

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

**T**HE administrative history of the district and the various changes effected in the administrative set-up from time to time have been set forth in chapter I—"General". The pattern of general administration is dealt with in the following paragraphs.

For purposes of revenue administration, the Coorg District has been divided into three taluks. These three taluks have been sub-divided further into eleven nads/hoblies, consisting of two hundred and seventy seven villages. The Somwarpet taluk has four nads with one hundred and twenty-one villages, the Mercara taluk has three nads with sixty-eight villages, and the Virajpet taluk consists of four nads with eighty-eight villages.

The Deputy Commissioner is the head of the district administration. Excepting the Forest Department, which has its Circle Level Officer, *viz.*, Conservator with his headquarters at Mercara, all the Developmental Departments have their District Heads in the district. The headquarters of almost all the District Heads of the departments are situated at Mercara.

The Deputy Commissioner is the chief executive of the district. With a view to enabling him to function effectively, he has been given vast and varied powers. He is the real and effective head of the district, the focal point of district administration. His executive powers were and still are varied and undefinable. The revenue, magisterial and police powers are united in the office of the Deputy Commissioner. Co-ordination between various departments by meeting the heads individually and collectively, control over local self-governing bodies with powers to intervene if necessary, contact with the public in committees or during interviews with visitors, execution of Government-sponsored campaigns such as the National Savings Campaign and the Grow More Food Campaign, and miscellaneous functions such as rationing and food control, and organising relief measures in times of emergencies like floods, famines and epidemics, are all included among the functions of the Deputy Commissioner. He is not only an administrator at the district level but also an

**Executive  
functions of  
the Deputy  
Commissioner.**

interpreter of Government policies. He has to explain to the people in the rural parts the significance of the Government programmes of development and enlist their hearty and active co-operation in this behalf. The Five-Year Plans are the blue-prints of progress and prosperity, and the Deputy Commissioner endeavours to push through all the schemes with a view to seeing that the prescribed targets are reached in the quickest time. The happiness of the people depends largely upon the achievements under these plans, the principal objective of which is to raise the standard of living of the people and to remove the existing disparities as early as possible. The fact cannot be gainsaid that the role of the Deputy Commissioner in this regard is indeed vital.

**Revenue  
functions of  
the Deputy  
Commissioner.**

The Deputy Commissioner is the head of the Revenue Department at the district level. His major revenue duties include the general supervision and control of the land records and the staff of the Revenue Department, the appointment, promotion, transfer, demotion and punishment of subordinate officials according to the rules of Government, supervision over the collection of revenue, submission of periodical reports to Government and also hearing appeals against the decisions of his subordinates in matters connected with land revenue administration.

In addition to his duties as the revenue head of the district, the Deputy Commissioner holds the following *ex-officio* positions. He is the District Registrar exercising control over all the Sub-Registrars, the Deputy Development Commissioner exercising supervision over all developmental activities, Chairman of the District Advisory Committee, National Savings Scheme, the District Co-ordination Committee of officers, the District Regional Transport Authority, the District Family Planning Committee and the District Development Council. He is also the head of the District Treasury. In short, he is the pivot of the district administration, exercising direct and indirect supervision and control over all departments at the district level. He is directly responsible to the Divisional Commissioner, Mysore Division. Prior to 1st April 1964, the Deputy Commissioner, Coorg District, was exercising the powers of the Assistant Commissioner of the erstwhile Government of Coorg with regard to revenue matters under the provisions of the Coorg Revenue Manual. Such of the matters as were being disposed of by the Chief Commissioner of the old Coorg Government were being referred to the State Government for final orders through the Divisional Commissioner. But now, with effect from 1st April 1964, Revenue Officers are exercising their powers in accordance with the provisions of the Mysore Land Revenue Act.

The Deputy Commissioner was being assisted in his duties as on 17th April 1964, by one Assistant Commissioner who is working in the capacity of an Executive Personal Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, another who functions as the Development Assistant, one Office Assistant, three Tahsildars and eleven Parpathigars, one Head Clerk, one manager in the Development Section, one records assistant, one election supervisor, one senior stenographer, six typists, fifty-one second division clerks and twenty-two shanbhogues.

During the First Five-Year Plan period, the National Extension Service was set up through which the improvement of all aspects of village life is undertaken. Under this scheme, the Deputy Commissioner has been designated as the Deputy Development Commissioner for the Community Development Programmes. The Deputy Development Commissioner is in overall charge of all the blocks in his jurisdiction. He has to possess a clear picture of the normal working of the several departments at the district level so as to evolve an integrated approach to the various developmental activities. As the Chairman of the District Development Council, he has to supervise the various schemes transferred to the Taluk Development Boards for implementation. He also reviews the progress of the developmental works undertaken by the heads of offices in the district at the periodical meetings of the District Co-ordination Committee.

There is a District Treasury in every district to account for every transaction in the district on behalf of Government. The Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the accounting of all monies received and paid and the punctual submission of all returns due from the District Treasury, but he takes no part in the day-to-day business of the treasury. There is a District Treasury Officer to attend to all the treasury transactions in the district. However, the functioning of a separate officer to be in immediate charge of the District Treasury does not relieve the Deputy Commissioner of any of his responsibilities under the various codes and manuals. There are sub-treasuries in the taluks. The District Treasury Officer is responsible to the Deputy Commissioner for the proper administration of the treasuries. He conducts all transactions and submits reports to the Accountant-General. Defects and serious irregularities, if any, are brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner by the Accountant-General. The Accountant-General requires independent reports from the Deputy Commissioner in all important matters connected with the treasury administration.

