

CHAPTER II

Raibag under the Administration of Chhatratpati Shahu (1894 - 1922)

At the age of 10 Shahu Maharaja was adopted and was installed on the throne of Kolhapur on 17th March 1884. The year before his accession he was taken to the taluka stations in his state. He was also given extensive training in all branches of administration by his tutor Frazer. During his tours Maharaja met and mixed with farmers as well as the lowest of the low and made enquiries in to their living conditions. He also studied the life of his people at first hand learning about their suffering and appalling poverty. He also got acquainted with the village and district police system, functioning of the courts and of the old and the existing system of the land revenue administration. Thus the Maharaja successfully completed his four years of training in the administration which he was expected shortly to conduct with effect from 1884. As a child Maharaja had noticed how his father and public were cheated by a Brahmin clerk who used to place the matters of Brahmin when the regent had taken meals and was at ease but would place the matters of the Marathas when he was tired. Maharaja took over the administration of state on 2nd April 1894 when he became 20 years old consequently administrative council was abolished. He had received excellent training both

1 Chh Shahu a Royal Revolutionary

2 Shahu Chhatrapati a Royal Revolutionary. S.V.K. p 59

academic and administrative and Raja found on Accession to the throne that the prestige of Kolhapur had slumped at a very great low level.

As a progressive ruler, on 22nd April 1894 issued a proclamation in Marathi to his subjects to be loyal and give him hearty cooperation for promoting their welfare. The council of regency was called as council of administration in Shahu's later period. His highness Shahu Maharaja was the supreme and final authority in the state he was entitled to a personal salute of 21 guns and hereditary salute of 19 guns.

When maharaja took over the administration foreign personals had occupied key posts soon they were replaced by Indians. The maharaja introduced compulsory education scheme in 1917-18, he also encouraged various organizations to set up schools and boarding for the poor boys and gave them sufficient grant for their expenses with a motive that the students in the boarding would become responsible citizens of India. Maharaja also paid more attention to the education of depressed classes. He abolished separate schools for them in 1919. Women education was also made free and compulsory by providing free lodging and boarding to the women belonging to weaker sections.

When Maharaja took over the administration in 1894 the non Brahmin students strength was 8088 this figure was increased to

21,027 by the year 1921-22. The scheduled caste students were 234 in 1874 increased to 2169 by the year 1921-22.

When Gokak canal work was under taken by British government in 1909. Maharaja also informed that his state area also will be irrigated for about 7.014 acres through right bank canal of Ghataprabha (GLBC), immediately agreed to pay water charges of these 39 villages of Raibag mahal amounting to Rs. 49,900/-. There was one Ginning factory at Chinchli.

His highness tours in the districts began with his visit to Gadhinglaj on 28th November 1896 and passing through Raibag and Katkol, the most detached portions of the territory as also the most severally suffering from the failure of latter rains terminated on the 30th Idem on account of scarcity prevailing at that time, His Highness made long marches and short stays and traveled with the smallest possible retinue, riding camels and horses the whole way in order to be able to see the state of the crops beyond the road sides. ₃

Structure of Administration:

Next to Karbhari there was Mamaletadar in Kolhapur State assisted by one Assistant Mamaletadar. Mamaletedars main duty was to collect revenue of the whole taluka with the help of circle inspector, village patils and Kulkarnis.

3. Dr. Mahesh Shinde, the pillar of democracy, 372-388

The mamaletedar was carefull to send all the accounts of cultivation is required to visit village four times every season and to inform himself most particularly of everything relating each that they may be prepared to attend every information to the ruler. The mamaletedar was appointed by the chief and had the right of first class magistrate. He also took inspection tours throughout taluka and maintained financial accounts of the taluka.

The mamletedar was the most important link in the administrative chain. He was the head of taluka treasury relieved all money. For the state as local magistrate he was responsible for maintenance of public peace in the taluka and the prompt prevention and detection and punishment of criminals. In this regard he was the head of local police who was subordinate to him. He was the head of revenue court and adjudicated in revenue assistance case as well as under the mamaletedar court act.

