

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

IN the past, the district unit was variously called as *nadu*, *vishaya*, *kampana*, *ventya*, *seeme* and so on at different times by different ruling dynasties. But it may not be generally possible to find a historical continuity between the old units and the modern districts. The district, which is a sizeable unit, neither too big, nor too small, has always been an important administrative unit. As a matter of fact, it has a special position in the administration of a State. General administration, in relation to a district, only denotes district administration, which, in turn, may be defined as the management of public affairs within an area demarcated for the purpose.

After the rendition (*i.e.*, restoration of the Mysore State to the Wodeyar dynasty) in 1881, Mysore made a marked progress in several spheres of governmental activities. The system of administration was based on the British Indian model. The district was, as now, the pivotal administrative unit, the next smaller unit being the sub-division which consisted of taluks and in some cases, also sub-taluks; this was followed by the *hoblis* each of which comprised a certain number of villages. A Deputy Commissioner was appointed for each district and the people looked to him for the redress of their grievances and for the promotion of their welfare. He was both the principal revenue officer and the chief magistrate. In the other branches of the district administration, he was assisted by a District Superintendent of Police, a District Forest Officer, a District Excise Officer, an Executive Engineer, a District Medical and Sanitary Officer and a District Inspector of Schools. At the sub-divisional and taluk or sub-taluk levels, the Deputy Commissioner was assisted by Assistant Commissioners and Amildars respectively. These were in turn assisted by *Shekdars* in the *hoblis*. At the village-level were village officers called *Patels*, *Shanubhagues*, etc. Later, these administrative arrangements were gradually improved, and also more departments and offices were created to meet the modern needs with the achievement of progress in the various fields.

When the new Mysore State was formed in 1956 as a result of the States' reorganisation, the number of districts rose from 10 to 19. It was, therefore, found necessary for administrative convenience to constitute revenue divisions. The new State was accordingly divided into four divisions, *viz.*, Bangalore, Mysore, Belgaum and Gulbarga. The Shimoga district was formerly in Mysore Division. From 1st February 1966, it was transferred to the Bangalore Division which includes Bangalore, Chitradurga, Kolar and Tumkur districts also. The district has been divided into two revenue sub-divisions of Sagar and Shimoga, nine taluks and 52 *hoblis*. It has 12 towns according to 1971 census (counting the Bhadravati Municipal Council area and the Bhadravati New Town Board area as a single city), 1,741 inhabited villages and 259 uninhabited villages. Its administrative machinery consists of a hierarchy of officers and officials headed by the Deputy Commissioner. The Sagar Sub-division consists of Sagar, Sorab, Shikaripur and Hosanagar taluks, while the Shimoga Sub-division consists of Bhadravati, Channagiri, Honnali, Shimoga and Tirthahalli taluks. Each of the two sub-divisions is under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner.

After the attainment of independence, the district administration has come to encompass a very wide range of subjects of public administration. The expectations and demands of the people have increased vastly. There is a wide awareness among them, and the democratic set-up has stimulated aspirations and urges of an unprecedented kind. The district administration has attained added importance with the launching of the Five-Year Plans and other developmental programmes. All the administrative functions are required to be carried out in such a way that they do not in any way infringe the fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens in the Constitution and that they are in accordance with the rule of law.

**Multifarious  
administrative  
functions**

The functions of the present-day district administration may be grouped into several broad categories. The first group relates to public safety, protection of the citizens and his rights. Thus it includes maintenance of law and order and administration of civil and criminal justice. The second group may be called the revenue group. It pertains to assessment and collection of taxes and duties of different kinds including land revenue, irrigation charges, income-tax, agricultural income-tax, sales-tax, entertainment tax, stamp duty, court fees, registration fees, excise duties of both the Central and State Governments, taxes on motor vehicles, etc. Under this group may also be included recovery of loans advanced to cultivators, control and maintenance of Government treasuries, land acquisition, maintenance of land records, consolidation of agricultural holdings and implementation of land reforms.