**Treasury and  
Financial  
functions of  
the Deputy  
Commissioner.**

Prior to 1st of June, 1956, the Deputy Commissioner in the former Mysore State used to function as the District Magistrate for the administration of criminal justice within the scope of the

**Magisterial  
functions of  
the Deputy  
Commissioner.**

Criminal Procedure Code. The judiciary was separated from the executive with effect from 1st June 1956. As a result of this separation, the Deputy Commissioner and the magistrates subordinate to him were deprived of their judicial functions. These functions have been transferred to judicial officers known as Judicial Magistrates. But the responsibility of maintaining law and order continues to rest with the Deputy Commissioner. This responsibility calls for certain magisterial functions of an executive character. The Deputy Commissioner is the Additional District Magistrate, in which capacity he exercises general control over police matters in the district. He is the authority for licensing cinemas. He exercises powers vested in him under the Indian Explosives Act, the Untouchability Act, the Dangerous Drugs Act, and the Criminal Procedure Code. He also exercises powers under the Irrigation Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Mysore Court Fees and Suits Valuation Act, the Forest Act, the Tenancy Act and the Land Acquisition Act.

#### **Tahsildars.**

There are three Tahsildars in charge of the three taluks in the district. Their duties and powers are such as are specially imposed or conferred upon them under the Mysore Land Revenue Rules. The Tahsildars and the Parpathigars are the keymen in the revenue set-up of the taluks.

#### **Law and Order.**

The other department which is next in importance on the executive side is the Police headed by the Superintendent of Police. He was being assisted, as on 17th of April 1964, in his duties by one Deputy Superintendent of Police, four Circle Inspectors inclusive of one Prosecuting Police Inspector, sixteen Sub-Inspectors, sixty-four Head Constables and two hundred and sixty-four Constables. The District Armed Reserve Squad consisting of one Sub-Inspector, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors, nine Head Constables and fifty-nine Constables, as on 17th April 1964, also assists the Superintendent of Police in maintaining law and order in the district.

#### **Judicial.**

The scheme of separation of the judiciary from the executive was actually introduced in Coorg District with effect from 1st of December 1959, though in other parts of the State, it came into effect from 1956, and a Judicial District Magistrate was appointed in the district from that date. The District and Sessions Judge is the head of the Civil Courts in the district while the District Magistrate, Mercara, exercises control over Criminal Courts. There are two Munsiff-Magistrates' Courts in the district. One of them is located at Mercara, while the other is situated at Virajpet. There is also a First Class Magistrate's Court at Virajpet. All the criminal courts in the district exercise first class powers. The District Court is the principal Civil Court of original jurisdiction in the district. Subordinate to the District Judge are the Civil Judge's Court and the Munsiffs' Courts.

The two First Class Munsiff-Magistrates, the District Magistrate and one First Class Magistrate constitute the principal magisterial officers in the district.

The functions and powers of the courts in the district have been dealt with at length in Chapter XII—Law, Order and Justice.

The District Development Council has been set-up at the district level to review and co-ordinate the work of the Taluk Boards and to be in charge of planning for the entire district. The members of these councils comprise the members of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislature representing a part or whole of the district, the members of the Rajya Sabha and the members of the State Legislative Council ordinarily resident in the district, the presidents of the Taluk Boards and the District Officers in charge of the Development Departments. In addition, a member belonging to the Scheduled Castes and a lady to be nominated by the Government, are members. This body is empowered to pass the budgets of the Taluk Boards.

**District  
Development  
Council.**

The other officers functioning at the district level are specified below. It is unnecessary to describe their functions here, as in the case of most of them, their designations give an idea of their functions while the functions of others have already been described in the appropriate chapters.

**Other Officers  
at the District  
level.**

The other officers in the district are :—

- (1) District Surgeon.
- (2) District Health Officer.
- (3) District Educational Officer.
- (4) District Agricultural Officer.
- (5) District Veterinary Officer.
- (6) Executive Engineer, Public Works Department.
- (7) Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department.
- (8) Executive Engineer, Mysore State Electricity Board.
- (9) Assistant Engineer, Mysore State Electricity Board.
- (10) Agricultural Income-Tax Officer.
- (11) Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
- (12) Conservator of Forests, Coorg Circle, Mercara.
- (13) District Forest Officer, North Coorg Division, Mercara.
- (14) District Employment Officer.
- (15) Manager, Government Branch Press, Mercara.
- (16) District Survey Officer.
- (17) Assistant Prohibition Officer.
- (18) District Social Welfare Officer.
- (19) District Social Education Organiser.
- (20) Regional Transport Officer.

- (21) Superintendent, Central Workshop, Mercara.
- (22) Labour Officer, Coorg.
- (23) Cardamom Development Officer.
- (24) Horticulturist, Gonikoppal.
- (25) Horticultural Development Officer, Gonikoppal.
- (26) Horticultural Inspector, Mercara.
- (27) District Statistical Officer (for both South Kanara and Coorg).
- (28) Block Development Officer.
- (29) Superintendent, Central Jail.
- (30) District Magistrate.
- (31) Commercial Tax Officer.

The Central Government has its own officers in the District for the collection of Income-Tax and Excise duties and administration of Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services. A Central Government employee, the District National Savings Organiser, is also working in the district with his headquarters at Mercara.

**Divisional  
Commissioner.**

The Divisional Commissioner has important supervisory functions with regard to the revenue and general administration of the districts under his control. The Divisional Commissioner, Mysore Division, has jurisdiction over Coorg District. He is the link between the Government and the District authorities in respect of all developmental and public welfare activities. He tours in the district and supervises the general activities of all developmental departments. In view of the numerous activities under the Five-Year Plans and the increasing tempo of Community Development, considerable importance is attached to the role of the Divisional Commissioner. He holds co-ordination meetings frequently with a view to stepping up the tempo of work. He has to devote urgent attention to floods, famines, inflation and scarcity conditions if they should occur within his jurisdiction.

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