Local revenue officers:

Patil and Kulkarni were the local officers of the state in which Patil maintained law and order in his village. He solved the problems of the local people. Patil was the link between villages and state officers. The Patil was required for the transfer of information to the higher revenue authority. The Patil was not elected officer. Generally Patil belongs to the maratha and Dhangar or any other castes.

The officer's insignia of Patil was visible which showed his duties in connection with land. All office papers before this insignia of Patil attest his name. His main duty was to bring the idle and barren land under cultivation and to make it fruit bearing. Besides Patil was also chief police magistrate and chief judicial officers of the village. 4

Next to Patil came the Kulkarni in variably a Braham. He was Patils clerk and village accountant and record keepers. He kept a detailed record of revenue payment agricultural holdings and other properties in the village. The office of Kulkarni could also be sold and purchased. The village headman and accountants were remunerated by means of lands the inam or rent free land. Besides Kulkarni, there were Balutedars in village a watchman messenger of Patil to higher officers. In 1913 Shahu Maharaja ensured a further improvement in the administration by starting "Coronation Patil School" where village Patils were trained in the administration of villages.

The Kolhapur State Government notification revenue department dated 26th Oct. 1918 based on the Government resolution No. 10 of the year 1918 sanction to the abolition of the hereditary village Kulkarni in Kolhapur state and appoint talathis (village accounts) in their place announced the appointment from 1918. 186 talathis of which 9 in Raibag mahal and these belongs to the different

4 smhavaee History of phalita State p 364

castes like Marathas, Jains, Brahmans, Lingayat, Muslims and untouchables.

Table:

Sr. No.	Name of Village	Name of village accountant	Salary
1.	Raibag, Nagaral, Bonnanul, Hanabarahatti	Sri. Ganapat Govind Shinde	Rs. 18/-
2.	Mekhali, Mardi, Budhyal, Mallarhundi, Girnayakhatti, Jordatti, Bendawad	Sri. Khopade Rao, Xeel Pawar	Rs. 16/-
3.	Mantur, Kataka Bhavi, Devapur, Hatti, Kankanwadi	Satyagonda Bala Gonda Patil	Rs. 14/-
4.	Byakud, Bastwad, Khandala, Alaga Wadi, Morab	Mallappa Virappa Khanna	Rs. 16/-
5.	Nilaji Sirgur	Krishna Babaji Ade	Rs. 14/-
6.	Chinchali	Sakaram Balwant Dange	Rs. 14/-
7.	Bhirdi Jalalpur	Alappa Dayawant Mangave	Rs. 16/-
8.	Saudatti Nasalapur, Yadrav	Kakasabevenkat Rao	Rs. 14/-
9.	Basapur, Aralikatti, Islampur, Shabanar, Ghalhundi, Sisur, Hasedahall	Sidda Lingappa Sidavva Virakatanathi	Rs. 18/-

Shahu also issued two orders on August 1918 8th and 10th under the joint he order under the first he ordered that while making appointment of talathis preference should be given to the candidates of scheduled caste untouchables class and the other order Shahu

again declared that such of the Talathis as were recruited from the untouchables class would be promoted to the post of clerks or a val Karkuns if they were found intelligent and efficient.

In order to abolish the Mahar Vathanadani which had tied down the mahars to their vatans for ages. Shahu took another measure on September 18, 1918, he transferred the lands of Mahar Vatan ladari to them as assessed lands.

Notification of 26th July, 1902

When Shahu Chhatrapati took the administration in his hand in 1894, the majority of State officers were Brahmins. Other backward classes remained aloof from education and consequently from State services. Thus, from the beginning Shahu realised the necessity of setting on right track the whole social machine which for ages had strayed along lines harmful to national growth. To do this, he had to embark on a strenuous campaign against the evils of the tradition Heierarchy of castes. He set about his work systematically. His first step, to this effect, was the reservation of 50 per cent of posts for backward classes. In the year 1902, His Highness was invited to England to attend the coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII. During this sojourn in England, he issued an order from England, to the effect, that 50 per cent posts of the State services should be reserved for the Backward Class candidates. This was indeed a

landmark in his career as a social reformer. The original order dated 26th July, 1902 stated.