Under the third group come agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, communications, industries and commerce. These constitute the economic group of administrative functions. The next group consists of welfare and development functions, some of which are also economic. These include community development, co-operatives, public health, education, social welfare, local self-government institutions and the like. Another duty cast upon the district administration is of dealing with calamities like famines, floods, fires, etc. The district administration is also concerned with the conduct of elections to the Parliament, to the State Legislature and to the local bodies and also with the conduct of population and livestock censuses. It has also to see that the local bodies like the municipalities, taluk development boards and village *panchayats* function properly. Further, it has to exercise executive authority of Government in periods of crisis endangering the life and security of the people. Although there are a number of functionaries at the district, sub-divisional, taluk, circle and village 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.

The posts of Divisional Commissioners in the new Mysore State were created under the Mysore Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956, under the provisions of the State's Reorganisation Act, 1956. The Shimoga district, as already stated, is now under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Commissioner, Bangalore Division. The Divisional Commissioner, who is the head of the revenue administration within his jurisdiction, plays a vital role in the general administration of the districts, not only in respect of the revenue matters, but also in regard to 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 instructions and guidance.

The numerous programmes taken up under the successive Five-Year and Annual Plans and the increased tempo of the developmental activities in the districts have given great importance to the post of Divisional Commissioner. He is the Joint Development Commissioner for the Division. Being the chief co-ordinator of various development programmes in the Division, he convenes co-ordination meetings of the divisional officers periodically with a view to reviewing the progress of development works and to removing difficulties and bottlenecks, if any, in their expeditious execution. He is also the chief controlling authority of the local bodies within his jurisdiction. He has to be also vigilant about

the natural calamities like floods, famines and scarcity conditions and bestow his urgent attention on the organisation of relief measures for alleviating the distress and hardships of the victims. He has to be watchful about the rise in prices and scarcity of food-grains and other essential consumer commodities and take suitable remedial measures.

All the proposals from the Deputy Commissioner to the State Government in respect of revenue matters, community development programmes, municipal administration and the like are required to pass through the Divisional Commissioner who has to scrutinise them. The responsibility of distribution and re-appropriation of budget grants to revenue offices, community development blocks, taluk development boards, and to some extent, to municipalities also, rest with the Divisional Commissioner. He has powers to inspect the various Government offices in the Division. He is the appellate authority above the Deputy Commissioner in matters of revenue administration, both in respect of revenue laws and disciplinary proceedings against the revenue staff. His functions may be summed up as supervisory, controlling, co-ordinating, advisory and appellate.

The earliest general cash book available in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, was maintained under the signature of an officer designated as the Deputy Superintendent till 31st December 1872, and it has been maintained under the signature of the Deputy Commissioner with effect from 1st January 1873, in this district. Hence, it may be taken that the office of the Deputy Commissioner came into being in this district from 1st January 1873. Since its inception, the office of the Deputy Commissioner is looking after the revenue administration, food and civil supplies in the district and also discharging other duties entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner under the several laws and rules in force from time to time. As the district is the vital unit of general administration of the State, the Deputy Commissioner is the crucial figure in respect of general administration of the district. He plays a pivotal role in all aspects of the district administration.

The Deputy Commissioner is generally an I. A. S. officer. He has the status of a head of a department within the meaning of the Karnataka Civil Service Rules and Karnataka Financial Code for all matters of revenue administration of the district. The main functions of the Deputy Commissioner may be broadly classified as (1) revenue, (2) law and order, (3) development, (4) co-ordination and (5) public welfare in general. 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 in so far as the interests of the Government in land have been conceded to them.

Deputy  
Commissioner

All land, wherever situated and 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 order or 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 collection and accounting of all such land revenue. He has to see that the revenue due to the Government is recovered regularly without much coercion and that all such collections are properly credited and accounted for. In order to enable him to carry out these and other related duties, he has been invested with wide powers under the Land Revenue Act and Rules.

In addition to land revenue, the Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various other enactments, *e.g.*, stamps and registration, water-rate in respect of irrigation, etc. Any arrears due to Government, whether of State or Centre, may be recovered in the same manner as land revenue under the provisions of the relevant tax laws. If a party fails to pay a tax in time, the tax collecting authority forwards a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner of the district and the latter has powers to recover the amount from that party in the same manner as arrears of land revenue. The Deputy Commissioner is also required to estimate the loan requirements of his district under the Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act (which Act regulates the grant of loans at cheaper rates of interest for financing agricultural operations) and approach the Government for sanction. He has to arrange for proper distribution of the amounts placed at his disposal and cause recoveries to be made at the proper time.

