and large, remained the same.

As already stated earlier, the taluks of Koppal and Yelburga Jagir constituted the jagir of Nawab Salar Jung Bahadur, while Gurgunta in the Lingsugur taluk and Aneundi in the Gangavati taluk were small *Samsthanas* under local Hindu Rajas. These Jagirdars, more or less, enjoyed the powers of a ruler of an Indian State of the British days, but within the State of Hyderabad. They collected the land and other revenues within their jurisdictions through their own officers appointed by them. While the Jagir of Koppal had a Talukdar (Deputy Commissioner) and a Tahsildar, the *Samsthanas* had lesser officers to look after the revenue administration of the respective jagirs. These officers exercised the same powers as the revenue officers of the Nizam's Government for the recovery of land revenue, etc. The Desai of Menedhal in Kushtagi taluk also enjoyed the rights of a Jagirdar paying an annual lumpsum to the Nizam.

While the Rajas of the *Samsthanas* were required to pay a tribute called *Peshkash* to the Nizam, the Jagirdar of Koppal was exempted from this. The annual income from the jagir estates of Nawab Salar Jung, including excise revenue, was estimated at Rs. 20,10,814. The administration of excise revenue was, however, taken over by the Nizam's Government in 1936 and the Jagirdars were paid a share of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent out of such revenue collections.

The Jagirdars had also their own police and judiciary for a long time. They were, however, divested of their police powers in 1947 and of the judicial powers in 1948 and the same were taken over by the Hyderabad State Government. Though a Royal Commission on Jagir Administration and Reforms was appointed by the Nizam's Government in 1947 under the chairmanship of Sir Allion Rajkumar Banerji, no action had been, however, taken to implement its recommendations to reform the jagir administration in the State, which was then in a very unsatisfactory state. The promulgation of the Hyderabad (Abolition of Jagirs) Regulation, 1949, by the Military Government of Hyderabad, however, resulted in the taking over of all the jagirs by the Hyderabad State Government.

Soon after the Police Action by the Government of India in September 1948, the Nizam dismissed his Council of Ministers and the administration of the State was taken over by the Military Governor appointed by the Government of India. The Military Governor and the Chief Civil Administrator replaced the old Council of Ministers and a Civil Administrator was appointed for each district. The Civil Administrator of the district had, under him, a Deputy Civil Administrator and an Assistant Civil Administrator on the one side and a First Talukdar, two or three Second Talukdars and Tahsildars in the taluks on the other. The Civil Administrator of Raichur took immediate

steps to restore normal conditions in the district by imposition of curfew, the rounding up of unruly elements, formation of peace committees, etc. After a year, the Military Governor and his assistants were replaced by a new Council of Ministers. The Revenue Board was reconstituted to exercise supervision over the revenue and general administration of the districts.

In September 1949, all the jagirs in the Hyderabad State, numbering about 1,500 and comprising about 6,500 villages, were abolished. In Raichur area, the Koppal and Yelburga jagir taluks were added to the Raichur district as regular revenue taluks. Thus, the district, before the re-organisation of States in 1956, consisted of eleven taluks, namely, Raichur, Deodurg, Lingsugur, Manvi, Sindhanur, Gangavati, Koppal, Kushtagi, Yelburga, Gadwal and Alampur.

**Popular
Government**

A full-fledged popular Government, consisting of thirteen elected representatives of the people, took charge of the administration of the Hyderabad State in March 1952. This marked a new stage in the political, historical and administrative evolution of the State and also served as a new spur to concerted efforts for development in all spheres of life. On the reorganisation of States on November 1, 1956, the Kannada-speaking areas of the Hyderabad State, comprising most of the three districts of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar, were included in the new Mysore State. Insofar as Raichur district was concerned, two of its taluks, *viz.*, Gadwal and Alampur, were transferred to Andhra Pradesh. Thus, after the reorganisation of the States, the Raichur district came to have only nine taluks, *viz.*, Raichur, Deodurg, Manvi, Sindhanur, Gangavati, Koppal, Kushtagi, Yelburga and Lingsugur. These taluks were grouped under three revenue subdivisions, each under an Assistant Commissioner, with headquarters at Raichur, Lingsugur and Koppal. The Deputy Commissioner is at the head of the district administration. As before, the district continues to be under the Gulbarga Division, which is even now one of the four Revenue Divisions constituted in the new Mysore State for administrative convenience, the head of the Division being the Divisional Commissioner.

