

The practice of shifting cultivation in forests, or *pode*, which was very common some years ago, is now strictly prohibited; but illicit clearances for temporary cultivation are sometimes made, and, when found out, departmental punishment is inflicted on the offenders.

Several grasses are known to possess economic properties. The fibres of *mannakopri* and *modian* are extensively used for making ropes, stringing cots, and various agricultural uses. If properly treated, these might also prove suitable for manufacturing paper. Among other minor products, *mahua* flowers are of importance as being generally used for distilling country liquor.

Mines and minerals Coal

The Hyderabad State is rich in minerals, chief among which may be mentioned the extensive coal-measures of WARANGAL and the gold-mines of LINGSUGUR. The coal-field of Singareni was discovered by Dr. King of the India Geological Survey so far back as 1872. Active operations were, however, delayed till 1886, when the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company obtained a concession and opened the mine at Singareni, which is the only mine profitably worked at present. Four distinct seams have been discovered in the Singareni field. The first varies in thickness from 30 to 50 feet and is composed of alternating layers of coal and carbonaceous shale, the former being of tolerably good quality and supplying a fair steam coal. The second seam, lying about 100 feet below the first consists of shaly coal. Similarly, the third seam, which is about 30 to 40 feet below the second, consists of a hard shaly coal; and as the coal these two contain gives 30 per cent. of ash, they have been abandoned as being of no commercial value. The fourth seam, called the King seam after its discoverer, consists of the most

District, which promises to be remunerative. Excellent limestone is quarried at Shahabad, between the Wadi junction and Gulbarga on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. These quarries are extensively worked on both sides of the line for a considerable distance. The limestone is of two colours, black and grey, the latter being the more abundant of the two, and taking a polish almost equal to marble. An extensive industry has been carried on, and the stone is not only being widely used for flooring purposes, but is exported outside the State also in large quantities for building purposes. In addition to the minerals already mentioned, red chalk and saline deposits are found.

Arts and manufactures

Cotton-weaving is carried on in almost every taluk; and *saris*, *dhotis*, and coarse cloths called *khadis* are woven by hand in every large village and used largely by the people, who find these, though coarser and unattractive in appearance, more durable than the goods made in mills. *Saris* of silk and other silk stuffs are made in Nalgonda, Raichur, Mahbubnagar (Narayanpet *taluk*), Lingsugur, Aurangabad, Indur, Elgandal and other Districts, some of these being of extra fine quality and very durable, and fetching very high prices. In late years the silk-cloth industry in Nalgonda has improved, where the Salis, a caste of silk-weavers, are doing good work. Their example is being followed by others of their caste in the adjoining Districts. Aurangabad and Paithan have both been noted from olden times for their embroidery and their gold and silver lace-work. *Kamkhrvab*, or cloth woven with silver and gold of superior quality, was once at Paithan; but the manufacture is now practically confined to Aurangabad, where about a dozen looms are at work. Lately, the *himru* industry has considerably increased and patterns have been improved. This