Revenue  
functions

In addition, he exercises various powers under several other Acts such as the Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Irrigation Act, Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, Municipalities Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Indian Arms Act, Cinemas Regulation Act, Petroleum Act, Rent Control Act, Stamp Act, Indian Registration Act, Excise Act, Public Health Act, Essential Commodities Act, etc., and Rules made thereunder, Old Age Pension Rules, Freedom Fighters Welfare Rules, Government Servants Welfare Fund Rules and so forth. He has also a quasi-judicial function to discharge in revenue disputes. The entire collection of revenue from land has been assigned to the taluk development boards and the village panchayats by the Government in recent years and it is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner to allocate these funds to these institutions. He has also powers to survey and settle boundary disputes in respect of lands. The Deputy Commissioner is also the custodian of all *muzrai* institutions in the district under the provisions of the Mysore Religious and Charitable Institu-

tions Act. He is concerned also with the working of the Small Savings Scheme at the district-level. Recently, he has been invested with powers to inspect all Government offices (except police offices) in the district.

**Magisterial  
functions**

He is the District Magistrate and in that capacity he is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. He is the head of all executive magistrates in the district and has extensive powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code, the Mysore Police Act, the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, etc., for the maintenance of law and order.

He has control over the police force in so far as the law and order question is concerned and supervisory powers over the administration of jails and lock-ups in the district. After the separation of judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate does not deal with the actual dispensation of justice or with the trial processes. His responsibility is to enforce law and order through the police and by regulatory and penal action. He is empowered to make preventive detention or get persons bound over when necessary.

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

**Deputy  
Development  
Commissioner**

The Deputy Commissioner is designated also as the Deputy Development Commissioner and he has to co-ordinate the efforts of the several departments in the district and see that the development programmes are implemented according to schedules. He is placed in overall charge of all the development blocks of the district. He has to possess a clear picture of the working of the several departments at the district-level in order to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental programmes. 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 various developmental programmes are reviewed. He is also the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council, which guides and co-ordinates 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. He has also the overall responsibility for the successful implementation of the several

schemes taken up under the Five-Year Plans and also those of social welfare. Thus he has to work for all-round development of the district through co-ordination of efforts. This is an important part of the Deputy Commissioner's functions. He is also responsible for the procurement of foodgrains in the district and for the proper distribution of food and civil supplies items. He is vested with vast powers under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules made thereunder for the purposes. The Deputy Commissioner is also the head of certain other bodies in capacities such as (1) Chairman, Town Planning Authority, Shimoga and Bhadravati, (2) Chairman, District Library Authority, (3) President, Malnad Arecanut Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd., Shimoga, (4) President, Tunga Vidyapeetha, Gajanur, (5) Chairman, Regional Transport Authority, Shimoga, (6) Chairman, Stadium Committee, Shimoga, (7) President, Notified Area, New Town, Bhadravati, etc.

Shimoga is one among eleven districts in the State which has a Special Deputy Commissioner. This officer is, *inter alia*, the District Registrar and, in that capacity, he controls the administration of the Registration Department in the district. He is also the Additional District Magistrate. The Government have bifurcated the functions and powers between the Deputy Commissioner and the Special Deputy Commissioner. Matters pertaining to land acquisition, disposal of Government lands, revenue appeals, conversion of agricultural lands into non-agricultural ones, recovery of land revenue and other Government dues including betterment levy and water-rate, stamps and registration, endowments, general census, census of agricultural holdings, livestock census, forest matters, administration reports, etc., come under the purview of the Special Deputy Commissioner. The subordinate staff of the Deputy Commissioner are also the subordinate staff of the Special Deputy Commissioner in respect of the above-mentioned subjects. In addition, there is an officer of the cadre of class II designated as Headquarters Assistant to the District Registrar with the necessary staff to assist him in matters relating to the Registration Department. The Special Deputy Commissioner is subordinate to the Divisional Commissioner. He is subordinate also to the Deputy Commissioner of the District except in such matters as the State Government specifies by general or special orders in this behalf.

