

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR efficient administration of labour laws and for successful **Labour Welfare** implementation of labour welfare measures, the State is divided into several areas and Chitradurga district is one of them. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mysore, who takes orders from the Commissioner of Labour, Bangalore, has administrative jurisdiction over Chitradurga district. The Shimoga Divisional Labour Office with one Assistant Commissioner and one Investigator was first started on 13th October 1948 at Bhadravathi. The Chitradurga area was formerly under the jurisdiction of this officer. Subsequently, a separate Labour Officer with headquarters at Davangere was posted. Five subordinate offices with Inspectors were opened at Davangere, Harihar, Chitradurga, Challakere and Hiriur to implement labour welfare measures.

Industrial labour welfare is the accepted policy of all modern governments, owing to the increasing tempo of industrial unrest brought about by a new awakening and the right of collective bargaining. The idea of labour welfare began in the State as a humanitarian reform and gradually assumed the character of a sound welfare policy. The origin of labour welfare began with the passing of the Factories Act which regulated the employment of children and women and also provided machinery for protecting the labourers against injury. The statute was amended from time to time, bringing in its wake desirable measures to regulate the hours of work, interval between periods of work, provisions of canteens and other amenities.

All the Central labour laws like the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, the Payment of Wages Act, the Indian Trade Unions Act, the Mysore Shops and Establishments Act and the Working Journalists Act have been made applicable to Chitradurga district also. In urban areas like Davangere city, Harihar, Chitradurga, Hiriur and Challakere towns, the Mysore Shops and Establishments Act is in force which regulates compulsory weekly holidays for shops, hours of work, notice of termination and provides machinery against wrongful dismissal, etc. Constant

vigilance is exercised by Inspectors to see that shop-owners implement the many welfare measures contemplated under the Act. About 5,200 shops and establishments were covered under the Act with 4,200 employees in 1965.

Several big industrial establishments in Davangere have adopted beneficial welfare measures. The Mysore Kirloskar Ltd., Harihar, Sri Shankar Textile Mills Ltd., Davangere, and the Davangere Cotton Mills are providing free medical aid to their employees and are also running canteens, co-operative societies, schools and gratuity fund schemes. The owners of these industrial establishments have also provided housing facilities. The Mysore Housing Board has constructed houses both at Harihar and Davangere for the accommodation of labour.

**Provident
Fund Scheme**

The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme under the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, has been made applicable to all textile mills. The employees pay a fixed percentage of $6\frac{1}{4}$ or 8 as the case may be and the employers have to contribute an equal sum. All those factories which have been brought under the scheme are known as "covered" factories and Provident Fund Inspectors are appointed under section 13(1) of the Act to supervise the working of the scheme. Every provision has been made to safeguard the interests of subscribers.

The Department of Labour initiated several new schemes in respect of labour welfare. It started a district employment office at Davangere with effect from 1957 to regulate labour employment. A Craftsmen Training Centre was also opened in the industrial area at Davangere.

While the labour welfare scheme has as its primary objective the improvement of working conditions of labour, prohibition has as its objective the amelioration of not only the economic but also the moral condition of the people living both in rural and urban areas.

The Labour Officer in the district is empowered under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 to conciliate in disputes arising out of labour troubles. He is obliged to mediate under the law and submit reports of conciliation to his superior. If his conciliation fails and the industrial dispute continues, he then refers the matter to Government through the Labour Commissioner. The Government then refers the dispute to the Tribunal. For the implementation of the Factories Act, the Labour Officer acts as an Additional Inspector. He has to see that the factories, coming under the purview of the Act, follow the statutory obligations. In case of infringement, he brings such cases before a proper court of law. The Payment of Wages Act ensures prompt payment of emoluments. The Labour Officer acts as Inspector under the Minimum Wages Act, Mysore Industrial Establishments

(National and Festival Holidays) Act, Working Journalists Act, and Payment of Bonus Act.

The Government have recently introduced minimum wages for employments in agriculture under the Act of 1948. The Labour Officer, Davangere, has to see that agricultural labour is paid according to the provisions of the Act. The minimum wages for agriculture are in force in all the taluks of the district.

Workers have the obligation to register their organisations under the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926. Twelve such organisations have been registered for the benefit of labourers in the district. **Trade unions**

The following list indicates such registered trade unions in the district as on 31st March 1965.

