

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

AN account of the occupations of the working force engaged in the major sectors of the district's economy like agriculture, industry, banking, trade and commerce, transport and communications, has been given in the preceding chapters. But there is yet another section of the population, which earns its income from other pursuits, that remains still to be accounted for. Their contribution to the economic well-being of the district is considerable. They are rendering useful services to the community by following learned professions, and other occupations like goldsmithy, carpentry, tailoring, basket-making, hair-cutting, running of bakeries, bicycle shops, laundries, etc.

They render services in different ways or produce goods or aid production of articles of daily use or consumption. A large number of them live in urban centres where there are better chances of getting suitable employment. Many of them do not necessarily come within the purview of either the Factories Act or the Shops and Establishments Act. Several of these occupations do not give the persons following them a handsome income. In some cases, their number is not so small as to be left out of consideration. With the growth of urbanisation in recent decades, the miscellaneous occupations have also grown helping to stabilise the economic fabric of the area. Further, the mechanisation of agriculture that has been gaining importance, the new industries that are coming up in the private and public sectors and the improvements effected in the field of transport and communications have opened up new avenues of employment in the district. No detailed and systematic survey, either economic or sociological, has been made about these occupational groups and in the absence of such a survey, any attempt to describe these groups would inevitably be limited in scope.

Out of the total population of the district, which was 13,01,485 according to the census of 1971, 4,16,663 persons (*i.e.*, 32.01 per cent of the total population) were classified as workers and 8,84,822 persons (*i.e.*, 67.99 per cent of the total population) were classified as non-workers. Of the total population in 1971,

9,94,172 persons or 76.39 per cent lived in the rural areas and 3,07,313 persons or 23.61 per cent in the urban parts.

Public services

Those persons working in electricity generation and distribution systems, water supply, other public services under Government or local bodies, sanitary, educational, medical, health, veterinary and community services, etc., were included in a category called "Other Services" in the 1971 census. They accounted for 6.29 per cent of the total number of workers in the district, while the State average was 8.10 per cent. The taluk-wise distribution of persons, who were engaged in these "Other Services" as in 1971, was as follows :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of taluk</i>	<i>Number of persons in 1971</i>	<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of taluk</i>	<i>Number of persons in 1971</i>
1	Bhadravati	4,028	6	Shikaripur ..	1,855
2	Channagiri ..	2,187	7	Shimoga	7,425
3	Honnali ..	1,937	8	Sorab ..	1,516
4	Hosanagar ..	1,162	9	Tirthahalli ..	2,126
5	Sagar ..	3,978			
				Total ..	26,214

In 1961, there were 5,901 persons engaged in public services, mostly as administrative, executive and managerial workers. This figure included workers in Government departments (both Central and State) and other persons like directors, managers, working proprietors, etc. In addition to these persons, there were also 6,935 clerks, stenographers, typists, book-keepers, cashiers and other related workers. In 1968, the number of persons employed in the State Government offices alone, in the district, was 8,838. Of these, 61 were Class I Officers, 200 Class II Officers, 7,043 Class III officials and 1,534 Class IV employees. A large number of these employees work in the district headquarters town. In 1968, as many as 46 Class I Officers, 57 Class II Officers, 2,380 Class III officials and 865 Class IV employees were working in Shimoga city (district-wise figures for the later years are not readily available). With the increase in the volume and variety of developmental activities, the number of employees of this category has been also increasing. The persons engaged in these public services derive various benefits like security of services, various kinds of leave, provident fund, gratuity, advances, free medical facilities, pension, etc., and in some cases they get quarters for residential purpose. From time to time, their emoluments have been also increased so as to enable them, as far as possible, to meet the increased cost of living.

Learned professions

Persons in the category of learned professions have more or less a good educational background or training and belong to

various smaller groups which are quite distinct from one another. They are doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, authors, journalists, priests and those engaged in artistic pursuits like musicians, actors, dancers, painters, etc.

Medical profession.—The medical profession, in general, is attracting increasingly more number of persons as there is need for them and since it is found to be a lucrative one. There are doctors, qualified dentists, nurses, health visitors, midwives, pharmacists, etc., working in various hospitals, dispensaries, nursing homes and clinics. Steady improvement in health services is one of the factors helping the developing economy. Doctors, who set up independent practice, earn according to their own ability and the paying capacity of patients. The income of a private medical practitioner, in general, may range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,500 a month in the district. According to the 1961 census, there were 366 physicians, surgeons and dentists (including ayurvedic and other physicians), 147 nurses, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians, comprising 275 midwives and health visitors, 140 nursing attendants, 132 pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians, and other related workers. The doctors in Government employment are also now permitted to do private practice.

Engineering profession.—Irrigation works like the Bhadra Reservoir Project, the Tunga Anicut Project, the Ambligola Reservoir, the power generation works like the Mahatma Gandhi Hydro-Electric Works, the Sharavati Valley Hydro-Electric Project, as also large industrial establishments like the Mysore Iron and Steel Ltd., cement and paper and sugar factories have employed a number of engineers, overseers, draughtsmen and other technicians. There were 1,059 engineers, architects and surveyors in the district, as in 1961. Of these, 144 were electrical engineers, 658 civil engineers (including overseers), 86 mechanical engineers, and other related workers. The demand for technically qualified persons is on the increase because of the many developmental activities in the several sectors in the district.