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted by a Headquarters Assistant who is a class I officer (junior scale) of the K.A.S. cadre with the rank of an Assistant Commissioner. (Formerly, he was designated as Personal Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner). He functions also as the Additional District Magistrate. There are three other class I posts of the K.A.S. cadre, *viz.*, those of the District Development Assistant, Food and Civil

Special Deputy  
Commissioner

Deputy  
Commissioner's  
establishment

Supplies Assistant and Excise Superintendent. The District Development Assistant assists the Deputy Commissioner in his duties relating to community development, *panchayats*, taluk development boards, municipal administration, etc., while the Food and Civil Supplies Assistant helps in matters pertaining to Food and Civil Supplies (he is in his turn assisted by a Special Tahsildar for Food), and the Excise Superintendent is in charge of the administration of excise matters. Besides, there is an officer of the cadre of class II designated as District Social Welfare Officer to assist in social welfare matters and also another class II officer designated as District Planning and Youth Welfare Officer to look after planning and youth welfare matters. Previously, the Treasury section was also attached to the District Office and the officer in-charge of it was then designated as Treasury Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner. In 1961, the treasury section was detached from the Revenue Department and a new independent Department of Treasuries was formed in 1964 and consequently, the District Treasury Officer is now directly under the control and supervision of the Director of Treasuries in the State. There is an Office Assistant of class II K.A.S. cadre for supervising the work of the subordinate staff of the office. This post was previously a non-gazetted one with the nomenclature as "District Sheristedar". During 1960, it was upgraded with the designation as Office Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, in the cadre of Tahsildars. The establishment of the Deputy Commissioner has the following subordinate staff:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of posts</i>
1	2	3	4
1	Revenue Section	Revenue Head Munshi	1
		Revenue Head Accountant	1
		First Division Clerks	11
		Second Division Clerks	12
		Stenographers/Typists	5
		Peons, Jamedars, etc.	5
2	Development Section	Development Head Accountant	1
		First Division Clerks	2
		Second Division Clerks	3
		Typists	2
		Peon	1
3	Food Section	Special Tahsildar for Food	1
		Audit Superintendents	2
		Paddy Purchase Assistant attached to Central Food godown	1
		First Division Clerks	7
		Second Division Clerks	3
		Assistant Food Inspectors	2
		Typists	2
		Jeep Driver	1
		Peons	6



1	2	3	4
4	Social Welfare Section ..	First Division Clerks ..	2
		Second Division Clerk ..	1
		Typist ..	1
		Peons ..	2
5	Judicial Section ..	Judicial Head Munshi ..	1
		Second Division Clerk ..	1

The total number of Government employees working in all offices controlled by the Deputy Commissioner in the district was 1,042 (permanent 744+temporary 298) as on 31st December 1972, according to the Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

An Assistant Commissioner, who is responsible to the Deputy Commissioner, is in charge of each of the two revenue subdivisions. These Assistant Commissioners form the connecting link between the Deputy Commissioner and the Tahsildars of the taluks. This is generally the level at which a newly appointed officer of the Indian Administrative Service starts his official career; otherwise, a class I (junior scale) officer of the Karnataka Administrative Service is appointed to this post.

Assistant  
Commissioner

The Assistant Commissioner is the immediate superior authority over the Tahsildars, town municipal councils and Chief Executive Officers of the taluk development boards over which the jurisdiction of the sub-division extends. He has both revenue and magisterial powers. He is also the Land Acquisition Officer and Betterment Levy Officer. The main revenue functions of the Assistant Commissioner are (1) inspection and supervision of the work of the Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Village Officers; (2) safeguarding of the interests of the Government in land by conducting regular inspections in respect of encroachments, breaches of the conditions of tenure, etc.; (3) conducting of annual *jamabandi* (an audit of the accounts of previous years pertaining to land revenue along with the checking of the current year's accounts) of taluks except in cases where the Deputy Commissioner himself may conduct the *jamabandi*; (4) hearing of appeals against the decisions of the Tahsildars and settling of cases regarding land acquisition matters; (5) inspection of crops and boundary marks and checking of *anewari* 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.; (7) assignment of lands and sanction of *taccavi* loans upto a limited extent; and (8) acquisition of properties for public purposes when required to do so.