After the achievement of Independence, the district administration is comprehending a rather wide connotation of public administration. It has attained added importance with the launching of the Five-Year Plans and other development programmes since it provides the principal points of contact between the citizens and the processes of government. Besides collection of land revenue and provision of security of person and property as in the earlier days, the present-day public administration in the district embraces almost every field of human activity. But it is important to note that all the administrative functions should

be such as to conform to the provisions of the fundamental rights of the citizens as set out in the Constitution and the rule of law.

The functions of the present day district administration may be grouped, for purposes of convenience, into a number of fairly broad categories. The first group relates to the public safety, the protection of the citizen and of all his rights. It includes the maintenance of law and order and the administration of civil and criminal justice. The second group may be called the revenue and excise group, which is concerned with the assessment and collection of taxes and duties of different kinds. It includes land revenue, irrigation cess, income-tax, agricultural income-tax, sales tax, entertainment tax, stamp duty, court fees, registration fees, excise duties—both Central and State—of various kinds, taxes on motor vehicles and others. Under this group may also be included recovery of loans which are advanced to cultivators, control regulations and deriving of revenue from liquor, drugs, etc., control and maintenance of government treasuries, land reforms, land acquisition, maintenance of land records, and including also the programmes of consolidation of agricultural holdings.

**Multifarious
functions**

The third group consists of agriculture in all its aspects, animal husbandry, irrigation, communication and industries. These form part of the economic group of administrative functions. Then there is another group, which generally relates to the welfare and development functions, some of which are also economic. These include community development, co-operatives, public health, education, social welfare, panchayat-raj and others. Food and civil supplies stand in a category by themselves. Another duty cast upon the district administration is of dealing with calamities like floods, famines, fires, earthquakes and the like. The district administration is also concerned with the conduct of all elections to the parliament, to the state legislature and to the local bodies as also with the conduct of population census.

The next group with which the district administration is concerned is local self-government, which includes institutions like municipalities, taluk development boards and village panchayats. Finally, the district administration also exercises certain other executive functions of government which are not defined as such. This power to assume and exercise the executive authority of government becomes vitally important in periods of crisis endangering the life and security of the community. Though the list is not exhaustive, it demonstrates, to a certain extent, the sheer variety of functions which the district administration is called upon to undertake. Each one of the functions listed above contains quite a number of sub-functions, all of which need not be referred to here as many of them have been dealt with in the relevant chapters as also in Chapter XIII.

Although there are different functionaries at the district, sub-divisional and taluk levels to deal with these multifarious functions of the Government in the district, it is the Deputy Commissioner who has to bear the main brunt of the district administration under the guidance and supervision of the Divisional Commissioner.

**Divisional
Commissioner**

The posts of Divisional Commissioners in the new State of Mysore were created by the Mysore Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956, under the provisions of the States' Re-organisation Act, 1956. The jurisdiction of the Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga Division, extends over the district of Raichur along with the districts of Gulbarga, Bidar and Bellary. Upto 1st February 1966, the last district, *i.e.*, Bellary, formed a part of Bangalore Division and it was separated and included in the Gulbarga Division with effect from the 1st February 1966 for administrative convenience. The Divisional Commissioner is the head of the revenue administration within his jurisdiction. He plays a vital role in the general administration of the districts coming under his jurisdiction, not only in respect of revenue matters but also in respect of the activities of other departments. He acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities in respect of all developmental and public welfare activities. He undertakes tours in the districts and supervises the general activities of all development departments and gives them guidance.