Legal profession.—The legal profession has been drawing to its fold an increasing number of persons since the beginning of this century. The profession may not particularly be well paying in the beginning now, but the fact of its being an independent profession with plenty of opportunities to make a mark in public life, makes it attractive to ambitious young men. The 1961 census recorded the number of jurists as 146, of whom 111 were legal practitioners and advisers. They live in urban areas where courts are situated. They attend to civil and/or criminal cases. While a few of them take appeals to the High Court, most of the others direct their clients to lawyers at Bangalore whom they know well. Whether the judgement would be in favour of the client or not,

he is, of course, required to pay the fees. The amount of fees varies according to the stakes involved, seriousness of the case and popularity of the lawyer who handles it. The lawyer's income may range in general from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500. The lawyers' clerks get a monthly salary ranging from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 and in addition some fringe benefit from the clients.

Teaching profession.—Among the learned professions, the teaching profession is able to absorb a far large number of persons. Especially in a developing country, this profession has a great importance. Education has been recognised as a "built-in condition for economic progress" and large funds are being spent on it. A programme for rapid expansion, especially in primary education, has been adopted by the Government. According to the 1961 census, there were 4,211 persons working in schools and similar other institutions of a non-technical type. Out of the total number of 4,211, as many as 3,419 teachers were working in middle and primary schools (394 or about 11.52 per cent were women), 212 were secondary school teachers and 580 were working as teachers in other institutions. The position of the teachers working in private schools has now improved since the Department of Public Instruction is paying cent per cent teaching grants and consequent on the implementation of the recommendations of the earlier Pay Commission.

Arts and letters.—According to the 1961 census, there were 541 artists, writers and related workers. Of these, 155 were actors and 256 were musicians, and the rest 130 were other related workers. They provide recreation and instruction to the community. While some of these persons entirely depend upon the profession for their living, others have taken these as subsidiary occupations. There are a few institutions in the district which impart training in arts. It was recorded in the 1961 census that there were 548 ordained and 304 non-ordained religious workers in the district.

Sales workers

According to the 1961 census, there were 14,590 sales workers in the district. Of these, as many as 8,398 persons were working proprietors in wholesale and retail trade, 6,005 salesmen, shop assistants and related workers, 128 commercial travellers and manufacturers' agents, and the rest 59 were found engaged in similar type of works. A majority of working proprietors were self-employed in their shops managing their own shops and other business establishments, as also various types of production units. These persons were largely in urban areas where there are chances of having a better business. Some of the working proprietors are also financing agents. A good number of paid employees work under these proprietors on monthly wages and assist them in their business.

The hotel and restaurant business in the district is a lucrative one. Only a few hotels that conform to the modern standards are found at Shimoga and Bhadravati. In the rural areas, most of the restaurants are without modern facilities and are devoid of sanitary and hygienic standards. The growth of this industry is yet haphazard. The new living conditions have given rise to restaurants and hotels. They are increasing in number with the growth of transport facilities, urbanisation and industrialisation. The number of young persons from the rural areas who move to the towns to earn their livelihood is gradually increasing. For them, "eating out" becomes a necessity for a considerable time. Other employees and workers in towns and bigger villages also take coffee, tea and snacks in restaurants. There is considerable floating population in the two cities and to some extent in other towns of the district and they cannot but have recourse to hotels and restaurants. There are a number of units known popularly as 'Udupi hotels' which are run by persons hailing from the neighbouring district of South Kanara.

**Hotels and
restaurants**

The establishments of the category are of three types, *viz* ; tea or coffee shops, where only tea and coffee are served, restaurants where various snacks in addition to tea, coffee, etc., are served and the third type where, in addition, meals are also served. Some of them serve only meals and are called eating houses. In the rural areas, the units are very small, their appearances are shabby, the equipment used obsolete and the utensils and crockery crude. Benches are provided for sitting. The walls of some of the hotels and restaurants have pictures of deities, national leaders and popular cine-heroes and heroines. Some shops have radio receiving sets. They are generally located at market-places, bus-stands and such other places which are frequented by the people.

The restaurants in towns have a better appearance, superior furniture and mirrors and fans and are equipped with better utensils and crockery and present an agreeable sight. The cost of these may range from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000. They have show-cases containing different types of sweets and savouries, placed in front. There are special rooms and also separate family rooms in some of the hotels and restaurants. The raw materials required for these establishments are wheat flour, *maida*, rice, edible oil, *vanaspati* ghee, spices, tea-dust, coffee powder, sugar, milk, vegetables, etc. The quantity of their consumption depends on the extent to which the establishment is patronised by customers. A small shop in a village or town may spend from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per year on these items, whereas expenses of medium shops on these items may range between Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 8,000. The bigger ones, which are a few, spend much more on these items.

