
CHAPTER I

PROFILE OF DEVGAD TALUKA

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CHAPTER - I
"PROFILE OF DEVGAD TALUKA"

[1.1] "Introduction of Sindhudurg District"

On the 1st May 1962, the Zilla Parishadas; Panchayat Committees and Village Panchayati were established in Maharashtra, which replaced the 'District Local Boards'. Geographically, Maharashtra has been divided in Four Zones such as 'Vidharbha', 'Marathwada', 'Western Maharashtra', and 'Konkan'. The 'Konkan' Zone includes Thane, Raigad and Ratnagiri district. But, on the 1st May, 1981, 'Ratnagiri' district was divided and a new district called - 'Sindhudurg' was created constituting Southern part of Ratnagiri district. There are Seven Talukas in Sindhudurg district; they are Sawantwadi; Vengurla; Malvan; Kudal; Kankavali, Devgad and Vaibhavwadi. Out of which the first six are from earlier Ratnagiri while the last one has been included from the Kolhapur district.

Sindhudurg district is situated on the Western-Coastal Strip of India which is about 121 k.m. of length. This district is surrounded by Ratnagiri on its north; Goa on its South; Sahyadri Mountain ranges on the east and the Arabian Sea on the West. The road transportation is the only important means of transportation in it. There is no railway or airways facilities available in this district. The waterways are available in about 18 inlets in the district. Ratnagiri; Kolhapur; Belgaum and Pangim are some of the big cities situated around Sindhudurg district. According to 1981 Census; it populated 7,73,323 and majority of the

population lives in the rural area. It is recognised as 'Coastal' district. Geographically it is divided in three sections - i) the horticultural area near the Coastal strip, ii) the productive area on the lower topical land and, iii) the hilly area at the bottom of the Sahyadries. This district witnesses 2750 m.m. of rainfall on an average. In the Sawantwadi Taluka, 'Amboli' witnesses the highest rainfall. Since the Land slope of this district is on the Western side, inspite of the heavy rainfall, the rivers do not hold the water during the Summer. It has 5232 sq.km. area quotient. The main occupation is farming; and it is associated by cash crops from horticulture and fishing. Rice and nagali are the main crops, and it is subsided by Coconut; Mango; Cashewnut; Cocum and betlenut. The world famous 'Alphanso' Mango's production takes place in this district. There are Sea-borts like Vijaydurg; Devgad, Malvan and Vengurla. Sawantwadi is the wooden toys and handicraft production centre. The Country earns the foreign currency by that. The 'puppet show' is in vogue at Pinguli in Kudal and similarly in the southern region, the 'Dashavatari' shows are in vogue in south part of district.

Fishing is one of the important sector of districts' economy. It is done with trollying; gill netting and passing netting along with the traditional method of rapan. The fishing area of the district is approximately 16000 K.M., but at present the area of about 7000 K.M. is in use. On an average 24,800 m. tonnes of fish is received every year. In Maharashtra this proportion ranges at about 4 lakhs of m.tonnes. Maharashtra

stands second in India as Kerala holds the first number in oceanic fishing. The fishing is done in about 76 villages of the Coastal line in Sindhudurg district. There are 22848 people are engaged in this occupation. There are 1948 fishing boats, in which 283 are mechnized boats. The annual turnover is around Rs.10 crores in the fishing sector. It is done within 30 yards of depth from the sea-level. And it will be possible to do fishing for another 70 yards if it is done by mechanisation.

[1.2] Geographical Survey of Devgad Taluka.

1) Location

Devgad is one of the important taluka in Sindhudurg district. It is situated during $16^{\circ}23'$ north latitude and $73^{\circ}21'$ east latitude. In ancient times Devgad was called as 'Arum'. It is also mentioned as 'Togrum'. There are some main inlets such as Vijaydurg; Wadatar, Mithmubri, Mithbaon and Achara; in Devgad. Devgad is at the South-west side of Maharashtra. The taluka is surrounded by Arabeen Sea on its West; Vengurla-Malvan on the South; Kudal on the South-east, Kankavli on the east and Rajapur on the north. The east-west amplification of Devgad taluka is 20 miles and South-north is about 32 miles. It means that Devgad has got 32 miles long coastal strip.