Name of the Union	Date of registration	Industry
1 Davangere Cotton Mills Employees' Association.	17th July 1942	Cotton textile
2 Shankar Textile Mills Employees' Association.	5th February 1954	do
3 Ganeshar Mills Workers' Trade Union.	24th April 1956	do
4 Chandrodaya Mills Employees' Union, Davangere.	10th July 1959	do
5 Davangere Cotton Mills Labour Union.	6th January 1964	do
6 Siddeshwara Textile Mills Labour Union, Davangere.	16th January 1964	do
7 Ganeshar Textile Mills Employees' Association, Davangere.	14th August 1964	do
8 Harihar Taluk Textile Employees' Association, Harihar.	22nd October 1964	do
9 Kallappa Spinning Mills Textile Workers' Union, Chitradurga.	30th May 1964	Silk textile
10 Mysore Kirloskar Employees' Association, Harihar.	30th July 1959	Engineering
11 Bank Employees' Association, Davangere.	30th July 1959	Banking
12 Chitradurga Motor Vehicles Workers' Union, Chitradurga.	16th January 1964	Transport

Prohibition

Prohibition was introduced in the State in stages, making a district-wise choice of those areas which were adjacent to dry districts where the social welfare measure was already introduced. Before prohibition actually came into force in Chitradurga district, people were advised to give up drink and workers of several social service bodies like the Civil and Social Progress Association went about the countryside to instil in the minds of the addicts the advantages of abstaining from alcoholic drinks. Temperance reform, the forerunner of prohibition, was hailed as a blessing. In the old Mysore State, there was a persistent agitation to enforce prohibition at least in some districts in the first instance. At each session of the Mysore Representative Assembly, this was pressed home on the authorities. But the Government of the day put forward the plea of loss of revenue. With the dawn of responsible Government in the State in 1947, the problem again became a live issue. The Government finally decided to bring forward the Mysore Prohibition Bill, which was passed into an Act in 1947. Under the provisions of the Act, the Chitradurga district was made dry from 1st July 1948. The total revenue lost by the introduction of prohibition in the district was Rs. 12 lakhs annually. In the year of its introduction, the demand under the excise revenue (1947-48) was Rs. 11,43,524. In the beginning, the provisions of the Mysore Prohibition Act, 1947, were being enforced by the Mysore Excise Department which found it difficult to track down illicit distillation and attendant infringements. There were repeated demands on the floor of the Mysore Legislature to hand over the enforcement to the police. Accordingly, the Government handed over the work of enforcement of prohibition to the Police Department from 1st April 1950.

The district police authorities are in charge of enforcing the prohibition laws in the district. A special police squad has been appointed to put down the drink evil.

Illicit distillation has been kept under check by strict vigilance. The following table gives the number of prohibition cases of all kinds, reported and the number which ended in conviction from 1955 to 1965.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Reported</i>	<i>Convicted</i>
1955	410	380
1956	1,901	1,707
1957	2,177	2,144
1958	3,812	3,552
1959	5,380	5,129
1960	5,566	5,431
1961	5,389	5,297
1962	3,543	3,431
1963	3,232	2,806
1964	2,582	2,049
1965	3,216	1,862

Illicit distillation is particularly more in the Banjar Thandas, where there are hard addicts. It has been very difficult to wean away these people from the evil habits of drink. In spite of several cases put up against them, illicit distillation is still prevalent among them to a certain extent. It has been noticed by the enforcement staff that a good deal of education and persistent propaganda are necessary to instil in the minds of these people the advantages of prohibition. The authorities have devised several steps, one of them being the opening of neera parlours in the Thandas.

The Mysore Prohibition Act envisages the granting of liquor permits to those addicts who want them on health grounds for purely personal consumption. The granting of such permits is done under liberalised rules and handled by several executive authorities.

Nearly two decades have passed since the district was made completely dry. The enforcement of prohibition laws has, to some extent, improved the moral, material and economic conditions of the one-time drink addicts. It may be said that prohibition has helped to promote peace and tranquillity in labour colonies and many other homes in the district.