He has to supervise the developmental works and activities of the taluk development boards. He has been invested with

wide powers under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959. The power in regard to granting of old-age pensions has been also delegated to him now. He has to supervise all the *muzrai* institutions and social welfare institutions being run by the Social Welfare Department in his sub-division. As the Returning Officer, he has to conduct elections to the Legislative Assembly constituencies, of the presidents of the taluk development boards and of directors of the Malnad Arecanut Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd.

At the sub-divisional level, the Assistant Commissioner is the executive magistrate and he has been designated as the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, and in that capacity, he has the responsibility to ensure public peace, and law and order and security and has powers to take security for good behaviour, to pass orders for prevention of apprehended danger to public peace, to hold inquests and to resort to Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code when necessary for ensuring law and order. He is expected to tour intensively in his sub-division. For this purpose, he has been provided with a vehicle recently. He has to investigate all the cases sent to him by the Deputy Commissioner, and the Divisional Commissioner and also on his own initiative. He is the presiding authority of various committees at the taluk-level and also a member of several committees at the district-level. The Assistant Commissioner is assisted by one Office Manager, four First Division Clerks, four Second Division Clerks, two Typists and four class IV officials, on an average.

#### Tahsildars

There are nine taluks in Shimoga district under the two revenue sub-divisions referred to above and a Tahsildar (who is a class II officer) is in charge of each of these taluks. He is responsible to the Assistant Commissioner of his sub-division and through him to the Deputy Commissioner. The Tahsildar is the central figure in the general administration of the taluk. He has to conduct enquiries and submit reports to the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner in various revenue matters and he has also to execute the orders passed by them.

He is responsible for the collection of land revenue and other Government dues such as the recovery of *taccavi* loans, irrigation charges, *pot-hissa* measurement fees and the like. He is in charge of the work of granting lands and building sites. He deals with matters relating to acquisition and alienation of lands also. He has to discharge the duties and responsibilities vested in him under the Land Revenue Act, Land Reforms Act and such other Acts and Rules relating to the administration of the taluk as a revenue unit. He has to keep ready all particulars in respect of the demand, collection and balance of land revenue which are required for conducting the *jamabandi* of the taluk. He has also to collect the dues of other departments like income-tax, sales-tax, etc.,

from defaulters at the request of the departments concerned. Generally, applications for the grant of *taccavi* loans are received and enquired into by him.

The Tahsildar is also entrusted with the responsibility of procurement and distribution of foodgrains through the fair price shops. He is expected to effect collection of paddy and other food grains from the cultivators under the levy orders in force. He has to supervise the Government stocks of paddy held by the different mill-owners, Taluk Agricultural Produce Co-operative Marketing Societies and other agents. He has to pay surprise visits to the fair price shops and check their stocks and see that they function properly. He has several powers under the orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act and Rules made thereunder. He is required to pay a special attention to activities intended for improvement of the conditions of the weaker sections of the society. He has to organise drives for the National Savings Scheme and the like as per the directions of his superior officers. The Tahsildars are the executive magistrates at the taluk-level and in that capacity, they exercise certain magisterial powers and are responsible for maintaining public peace, law and order and security in the taluk. They have also a responsibility in preparing and maintaining the electoral rolls for Legislative Assembly, as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and they head the election machinery at the taluk-level as Assistant Returning Officers. They are also entrusted with the work relating to conducting of human and livestock censuses periodically.

On an average, the Tahsildar of a taluk is assisted in his duties in the taluk office by one Sheristedar (a class III official), about five First Division Clerks and about 12 Second Division Clerks (all of whom are class III officials) and about 12 class IV officials. In four out of the nine taluks, there are Deputy Tahsildars (who are class III officials) for collection of water-rate and supervision of the work of water-rate establishment in particular. While there are three Deputy Tahsildars for Bhadravati taluk, there are two for Shimoga taluk and one each for Honnali and Channagiri taluks. The Deputy Tahsildar has to tour intensively in his taluk and has to see that the Government dues are collected in time, besides attending to any other work which the Tahsildar may entrust to him from time to time.

