

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

THE history of Tumkur district as an administrative unit with the various changes effected in its set-up from time to time has been dealt with in Chapter I. In this chapter, the pattern of general administration in the district and the functions and powers of the several officers, from the Divisional Commissioner to the village officers, are set forth in brief.

The public administration of the State, in the beginning of this century, largely consisted in providing security of person and property and realising the revenue necessary for maintaining the several departments of Government. The Police, the Prisons and the Judiciary constituted the security departments, while the Land Revenue, Excise, Registration and Stamps formed the main sources of revenue for the administration. The Public Works Department formed an important unit of the Government. With the gradual introduction of measures for the economic and social betterment of the people, development departments like Agriculture, Education, Public Health, Industries and Commerce, Co-operation, etc., attained growing importance. After the attainment of Independence, incessant and concerted efforts are being made to promote all-round welfare of the people at a faster pace by launching a series of development plans.

Tumkur district is one of the four districts constituting the Bangalore Division, the other three districts being Bangalore, Kolar and Chitradurga. There are ten revenue taluks in the district. For administrative convenience, these taluks are grouped into three revenue sub-divisions, with headquarters at Tumkur, Tiptur and Madhugiri. The following are the revenue sub-divisions and the taluks attached to each sub-division in the district : (1) Tumkur Sub-Division with Tumkur, Gubbi and Kunigal taluks ; (2) Tiptur Sub-Division with Tiptur, Chiknayakanahalli and Turuvekere taluks ; and (3) Madhugiri Sub-Division with Madhugiri, Sira, Koratagere and Pavagada taluks. Each of these ten taluks is again sub-divided into hoblies, each of which, in turn, includes a group of villages. There are, in all, 49 hoblies and 2,725 villages in the district.

The Bangalore Division, which includes Tumkur district, is **Divisional** headed by a **Divisional Commissioner**. The posts of **Divisional Commissioners** in the new Mysore State were created by the Mysore Adaptation of Laws Order, 1956, under the provisions of the States' Re-organisation Act, 1956. The **Divisional Commissioner** is the head of the revenue administration in his jurisdiction. He plays a prominent role in the general administration of the districts coming under his jurisdiction, not only in respect of revenue matters but also in respect of the activities of other departments. He acts as a link between the State Government and the district authorities in respect of all developmental and public welfare activities. He undertakes tours in the districts and supervises the general activities of all development departments and gives them guidance, wherever necessary.

In view of the numerous activities under the Five-Year Plans and the increasing tempo of community development programme, great importance has been attached to the post of the **Divisional Commissioner**. Being the chief co-ordinator of the various development programmes in the district, he convenes co-ordination meetings of the district officers periodically with a view to reviewing the progress of development works and removing difficulties and bottlenecks, if any, in their expeditious execution. He has to be particularly vigilant against natural calamities like floods, famines and scarcity conditions and bestow his urgent attention towards organising relief measures for alleviating the hardships of the people. He has also to be watchful about the abnormal rise in prices and scarcity of foodgrains and other consumer goods and take suitable remedial measures.

The **Divisional Commissioner's** office is the channel through which all proposals from **Deputy Commissioners** regarding revenue matters, community development programme, municipal administration and the like have to go to the Government. The distribution and re-appropriation of budget grants to revenue offices, **Community Development Blocks**, **Taluk Development Boards** and, to some extent, to **Municipalities**, are his responsibility. He constitutes the appellate authority above the **Deputy Commissioner** in matters of revenue administration, both as regards revenue law and disciplinary proceedings against the revenue staff. In short, his functions may be described as appellate, inspecting, controlling, supervising, co-ordinating and advisory.

The main brunt of the district administration, however, is **Deputy** directly borne by the **Deputy Commissioner** of the district, who **Commissioner** works under the immediate supervision of the **Divisional Commissioner**. As the revenue head of the district, he plays the most important and pivotal role in all aspects of district administration, from land revenue work to that of planned development. With

the advent of the democratic set-up and increased tempo of developmental activities, his functions and responsibilities have further increased. In general, his functions may be defined as executive and his duties may be broadly classified as (1) revenue, (2) law and order, (3) development, (4) co-ordination and (5) public welfare in general.

**Revenue
collection**

In the general pattern of the district administration, the Deputy Commissioner is the custodian of Government property in land (including trees and water), wherever situated, and at the same time, the guardian of the interests of members of the public in land, in so far as the interests of the Government in land have been conceded to them. All land, wherever situated, whether put to agricultural or other uses, is liable to payment of land revenue, except in so far as it may be expressly exempted by a special contract. Such land revenue is of three kinds: (1) agricultural assessment, (2) non-agricultural assessment and (3) miscellaneous. The duties of the Deputy Commissioner are in respect of (1) fixation, (2) collection and (3) accounting of all such land revenue. He has to see that the revenue due is recovered punctually and with the minimum of coercion and that the collections are properly credited and accounted for. With a view to enabling him to carry out these and other duties, he has been given wide powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act.