The total number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes in Chitradurga district as per the 1961 Census was 2,03,848. There were 152 persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, mostly resident in Chitradurga, Davangere, Holalkere, Hosadurga and Hiriyyur taluks. The following table indicates the extent of their population taluk-wise :—

**Advancement
of Backward
Classes and
Tribes**

<i>Tabuk</i>	<i>Scheduled Castes</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribes</i>
Challakere ..	32,251	1
Chitradurga ..	34,081	32
Davangere ..	27,570	54
Harihar ..	8,408	..
Hiriyyur ..	28,585	8
Holalkere ..	25,055	40
Hosadurga ..	18,483	15
Jagalur ..	17,820	2
Molakalmuru ..	11,595	..
Total ..	2,03,848	152

The following Scheduled Caste groups in the district viz., Adi-Andhra, Adi-Dravida, Adi-Karnataka, Banjara or Lambani, Bhovi, Dakkaliga, Ganti Chores, Handi Jogis, Kepmaries, Korcha, Korma, Machala, Sillekyathas, Mochi and Sudugadu

Siddha, were recognised as Scheduled Castes according to a Presidential Order of 1956. In the compilation of the castes in the Order, various circumstances were taken into consideration. The State administration has recognised its responsibility to survey the needs of the Harijans in different parts of the district and to take steps towards enabling them to come to a minimum level of advancement consistent with the status of the general community.

The executive head of the Department of Social Welfare in Mysore State is the Director of Social Welfare with headquarters at Bangalore. He is charged with the responsibility of implementing the various schemes of the State Government and the schemes sponsored by the Central Government for the welfare of the Backward Classes in the State. In the old Mysore State, the Education Department was in sole charge of the programmes for the educational advancement of the depressed classes, and other schemes for the benefit of these classes, like economic uplift and housing, were implemented by the Commissioner for Depressed Classes assisted by Welfare Officers at the district level and Special Revenue Inspectors at the taluk level. The effective implementation of the various schemes at the district level is now the responsibility of the Deputy Commissioner. He is assisted by a District Social Welfare Officer.

The funds for implementing the various schemes, except the funds for educational schemes, are placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner in turn places them at the disposal of the Tahsildars and Block Development Officers. The Tahsildars and Block Development Officers are assisted by Social Welfare Inspectors, who are expected to tour at least for 20 days in a month to contact the people concerned. The Taluk Development Boards also help the advancement of depressed classes at the taluk level.

In order to promote education among the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the district, a sum of Rs. 68,780 was earmarked during 1964-65. Out of this, Rs. 54,979 were spent on maintaining hostels. During the same year, an amount of Rs. 20,656 was spent on welfare centres for women and Rs. 7,367 for running tailoring classes.

During 1965-66 (upto January 1966) the following amounts were spent on different measures :—

	Rs.
Residential schools	9,564
Ashram schools	14,369
Supply of sewing machines	11,890
Acquisition of land for sites	11,500
Drinking water wells	5,436

Award of scholarships	1,200
Housing grants	2,390

A sum of Rs. 14 lakhs was spent during the III Plan for the amelioration of the Depressed Classes in the district. Some of the important measures and the amounts spent thereon are indicated here :—

- Rs. 3,05,168 for the maintenance of hostels.
- Rs. 2,57,987 for the welfare centres.
- Rs. 37,108 for the residential school at Chitradurga for the Scheduled Castes with a strength of 50 pupils.
- Rs. 81,850 for merit scholarships awarded to Scheduled Caste students, studying in primary and high schools.
- Rs. 65,200 for land acquisition for house sites to Scheduled Castes.
- Rs. 67,873 for drinking water wells for Scheduled Castes.
- Rs. 63,013 for the construction of community centre buildings.
- Rs. 24,100 for subsidy to poultry farms and sheep-rearing.
- Rs. 24,300 for subsidy for purchase of cattle.
- Rs. 7,745 for aid to artisans.
- Rs. 15,900 for equipment grant to school-going children.
- Rs. 34,200 for economic aid to agriculturists.
- Rs. 30,210 for the formation of agricultural colonies for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes.
- Rs. 79,920 for tailoring centres.

During 1964-65, four Backward Class hostels in Chitradurga district received grants to the extent of Rs. 62,337.

Two hostels for girls are located in Chitradurga and Challakere, where Scheduled Caste girls are given free boarding and lodging.

Hostels for Harijan boys are located at Molakalmuru, Harihar, Hiriyur, Doddasiddavanahalli and Turuvanur.

The Scheduled Castes (Harijan) hostel at Srirampura in the district is an aided hostel providing free boarding and lodging facilities for Harijans.