The capital invested in these establishments is of two types, viz., (a) fixed capital and (b) recurring capital. Expenditure on tools and equipment belongs to the first category. Recurring expenditure covers rent, wages of workers, expenses on various raw materials, etc. The capital invested on different sizes of these units may range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 10,000. Both men and women are employed in this business which provides employment throughout the year. Except the cooks, the others are unskilled workers. The cooks in them are generally men. While boys serve and clean the tables, women wash utensils and clean rice, pulses and other grains.

A small coffee shop is generally managed by the owner himself. At times, the members of his family also help him. In the bigger shops, the number of persons employed varies with the size of the establishment as also with the number of customers patronising it. A cook is paid, on an average, from Rs. 50 to Rs. 175 and others between Rs. 35 and Rs. 75 per month with food. Some of them have to work from dawn to 10 p.m. There are managers in some of the establishments who assist the proprietors in carrying on the business. The average salary paid to managers of hotels varies from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 with food. According to the standard industrial classification in 1961 census, the number of persons engaged in hotels, boarding houses, eating houses, cafes, restaurants, and other similar organisations providing boarding and lodging facilities stood at 4,578, of whom 4,271 were males and 307 females. Out of this total number, as many as 2,867 persons were employed in the urban centres.

The turnover of business of a restaurant depends on its location, category to which it belongs, the clientele, the quality of the dishes served and its general get-up. The net income of small and medium shops may range between Rs. 250 and Rs. 550 per month. The owners of bigger shops earn much more (*see* also Chapter V).

Bakeries

Formerly, a few among the local people were using bread, bun, biscuits and the like. Now these items of ready-made food have become very popular as they provide cheap and substantial food. In recent times, with the growth of urbanisation, a number of bakery units have sprung up in almost all parts of the district as the demand for processed food products like bread, biscuits, cakes, etc., is on the increase. In addition to selling them in their shops to individuals, they supply them also to hospitals, hotels, and shops in the towns and nearby villages. In most cases, they follow the old traditional method of manufacturing. This business provides employment throughout the year. Many of the bakeries are family establishments, run mainly with the help of the members of the family. In a few cases, the bakeries have one or two paid workers in addition to members of the family doing the business and they are paid a salary of Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per month. The

occupation has a good scope for development as the demand for bread and biscuits is increasing. Wheat flour, sugar, yeast, butter, flavouring essence and eggs constitute the main raw materials required. All these are locally available and are purchased mostly on wholesale basis. The requirement of raw materials depends on the total turnover. Generally, the monthly expenditure ranges between Rs. 300 and Rs. 500 depending on the size of the units.

The equipment consists of an oven with its accessories such as metal sheets, moulds, iron rods, vessels and big plates to prepare dough, and cupboards to keep the baked stuff, as also furniture and ordinary utensils. The total expenditure under this head may range between Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,500. In cases where the bakeries use a few modern machines, the initial capital investment may go up to Rs. 10,000 and more. Raw materials, rent, labour charges, if any, electricity and fuel are the main heads of expenditure which account for about Rs. 500 per month. After meeting all the requirements, the net annual income may range between Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,500 per year, and more in a few cases.

Sweetmeat-making has been an occupation of a new families, in the district. In most cases, it is managed by the proprietor himself with the assistance of his family. Only in a few big shops, outside labour is employed to do odd jobs. Sweetmeat shops are generally situated on the main roads of a town or near its market area. The occupation requires a small initial capital for purchase of utensils and tools which may come to about five hundred rupees. Some of them prepare and sell also savouries. Rent and the cost of raw materials required for preparing sweetmeats are the two items of recurring expenditure which may vary from Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month. The net income after meeting all expenditure may come to about Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month. In 1961, according to the standard industrial classification of persons at work, the district had, in all, 427 persons as sweetmeat-makers and related workers, of whom 362 persons lived in the urban centres.

Chewing of betel-leaves with arecanut, both of which are abundantly grown in the district, is a common habit prevailing in the area. Smoking or tobacco-chewing is another such habit. As a result, there are a number of petty shops selling betel-leaves, arecanut, lime, catechu, cloves and the like which are the ingredients of a *beeda* (*paan*), ready-made *beedas*, tobacco, *beedies*, cigarettes, match-boxes, etc. Sometimes, they sell also aerated water, squash, fruit juice, newspapers and such other things. They are fairly well distributed all over the district. They are located especially near hotels and restaurants and bus terminals, etc., and do considerably good business. These shop-keepers procure the articles from whole-salers. These shops are managed by the proprietors with the assistance of their families. The initial invest-

ment may be of about Rs. 500. Many of these shops are in improvised wooden sheds for which a small rent is paid. The transactions are very small and many. The turnover of such shops may range between Rs. 25 and Rs. 100 per day depending on location, size and reputation and the net profit may range from Rs. 5 to Rs. 15 per day. According to the standard industrial classification of persons at work, there were, in 1961, 575 persons engaged in the retail sale of tobacco, *beedies*, cigarettes, and other tobacco products.