Devgad is a Taluka place. It is 40 k.m. away from the 'Bombay-Panji' National Highway No. 17 and at the interior part from Nandgaon. This Taluka is included in the category of rural area. The area of the taluka is 734 Sq.km. of

geographical quotient and it includes 90 villages. Devgad has a port, known as a 'Devgad port'. Today, it is recognised as a well-secured port at west coast line of India. Devgad is reputed for its 'Alphanso Mango' in the World. There are some big villages in this taluka like Devgad, Jamsande, Wada, Shirgaon, Mithbaon, Girye, Mond, Munage and Talebazar.

2) Climate -

Being a coastal taluka, the climate is humid and there are no large variations during the day and between the seasons. It is find out 5° to 10° Fahrenheit lower and 75° F.H. higher temperature at Devgad. In 1985, the maximum and minimum temperature was 33.3 and 19.4 selcibus recorded at Devgad center.

3) Rainfall -

The annual average rainfall for the Devgad is 2405 m.m. (80 to 120 inches). The rainfall schedule has been shown in Table no. 1.

Table No.1 ; Rainfall Schedule of Devgad.

Year	Total rainfall (in m.m.)
1987	2405
1988 (before Nov.)	2445

[Source :- Sample No.12 - Tahsildar Office, Devgad]

4) Soil -

The predominant soils in the taluka are laterite soils

which vary in colours from bright red to brownish red to the preponderance of hydrated iron oxides. They are always acidic and fairly well supplied with nitrogen and oxygenic matter. Their texture loamy and depth varies from one foot to three foot. They are porous not retentive of moisture and are found in several grades. The main grades are (i) soils useful for paddy cultivation (ii) work soil useful for cashewnut, mangoes and reggi cultivation (iii) soil useful for coconut (iv) Coastal alluvion, useful coconut and areconut gardens (v) Salty lands locally known as Khar and Khajan. Geologically the soil of this taluka is formed out of 'Jambha' stones locally known 'Katal' which can be seen everywhere in taluka.

5) Rivers -

There are five main rivers in the taluka flow from east to west to join the Arabian Sea. The names of such rivers are Vaghotan, Devgad, Wadatar, Dabol and Achara. Almost all the rivers being seasonal are unsuitable for irrigation and transportation also.

6) Minerals -

South Konkan seems to be a favourable place in regard to availability of some important minerals. Boxite is found in the vicinity of Vijaydurg; Devgad. Sand silica is found in Coastal Line from Devgad to Goa. Manganese, Iron are found in some part of the taluka.

7) Forests -

The total geographical area of Devgad is 78,225 hectares.

The area under forest is only 4.34 hectares. The barren and uncultivable privately owned land will be available for afforestation. There is wide scope for afforestation in the Devgad taluka.

[1.3] The Field of Education

Education is one of basic factors in infrastructure of a country. It provides human capital. Devgad is educationally backward but, that picture is rapidly changing now as some educational facilities have been made available. The entire picture of education field has been shown in the table no. 2.

Table No. 2 : Picture of education field of Devgad Taluka (1988).

Sr. No.	Schools/Colleges	No. of School/Colleges	No. of Students
1.	Primary Schools (Std.I to VII)	200	16,558
2.	Highschools	22	N.A.*
3.	Jr. Colleges	03	700
4.	Sr. Colleges	01	412
5.	D.Ed. College	01	40
6.	B.Ed. College	01	100
7.	Technical School	01	40
8.	Fisheries School	01	30
9.	Anganwadi	125	N.A.*
10.	Adult Education Centre	120	N.A.*
11.	Computer Institution	01	25

(* N.A. = Not available)

[Source :- Block Education Office; Devgad]

There were 200 Primary Schools (I to VII Std.) during March 1988 and 16,558 students getting instruction in them. Similarly most of the schools are having marathi as their medium of instructions, but there are only 8 Urdu-medium Schools. There are 22 Highschools in all and only one from them is having Urdu as the medium. It means that the proportion of Urdu medium highschool to the total number of highschools comes to 5 percent.