"Endeavours have been made in recent years in the Kolhapur State to foster and encourage the education of all classes of the subjects, so far, but His Highness regrets to have to record that those endeavours have not in the case of the more backward classes met with the success that was hoped for. His Highness, has had the matter under very careful consideration, has come to the conclusion that this want of success is due to the fact that the rewards for the higher education are not sufficiently widely distributed. To remedy this to a certain extent and to establish within the State an incentive to the backward classes of His Highness's subjects to study upto a higher standard His Highness has decided that it is desirable to reserve for those classes a larger share of employment in the State services than has hitherto been the case." He immediately ordered.

"From the date of this order 50 per cent of the vacancies that may occur shall be filled by recruits from among the backward classes. In all offices in which the proportion of officers of the backward classes at present is less than 50 per cent, the next appointment shall be given to a member of those classes. A Quarterly return of all appointments made after the issue of this order shall be submitted by all Heads of Departments. For the purpose of these orders the

backward classes shall be understood to mean all castes other than Brahman Prabhu, Shenavi, Parsees and other advanced classes.

His formula appears to have been that the reservation of post would be encourage the backward classes for education and their education would fetch them the offices.

His another order was:

"Those Mahars who have converted their Inam lands into Rayatawa, they should be exempted from the service of Veth Veral. The people such as Taral, Ghasti are not to be subjected to forced labour. If any one engaged these people to Veth Veral by any means of force, he would be terminated from the Government service without pension and if the person is Watandar his Watan would be attached. This intimation should be forwarded to every Gaon kamagar for further action."³⁸

We must note that the act of abolition of forced, labour on all-India level had to wait up to 1975, the year in which the Government of India did it away by a law. The orders of Shahu were not merely glittering generalities of a showy nature. They were the results of an urge of a genuine friend of the suffering humanity in India. The orders were strictly enforced during his life time. His Highness declared that the payment of *balute* to all Watandars including the Joshis was unnecessary and that if any service was required from them, the State

would remunerate them in cash. The Mahars, however, were excluded from this order of 22nd February, 1918 presumably, because he hoped to protect these helpless creatures. By his order of June 25, 1918 he declared that the Ryots had no right to impose their services on Mahars and that the rent free lands that Mahars held may be treated as Rayatawa or assessed lands. On March 3, 1919 a further step was taken by promulgating a fine up to Rs. 100 or imprisonment up to four days as a punishment upon those attempting to outcaste people who employed men other than the now-defunct Balutdars. The final step was taken on 28 March, 1919 by an order declaring that the Ryots need not pay the Mahars any *balute* as the latter were thence forth free from liability to compulsory service. This was his act of abolition of Mahar Watan. We must note that the Mahars of post Shahu age agitated constantly for the abolition of their Watan, which had been the cause of their age old slavery, under Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. They succeeded in their attempt in the year 1960 when the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, under pressure from the Mahars, adopted the bill of abolishing Mahar Watan.

The system of daily roll call or *hajeri* of all men who were called the criminal classes, was also put an end to on 31st August, 1918, making exception in the case of convicted persons, who could free themselves from the daily roll call only by proving five years of good

conduct, after the expiry of their term of imprisonment. By the way of his order dated 1st July, 1920, Maharaja appointed sixteen Mahars from Kasabe Karveer in the Police Gates were to serve Darbar etc. 6

Land Revenue Assessment

Year	Taluka	Land revenue (as per old rates)	New rates	Income	%
1898	Raibag	53306	67232	13926	26.12

PRICES OF RICE

RICE				JOWAR			
1886	1903	1913	1921	1886	1903	1913	1921
6 ½		4 ½	4 ½	9	28	8	5 ½

WHEAT				BAJARI			
1886	1903	1913	1921	1886	1903	1913	1921
5 ½	8	5	4	12	3	10	7

GRAM			
1886	1903	1913	1921
6 ½	5	8 ¼	4

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6. Shahu Crusade Against Untouchability by B. D. Chitambar p. 614
7. Kolapur under Chh. Rajaram II by M. S. Venkat p. 6214