Flour Mills

All towns and large villages are now having flour mills which have come as a boon to the housewives. Establishments of some of the flour mills have also machines for parching and dehussing of grains. The use of power for the flour mills has considerably cut down the operational costs. According to the Labour Officer, Shimoga, there were in 1974 about 97 flour mills. According to 1961 standard industrial classification of persons at work, there were 1,463 workers in rice mills, flour mills, etc., in the district, of whom 893 persons lived in the urban centres.

An electric motor or an oil engine and grinders constitute the minimum mechanical equipment. A small set of tools for repairs is also needed. The cost of these varies from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 8,000. Establishments undertaking husking, polishing, etc., have to invest more. The recurring expenditure of a flour mill is on labour, power consumption, oil or electricity, cost of repairs, etc., and this may range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month. Mostly the proprietors themselves manage the flour mills with the assistance of members of their families. In cases where a worker is employed, he may be paid from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 per month. The other costs are usually very small. After deducting the expenditure, a margin of Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 may be left to the proprietor.

Bicycle shops

The bicycle has become a necessity for a common man. A good number of persons both in rural and urban parts now use this handy vehicle. The bicycle is the cheapest and perhaps the most convenient mode of transport. As such, the demand for bicycles has been steadily increasing. With this, there has been greater need of bicycle shops which hire out bicycles for short durations and repair them also. In addition, they carry out repairs to cycle-rickshaws, petromaxes and stoves which are frequently brought to them by the people.

The cycle shop is generally found located near a motor stand or a market place or in a busy locality where the customers require it most. Sometimes, it can be seen in other localities also. Usually, the bicycle shop occupies one or two rooms. A big bicycle shop has, on an average, about 15 to 20 bicycles, each

costing about Rs. 250 to Rs. 600. These shops keep spare parts and accessories such as handles, hubs, rims, tubes, tyres, scissors, spanners, wrenches, nuts, bolts, screws, bells, seats, solution, grease, air-pump, etc. The value of all these articles (including bicycles) in the larger shops may be estimated at Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000. In the case of smaller ones, it may be from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000. The minimum working capital, besides the investment made, varies from Rs. 250 to Rs. 600.

The main items of expenditure of a bicycle shop are wages for labour, rent and cost of the material used in the repairs. The total expenditure on them depends upon the size of the shop and the extent of service rendered. The owner engages one or more boys and one or two skilled workers to help him in his workshop. He pays Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 per month to boys and Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per day to skilled workers. Bicycle-hire charge varies from 15 to 20 paise per hour and Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2 for the entire day. Some of the bicycle shops also keep petromaxes for hiring out for which they charge from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per petromax for a night's use. An average unit earns a net income of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per month. According to the industrial classification of persons at work in 1961, there were 417 persons engaged in repairing of bicycles and tricycles. In the *malnad* parts, the business is slack during the rainy season.

The occupation of tailoring has been a hereditary one for the *simpiges* or *chimpiges*. Some of the hereditary tailors are descendants of Marathi-speaking families which migrated into the district from Maharashtra long ago. In recent years, many others have also entered the field. In 1961, the district had, in all, 3,095 tailors, cutters and related workers. Of them, 1,788 persons were living in the urban parts. A large majority of the tailoring shops in the district are small establishments, where the owners, with the help of one or two relations, carry on the work. There are quite a large number of one-man establishments. Some of them, who cannot afford to have independent shops of their own, keep their machines in a cloth shop by paying a nominal rent. There are instances where the owners of cloth-shops give machines to tailors on hire-basis and have them kept in their own shops. In such cases, the hire-charge is about Rs. 50 per month. Many of the customers, who come to buy cloth in their shops, would give them cloths for stitching also. This works to the mutual advantage of the shop-keeper and the tailor. There are some shops at Bhadravati and Shimoga which have made a good name in stitching. While tailoring provides occupation throughout the year, there is brisker business during marriage and festival seasons. In the *malnad* parts, the business is slack during the rainy season.

The equipment of a better-class tailoring establishment consists mainly of sewing machines, scissors, cutting tables, cup-

boards, mirrors, ironing boxes, costing in all about Rs. 3,000. The monthly working capital for the purchase of threads, buttons, etc., and the maintenance of machines is estimated to be about Rs. 50 in respect of small establishments where only one man works, and about Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 in the case of large ones. Usually, the shops engaged in tailoring do not keep any cloth for sale, but stitch the cloth provided by the customers. However, a few larger establishments, which have prospered in this occupation, have also been supplementing their income by selling cloth or ready-made garments. Some of the tailors are specialised in cutting the cloth and in the work of stitching woollen or silk coats and trousers. Boys, who are taken as apprentices, are given pieces of work like packing, pressing, hemming and preparing of button-holes and such other work and later on, they are taught stitching. The charge for stitching a cotton suit varies from Rs. 18 to Rs. 25 while that for a woollen suit or any other suit of costly cloth varies from Rs. 75 to Rs. 120. Some tailors, who work under a master tailor, receive 40 to 50 paise out of every rupee they earn, while others work on the basis of daily wages which vary from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 or more, depending upon their skill and speed.