Each revenue taluk of Shimoga district has been considered as a block and an officer designated as the Block Development Officer has been put incharge of the Community Development Block. Besides looking after the developmental activities of the taluk, he has to discharge the duties as the Chief Executive Officer of the Taluk Development Board. He has to plan the programmes for the block and also has to co-ordinate the various activities of the development departments at the taluk-level. There are

**Block  
Development  
Officers**

nine Extension Officers representing various development departments at the taluk-level. The Block Development Officer supervises the work of the Extension Officers, Gramasevaks and Gramasevikas. He acts as the Secretary to the Taluk Development Board and has to implement its resolutions. He has certain statutory powers under the Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959. He is responsible for successful implementation of development activities like digging of drinking-water wells, construction of school buildings, improvement of communications, execution of people's housing scheme, distribution of free house sites, implementation of agricultural programmes, encouragement of co-operative movement, etc., under the community development programme and also under the Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959.

**Revenue  
Inspectors**

Next below in the hierarchy of revenue officials, are the Revenue Inspectors at the *hobli*-level. As already stated earlier, the nine taluks of the district have been further sub-divided into 52 *hoblis* each of which is under the charge of a Revenue Inspector. In *hoblis* where there is heavier work, more than one Revenue Inspectors are appointed bifurcating the *hoblis*. In the district, there are in all, 53 such Inspectors, 25 of them being First Division Revenue Inspectors and 28 Second Division Revenue Inspectors. The Revenue Inspectors in charge of the *hoblis* attend to recovery of land revenue, water-rate, and other government dues, loans and advances, collection of betterment levy, procurement and distribution of foodgrains, etc.

In the revenue set-up of the district, the Revenue Inspector is also an important official. He is responsible to the Tahsildar of the taluk and forms a link between the Tahsildar and the village officers. He has to supervise the work of the village officers and inspect the boundary marks, all Government and public lands and encroachments thereon and irrigation sources under the control of the revenue department. He is also responsible for the collection of land revenue in the *hobli* with the assistance of the village accountants. He has to acquaint himself generally with the agricultural conditions in the *hobli*. His other functions include building-up of land grant, land acquisition and other revenue records and old-age pension records, maintenance of records of rights, enquiries into miscellaneous applications from members of the public and such other work as the Tahsildar may entrust to him from time to time.

**Village Officers**

The village-level administration work is carried on under the control and supervision of the Tahsildar and the Chief Executive Officer of the Taluk Development Board. Until a few years ago, the posts in the village establishment, *viz.*, (1) *Patel*, (2) *Shanubhogue*, (3) *Talavara* also called *Talari*, (4) *Thoti* and (5) *Neerganti* were held by hereditary succession. For each

village, there is a *Patel*. While the *Patels* were expected to possess ability to write registers of vital statistics, pass receipts to the raiyats and write reports on ordinary occurrences of law and order situation of the village to the higher officers, and were responsible for proper maintenance of peace in the village and assist the revenue authorities in the collection of Government dues, the *Shanubhagues* were required to possess ability to read and write Kannada well, draft reports regarding occurrences in the village and to have a simple knowledge of arithmetic, land revenue rules and village officers' manual and had to keep the village land-records and revenue accounts. They were responsible for the collection of Government dues in their respective villages. Remuneration to these two classes of village officers consisted of *Inam* lands subject to *jodi* (lighter assessment) or full assessment and cash allowances called *potgi* calculated on the basis of land-revenue demand.

The *Talavara* was the scout of the village. He had to assist in tracing the robbers and thieves and to watch the movements of suspicious strangers besides assisting the *Patel* in collection of land revenue and other Government dues. The *thoti* was the watchman of the village and its crops. He was required to act as a guide to Government officers and important travellers. The *Neerganti* regulated the supply of irrigation water to the wet lands of the village and he had to economise the supply of water in every possible way. In addition to the remuneration by rent-free or lightly assessed lands, these village servants were receiving a certain quantity of grains from the cultivators and certain cash payments from non-agriculturists, which was called as *mirase*.

In deference to a long-standing demand for enquiring into the grievances of the village officers on the one hand and for the abolition of all hereditary village offices and appointment of salaried officials to do the work, on the other, a legislation called the Karnataka Village Offices Abolition Act was enacted in 1961, by which all the hereditary village offices in the State were abolished with effect from 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of this Act in place of hereditary *Shanubhagues*, Village Accountants have been appointed as full-time Government officials on a salary basis under the Karnataka General Services (Revenue Subordinate Branch) Village Accountants (Recruitment) Rules, 1970. The *Patels* and other village officers are, however, at present, continued without hereditary rights.