The facility of higher-secondary and collegiate education has been available since 1974. There is S.H. Kelkar College of Arts and Commerce, run by Shikshan Vikas Mandal Devgad, where there are 850 students in all. Since June 1988 the science branch has also been started. There is a college of Education run by the same Mandal and about 100 students take the B.Ed. degrees per year. There is one D.Ed. College at Mithbaon, where 40 students can take admission per year. Because of B.Ed. and D.Ed. College the need of trained teachers in the region has been met partially. Similarly, another branch in Shikshan Vikas Mandal, imparting the Computer-technical education has also been started. So it has provided a facility of Modern Science and Technical Education to the rural folk thus going away from the stream of conventional liberal education. This background is important since it is a crucial input for entrepreneurship development in the region. At Shirgaon and Mithbaon there is one Junior College. There is a technical School at Shirgaon and one Govt. Fisheries School at Tambaldeg-Mithbaon. A specialisation in the subject

of Fishing is being offered at Devgad, Mithbaon and Munge highschools. The Naval School has been Sanctioned at Vijaydurg. The Devgad taluka has paid much attention, to child-development education also. In Sindhudurg district, the Devgad taluka has been selected for the Anganwadi project. There were 125 Anganwadies in the year 1988. There were 120 Adult Education Centres being run by the Adult Education Department. Recently every collegiate student is educating an illiterate adult under the National Literacy Mission (NLM) sponsored by University of Bombay.

[1.4] Population

1) Structure of population -

According to the 1981 Census the total population of Devgad taluka is 1,10,000. It is only 14 % of district population. Between 1951 to 1981 the total increase of population is only 12,000. It means that in last 3 decades population has increased with 400 people on an average per year. The population structure of Devgad taluka has been shown in table no. 3.

Table No.3 ; Population Structure of Devgad Taluka.

Year of Census	Population (in 000)
1951	98
1961	1,01
1971	1,06
1981	1,10

[Source :- Socio-Economic Review of Dist. Statistical Abstract of Sindhudurg Dist. (1985-86)]

The total growth rate of population is 3.27 % P.A. in 1981 Census. The total number of males is 49,000 and that of female is 61,000. Therefore, the proportion of female labourers in farming and fishing occupation is much higher than those of male labourers.

2) Density of population -

As per 1981 Census the density of population of Devgad taluka is 149 per sq.km, whereas that of the Sindhudurg district is 154. The density of population in Maharashtra State is 204, whereas in India it is 221 per sq.km. It shows that density of population in Devgad is much less than of Maharashtra and India also.

3) Literacy rate -

As per 1981 Census, literacy rate of Devgad taluka has reached to 52.5 % whereas that of Sindhudurg district is about 54 %. The literacy percentage of Devgad taluka is higher than the average obtaining for Maharashtra and even higher than that of India also. In comparison with the males the literacy rate of female is less. For the literacy rate of male is 64.1 % whereas the female is 43.1 %.

4) Sex Ratio -

As per 1981 Census, the number of females per 1000 males in Devgad taluka is 1244. It is higher than state average. The abnormal sex ratio (i.e. no. of female per 1000 male, is higher 1244) has an important implication for industrial development.

5) Classification of Population -

The majority of the people of Devgad taluka belongs to

Hindu religion and this is followed by Boudhas, Muslims, Christians and Jains. The total number of S.C. and S.T. population is about 2500 and the total number of Nav-bodhas is more than 6,000 as per 1981 Census. The number of blind, deaf, dumb and disabled people is about 100 as per 1981 Census. All population of Devgad taluka is known as a rural population. There is not a single village in a taluka whereas population is more than 10,000. The broad categorisation of population from the point of Labour force has been shown in the table no.4.

Table No.4 : Broad Categorisation of Population of Devgad Taluka (As per 1981 Census).

Sr. No.	Class of working	No. of Population (in 00)
1.	Farm Labourers	32
2.	Domestic Occupations	8
3.	Fishing, trade, mining horticulture etc.	68
4.	Farmers	249
5.	People not working (dependent)	677
6.	Total working Force	356
7.	Marginal Labourers	62

[Source - Socio-Economic Review of Dist, Statistical Abstract of Sindhudurg Dist. (1985-86) Chart No.1.5]

It witnesses an addition of about 3,000 to 4,000 people during the fishing and mango season per year. This is kind of 'migrated population'. It affects upon the trade, transportation and other businesses.