Laundries

Laundries in the form seen today did not exist in the past. But the occupation of washing of clothes is an old traditional one. Formerly, only the 'agasas' or 'madivalas' were engaged in this occupation. Now others have also taken to it. With the growth of urbanisation and change in the modes of dress, the demand for laundry services has considerably increased. In the villages, however, as before, the washermen collect soiled clothes from their customers' houses and follow the age-old method in cleaning them.

Laundries (as shops) are to be found in towns and big villages. Most of them are family concerns, where the owners carry on their business assisted by the members of their families and only bigger establishments employ paid workers. Mechanised dry-cleaning of clothes is done only in a few shops of the bigger towns. The business is usually slack during the rainy season. The equipment in the case of medium-sized laundries consists of a couple of ironing boxes, one or two show-cases for keeping cleaned clothes, a large table for ironing, one or two asses or a pushcart for transporting purpose. The total cost of this equipment may vary from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 depending upon the size of the establishment. The requirements of the washerman's occupation are very small, viz., soap, washing soda, bleaching powder, indigo, etc; charcoal and fuel also are needed for boiling the clothes to free them from dirt and for heating the ironing boxes.

In towns like Shimoga, Bhadravati and Sagar, the rent for a laundry-shop may range from Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 per month. The

recurring expenses may vary from Rs. 50 for a small unit, Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 for a medium one and Rs. 200 to Rs. 350 for a large one. There is a possibility of a dry-cleaning unit paying interest on the amount of loans borrowed for purchasing the machine. A washerman is paid at the rate of about Rs. 7 per hundred clothes. A man doing ironing is paid more, especially when he handles silk and such other fine garments. Most of the other workers are paid a monthly wage varying from Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 as the case may be. The rate charged per clothe is about 20 to 25 paise for ordinary wash and about 25 to 50 paise for urgent wash. For heavy cloths like blanket, the charges are more. The income of a medium-sized establishment may range from about Rs. 250 to Rs. 500 depending upon the size of the business. According to the 1961 census, there were 873 launderers, dry cleaners and pressers in the district. Of them, 613 were men. About 526 launderers lived in the urban centres.

Hair-cutting saloons have sprung up largely in the urban areas in recent decades and they can be said to be an outcome of modern town life. But the barber's occupation as such is an age-old traditional one. The practice of the village barber has been to move from house to house and village to village with his bag containing the necessary instruments. In the past, he was receiving his remuneration in kind. He used to go to the thrashing ground of the farmers and collect grains. The work of barbers becomes necessary also at certain Hindu religious ceremonies like *chudakarma* and funerals. One or two worn-out chairs, a bench for waiting customers and a large mirror are the usual items of furniture of a village hair-cutting saloon. But conditions in towns like Shimoga, Bhadravati and Sagar are different. Many medium shops in them have a few good chairs, tables and mirrors. The bigger shops have revolving chairs, dressing tables, big mirrors, radio sets and fans. They keep magazines and newspapers for waiting customers.

A few pairs of scissors, hair-clippers, razors, combs, brushes, etc., are some of the articles required for the pursuit of the occupation. The total cost of these items comes to about Rs. 300, Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,500 in case of small, medium and big establishments respectively. The average daily expenditure on toilet and antiseptic materials would be between Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 6.00. The proprietors of saloons in towns employ one or more barbers, as per necessity to assist them. On a rough estimate, the monthly earning of an independent mobile barber or employee-barber may be between Rs. 75 and Rs. 150. Bigger saloons entertain one or two apprentices also who are generally paid negligible wages in the beginning of their apprentice period. The monthly net income of a small-sized establishment, where a single man works, may be estimated to be between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150, while that of a medium-sized establishment may range from about Rs. 150 to

Hair-cutting
saloons

Rs. 250. It would be about Rs. 400 and more in the case of a few bigger ones. A few of the barbers have been supplementing their income by taking to the practice of instrumental music. According to the 1961 census, there were 1,150 persons engaged in this profession, out of whom 580 were living in the urban parts; 1,149 were males and one was a woman.

Domestic services

Under this group, domestic servants, cooks, maids and the like are included. The total number of persons engaged as house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers, as in 1961, was 3,449, of whom 2,530 were men and 919 women. Of this, 1,509 were cooks, cook-bearers (domestic and institutional), and 1,379 were maids and other domestic servants and the remaining 561 persons were engaged in similar pursuits. Only persons belonging to the higher income groups and middle-income groups are able to employ domestic servants. Many of these workers are provided with food and clothing and sometimes shelter also. The level of wages paid to them ranges between Rs. 25 and Rs. 60 per month with food and clothing. The rates of wages would be higher in respect of those who are not given food and clothing.

Goldsmithy

Goldsmiths are generally hereditary artisans who make and mend ornaments of gold and silver, set gems and work in precious stones. Sometimes, they make silver vessels also. The term goldsmith in practice includes a silversmith and a sharaf also. The sharafs get ornaments made usually on piece-rate basis and sell them and also sometimes accept ornaments and jewellery on pledge. The raw materials like gold and silver are in many cases supplied either by the customers or by the jewellers themselves. Necklaces, ear-rings, rings, nose-screws are some of the common ornaments prepared by goldsmiths. Skilled work is done by persons having good training and previous experience, while other work is entrusted to less experienced persons and apprentices. While smaller establishments are housed in the respective houses of goldsmiths, the larger ones have shops located in the bazaar streets. Anvils, hammers, pinches, scissors and the like constitute the tools which may cost about two hundred rupees. A cupboard serving as a show-case and an iron safe for keeping costly metals and ornaments are the other articles of equipment which may cost about a thousand rupees. The recurring expenditure on mercury, lac, *tejap*, *navasagara*, etc., used for the work may come to about Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 per month.