**Tungabhadra
Project
Administration**

In view of the numerous programmes undertaken under the Five-Year Plans and also the increasing tempo of developmental activities, great importance has been attached to the post of Divisional Commissioner. The Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga, is also the *ex-officio* Administrator and, in that capacity, the head of the Tungabhadra Project Administration. He is invested with necessary financial and administrative powers and is responsible for co-ordinating the work of all development departments functioning in the Tungabhadra Project area. In this work, the Divisional Commissioner is assisted exclusively by a Deputy Administrator, with some ministerial staff, stationed at Sindhanur. However, the various development works in the Project area are attended to by the officers of the respective development departments, both at the district, sub-divisional and taluk levels, in addition to their normal departmental duties. The Administrator is also advised and assisted by three committees, *viz.*, (1) the Tungabhadra Project Working Group, (2) the Tungabhadra Project Advisory Body and (3) the Tungabhadra Project Irrigation Consultative Committee, which meet as often as necessary. While the Working Group consists of all divisional-level officers in the Division and the Deputy Commissioners of Raichur and Bellary districts, the Advisory Body consists, in addition to these officers, some non-official members including

some members of the State Legislature. The Irrigation Consultative Committee consists of the divisional heads of the Public Works and Agriculture Departments, the Deputy Commissioners of Raichur and Bellary districts and some non-officials, including some members of the State Legislature. Besides, for the purpose of securing all-round development in the area as expeditiously as possible, the Chief Engineers of Irrigation (South), Communications and Buildings, and Irrigation and Public Health, the Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, and Fisheries, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Chief Conservator of Forests are expected to render every co-operation for co-ordination of their departmental activities in the project area under the guidance of the Divisional Commissioner. The progress of implementation of the various developmental schemes is reviewed by the Administrator in the meetings of the above-mentioned committees.

Being the chief co-ordinator of the various development programmes in the district as a whole, the Divisional Commissioner convenes co-ordination meetings of the district officers periodically with a view to reviewing the progress of development works and removing difficulties and bottlenecks, if any, in their expeditious execution. He has to be specially vigilant against natural calamities like floods, famines and scarcity conditions and bestow his urgent attention on organising relief measures for alleviating the distress and hardships of the victims. He has also to be watchful about the rise in prices and scarcity of foodgrains and other consumer commodities and take suitable remedial measures. **Other functions**

All proposals from the Deputy Commissioner to the Government regarding revenue matters, community development programme, municipal administration and the like have to pass through the Divisional Commissioner's office and have to be scrutinised by the latter. The distribution and reappropriation of budget grants to revenue offices, community development blocks, taluk development boards and, to some extent, to municipalities are also the responsibility of the Divisional Commissioner. He is competent to inspect and control all revenue offices in the Division. He is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioners in matters of revenue administration, both in respect of revenue law and disciplinary proceedings against the revenue staff. In short, his functions may be described as appellate, inspecting, supervising, controlling, co-ordinating and advisory.

Since the district is the crucial unit of administration, the Deputy Commissioner is the crucial figure in the process of general administration of the district. As already stated, the main brunt of the district administration is directly borne by him, although he works under the supervision of the Divisional Commissioner. As the revenue head of the district, he plays a most prominent and **Deputy Commissioner**

pivotal role in all aspects of district administration. The advent of democracy and the consequent increase in the tempo of developmental activities, have further increased his functions and responsibilities.

The main functions of the Deputy Commissioner, in general, may be defined as executive and his duties may be broadly classified as (1) revenue, (2) law and order, (3) development, (4) co-ordination and (5) public weal in general. In the general pattern of the district administration, he 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, insofar as the interests of Government in land have been conceded to them. All land, wherever situated, whether put to agricultural use or other uses, is liable to payment of land revenue, except in cases where it is expressly exempted by a special contract. Such land revenue is generally of three kinds: (1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. The duties of the Deputy Commissioner relate to the fixation, collection and accounting of all such land revenue. He has to see that the revenue due to Government is recovered punctually with the minimum of coercion and that all such collections are properly credited and accounted for. In order to carry out these and other relative duties, he has been invested with wide powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act and Rules.

Revenue functions

The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various other Acts in respect of irrigation, ferries and bridges, stamps, registration, etc. Any arrears, whether of Central or State Government, may be recovered as land revenue under the provisions of the relevant tax laws. If a party fails to 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 arrears of land revenue. The Mysore Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act regulates the grant of loans to agriculturists at cheaper rates of interest for financing their operations. The Deputy Commissioner estimates the loan requirements of his district and approaches the Government for sanction. He has to arrange for the proper distribution of the amount placed at his disposal and to cause recoveries to be made at the proper time.