[1.5] Transport and Communication

1) Railways -

At present the facility of railway is not available in Sindhudurg district as well as Devgad taluka. Kolhapur is the nearest railway station which is 150 k.m. away from Devgad.

2) Road transport -

Development of road transport is important requirement for infrastructural improvement. At present there is not National Highway passes through the Devgad taluka. But the National (Sea) Highway from Redi to Revas; parallel to Bombay-Panji National Highway; is under the consideration of the Govt. It is proposed Redi-Revas N.H. has an access through the Devgad taluka. The total strength of roads in the Devgad taluka has been shown in the table no. 5.

Table No.5 : Total Strength of Roads in Devgad Taluka
(upto 1988)

Sr. No.	Types of roads	K.M.
1.	National Highway	Nil.
2.	State Highway	102
	A) Devgad to Nippani (No.116)	
	B) Vijaydurg to Tarala (No.115)	
3.	Major Districts Roads (MDR)	216
4.	Other Districts Roads (ODR)	47
5.	Villages Roads (VR)	174

	Total	539

(Source - B and C, Deptt., Zilla Parishad, Devgad).

There are 40 'Sakavs' constructed on many rivers of taluka that is useful only for passengers in rainy seasons.

3) M.S.R.T. -

There are two S.T. Depott. One is at Devgad and another is at Vijaydurg. The Frequency of the S.T. schedules is 39 and number of S.T. buses are 45 in Devgad depott. in the year 1988. In Vijaydurg S.T. depott, the S.T. Schedules is 20, and number of S.T. buses are 22. The S.T. buses have reached to almost all the villages of taluka. The facility of S.T. is available at Devgad to seat for Bombay. Panji, Belgaum, Kolhapur, Pune Ratnagiri etc. The S.T. provides the extra schedules services during the Kunkeshwar fair and Lord Ganesh Festivals. The S.T. facilities are available for 11,359 k.m. in taluka upto 1988. Nearabout 7,000 persons get benefits of S.T. Service daily.

4) Sea transport -

The Devgad taluka having a coastal area and so there is a sea transport by steamer. Many years ago, the Devgad port was used to import the tiles, wood, grains, salt and kerosene by the boats, whereas the goods like Mango, Fish-power, sugar-cane, grass were exported. But along with the sedimentation the port lost its commercial importance. So it is now used for the passanger-traffic only. It is available to said for Bombay and Panji. Similarly this facility also avails at Vijaydurg. In rainy season there is no any sea-transport facility.

5) Communication -

Regarding communication following facilities are

available. There are 54 post offices and 12 telegram centres and 250 letter boxes in the year 1986-87. The number of telephone holders is more than 210. The telephone exchange centres are at Wada, Vijaydurg, Shirgaon and Mithbaon in addition to that of Devgad. The facility of telex is not available yet.

6) Electricity -

In Devgad taluka electricity is mainly fied from Kankavali-Fonda-Telebazar. The total electricity supply in Devgad taluka is 3 M.W. (1 M.W. = 1,000 K.W.). Talebazar is the 33/11 K.V. substation being capacity of 4.15 MW. There is one wind mill generating-station at Devgad which includes 20 wind mill at present. It has installed capacity of 1100 K.W. (1 wind mill = 55 K.W.). There is proposal of 100 wind mills. The wind mill is known as a non-traditional source of power-generation.

[1.6] Medical Facilities

At present there are 1 rural Govt. Hospitals and 5 primary health centres; are functioning in the Devgad taluka. There are veteranal hospitals, at Fansgaon, Girye, Mithbaon at Devgad; which are run by the Z.P. Similarly, there are mobile veterinary hospitals at Talebazar, Shirgaon and Naringre.

[1.7] Banking

The facilities of banking is prime importance for the economic development of any region. Naturally, 'Bank of India' is the lead bank in Sindhudurg district and Devgad taluka.



There are 9 branches of schedules commercial banks in taluka, whereas more than 60 branches are in Sindhudurg district. The network of bank branches has been shown in table no. 6.