The shops, being generally small, are managed by the owners themselves. During marriage and other seasons, there is a great rush and during such periods, the owner engages some skilled workmen either on daily wages or on piece-rate basis. A skilled worker in this line earns from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 a day. On an average, a goldsmith with a shop of his own may earn Rs. 300 to Rs. 600 per month. The Gold Control Rules promulgated under

the Defence of India Act, which came into force from 10th January 1963, had affected this occupation adversely. In order to mitigate the hardships of the goldsmiths, the Government helped them by free grant of lands for agricultural purposes, liberal loans for running cottage industries, etc., payment of stipends for education and training of their children and other facilities. The recent relaxations of the gold control measures have given them much relief. In 1961, there were 1,524 jewellers, goldsmiths and silver-smiths, of whom 33 were women.

Carpentry has been a very old occupation in the district which is endowed with a good deal of forest wealth. It has been the hereditary vocation of a section of the *Panchalas* which is a collective name for several groups of artisans. Now persons belonging to other communities have also taken to this occupation. There are also some families of Konkani-speaking carpenters at Sagar and at a few other places. A number of carpenters in the villages manufacture agricultural implements and also attend to their repair work. They also make doors, windows, etc., required for house construction, and bullock carts. They have a tradition of good workmanship in the district. In the urban parts, the carpenters are needed for manufacturing also furniture. They work either in their houses or in sheds attached to their houses in the villages, while a few of them own shops in towns. They are known as "*acharis*" in some parts. Most of the carpenters are independent workers. Sometimes, they work under a master craftsman or a contractor who pays their daily wages.

The ordinary equipment of a carpenter, which consists of chisel, hammer, saw, etc., would cost about Rs. 100 to Rs. 200. But the tools needed for a good carpentry workshop may cost about Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. In the towns, most of these shops are located in rented rooms, the rent ranging from about Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 per month. The owner of a carpentry shop in the urban parts not only takes the help of the members of his family, but also employs labour on daily or monthly wages. A well-skilled carpenter earns from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 per day, whereas a less skilled worker would get about Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per day. Boys are taken as helpers who attend to minor pieces of work on a daily wage of Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 only. According to the 1961 census, there were 2,542 persons engaged in manufacture of wooden products. Of these, 1,494 were in the urban centres.

Sandalwood and ivory-carving has been the hereditary occupation of a section of artisans known as the *Gudigars* who live mainly in Sorab and Sagar taluks of this district (and in parts of North Kanara). They have a high reputation for delicate and elaborate workmanship (see chapters V, VI, and XV).

Blacksmithy, like carpentry, is also a very old occupation found in all parts of the district. They manufacture and repair

agricultural implements like sickle, weeding hook, plough-share, etc., usually on demand. During the times of the old dynasties, the blacksmiths of the district enjoyed a good reputation for their skill in manufacturing lethal weapons for the armed forces. The work of a blacksmith involves hard manual labour besides skill. He needs assistance of able-bodied persons, one as a hammer-man and another for working at the bellows. Mostly, the members of his own family work with him. During the busy agricultural season, they have brisk work and as such, they may have to take the help of one or more workers on daily wages which may be from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. In a few cases, during the lean months, the blacksmiths prepare implements and keep them for sale.

Their equipment consists of a big anvil, hammers of different sizes, bellows, furnace, etc., the cost of which may be from about Rs. 350 to Rs. 500. Charcoal and paddy husk are used for keeping the fire burning in the furnace. The expenditure on this may come to about Rs. 20 to 30 per month. The iron rods for making the implements are usually supplied by the customers. The blacksmiths usually work in sheds attached to their houses. In the villages, the old practice was to pay blacksmiths in kind but now they are generally paid in cash. On an average, a well-skilled blacksmith earns about Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 a day. In 1961, there were 1,298 blacksmiths, hammersmiths and forgemen. Among these, 791 workers lived in rural parts where they got much work from the cultivators.

Tinsmithy

Tinsmithy is not the main occupation of those who are engaged in it, since they combine jobs like repairing of stoves, umbrellas, locks and trunks, with the work of tinning. A few of them, while moving about from village to village, also purchase empty bottles and such other articles from households and later sell them to dealers of those articles in the market. Individual tinsmiths sit on the foot-path of a street and do tinning of vessels of their customers. The equipment of a tinsmith is simple, consisting of hammers, scissors, anvil and bellows, costing about Rs. 30 to Rs. 60. The cost of raw materials like tin, charcoal and sulphuric acid would be about Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 a month. They undertake also orders for making kerosene lamps out of tin and supply them to the shops. The net income of a tinsmith may range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 a month.