As the head of the revenue administration of the district, he exercises all the powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act, 1964, and Rules made thereunder. He is also responsible for the maintenance of land records and in addition, exercises various powers under several other Acts, such as the Mysore Land Reforms Act, the Land Acquisition Act, Mysore Irrigation Act, Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Mysore Village

Panchayats and Local Boards Act and the Mysore Town Municipalities Act. He discharges also a quasi-judicial function in revenue disputes. The entire collection of the revenue from land is assigned to the village panchayats and taluk development boards by the Government and the responsibility of allocating these funds rests with the Deputy Commissioner. He is authorised to survey and settle boundary disputes relating to lands and to take adequate and suitable steps for the succour of victims of floods, famines and such other natural calamities.

The Deputy Commissioner of the Raichur district has also an additional responsibility of implementing the several development programmes in the Tungabhadra Project ayacut area within his jurisdiction, with the assistance of the officers of the various development and other departments in the district and under the guidance and close supervision of the Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga Division, who is the Administrator of the Tungabhadra Project. For this purpose, the Deputy Commissioner has been designated as the *ex-officio* Director of the Tungabhadra Project Administration in the district. He has to co-ordinate the efforts of the several departments in the district and see that the programmes are implemented expeditiously and also according to schedule.

Again, under the community development programme, the Deputy Commissioner is designated as the Deputy Development Commissioner. In that capacity, he is in overall charge of all the development blocks in his jurisdiction. He has to possess a clear picture of the working of the several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-level officers (except the judicial officers), and also the officers at the block-level at which the block programmes and achievements are reviewed. He is also the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council, which has to guide and co-ordinate the developmental activities of the several departments in the district and also those of the taluk development boards which help in the execution of the community development programmes in the district. He has also the overall responsibility for the successful implementation of the many schemes taken up under the Five-Year Plans, including social welfare work. Thus, co-ordination forms an important part of the Deputy Commissioner's functions.

Co-ordinating
authority

Though the Deputy Commissioner is usually the District Registrar in many of the districts, in Raichur district a Special Deputy Commissioner functions *inter alia* as the District Registrar and, in that capacity, he controls the administration of the Registration Department in the district. The Deputy Commissioner is also the President of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and

Airmen's Board in an honorary capacity. Besides, he is also the Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority. The Deputy Commissioner also exercises supervision over local administration, census operations, elections, excise, food and civil supplies. He is enjoined to give effect to the notifications issued by the Government from time to time in respect of foodgrains and other essential commodities. He is also the custodian of all Muzrai institutions in the district under the provisions of the Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act.

The Deputy Commissioner is the Executive District Magistrate of the district and in that capacity he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. He is the head of all the executive sub-divisional and taluk magistrates in the district and has extensive powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Mysore Police Act and other Acts for the maintenance of law and order. He has control over the Police insofar as law and order question is concerned and supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district. With the separation of judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate has ceased to deal with the actual dispensation of justice or with the trial process. His law and order responsibility involves two functions: firstly, he has to enforce law and order through the police and secondly, he has to take regulatory and penal action. He has to get persons bound over if there is any breach of law or to make preventive detention.

In his executive capacity, the District Magistrate is responsible for the issue of licences and permits under the Indian Arms Act, Indian Explosives Act, etc., and also for the supervision of the general administration of these Acts. He is also the licensing authority under the Mysore Cinematograph Act and exercises powers vested in him also under the Prevention of Untouchability Act and the like. Under the Foreigners Act, the Executive District Magistrate looks after the proper implementation of various instructions received from the Government in respect of grant of visa, passports, etc.

