
CHAPTER-VI: ECONOMIC LIFE: ECONOMIC POSITION OF
PEASANTS, THE STATE LANDS, GROWTH OF
INDUSTRIES, VILLAGE INDUSTRY AND
ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE PEOPLE

I. ECONOMIC POSITION OF PEASANTS

As in other parts of India, agriculture was the main source of livelihood of the people in the Sangli State. Majority of the total population was employed as labour in agriculture or occupation dependent on agriculture. The owner cultivators and the agricultural labourers form the two important classes of the agricultural population.¹

In the contemporary records, the agriculturist society was being called as Kunabi, mujeri, rayat, kulwadi etc. Although they were supporters of the whole society, their economic position was far from satisfactory level, because of the following factors:-

1. Oppression from Village Officers

In the old tumultuous times, before the advent of the Patwardhans to Miraj, there could be no pressure from higher authority exerted in the defence of the tenantry and the village officers were left to use their powers as they chose. They transferred lands from one tenant to another and practised many forms of oppression and ^ytranny. The hereditary village officers were the sole managers of the village and the weal and woe of the land holders wholly rested in their hands.²

2. Oppressive and cruel means for recovering arrears

In the early days there was no uniform system for collecting revenue and even the means employed in recovering arrears were generally oppressive and cruel viz. placing the debtor under restraint, confining him in a room in the chavdi, placing a heavy stone on his head and make him stand in the sun, preventing him from leaving his house, compelling him to sit in the sun, tying him with rope and keeping him in that condition for a number of hours; stopping his water supply etc. This last remedy was applied in the case of whole village and the moveables of the debtors were also sold for the realization of revenue taxes.³

3. Unbearable high land tax

The land tax levied on the State and other assessable lands was excessively high in the Miraj Prant, Terdal and Kuchi Talukas. It represented the standard assessment to be recovered if all the circumstances were favourable and it was higher than ordinary in other talukas. In all cases it was higher than the land-holders could afford to pay.⁴

4. Low prices of foodgrains

In those days a superabundant harvest was regarded as a calamity only second to general failure for when there was

no traffic and no exportation, low prices meant reduced profits to the cultivators. The revenue was besides defective and vicious in many respects. But the system was administered in a manner that subjected the people to far less oppression than might have been expected.⁵

5. Cultivators had no freedom of action

Captain Wingate writing in 1851 on the revenue administration told, "The Revenue Officers allowed no freedom of action to the cultivator, who was not permitted to relinquish any part of his holding when so inclined, but was even required to increase it when the authorities thought he had the means of cultivating more land than he had under tillage. Such extra lands he was allowed to hold at low rates so as in some measure to compensate for the high rent levied on the rest of his holding. The chief objects of the management were to prevent any diminution of cultivation and to extend it by all available means, so as to extract for the landlord the whole surplus produce beyond what was necessary for the support of the ryot, but yet so cautiously and carefully as not to disable him from continuing his cultivation".⁶

6. Absence of land revenue rules and regulations

During this period there was no change in the old tenures,

rentals, classification of soil etc. There was no land revenue rule to regulate the recovery and much depended upon the discretion of the revenue officers themselves. The compulsory processes used until the year 1851 A.D. When the rules embodied in Mr. Elphinstone's Code were brought into force in the Sangli State.⁷

7. The System of revenue management was based on production itself

Under the system of revenue management of the State, the ryots might enjoy a certain degree of comfort in proportion to the liberality of the management, but as the system was everywhere based not on the productive capabilities of a holding but on the production itself, it was evident that the districts under such a system must be at a dead standstill as regards any permanent advancement in the condition of the people.⁸

8. Economic ^x exploitation of peasants

Economic exploitation of peasants was common as in other parts of Maharashtra. An account from a pamphlet entitled "Deccan ryots and their landed tenures" had mentioned the manner of economic exploitation as⁹ .

"A good deal of the cultivation under the Native

management was the result of actual compulsion. It is so in all Native states and Jagirs that I have seen. But you must not suppose that compulsion or any other process would enable the ryots to pay the enormous rates per bigha (from 2 to 10 Rs.). These rates were never paid unless in a season of extraordinary abundance. But the native plan is to keep an impossible rate in order to be enabled in good seasons to sweep the whole surplus into the exchequer".

"They (ryots) were slaves it was true, but their masters were considerate, and seldom tightened their bonds beyond the limits of endurance. They were not allowed to become too wealthy, but on the other hand seldom or never reduced below the level of a tolerable subsistence. They were the milch-cows of the Jagirdar, which, however, he took care to milk them by no one but himself".

9. Relations between land lords and tenants

In the 19th century, the relations between landlords and tenants in Maharashtra were based on customs, wages and agreements between the two, the tenant having no legal protection. The increase in population and the resultant growing pressure on land compelled a large number of agriculturists to accept tillage of land from the landlords on any conditions they might choose. The migration of landlords to the neighbouring

cities and towns due to the unfavourable economic conditions in rural areas also, to a great extent, caused the lease of land to tenants. However, for want of legal protection and fixed tenure, the tenant cultivators did not have any stakes in the land they cultivated. During this period the landlord-tenant relationship was regulated by the provisions of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, the Khoti Settlement Act, 1880 and the Mamlatdar's Court Act, 1906 and other legislations applicable to local areas. However, these enactments neither stopped the exploitation of the tenants nor they gave him any equality of status with the landlords.¹⁰ And Sangli State was not an exception to all such conditions and life.