Basket and mat-making

Basket and mat-making from bamboo, date-palm leaves, etc., has been another rural occupation in existence in the district from very early times. The traditional workers of this occupation are known as *medars*. Baskets are an agricultural and domestic necessity and the occupation of basketry of some kind or the other exists in all parts of the district. Baskets are made of bamboos, rattan and wild creepers and sometimes a few items of furniture are also made from cane.

The needed raw materials are found in plenty in the *malnad* taluks of the district. For some persons, basket-making is the main occupation, while for others, it is a subsidiary one along with agricultural labour and the like. Women predominate in this occupation. The finished products are taken to the nearby *shandies*, fairs and market places for sale. According to the 1961 census, there were 2,649 persons engaged in this profession; of these, as many as 1,523 were women, and 1,126 men; only 615 persons lived in the urban parts. The average daily earning of a person engaged in this work varies from about Rs. 3 to Rs. 6.

Leather-working has been a traditional occupation of a section of the Scheduled Castes. The total number of leather cutters, lasters and sewers in the district in 1961 was 1,107, of whom 809 were shoe-makers and shoe-repairers. Many of them are independent workers. This occupation in the district has been adversely affected in recent decades owing to mechanised manufacture of footwears in large factories in other parts of the country. **Leather-workers**

Some of the leather-workers sit at the end of the streets in a busy place and attend to minor repairs. Sometimes, members of their families assist them in their work. Several others work in shoe-shops on daily wage basis. In the urban areas, sometimes one or two or more persons work under a master craftsman whose shop is housed in a rented room, the rent varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 depending upon the location of the shop. The tools and appliances in use, consisting of punches, hammers, scissors, iron-spiques, wooden blocks and scrappers, would cost about Rs. 150 to Rs. 400. The working capital required for the purchase of raw materials could be valued at Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 a month in the case of medium-sized shops. A few of them borrow their working capital from co-operative societies. The net income of such a shop-keeper may be about Rs. 300 per month. Some of the workers employed are paid on the basis of piece-rates. Experienced craftsmen earn about Rs. 6 and more per day. A less-skilled worker earns about Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per day. Now, many of the shoe-shops get shoes and other allied finished products from big factories and sell them to the public on profit or commission basis.

Manufacture of earthenware is one of the oldest hereditary occupations. The availability of cheap metallic vessels, etc., has in recent times very adversely affected this occupation. The village potter works with his wheel and prepares different types of traditional earthenware and takes them to the *shandy* or fair or market place. The work is carried on with the help of members of the family in sheds attached to their houses. In some areas of the district, the potters manufacture country tiles also. Some of the poorer people still use the earthenware for cooking food, **Pottery**

storing water and grains. Others may use earthen pots for keeping drinking water during the summer months.

The raw material required for this work is fine clay. Availability of this in the vicinity of the village is of great importance as it reduces the cost of transport. A few of the potters maintain a cart for bringing clay and for transporting finished products. In such cases, there is an investment of about Rs. 1,500 for the cart and bullocks. Many of the potters supplement their income by agriculture or agricultural labour. On a rough estimation, the earning of a potter may be put between Rs. 3 and Rs. 6 per day. Out of the total number of 2,900 potters and related clay-formers enumerated in 1961 in the district, 1,255 persons lived in the rural parts. Of the total number, 981 were women.

Spinners and weavers

The modern highly mechanised textile industry has greatly affected the occupation of traditional spinners and weavers. There has not been much scope for this occupation in this largely *malnad* district. There are no cotton-spinning mills in the district and weavers and weaving establishments obtain their yarn supplies from the Madurai and Bombay mills. Hand-spinning of cotton is encouraged by the *Khadi* organisations. During certain seasons when the farmers and others have no work to do, they can have recourse to spinning as a subsidiary occupation for supplementing their income. However, hand-spinning is not now popular as the demand for such yarn is not much and the remuneration it yields is only a little.

Handloom-weaving also is not a flourishing occupation in this district now. In order to help the families which have been depending on this occupation, the Government are giving them considerable encouragement. From the pit-looms, weavers produce *dhotis* for men and sarees for women, while from the frame-looms are produced coloured or striped sarees for women, shirting cloths and bedsheets. The cloths made on handlooms are disposed of in *shandies* or by hawking and through shops. The district of Shimoga had only 837 spinners, weavers, knitters, dyers and related workers in 1961, of whom 581 were women. Out of the total number, only 275 persons lived in the urban centres. The work involves considerable skill and diligence on the part of the workers. For some, it is a whole-time occupation, while for others, it is subsidiary. The initial cost of the equipment of an ordinary handloom unit varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500. The recurring expenditure on yarn, bobbins, etc., may come to about Rs. 500 or even more. The whole work is carried on as a unit by the members of the family in their own houses. The average daily earning of a worker may range from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8.

Transport workers

There are many private bus transport operators plying their passenger buses. Others in the line include operators of trucks,

taxis, auto-rickshaws, etc. According to the 1961 census, there were 3,925 workers in transport and communication occupations, of whom as many as 3,065 persons lived in the urban parts where the demand for their work was great. Of the total number of these workers, 2,669 were drivers of road transport and the rest were related workers of transport.