Table No.6 ; The network of bank branches in Devgad Taluka (1987)

Sr. No.	Bank	No. of Branches
1.	Bank of India	04
2.	State Bank of India	02
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	01
4.	Union Bank of India	02
5.	Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg rural bank	01
6.	Sindhudurg district central co-operative bank	06
7.	Devgad Arban Co-operative Bank	01
8.	Land Development Bank	01*
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	Total	17

* Note : Pay Office only hence not included in the number of branches.

[Source :- Annual Action Plan of Bank of India for Sindhudurg District (1987)]

It is shown from the above table that the total number of bank branches is only 17. The total number of bank branches in Sindhudurg district is 106 in the year 1987. Similarly, a branch of Regional Rural Bank will be started at Fansgaon in Devgad taluka in the near future. It is observed that the total amount of deposits with banks is much more than of the total

amount of advances. It is because of, at one side, unsatisfactory development of trade, industries, transportation, farming and infrastructural facilities; and at another side people earn incomes from fishing, mango plantation, services and they deposits more money with banks.

[1.8] Co-operative Sector

The co-operative movement has not spouted yet in the Devgad taluka. The structure of co-operative societies in Devgad taluka has been shown in table no. 7.

Table No.7. : Structure of Co-operative Societies in Devgad Taluka (1984).

Sr. No.	Name of the Society	No. of Branches
1.	Primary Agricultural Co-op. Society	35
2.	Fishermen's Co-op. Society	05
3.	Horticulture Co-op. Society	02
4.	Co-op. Marketing Federation	01
5.	Industrial Co-op. Society	02
6.	Labourer's Co-op. Society	01
7.	Milkmen's Co-op. Society	02
8.	Co-op. Housing Society	01
9.	Others	02
	Total	51

[Source : "Devgad Darshan", 'RasRaj' of S.H. Kelkar College, Devgad, (1983-84)].

Similarly one co-operative tile factory had been set up at Are in Devgad taluka; and at Kinjawade one co-operative Mango Canning Factory is going to be set up. 'Kalyan' Co-op Printing Press is the only co-operative printing press in Sindhudurg district which is located at Devgad. Recently, Devgad taluka Mango Producer's Co-operative Federation had been set up at Jamsande.

[1.9] Agricultural Sector

Agriculture and horticulture are the main resources of livelihood of the people in this taluka. The total geographical area of Devgad taluka is 78,225 hectares. But the total area of the land under cultivation is 12,913 hectares. It means that only 16.5 % land of total area, is under cultivation. And about 4,600 hectares of land is not useful for the cultivation whereas 45,100 hectares of land is yet to bring under cultivation. Therefore, in order to make up the deficiency in food grains more area should be brought under cultivation. The distribution of land under cultivation (cropwise) has been shown in table no.8.

Table No.8 : Distribution of Land under Cultivation
(1986-87)

Sr. No.	Crops/fruits	Hectors
1.	Rice	6468
2.	Nagali	1318
3.	Vari	166
4.	Harik	167
5.	Kulith	518

Table No.8 : (Contd..)

Sr. No.	Crops/fruits	Hectors
6.	Udid/other pulses	155
7.	Vegetables	35
8.	Mango plantation	2246
9.	Fanas	101
10.	Cashew-nuts	391
11.	Arecanuts	30
12.	Chillies	82
13.	Coconut	244
14.	Oil seeds	134
15.	Jute	11
16.	Grass	847
Total		12913

[Source :- Taluka Sample No.20; Devgad Tahsildar Office (1986-87)].

It is shown from the above table that the percentage of land cultivation under rice crop is 50.0 %, Mango plantation 17.4 %, Cashew-nuts 3.0 %, Coconuts 1.9 % and others 27.7 % to the total land under cultivation.

The contribution of land cultivation under mango plantation of Devgad taluka is higher (38 %) in the Sindhudurg district. The total irrigated area is 652 hectors in Devgad taluka; which should be increased by taking up more minor irrigation projects Lift irrigation Scheme and exploiting other

available resources of irrigation.

[1.10] Mango Plantation

'Alphanso' is the most reputed mango obtained at Devgad. It is world famous production. In some recent years, the plantation of mango is increasing.