MAHAL RAIBAG

PRICES OF JAWAR PER SEER

YEAR						
1923	1926	1929	1932	1935	1938	1940
5	6	7 ½	9	9	11 ½	9

PRICES OF RICE PER SEER

YEAR						
1923	1926	1929	1932	1935	1938	1940
3 ¼	3 ¼	3 ½	6	6	6 ½	5

PRICES OF WHEAT PER SEER

YEAR						
1923	1926	1929	1932	1935	1938	1940
4	3 ½	3 ½	7	6	6 ¼	8 ½

PRICES OF BAJRI PER SEER

YEAR						
1923	1926	1929	1932	1935	1938	1940
6	7	9	14	14	10 ½	9 ½

PRICES OF GRAM PER SEER

YEAR						
1923	1926	1929	1932	1935	1938	1940
4	4 ½	4	8	9	7	7

8. Huzur Ghannay 1924
Ibid 1927
1930
1934
1935 R.O.K
P. 609
P. 604
P. 601

Mahal Raybag - 1932

Religionwise population

Sr. No.	Name of the Village	No. of Houses	Total population		Hindus				Lingayat		Hindu Others				Total		Muslim		Jain		Christian		Parshi	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Raybag	846	2134	1950	4084	277	181	108	94	526	480	261	281	497	458	1664	356	342	112	113	2	1	0	0
2.	Yatav	87	281	276	557	3	3	9	6	133	150	59	64	73	49	277	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Nasikpur	252	867	776	1643	43	32	8	5	114	95	112	86	94	98	371	104	107	392	343	0	0	0	0
4.	Sandoli	461	1145	1077	2222	161	125	12	19	352	319	106	90	198	193	829	67	63	249	268	0	0	0	0
5.	Kalher	218	574	561	1135	255	239	17	22	82	74	98	101	67	87	519	13	12	42	26	0	0	0	0
6.	Shiradi	410	1015	954	1969	85	76	25	31	485	433	119	128	245	248	956	22	19	37	19	0	0	0	0
7.	Marab	133	458	426	882	6	1	4	1	105	90	136	143	189	177	444	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Nilgundi	182	478	473	951	32	35	11	12	152	115	51	70	198	212	444	5	5	29	24	0	0	0	0
9.	Ashgavadi	124	393	347	740	19	16	6	5	49	61	27	27	231	192	332	3	4	56	42	0	0	0	0
10.	Phadavadi	79	167	147	314	2	4	0	0	0	17	50	47	2	47	227	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Nagari	92	231	196	427	15	16	0	0	160	83	50	45	0	0	20	29	26	32	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Bogari	50	134	124	262	1	0	0	0	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Ghigavadi	10	27	34	61	0	2	0	0	69	67	11	5	31	35	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Jodhasti	38	116	112	228	4	5	1	4	5	3	14	14	119	104	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Mandavadi	63	155	131	286	12	6	5	4	5	3	37	51	139	144	472	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Kalher	208	476	491	967	13	14	5	9	278	271	8	8	5	52	57	93	89	0	2	4	0	0	0
17.	Dhargavadi	33	95	93	188	26	24	3	2	4	1	8	5	356	302	859	44	34	45	42	0	0	0	0
18.	Nilgi	308	928	823	1751	164	95	26	17	252	220	101	115	356	351	1099	157	140	150	159	0	0	0	0
19.	Shirpur	510	1406	1362	2768	111	117	28	34	427	430	182	168	351	314	1099	171	154	169	144	0	0	0	0
20.	Chavadi	706	1725	1684	3409	229	225	34	30	337	350	169	190	616	591	1385	171	154	169	144	0	0	0	0
21.	Bhargav	129	366	347	713	4	4	12	15	152	142	70	56	116	121	354	8	5	4	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Bhargav	109	425	364	789	4	9	0	0	52	34	119	114	247	207	422	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Khandoli	428	396	822	1222	56	45	0	0	64	64	85	82	215	205	424	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Kandoli	232	618	591	1209	9	11	8	4	187	186	53	74	296	246	555	62	66	1	4	0	0	0	0
25.	Bhargav	245	782	727	1509	69	75	12	17	363	305	145	146	168	166	757	5	5	20	13	0	0	0	0
26.	Mandoli	63	180	149	329	0	0	1	0	47	44	19	10	116	92	180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Bhargav	124	270	262	532	0	0	1	0	0	0	32	37	237	225	270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Mandoli	146	583	476	1059	38	23	2	0	58	54	129	117	335	282	582	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Kandoli	272	763	707	1470	31	24	9	8	116	108	91	106	506	449	753	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		6292	17720	16046	33766	1609	1405	347	335	4577	4232	2356	2386	5950	5475	14833	1072	1005	1313	1207	2	1	0	0