The Deputy Commissioner is also responsible for the collection of fees and taxes under various Acts in respect of irrigation, ferries and bridges, stamps, etc. Any arrears, whether of Central or State Government, may be recovered as land revenue under the provisions of the tax laws. If a party does not pay the tax in time, the tax-collecting authority sends a certificate of tax arrears to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who has powers to recover the amount in the same way as he does in respect of land revenue.

As the head of the revenue administration of the district, the Deputy Commissioner exercises all the powers under the Mysore Land Revenue Act. He is also responsible for the maintenance of land records and in addition, he exercises various powers under several other Acts such as the Land Reforms Act, Land Acquisition Act, Mysore Irrigation Act, Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, Mysore Land Improvement and Taccavi Loans Act, Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act and the Town Municipalities Act. He discharges also a quasi-judicial function in revenue disputes. Under the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, a large portion of the revenue from land is assigned to the Village Panchayats and Taluk Development Boards and the allocation of these funds is the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner.

Under the Community Development Programme, the Deputy Commissioner is designated as the Deputy Development Commissioner. In that capacity, he is in over-all charge of all the development blocks in his jurisdiction. He has to possess a clear picture of the normal working of several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities. He holds periodical meetings of all the district-level officers (except the judicial officers) and the Block Development Officers at which the block programmes and achievements are reviewed. He is also the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Development Council, which has to guide and co-ordinate the developmental activities of several departments in the district and those of the Taluk Development Boards, which help in the execution of the community development programmes in the rural areas. He has also the overall responsibility for the successful implementation of the many plan schemes, including social welfare work. Thus, co-ordination forms an important part of the work of the Deputy Commissioner.

Co-ordination
work

As the Executive District Magistrate of the district, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. He is the head of all Executive Magistrates in the district and has specified powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Since 1956, when the judiciary was separated from the executive in the district, the Deputy Commissioner has ceased to deal with the actual dispensation of justice. His law and order responsibility involves two distinct functions; firstly, he has to enforce law and order through the police and secondly, he has to take regulatory and penal action.

The Deputy Commissioner also exercises supervision over local administration, census operations, elections, excise, food and civil supplies. He is enjoined to give effect to the notifications issued by the Government from time to time in respect of foodgrains and other essential commodities. He is also the custodian of all *muzrai* institutions in the district under the provisions of the Mysore Religious and Charitable Endowments Act. He is also the licensing authority under the Mysore Cinematograph Act and exercises powers vested in him also under the Indian Arms Act, Indian Explosives Act, Prevention of Untouchability Act, etc. Being the *ex-officio* District Registrar, he exercises control over the Sub-Registrars in the district and he is also *ex-officio* Collector of Stamps and Chairman of the Regional Transport Authority.

Other functions

The Deputy Commissioner is assisted in his duties in the headquarters by two officers of the rank of Assistant Commissioner, designated as Headquarters Assistant and District Development Assistant, respectively. There is also another officer designated as Headquarters Assistant to the District Registrar, who assists

the Deputy Commissioner in so far as his work relating to registration and stamps is concerned. Besides, there are also an Office Assistant, a Food Assistant, an Assistant District Excise Officer and a District Social Welfare Officer assisting the Deputy Commissioner in their respective fields. Since 1967, the Regional Transport Officer of the district is also required to work under the control of the Deputy Commissioner.

Assistant Commissioners

The three revenue sub-divisions, *viz.*, Tumkur, Tiptur and Madhugiri, are under the charge of an Assistant Commissioner each. These officers, who are directly responsible to the Deputy Commissioner, are in direct charge of the revenue administration in their respective sub-divisions. In all revenue matters, these officers are appellate authorities over the orders passed by the Tahsildars of taluks. They exercise such of the powers as are conferred on them by the Deputy Commissioner under the Land Revenue Act and various other Acts and regulations in force. They are also Sub-Divisional Magistrates. Their functions are more or less similar to those of the Deputy Commissioner, but at a lower level.

Tahsildars

In the revenue set-up of the district, the revenue officer at the taluk level is the Tahsildar. There are ten Tahsildars in charge of the ten taluks in the district. Their duties and powers as Taluk Revenue Officers are such as are conferred upon them under the Mysore Land Revenue Act and their powers and duties are defined in the Mysore Revenue Manual. The Tahsildars are the key-men in the taluks in so far as the revenue administration of the taluks is concerned. They are directly responsible to the Assistant Commissioners of their respective sub-divisions and are required to exercise supervision over the working of the Revenue Inspectors in the several hoblies coming under their respective jurisdictions. They are also Taluk Magistrates.