Mango plantation is capital intensive and having long gestation period. The Govt. of Maharashtra has given the subsidy for mango plantation. It is Rs.10,095 for one hector of mango plantation upto 3 years. The Govt. has also introduced the scheme like - i) Concessional rate of interest of 7.5 % ii) Exemption in interest for the first 3 years, iii) 50 % subsidy on capital cost. Mango plantation in economically viable enterprises. A subsidy on mango plantation plays a significant role in increasing employment education, economic and social status of the farmers in Konkan area.¹ Especially 10-15 K.M. away from the sea-coast line of Devgad taluka, the mango plantation is found to a large extent. In comparison with mango found elsewhere, the flavour, weight, colour and shape of the Alphango Mangos of Devgad is definitely remarkable. It is estimated that there are 4 to 5 lakhs of Alphanso plants at Devgad taluka. In the total mango plantation, the proportion of Alphanso is 95 % and about 5 % is Payari, Mankur, Malagi and Raywal. Approximately, 30-40 mango plants are cultivated in one acre of land. For each plant, the ditch

1. V.A.Thorat, H.V.Patil, S.G. Borude "Socio-Economic Impact of subsidy for Mango plantation in Konkan region of Maharashtra", Journal of Rural Development, Vol.7, July 1988.

having 3 X 3 X 3' width is dug. At beginning the plant needs regular water supply for 3 to 5 years. The chemical and organic fertilizers are used. The blossom is put forth by the plant during November and December. Than some pesticides are sprayed on the blossoms during February. Normally the gestation period for 1 mango plantation is 5 to 6 yrs, after which mango plant bears fruits. This period is the period of fertility. But the investment in terms of fertilisers, capital and labour inputs is fully justified since on an average this plant gives income for 30 yrs. Therefore mango plantation is certainly a income generating proposition.

The gradation in case of mangos is very important step since prices are associated with these grades. They are graded into I, II and III. After gradation they are systematically packed into wooden-boxes and are ready for transporation. This being a perishable commodity, packaging has importance from marketing point of view. While the mangos of first two grades are despatched for Bombay Market, the third grade is made available for canning.

[1.11] Mango Transporation

Before 1950, the mango was being sent to Bombay Market by ships. But after 1950 the truck-service became available and mango is being transported by the trucks. From Bombay, the Mangos are exported to foreign countries like Saudi-Arabia; Kuwait, Bahrain, U.K., United Arab Emirate. There are 6 to 7 dozons of mangoes in each parcel; and 300 to 350 parcels in each truck. It mears that each truck loads and transports

nearabout 21,000 to 25,000 mangoes. It is estimated that about 4 to 5 lakhs of parcels are transported in each yearly season. Each parcel changed Rs.10 to 15 as a transport cost. So the turnover of transportation, reaches to Rs.6 to 7 cr. yearly. The trucks from Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Konkan are arranged on freight. There are many mango transport services in Devgad taluka, some of them are i) Gogate Mango Transport Service - Jamsande, ii) Shirsat Mango Services - Devgad, iii) Bhatwadi Mango Transport Services - Jamsande, iv) Sanmitra Mango Transport Services - Vijaydurg, v) Kazi Mango Transport Service-Waghatan, vi) Thakur-Desai Mango Transport Service-Padel, vii) Sahayog Mango Services-Jamsande. The Mango parcels are sent to commission agents, brokers at Phule Market in Bombay. Most of agents are from Sangli, Satara, Pune and Konkan area.

[1.12] Fishing Sector

Devgad is important fishing port in the Sindhudurg district. Being as a coastal taluka, fishing has an important place in the economy of Devgad taluka. In Devgad taluka there are 29 to 30 villages of Coastline engaged in fishing business. Before 1964, the fishing was done by the traditional methods only i.e. rapani, pagil. Now it is done by the mechanised boats and trollers. Generally, the fishing season runs during October to May end. The various kinds of fish are obtained e.g. prawns, paplet, bale, dhoma, shengati, surmai, genyar, bangada, tarli, sule, mori etc. There are various processes on the fish are made e.g. selling the fresh fish in