The Deputy Commissioner, Raichur, is assisted in his duties in the district headquarters by a Special Deputy Commissioner in revenue and registration matters and a Headquarters Assistant of the status of an Assistant Commissioner, who functions also as an Additional District Magistrate. Besides, there is a District Development Assistant who assists the Deputy Commissioner in his duties relating to community development and other developmental activities, an Office Assistant to supervise the work of subordinate staff in the office, a Food Assistant to assist the Deputy Commissioner in matters relating to food and civil supplies, a District Social Welfare Officer to deal with matters relating to

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establishment

social welfare and also a District Planning Officer (of the rank of Block Development Officer) to assist in planning. The District Registrar (*i.e.*, the Special Deputy Commissioner), has also a separate Headquarters Assistant to assist him in matters relating to registration and stamps. The Food Assistant has also a Food Tahsildar to assist him.

Besides these officers, there are, in the Deputy Commissioner's office, a Taccavi Superintendent and an Endowments Assistant, both of whom are of the grade of Deputy Tahsildar, an Accounts Superintendent, eight Sheristedars in charge of the different sections, one I Grade Inspector for Endowments, two or three Accountants, about 30 First Division Clerks, 20 Second Division Clerks and eight Typists, with necessary class IV staff.

As already stated elsewhere, Raichur district has been divided into three revenue sub-divisions with headquarters at Raichur, Lingsugur and Koppal. Each of these sub-divisions is under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner who is responsible to the Deputy Commissioner. While the Raichur Sub-Division has Raichur, Manvi and Deodurg taluks under it, the Lingsugur Sub-Division consists of Lingsugur, Sindhanur and Kushtagi taluks. The Koppal Sub-Division has, under its jurisdiction, the other remaining three taluks of Koppal, Yelburga and Gangavati. The Assistant Commissioners of sub-divisions form the connecting link between the Tahsildars of taluks and the Deputy Commissioner. They have functions similar to those of the Deputy Commissioner, but at a lower level. This is generally the level at which a new recruit to the Indian Administrative Service starts his official career.

Assistant
Commissioners

The Assistant Commissioners also exercise both revenue and magisterial powers. Their main revenue functions include (1) inspection and supervision of the work of the Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Village Officers; (2) safeguarding the interests of the Government in land by regular inspection dealing with encroachments, breaches of the conditions of the tenure, etc; (3) conducting of annual *jamabandi* of taluks except for those where the Deputy Commissioner himself is to conduct the *jamabandi*; (4) hearing of appeals against the decisions of the Tahsildars and settling of cases regarding land acquisition matters; (5) crop and boundary marks inspection and the checking of *annevari* of revenue and the record of rights; (6) supervision over the realisation of government revenues, such as land revenue, betterment levy, repayment of *taccavi* loans, etc., and (7) assignment of lands and sanction of *taccavi* loans upto a limited extent.

The Assistant Commissioners are also Executive Sub-Divisional Magistrates and, in that capacity, they exercise certain

magisterial powers as specified in the Code of Criminal Procedure. These include power to ensure security and maintain peace, power to take security for good behaviour, power to pass orders to prevent apprehended danger to public peace, and power to hold inquests, etc. They have to keep the Deputy Commissioner informed of the law and order situation in their respective subdivisions.

Tahsildars

At the rate of three taluks under each revenue sub-division, there are, in all, nine taluks in the district, under the charge of a Tahsildar each, who is directly responsible to the Assistant Commissioner of his sub-division and through him to the Deputy Commissioner. The Tahsildar is the central figure in the administration of the taluk. He is required to report on almost all revenue matters to the sub-divisional officer and also the Deputy Commissioner so as to enable them to take their decisions and has also to execute the orders passed by them. In regard to the annual demand and collection of land revenue, he has to keep ready all particulars which are required for conducting the annual *jamabandi* of the taluk. (The annual *jamabandi* is an audit of the previous year's accounts of the land revenue along with the checking of the current year's accounts). The Tahsildar is the most intimately concerned officer for determination of the amount of remissions and suspensions of revenue on account of failure of crops, etc.

The work of collection of land revenue in the taluk is also the responsibility of the Tahsildar. In addition to this, he has to effect recoveries of *taccavi* loans, *pot-hissa* measurement fees, boundary marks advances and irrigation cess, as also the dues of other departments like sales-tax, income-tax, etc., from the defaulters, at the request of the departments concerned. Applications for grant of *taccavi* loans are generally received by the Tahsildar. He conducts necessary enquiries in respect of the same through the Revenue Inspectors concerned and then decides about the eligibility and the quantum of loans that may be granted. He can himself grant lands and *taccavi* loans upto a limited extent. He must also be vigilant about the proper utilisation and repayment of the loans thus obtained by the agriculturists.

