

percent has since remained fairly steady, the former exchanging at about 8 per cent. above its bullion value. In 1904 an improved coin of a new design was minted, known as the *Mahubia* rupee, representing on one side the famous Char Minar building, which stands in the centre of Hyderabad city; since this new rupee was issued, the supply has been regulated so as to prevent serious fluctuations of exchange value. The rate now stands at between 115 and 116 to 100 British rupees. The copper coins issued by the State were till recently oblong pieces of about 2 pies in value. Since 1905, however, copper coins of a better pattern have been issued from the Hyderabad mint representing the same value. Half-anna coins are also being made. The old coins are still in use, and will remain in circulation until a sufficient quantity of the new coins has been produced.

#### Land revenue settlement

The common system of land tenure throughout the State is *ryotrvari*. All the nine Districts of Marathwara and four of the Telingana Districts have been surveyed and settled according to this system; they are Aurangabad, Bhir, Nander, Parbhani, Gulbarga, Osmanabad, Raichur, Lingsugur, Bidar, Nizamabad (Indur), Medak, Mahbubnagar, and Warangal. Of the remaining four Districts, Karimnagar (Elgandal) and Nalgonda have been surveyed and partly assessed. Adilabad (Sirpur Tandur) and the Crown District of Atraf-i- balda have not yet been surveyed. In the earlier settlements the period of settlement was for thirty years, while those surveyed later were settled for fifteen years. Revision work has been commenced in some of the latter class, where the terms have expired or are about to expire.

#### Ryolrvari tenure

Under the *ryotrvari* system each field is considered a holding, which the ryot holds directly from the

State, and the holder or occupant of the field is called the *pattadar*. The right of occupancy depends on the regular payment of the assessment by the *pattadar*, and in case of failure to meet the demand he forfeits his right. In such a case the land reverts to the State, and the right of occupancy is sold by auction to satisfy the demand for arrears. The period of holding is nominally one year, but if the holder pays the assessment and dues regularly, he may retain his land indefinitely. A *pattadar* may relinquish his land by giving due notice of his intention, or he may sell or transfer his right if he wishes to do so. Reference has already been made, in dealing with rents, to the practice of subletting or taking partners (*shikmidars*).

#### Other tenures

The other systems of tenure are known as *jagir*, *inam*, *makta* or *sarvasta*, *peshkash*, *agrahar*, and *ijara*. A *jagir* is a free grant of one or more villages, and the tenure may be classed under four heads: *al-tamgha* or *inam-al-tamgha*, which are grants of an hereditary or permanent nature; *zat jagirs*, or personal grants for the maintenance of the grantees; *paigah jagirs*, or grants to the nobles of the State for maintaining troops for the Nizam; *tankhrvah-i-mahallat*, or grants in lieu of certain local payments that were binding on the State. The *inam* lands are granted for service or charitable purposes, either free of revenue or subject to a quit rent. *Makta* or *sarvasta* resembles the *jagir* tenure, except that the holder has to pay a certain fixed proportion of the revenue to the State; it is also known as *palampat* in the Maratha Districts. Under the *peshkash* tenure villages are granted on a fixed assessment, like the *zamindari* tenure in Northern India; all the *samasthans* in the State are held under this tenure. *Agarhar* is a free grant of one or more villages for the up keep of Hindu temples. *Ijara* is a lease granted

for a whole waste village for a term of thirty or forty years. The *Ijaradar* or lessee pays no rent for the first three or five years; after that he begins to pay a fraction of the full assessment, varying from one-tenth to one-fifth and increased every year till the full assessment is reached, which is paid till the lease expires.

**Classification  
of Village**

In 1901 there were 13,039 *ryotrvari*, 2,904 *jagir*, 664 *makta* or *sarbasta*, 681 *peshkash*, 415 *ijara*, 309 *agarhar*, and 1,006 deserted villages in the State; and the revenue derived from the *ryotrvari*, *makta*, and *peshkash* villages was 191 lakhs, 6.7 lakhs, and 139 lakhs respectively.

**Method of  
Assessment**

The assessment was originally on the quantity of grain sown in a field or on its produce, of which a certain share was taken by the State as revenue. On 'dry crops' the share was about one-fourth of the produce, and on 'wet' lands, irrigated from tanks and wells, the State received half and two-fifths respectively of the produce. When payment in kind was commuted to cash payment, the amount thus fixed became the revenue of the field. A *taluk*, after it has been surveyed, is divided into groups of villages for the purpose of classification and assessment. The fertility and depth of the soil, the absence or presence of sand, limestone nodules, saline efflorescences and other defects in it, proximity of the group to, or its distance from, centres of trade or railways, and easy means of communication are all factors which are considered in determining the assessment. A standard maximum rate per acre is fixed for the group, and varying rates to be applied to all land in the group are calculated on the basis of its advantages or defects.