In addition to these, 2,056 workers were engaged in repairing of vehicles. A good number of automobile repairing works are found in Bhadravati and Shimoga towns, while there are a few at Sagar and Tirthahalli. The workers employed in these units are mechanics, welders, fitters and their assistants. Ordinarily, a skilled worker is paid from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per day. Persons employed in Government road transport establishments get better salaries and have better service conditions than those who are in private services.

Laterite is abundantly found and quarried in the *malnad* taluks of the district. Square blocks of laterite form a common building material. Laterite is also used for road-making. Shimoga and its neighbouring places abound in rocky hills noted for their quality stones. The building-stone industry has a very good scope for expansion as there is abundant good material available in the district. The work of quarrying and cutting of stones has been the traditional occupation of the *Voddars*, while there are also other individual workers in the line. There is increasing demand for these workers. A classification of stone-cutters can be made under two heads, (1) those petty contractors who possess their own carts and bring stones from the places where they are available and sell them after cutting and dressing on demand according to the requirements of the customers and (2) those who are wage-earners engaged in cutting and dressing of stones. Those, who belong to the first category, have to invest a sum of about Rs. 1,500 for the cart and bullocks.

Stone-quarrying
and cutting

The equipment required for this occupation consists of hammers, chisels, levelling instrument, etc., all costing about fifty to a hundred rupees. The earning of a stone-cutter may be put at Rs. 3 to Rs. 8 per day. The net income of a petty contractor, who owns a cart, may be about Rs. 350 a month. In 1961, there were 1,176 stone-cutters, stone-carvers and stone-dressers. Of this total, 1,054 were men and 122 women, and only 583 persons lived in the urban centres.

In 1961, there were 29,872 brick-layers and plasterers (masons) in the district. The daily wages of skilled workmen of this category may vary from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10. These persons are engaged in the construction of buildings, bridges, tanks and *anicuts*. There is good demand for these workmen. Women and boys are engaged to help them by attending to unskilled and light work. They generally work under big and small contractors. There are

Construction
workers

many kilns in the *maidan* and semi-*maidan* areas of the district where bricks are baked and sold.

**Farm-workers
(Other than
agricultural)**

A fairly good number of persons in the district are engaged as farm-workers (other than agricultural) including rearers of animals, birds and insects. The 1961 census recorded 8,078 persons as farm-workers and related workers. Of this total, 6,511 were men and 1,567 women, and only 885 persons lived in the urban centres. Their wage-rate ranges from about Rs. 4 to Rs. 7 according to the nature of the work.

Occupational classification of persons at work (other than cultivation) in Shimoga District as in 1961 :—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Occupations</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1	Engineers, Architects and Surveyors ..	1,059	..	1,059
2	Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists ..	346	20	366
3	Nurses, Pharmacists and other Medical and Health Technicians.	464	283	747
4	Teachers	3,640	571	4,211
5	Jurists (including legal practitioners and legal advisors).	146	..	146
6	Artists, Writers and related workers ..	480	61	541
7	Administrative, Executive and Managerial Workers (both Government and private).	5,769	132	5,901
8	Clerical and related workers (including Stenographers, Typists, Book-keepers, Cashiers, etc.,)	6,759	176	6,935
9	Unskilled Office Workers (including Attendants, etc.,)	2,192	114	2,306
10	Working Proprietors (wholesale and retail trade).	7,455	943	8,398
11	Salesmen, Shop-Assistants and related workers	5,122	883	6,005
12	Farm-workers	6,511	1,567	8,078
13	Workers in Transport and Communication Occupations, etc.	3,867	58	3,925
14	Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and related workers.	256	581	837
15	Tailors, Cutters, and related workers	2,539	556	3,095
16	Leather-cutters, Lasters and Sewers	1,031	76	1,107
17	Blacksmiths, Hammersmiths and Forgemen	1,266	32	1,298
18	Jewellers, Goldsmiths, and Silversmiths	1,491	33	1,524
19	Tool-makers, Machinists, Plumbers, Welders, Platers and related workers.	6,226	60	6,286
20	Electricians and related workers ..	1429	1	1,430

1	2	3	4	5
21	Carpenters, Joiners and Pattern-makers	2,508	34	2,542
22	Brick-layers, Plasterers and other construction workers	21,623	8,249	29,872
23	Stone-cutters, stone-carvers and stone-dressers	1,054	122	1,176
24	Potters, Kilnmen, Glass and Clay-formers and related workers	1,919	981	2,900
25	Millers, Bakers, Brew masters and related food and beverage workers	1,822	350	2,172
26	Basket-weavers and related workers	1,126	1,523	2,649
27	Fire-fighters, Policemen, Guards and related workers	1,513	2	1,515
28	Cooks, Maids, House-Keepers and related workers	2,530	919	3,449
29	Barbers and related workers	1,149	1	1,150
30	Laundrymen, Washermen and Dhobies	613	260	873

Source : Census of India, 1961, Vol. XI, Mysore, Part II-B (ii) — General Economic Tables.

(The 1971 census figures in this respect are not yet available)