Another important duty entrusted to the Tahsildar is the levy and collection of water rates and maintenance cess under the Water Rate Rules and the Irrigation Act, respectively. He has also to attend to many other similar duties all of which need not be elaborated here. The duties and powers of all the revenue officers are defined in the Mysore Land Revenue Act and the Mysore Revenue Manual.

The Tahsildars are also Executive Taluk Magistrates and in that capacity they also exercise certain powers as specified in the Criminal Procedure Code. Their magisterial powers include power to disperse any unlawful assembly with the use of civil or military force, power to make order as to the disposal of property regarding which an offence is committed, power to recover penalty on forfeited bonds and to require fresh security, etc. With the authorisation by the State Government or the Executive District Magistrate, he may also issue orders calculated to prevent any apprehended danger to public peace and also hold inquests.

The nine taluks of the district have been further sub-divided into 56 circles or hoblies, each of which is under the charge of a Revenue Inspector. While the Sindhanur taluk has as many as fourteen circles, the Yelburga taluk has only three. In the revenue set-up of the district, the Revenue Inspector of a circle is an important official within his jurisdiction. He is directly responsible to the Tahsildar of the taluk in the administration of revenue matters in the circle and forms a link between the Tahsildar and the village officers. He has to supervise the work of the village officers and inspect village boundaries and boundary marks, all government and public lands and encroachments thereon and irrigation sources under the control of the revenue department. He has to acquaint himself generally with the agricultural conditions in his circle. He is also responsible for the collection of land revenue in the circle with the assistance of the Village Accountants. His other functions include also sub-division and demarcation of lands on request, maintenance of record of rights and inspection of mutation entries, scrutiny of village maps, enquiries into miscellaneous applications from the public and such other miscellaneous work as the Tahsildar may from time to time entrust to him.

**Revenue
Inspectors**

Village Officers

Until a few years ago, the village establishment in the Gulbarga Division (except Bellary district) consisted of (1) Patwari (Shanbhogue), (2) Mali Patel (Revenue Patel), (3) Police Patel and (4) Seth Sanadi or Walikar. All these posts were held by hereditary succession. The Patwaris and Patels were paid cash remuneration on a fixed percentage basis of the actual land revenue collections. Out of the amount calculated according to the prescribed scale for a village, the Patwari got 50 per cent while the Mali Patel and the Police Patel got 25 per cent each. Seth Sanadis were given a reduction of Rs. 36 in the assessment of lands held by them. Those who held lands whose assessment fell short of Rs. 36 were also allowed a cash remuneration of Rs. 36 per annum in addition to being allowed to hold the lands free of assessment. Those having no lands were paid a cash remuneration of Rs. 72 per annum.

These hereditary offices were abolished by the Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the State with effect from the 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of this Act, in the place of Patwaris, Village Accountants have been appointed as full-time Government servants on a salary basis. They are required to work under the guidance of the Revenue Inspectors. They have to maintain all prescribed registers, accounts and other records and, when called upon by any superior officer of the taluk or the district, are required to prepare all records connected with the affairs of the village which are required either for the use of the Government or the public such as notices, reports, *mahazars* and depositions. They are also required to perform such other duties as may be entrusted to them by the Tahsildar, the Assistant Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner. The present incumbents of the posts of Patels and other village officers are, however, being continued for the time-being without hereditary rights.

Law and Order

The administration of law and order is an important component of the general administration of the State, as also of the district. The police force of the district headed by the Superintendent of Police is responsible for the performance of all police functions including prevention and detection of crimes and prosecution of offenders. The District Magistrate is responsible for the criminal administration of the district. For this purpose, the Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the general control of the District Magistrate. The police regulations provide specifically that the District Magistrate is the head of the criminal administration of the district and the police force is required by law to assist him to enforce that authority. Thus, while the internal departmental control of the police force as such vests in the Superintendent of Police, for purposes of law and order in the district, it is subject to the overall control and direction of the District Magistrate. For instance, whenever an Executive Magistrate is present on a scene of rioting or widespread disorder, he assumes charge of the situation and the police have to act under his orders. It is he who can give the order to fire or to use force. But the actual internal administration of the police force, including discipline and training and deployment of the force, is largely the responsibility of the Superintendent of Police, discharged in accordance with his own departmental procedure.