**Former demands** No records exist to show what the revenue demand was in early times, but the revenues under Musalman rule seem to have been generally farmed out. Traces of settlements made by the Bahmani kings and by the Adil Shahi and Kutb Shahi rulers have been found in some of the Districts; but it was not until Akbar's annexation of Berar in 1596, and Malik Ambar's rule in Aurangabad, that regular settlements were introduced. The *Subah* of Berar under the Mughals was more extensive than it is now, as it included portions of Sirpur Tandur, Elgandal, Indur, Nander, Parbhani, and Aurangabad Districts, which now fall within the boundaries of the Nizam's Dominions. Under Akbar's famous settlement, the assessment was fixed by measuring the arable lands, and making a careful estimate of the produce. Each *bigha* was then rated at one-fourth the estimated produce, and the total demand on a village was termed its *tankhwah* or standard rent-roll. In 1600 the province was assessed at 161 lakhs, and during the time of the first Nizam at 120 lakhs.

Telingana during the reign of Abul Hasan, the last of the Golconda kings, yielded a total revenue of 166 lakhs, but the boundaries of the Golconda kingdom then extended as far as the sea-coast, including the Northern Circars. It has been estimated that the present revenue is about equal to the cash assessments at the beginning of the seventeenth century. During the eighteenth century the State suffered from the inroads of the Maraths; and when order was restored, the revenues of the State were farmed out to bankers and to Arab and Pathan soldiers, who extorted as much money as they could from the cultivators. The farming system was abolished by Sir Salar Jang immediately after his appointment as Minister, and from that date the prosperity of the people has increased.

**Size of Holdings  
and Incidence  
of Revenue**

The average area of a holding in the whole State is  $20\frac{2}{3}$  acres, varying from  $28\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Marathwara to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Telingana. In the Maratha Districts the Government assessment on 'dry' lands ranges from Rs. 3-0-1 to R.0-10-2 per acre, the average being R.0-12-9, while for 'wet' and baghat (garden) lands the average is Rs. 4-5-6 per acre, the maximum being Rs. 15 and the minimum Rs. 1-2. In the Telingana Districts the average assessment of 'dry' lands is Rs. 0-13-5 (maximum Rs. 4, minimum R. 0-1), and on 'wet' lands Rs. 9-4-2, the maximum and minimum being Rs. 24 and Rs.3 respectively. The average rate per acre for the whole State is Rs. 1-3-8, but for Marathwara and Telingana of assessment and the smallness of holdings in Telingana being due to the prevalence of 'wet' cultivation. No reliable figures are available to show the gross produce, and it is impossible to say what proportion the land revenue demand bears to it. No difficulty is experienced in collecting the revenue, and there is very little resort to coercive measures. The general principle of assessment is to take half the net profits, after paying cost of cultivation, &c., as the State share.

**Suspensions  
and Remissions**

In times of scarcity or famine, the demand is suspended and recovered in the following year; and remissions are also granted when distress is severe or when the ryot has lost his cattle. In Marathwara and in the settled Telingana Districts, remissions are not granted for 'dry' land, as the assessment is very light. But in the unsettled Telingana Districts, remissions are given on 'dry' lands affected by bad seasons, including excessive rain; and on 'wet' lands for want of water, including breach of tanks and decay of wells. These remissions are granted in ordinary years. Remissions are also given for 'wet' lands in settled Districts when the water-supply fails.

In the settled Districts the ordinary rates of assessment apply to the whole extent of the holding; but in the unsettled Districts only the cultivated area of a holding is assessed, and the revenue of the uncultivated portion is remitted on both 'wet' and 'dry' lands. Special rules have been made for encouraging ryots to plant mango groves, and land is given at 10 annas per acre for this purpose.

The ryot is free to transfer or sell his right of occupancy, and in this way much land has been acquired by professional money - lenders in the Maratha Districts. The Telingana ryot is just beginning to realize the value of occupancy rights.

Miscellaneous Revenue Opium and Drugs

Under Miscellaneous Revenue are included opium and drugs, customs, excise and stamps. In accordance with the terms of an agreement made with the Government of India, the cultivation of poppy was prohibited in 1881, and all opium for consumption has since been imported from Malwa under passes issued by the Opium Agent. The duty levied amounts to Rs. 15 per seer, of which Rs. 10 is paid on issue of the pass and the balance on the arrival of the opium. Contracts for the monopoly of retail vend are sold in each District and in the city circle. The right to sell hemp drugs (*ganja* and *bhang*) is also sold by auction.

	Average, 1882-90	Average, 1891-1900	1901	1903
<i>Opium</i>	Rs. 2, 19, 730	Rs. 3, 15, 232	Rs. 4, 25, 590	Rs. 5, 16, 001
<i>Ganja</i> and <i>bhang</i> and other intoxicating drugs	...	...	64, 328	74, 949
Total	2, 19, 730	3, 15, 232	4, 89, 918	5, 90, 950

The number of chests of opium, containing 70 seers each, imported in 1901 was 249. The gross value of the opium imported during the decades 1881-90 and