Abolition of  
hereditary offices

The Village Accountants (locally called *Shanubhagues* work under the guidance of the Revenue Inspectors of *hoblis*. They are in charge of the work of one or more villages concurrent with the village *panchayat* jurisdiction. They are mainly responsible for the collection of Government dues. They have to maintain properly the village accounts in the prescribed registers and other

Village  
Accountants

records and, when called upon by any superior officer of the taluk or the district, have to prepare various records or reports connected with the affairs of the village. They are also required to work as secretaries of village *panchayats* whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 12,000 per annum along with their other normal work. There are only seven village *panchayats* in the district, which have independent secretaries of their own. In 1973-74, the total strength of the Village Accountants in the district was 438 including six leave reserve officials. The Village Accountants are required to work under the guidance of the Revenue Inspectors of *hoblis*. The duties and responsibilities of the village officers have been defined in the Karnataka Land Revenue Act and Rules made thereunder, Irrigation Act and other relevant laws in force.

Gramsevaks  
and  
Gramasevikas

*Gramasevak* and *Gramasevika* are the designations of village-level workers, the latter designation being that of woman worker of the cadre. Usually, a *Gramasevak's* circle *i.e.*, the area of his working consists of a group of a few villages with a total population of about five to seven thousands. It is the primary unit for administrative purposes of a Block. The *Gramasevaks* and the *Gramasevikas* form a liaison between the Government and the people and assist in enlisting the co-operation of the villagers in implementing various development works, particularly in respect of stepping up agricultural production. The duties of the *Gramasevikas* include assisting in matters relating (1) mother and child care, (2) home management, (3) food and nutrition, (4) health and sanitation, (5) clothing, (6) domestic crafts, (7) agriculture and animal husbandry, (8) *panchayats* and co-operation and (9) women's and children's activities. The cadre of *Gramasevaks* and *Gramasevikas* was introduced in Shimoga District for the first time in October 1952, when the Community Development Programme was inaugurated in Shiralkoppa of Shikaripur taluk.

As in March 1974, there were one hundred sanctioned posts of *Gramasevaks* and 24 sanctioned posts of *Gramasevikas* in the district. There were about ten *Gramasevaks* in each taluk except Channagiri taluk which being a double block had twenty posts of *Gramasevaks*, while Hosanagar and Shikaripur had two and one post of *Gramasevikas*, all other taluks had three such posts each. Fifty of the *Gramasevaks* are meant exclusively for Intensive Agricultural Area Programme. Formerly, they were under the administrative control of the Community Development Blocks, while the technical control was with the Department of Agriculture. At present, the Department of Agriculture exercises administrative control over them in all matters except disciplinary proceedings which are still held by the Revenue Department. The Block Development Officers are their immediate superiors under whose guidance they are required to work.

Administration of law and order is an important component

of the general administration of the district. The police force of the district, which is headed by a Superintendent of Police, is responsible for the performance of all police functions including prevention and detection of crimes and prosecution of offenders, while the District Magistrate (who is the Deputy Commissioner of the district) is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district, for which purpose, the Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the general control of the District Magistrate. When an executive Magistrate is present on a scene of rioting or widespread disorder, he assumes charge of the situation and the police force has to act under his orders. It is he who can give the order to fire or to use force. But the actual administration of the police force, including discipline and training and deployment of the force, is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Police.

For purposes of police administration, Shimoga district has been divided into two police sub-divisions with their headquarters at Sagar and Shimoga. Each of these sub-divisions is headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police who is responsible to the Superintendent of Police, Shimoga. These sub-divisions have been further sub-divided into six police circles, each of which is under the charge of a Circle Inspector of Police. There is an Armed Reserve Police force stationed at the district headquarters and at Bhadravati. Another element in the law and order component is the jails and judicial lock-ups. There is a District Jail (formerly called District Lock-up) at Shimoga and a Taluk Lock-up at Sagar. A Jail Superintendent is in charge of the District Jail, while the Taluk Lock-up is looked after by a Jailor-cum-Lock-up Officer. They work under the administrative control of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bangalore. (see also Chapter XII).