local market; salting the fish, making the prawns head-less for export, sun drying fish fishmeal; market agentship etc. All this process has provided an employment to about 2000 to 3000 persons per year. There are 53 trollers, 61 mechanised boats and 30 rapans engaged in the year 1987. There are 7 workers per trollers, 25-26 workers per rapan; and 6 workers per mechanised boat are engaged. There were 1500 persons engaged in this business. In Devgad port many trollers, boats accessing for fishing. They are from - Bombay, Harne, Varsoua, Ratnagiri, Jaitapur, Murund, Janjira, Malvan, Vengurla and Devgad also. Every troller (having 10 H.P. strength) costs Rs.6 lakhs. At the Devgad port, about 5000 M.T. fish are obtained per year, and it gives of about Rs.5 cr. of income per year. The facility of cold-storage is not available at Devgad, which is required for fish. So for some time fish are kept with ice and than they are sent to Ratnagiri, Panji and Bombay. The prawns and poplets are exported to foreign countries. There are 13 centres for deporting the fish.

[1.13] Developmental Scheme

1) Horticultural Development Scheme -

There is much scope for development of horticulture in this taluka mainly for mangoes, coconuts, cashew, kokam etc. In Devgad taluka mango plantation is the main source of income and Livelihood also. For the purpose of land reform and dry-farming cultivation technique the horiticultural development scheme is implemented by the Govt. as follows.

i) Soil Conservation - The scheme of soil conservation

has become popular in Konkan region. Under this scheme, for mango plantation the amount of Rs.10,095/- per hectars at 7.5 % rate of interest is to be given to the farmers. The distribution of amount is done on instalment basis in three years. The moratorium period for such loans is of 10 yrs, after which the repayment of instalment starts. In 1988-89 this scheme is implemented for 315.97 hectars, and the no. of beneficieries is nearabout 250. For cashewnuts plantation the provision of amount is Rs.1664 per hectar. The distribution of amount is done on instalment basis in five years. Under the scheme of soil-conservation 50 % subsidy for mango-plantation and 33 % subsidy for cashewnuts and coconuts plantation has been given to small farmers.

ii) Land Development Bank Scheme - Horticultural development scheme is also implemented by L.D.B. in Devgad taluka. Under this scheme, there is provision of amount of Rs.15,000 per hectar for the purpose of mango plantation.. The distribution of amount is done in 7 yrs at 10 % rate of interest. This scheme has been implemented for 97.35 hectars, no. of beneficieries is about 55 and total amount of distribution is Rs.14.50 lakhs in 1987-88.

2) Other Development Schemes -

There are other development schemes implemented by Tahsil office and other Govt. deptt. The I.R.D.P. is being run in the taluka. Under the I.R.D.P. scheme the loans worth of Rs.11.37 lakhs is distributed among 997 persons in the year 1987-88. Under the Trysem Scheme, about 40 educated unemployed

youths is imparted the training. The NREP is being implemented through the (51) Gram-panchayats and total amount is Rs.7 lakhs, in year 1987-88. Similarly, the Gram-panchayat has also lunched the schemes like - Houses for landless, Social forestry, smokeless hireside, family planning, small saving, Bio-gas plants. There are 250 bio-gas plants, 40-50 schemes sanctioned under EGs scheme, and Rs.1.14 Cr. are invested under the small saving in Devgad taluka in the year 1987-88.

[1.14] Tourist Centres

Kunkeshvar is a famous spectacular and holy place; 16 to 18 k.m. away from Devgad. It is proposed tourist centre by the Govt. Similarly there are some other remarkable places like - Vijaydurg Fort; Devgad Fort; Shirgaon Saitwada Waterfall and the Lord Ganesh Temple at Pokharbaon.

In short, fishing and horticulture are the main resources of Devgad taluka. Costal area and good port is available to this taluka. Prospects for Fishing and horticulture based industries are better. More units based on fish products, horticulture could be started. The D.C.K. has proposed one Mini Industrial Estate for this taluka.² Taking into account the infrastructural facilities Devgad taluka could be taken as growth centre for the development of rural areas.

2. Action Plan for Industrial Development; Ratnagiri District (1978-83), page no. 63.