Since 1950, when the Scheduled Castes and Tribes obtained constitutional safeguards, a total of 49,056 acres of land was assigned to them in the district.

There are in all nine agricultural colonies in Chitradurga district, for providing incentives to Harijan farmers. They are in Ganjalagunte (Hiriyur taluk), Devapura (Hosadurga taluk), Gurusiddapura and Agasanahatti Colony (Jagalur taluk), Bapu **Agricultural Colonies for Harijans**

Colony—Kallehadlu—and Jagjivanram Colony (Chitradurga taluk) and Hirekere Kaval, Chikkanahalli and Kachannagi Colony (Challakere taluk).

**Women's
Welfare
Centres**

Women's welfare centres-cum-nursery schools for Scheduled Castes in the district are located in Chitradurga town, and at Challakere, Jagalur, Harihar, Hullu, Hirehalli, Holalkere, Molakalmuru, Davangere, Hiriyr and Hosadurga. These centres with nursery schools were started with the main object of looking after the children of pre-school age of Scheduled Castes and Tribes by providing care and nourishment when the mothers are away at work. The children are taught to play and sing. The scheme includes teaching of reading and writing also. In the evenings, the Scheduled Caste women gather in these centres for recreation and for learning certain crafts like needle work, cutting and tailoring. Talks are given in these centres on sanitation and care of children. Indoor games are organised as part of the programme of women's welfare. The centres are in charge of a women's welfare organiser and a conductress.

**Welfare of
Nomadic
Tribes**

There were two ashram schools for the children of nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes with a strength of 50 each. A sum of Rs. 32,390 was spent during the III Plan period on these schools.

Schemes relating to housing, economic aid to agriculturists, equipment grant to school-going nomadic children and economic aid to craftsmen were implemented during 1964-65 at a cost of Rs. 94,800.

**Charitable
Endowments**

Endowments for the upkeep of religious institutions play a prominent part in the life of the community. Several age-old institutions, which are highly venerated for their sanctity, are classed as Muzrai institutions and rules and regulations have been framed by the authorities for the orderly conduct of these institutions. In recent years, a separate department has been created for looking after endowments and a comprehensive draft bill to regulate charitable endowments is under the consideration of the Government. Sri Harihareshwaraswamy temple at Harihar is a major Muzrai institution. It is situated on the bank of the sacred Tungabhadra river. Large numbers of pilgrims both from within the State and elsewhere visit the temple.

Another important Muzrai institution in the district is the Sri Halaramaswamy temple at Devapura, about five miles from Hosadurga town. There is a sacred pond attached to the temple. Pilgrims come from various parts of the State to receive *prasada* here.

There is another notable endowment in Heggere village, about 18 miles from Hosadurga town, which is a pilgrim centre for Jains.

Sri Channakeshavaswamy temple at Bagur village, about six miles from Hosadurga town, is yet another major Muzrai institution. About the month of March every year, a big fair is held here. Thousands of pilgrims attend the *Rathotsava* which is a particular feature of the place. This endowment dates back to ancient times.

The edicts of the great emperor Ashoka are found very near Siddapura in Molakalmuru taluk. They have been maintained as a major endowment, as they are of historical and archaeological importance. Many people visit this place.

A major Muzrai institution is situated near Devasamudra village in Molakalmuru taluk. It is called Sri Jatangi Rameshwara temple. It is said that Jatayu fell here in attempting to rescue Seetha from the clutches of Ravana. This is a place of pilgrimage and a large number of people visit this place.

Sri Tipperudraswamy temple at Nayakanahatti town in Challakere taluk is another major Muzrai institution. Many devotees visit this place from several parts of the State.

Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy temple at Horakere-Davarapura near Holakere town is yet another major Muzrai institution coming under endowments. A car festival is held here about the month of March every year.

The activities of the Endowments Department relate mainly to the upkeep of these ancient temples and to see that fairs and festivals as ordained by the temple customs are held to the satisfaction of the devotees.

The supervision and management of Muslim endowments is the responsibility of the Mysore State Wakf Board, constituted under the provisions of the Central Wakf Act, 1955. There are a few Muslim charitable endowments in the district devoted to serving the needs of the community.

The Deputy Commissioner of the district is in charge of endowments. The Tahsildars safeguard the endowments at the taluk-level.