New Road from Nagaral to Station Alagwadi: This road was 6 ½ miles in length. The earth work had been completed and 4 ½ miles moroomed and rolled, 2 miles of mooroming remain to be done. This road was carried out as a famine work. Improving Abu tank at Raibag was completed. This work was executed during the famine estimated amount was Rs. 4.472. Branch road to join Belgaum Bagalkot from Dadibhavi. 9

In summing up his reforms, it can be said,

1. In the field of administration he tried to weed out the corrupt, inefficient and communal administrators who instead of serving the people tried to exploit them and he made the administration a machinery of the people for the people.
2. In the field of economics, he paved the way for regional planning and development by encourage co-operative societies by building 20 tanks by providing commercial facilities textile mills.
3. In the field of education and culture. He tried to spread universal education irrespective of caste and creed and was a pioneer in providing facilities for education of all levels to all communities by starting the movement of hostels by encouraging drama and music through drama club by patronizing arts and music.

9. The works of public work under Shahu by Chavankar p. 52

4. In the field of social activities he built, hospitals lunatic asylums, leprosy institutions reforms and codified, by simplification, Hindu law, and developed the society in state by promoting equality and fraternity among all people by encouraging all sports particularly wrestling and assisting the British and the American missionaries.
5. In the field of politics he had the vision to perceive the dawn of freedom and worked on the basis that the attainment of freedom before the masses were educated properly was dangerous and praised the British in connection with the western education they brought to the masses and their faith in equality of man and man and hence even at the risk of his throne, he thought it his duty to organize and encourage non-brahmins who were deprived of all education for centuries.

Mahalkaris of Raibag Mahal:

1925 – 1936 – Sri B. L. Patil

1.6.129 – 1930 31/8 Sri A.D. Vichare

28.6.1930 6/6 Sri R.A. Achavan

14.7.1934.1939 6/6 Sri D.R. Surve

7.6.29 A D. 31.5.30 Vinchare legal remember

Mamaltedar legal members of Shirol petha.

7.6.1927 – 6.6.1928 Sri D.S. Jadhav 7.6.1927 – 6.6.1928 Sri S.G. Shinde

7.6.1928 – 26.3.1929 Sri D.S. Jadhav 7.6.1929 – 6.6.1930 Sri T U. Chavan

14.11.1930 6.6.1931 7.6.1931 – 24.2.1932

7.6.1932 – 6.6.1936 Sri B.L Patil

7.6.1938 – 30.11.1936 Sri V.V. Powar

Second class subjudge first class Magistrate Court Shirol and Raibag

7.6.1927 – 6.6.1928 Sri R.G. Shinde Subjudge T.Y. Rajebhosale

7.6.1929 – 6.6.1930 Sri V.K. khoparekar

01.01.1929 – 31.12.1928 Sri Vaigankar

7.6.1929 – 6.6.1930 Vicharpekar

7.6.1931 – 20.7.1932 Sri V.G. Shirgaonkar

20.8..1930 – 6.6.1939 Mr. Khuperkar

01.01.1929 to 07-06-1928 - Sheethy in charge of Phanala also

07.06.1928 to 31.12.1928 - Raosaheb Solankurkar

7.6.1929 to 6.6.1930 - Khurpekar

7.6.1931 to 24.6.1931 – Nipanikar

1.1.1932 to 20.7.1932 Sri. V. G. Shirgupkar

10.8.1932 to 31.1.1937 – Raosaheb Sonkurkar (Hatkangala and Raibag)

20.8.1930 to 31.1.1937 - Khurpekar₁₀

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