Revenue Inspectors

In the district's revenue set-up, the Revenue Inspector is an important official at the hobli-level. The Revenue Inspectors are in charge of hoblies and each one of them is directly responsible to the respective Tahsildar of the taluk in the administration of revenue matters in the hoblies. He supervises the working of the village officers and scrutinises the village maps. He is also responsible for land revenue collections in his hobli. He has to acquaint himself generally with the agricultural conditions in his jurisdiction.

Village Officers

Until a few years ago, the village establishment in the old Mysore area consisted of five hereditary offices, *viz.*, those of Patel (village headman), Shanbhogue (village accountant), Talari (village scout), Thoti (village watchman) and Nirganti (distributor of water from irrigation tanks). The remuneration of the

Patel and the Shanbhogue consisted of Inam lands subject to *jodi* or full assessment and cash allowances called *potgi* on the basis of the land revenue demand. The other village servants received a certain quantity of grain from each cultivator and certain cash payments from non-agriculturists in addition to the remuneration by rent-free or lightly assessed lands.

These hereditary offices were, however, abolished by the Mysore Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, which came into force throughout the State on 1st February 1963. Under the provisions of this Act, in the place of Shanbhogues, Village Accountants have been appointed as full-time Government servants on salary basis. They are required to work under the guidance of the Revenue Inspectors of hoblies. They are also required to perform such other duties also as may be entrusted to them by the Tahsildar or the Deputy Commissioner. The present incumbents of the posts of Patels and other village officers are, however, being continued for the time-being without hereditary rights. The Patels get an annual remuneration equivalent to the *potgi* which they were receiving prior to the abolition of their hereditary offices.

The other department which is next in importance on the executive side is the Police headed by the District Superintendent of Police, who has his headquarters at Tumkur. The Superintendent of Police and the police force of the district are under the control of the Deputy Commissioner in so far as their functions in respect of maintenance of law and order are concerned. As regards discipline, training and other administrative matters, they are under the control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, Bangalore. For administrative convenience, the Police Department in the district has been divided into two divisions, with headquarters at Tumkur and Tiptur, respectively, each under the charge of a Deputy Superintendent of Police. **Law and Order**

There are two divisions of the Public Works Department in Tumkur district, *viz.*, Tumkur Division and Madhugiri Division, under the charge of an Executive Engineer each, to look after the execution of all public works in the district. The functions of the Executive Engineer being purely technical, he is not subordinate to the Deputy Commissioner, though in a sense, he plays a part subsidiary to the general administration of the district, of which the Deputy Commissioner is the head. He is expected to help the Deputy Commissioner whenever required to do so. In times of floods, famines, scarcity conditions and the like, the Executive Engineer has to draw up plans and programmes of relief works in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and execute them expeditiously. **Public Works**

Judicial

The District and Sessions Judge, Tumkur, is the principal judicial officer in Tumkur district and is the administrative head for both civil and criminal courts in the district. He has a separate and independent sphere of work and his functions have been set forth in detail in Chapter XII. On the civil side, there is a Civil Judge at Tumkur and a Munsiff each at Tumkur, Tiptur and Madhugiri.

In accordance with the scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive brought into force in the district in 1956, the functions of a Magistrate have been divided between two types of Magistrates designated as Judicial Magistrates and Executive Magistrates. There are two Judicial Magistrates' Courts in the district, *viz.*, the First Class Magistrate's Court at Tumkur and the Special First Class Magistrate's Court at Madhugiri. Besides, the Civil Judge at Tumkur and the Munsiff at Tiptur also exercise the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

Other District-level Officers

There are several other district-level officers in Tumkur district who are in-charge of the administration of the various departments of Government in the district. Their functions have not been described here as the same have been dealt with, in the case of most of them, in the appropriate chapters and Chapter XIII. Hence, only a list of these officers is given hereunder :

1. Deputy Director of Agriculture.
2. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
3. District Educational Officer.
4. District Surgeon.
5. District Health and Family Planning Officer.
6. District Officer, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.
7. Assistant Director of Industries and Commerce.
8. Executive Engineer (Electrical).
9. Assistant Director of Sericulture, Kunigal.
10. Assistant Director of Fisheries.
11. Assistant Superintendent of Land Records.
12. District Employment Officer.
13. District Social Welfare Officer.
14. District Treasury Officer.
15. Assistant Controller, Local Audit Circle.
16. Assistant Coconut Development Officer, Tiptur.
17. District Statistical Officer.
18. Regional Transport Officer.
19. Divisional Forest Officer.
20. District Publicity Officer.

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