For administrative convenience, Raichur district has been divided into three police sub-divisions, with headquarters at Raichur, Lingsugur and Koppal. Each of these sub-divisions is under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police, who is directly responsible to the Superintendent of Police, Raichur. These sub-divisions have been further divided into six circles,

each under the charge of a Circle Inspector. There is also a fairly good number of armed policemen in reserve at the district headquarters.

Another element in the law and order component of the district administration is the jail. There is a District Jail at Raichur, where persons convicted of various offences as well as prisoners under trial, are housed. The District Surgeon, Raichur, is the *ex-officio* Superintendent of the Jail. Besides, there are seven Judicial Lock-ups or Sub-Jails in the district which are looked after by the Sheristedars of the taluk offices wherein they are situated. The Jail and the Judicial Lock-ups in the district are under the general control of the District Magistrate.

Insofar as the judicial administration is concerned, the District and Sessions Judge, Raichur, is the head of the judiciary in the district. The judiciary deals with civil as also criminal cases. The District and Sessions Judge has a separate and independent sphere of work and his functions have been described in detail in Chapter XII. On the civil side, there is a Civil Judge at Raichur and a Munsiff in each of the taluk headquarters, who exercises also powers of a judicial magistrate. There are nine such Judicial Magistrates' Courts in the district called Munsiff Magistrates' Courts, at the rate of one at each taluk headquarters. The District Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Magistrates and the Taluk Magistrates, referred to earlier, fall under the category of Executive Magistrates.

Judiciary

The previous feudal administration did not pay much attention for the economic and social development of the area. With the advent of Independence, great emphasis was laid on all-round development and on raising the standard of living of the people. The Indian Constitution devotes sixteen of its Articles to what are described as the directive principles of State policy. They mainly relate to the welfare of the people, of the community as a whole as well as of the individual, in both economic and social fields.

Other District
Officers

In keeping with the objective of promoting the welfare of the people, the existing departments were strengthened and reoriented and several new ones were created. As a result, a number of economic and social administration and development departments have been functioning both at the State and district levels, in addition to the revenue, law and order and judicial departments. They relate to agriculture, irrigation, education, health, industries, co-operation, community development and several other fields of development. The following are the various divisional and district-level officers of departments in the district,

whose functions and jurisdictions have been dealt with in Chapter XIII and other relevant chapters :—

1. Joint Director of Agriculture, Gulbarga Division, Raichur.
2. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Raichur.
3. Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Gulbarga Division, Raichur.
4. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Raichur.
5. Superintending Engineer, Tungabhadra Canal Circle, Yermaras.
6. Superintending Engineer, Tungabhadra Project Circle, Munirabad.
7. Superintending Engineer (Electrical), Munirabad.
8. Executive Engineer (Electrical), Raichur.
9. Executive Engineer. Minor Irrigation Investigation Division, Raichur.
10. Executive Engineers (Communications and Buildings), Raichur and Koppal.
11. Deputy Administrator, Tungabhadra Project Administration, Sindhanur.
12. Labour Officer, Raichur.
13. District Educational Officer
14. District Surgeon
15. District Health and Family Planning Officer
16. District Officer, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.
17. Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce
18. Assistant Superintendent of Fisheries
19. Assistant Superintendents of Land Records (one general and one for hissa survey).
20. Coconut Development Officer, Sindhanur
21. Assistant Fruit Development Officer, Raichur
22. District Employment Officer
23. District Marketing Officer
24. Divisional Forest Officer
25. District Treasury Officer
26. Regional Transport Officer
27. District Statistical Officer
28. District Excise Officer
29. District Publicity Officer.

Besides, the Central Government has some of its offices in the district for the collection of income-tax, excise duties, administration of postal, telegraph and telephone services and the railways. (See also Chapter XIII).