In so far as the judicial administration is concerned, the District and Sessions Judge, Shimoga, is the head of the judiciary in the district, dealing with both civil and criminal cases. He has a separate and independent sphere of work and his functions have been described in detail in Chapter XII. He exercises appellate and supervisory powers over the subordinate judicial officers in the district. As Sessions Judge, he deals with cases committed to sessions in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure. These are the more serious cases falling mainly under the Indian Penal Code.

On the civil side, apart from the District Court, there are, in the district, one Civil Court and a Munsiff's Court at Shimoga, two courts of Munsiffs at Bhadravati, two courts of Munsiffs at Sagar and a Munsiff's court at Shikaripur. On the criminal side, apart from the Sessions Court, there is a court of the Chief Judicial

Judiciary

Magistrate at Shimoga in addition to the courts of the First Class Judicial Magistrates at Sagar, Bhadravati and Shikaripur. These Civil and Criminal Courts at Bhadravati and Shikaripur and the Court of the Additional Munsiff at Sagar are combined courts, each working as the Court of Munsiff and First Class Judicial Magistrate. The Chief Judicial Magistrate at Shimoga has, subject to the general control of the Sessions Judge, supervisory jurisdiction over the First Class Judicial Magistrates in the district. (*see* also Chapter XII).

**Other District  
Officers**

As already stated, with the advent of Independence, great emphasis was laid on all-round development of the country and on raising of the standard of living of the people. The Constitution of India has devoted sixteen of its Articles to the Directive Principles of State Policy. They mainly relate to the welfare of the people as a whole in both economic and social spheres. In keeping with the objectives of promoting the all-round happiness of the people at a rapid pace, the existing Government departments in the State were strengthened and re-oriented and several new ones were created. As a result, a number of economic and social administration as well as development departments have been functioning both at the State-and district-levels, in addition to the revenue, law and order and judicial departments referred to above. The following are the various district level and divisional officers in the district, whose main functions, powers and responsibilities have been dealt with earlier in this chapter, chapter XIII and other relevant chapters :

1. Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga.
2. Special Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga.
3. District and Sessions Judge, Shimoga.
4. Superintendent of Police, Shimoga.
5. Superintendent, District Jail, Shimoga.
6. Commandant, Home-Guards, Shimoga.
7. Superintendent of Land Records, Shimoga.
8. Superintendent of Excise, Shimoga.
9. District Treasury Officer, Shimoga.
10. Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Shimoga Circle, Shimoga.
11. Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Shimoga Division, Shimoga.
12. Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Sagar Division, Sagar.
13. Additional Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Investigation Division, Shimoga Circle, Shimoga.
14. Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division, Shimoga Division, Shimoga.
15. Conservator of Forests, Shimoga.



16. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Shimoga.
17. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Sea-Island Cotton Development Scheme, Shimoga. (50 ?)
18. District Horticultural Officer, Shimoga.
19. Senior Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Shimoga.
20. Superintendent, Government Milk Supply Scheme, Machenahalli.
21. Senior Assistant Director of Fisheries, Shimoga.
22. Deputy Director of Fisheries, B.R. Project, Shimoga.
23. District Health and Family Planning Officer, Shimoga.
24. District Surgeon, Shimoga.
25. Assistant Director, Virus Diagnostic Laboratory, Shimoga.
26. Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Shimoga .
27. Deputy Director of Industries and Commerce, Shimoga.
28. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Shimoga.
29. Assistant Controller of Weights and Measures, Shimoga.
30. District Statistical Officer, Shimoga.
31. District Marketing Officer, Shimoga.
32. District Employment Officer, Shimoga.
33. District Information and Publicity Officer, Shimoga.
34. Assistant Director of Town Planning, Shimoga.
35. Commercial Tax Officer, I Circle, Shimoga.
36. Commercial Tax Officer, II Circle, Shimoga.
37. Commercial Tax Officer (Intelligence), Shimoga.
38. Agricultural Income-Tax Officer, Shimoga.
39. Labour Officer, Shimoga.
40. Senior Regional Transport Officer, Shimoga.

#### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

1. Station Engineer, All India Radio, Bhadravati.
2. Superintendent of Posts and Telegraphs, Shimoga.
3. Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Shimoga.
4. Superintendent, Central Excise, Shimoga.
5. Assistant Commissioner of Income-Tax (Inspection), Shimoga Range, Shimoga.