In the year 1937 A.D. when the Congress Ministry assumed office in the Bombay State, it declared its policy of enacting legislation to transfer the ownership of land to the tillers of the soil. It was on this background that the Government of Bombay passed the Bombay Tenancy Act of 1939. The Act aimed at ameliorating the condition of tenants without injuring the legitimate interests of the landlords. The Act introduced the concept of "protected Tenancy" according to which, the tenants who held lands continuously for a period of not less than six years immediately preceding 1st January 1938, were declared protected tenants. Such tenants got protection from eviction. The Act was applied to the whole of

the Sangli State in 1946 A.D.¹¹

10. Unjust levy of Sirpatti

From early times there was unjustifiable cess known as Sirpatti levied on ryots. It was intended partly to cover the costs of collection of revenue and village expenditure. It did not seem clear on what principle the amount of Sirpatti was levied. It varied from time to time and village to village according to the requirement of the State. Before the survey¹² it was levied at three annas per rupee. The Sirpatti was increased by the first Chief, Chintamanrao Appasaheb of Sangli but was at the time of the survey blended into general revenue.¹³

Economic position of the agricultural labour

Agricultural operations in the Sangli state were depended on manual labour. Most of the agriculturists employ casual labourers when there was pressure of work on the farm. Generally these labourers were landless persons and small holders of land. Persons who were forced to seek employment outside their villages out of poverty were engaged in the agricultural operations. Such labourers were usually paid either in cash or in kind or both in cash and in kind daily or at the end of the work. The daily wage-rates however did not change with

different types of work unless the work requires skilled services. Generally men labourers were paid more than the women labourers as men undertake heavy work whereas women attend to light work. About the year 1889 A.D., the wages of unskilled labourers slightly rose all round from 2 to 3 annas to four or five annas per day and for skilled labour from 8 annas to 12 annas or even to a rupee.¹⁴

The labour employed in the agricultural sector, however was temporary as its services were required during the sowing, weeding, harvesting and threshing season only. The casual labourers, therefore, tend to seek such fields of work where they could get work for the whole year.¹⁵

II. THE STATE LANDS

The State lands in the State of Sangli were direct under the State supervision and classification as well as measurements of them were made as under.¹⁶

1. Miraj Paragana: In the year 1758 A.D., an irregular survey was made of the Miraj Paragana under the order of Shivaji Ballal Joshi of Sholapur, the father-in-law of the Peshwa Madhavrao-I, who was the Peshwa's officer at the fort of Miraj. In order to revise the prevailing rates in respect of the land revenue assessment, he classified the village lands as follows:-

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---|
| i. | <u>Kali</u> | - rich black. |
| ii. | <u>Movat</u> | - mixture of red and black. |
| iii. | <u>Mal</u> | - red and stony |
| iv. | <u>Karak</u> or
<u>Karal</u> | - thin layer of black soil over
a stone foundation |
| v. | <u>Kadtar</u> | - hard rocky. |
| vi. | <u>Mali</u> | - alluvial |

Measurements

In this paragana the measurements of land were by Bighas, Pands and Kathis etc.

1 Kathi = $7\frac{1}{2}$ Cubits,

1 Pand = 20 Kathis,

20 Pands = 1 Bigha

2. Mangalwedha Paragana

The lands of Mangalwedha were not classified. The only classification which required mention in the rating of lands was garden lands, dry crop lands and Paddy lands. In Mangalwedha for dry crop lands the rate of assessment was 1 rupee per bigha, for all black lands and for garden and paddy lands 2 rupees per bigha. And measurements were the same as those in Miraj Prant except 1 Kathi measured $5\frac{1}{2}$ cubits instead of $7\frac{1}{2}$.

3. Terdal

As regards Terdal, survey measurements were introduced but there was nothing to show when. The rates for the best land were Rs. $5\frac{1}{2}$ per Tak and lowest rate Re. 1. And the measurements were represented by Tak and Chahurs.

72 Taks = 1 Chahur i.e. 120 Bighas

1 Tak = $1\frac{3}{4}$ Bighas,

18 Taks = 1 Pav,

4 Pavs = 1 Chahur,

1 Kathi = 5 Cubits.

4. Shahapur

As regards Shahapur, no classifications or measurements of any kind before the advent of the Peshwa or until after the introduction of the regular survey settlement were made. It remained as it was in the mediaeval period.

5. Shirhatti and Dodwad

As regards Shirhatti and Dodwad no classification of soil was made. The rates of assessment were as follows: The best land was charged Rs. 4 per Bigha and lands of the lowest kind were charged Rs. 2 per Bigha. In Dodwad the best land per Mar (equal to 36 Bighas) was charged Rs. 85 and the

land of the lowest quality per Mar was charged Rs. 40. And the measurements used were the following:

1 Kuri = 2 Bighas,

4, 6, or 8 Kuries = 1 Mar.

Cultivable and uncultivable waste lands

The extent of assessed waste land in the state in 1789 A.D. was 97,363 acres or a little less than 1/5 of the total cultivable area. This was the result of the famine and of the plague of rats which occurred during the rains of 1879. During the year 1880-81 A.D. roughly 33,998 acres of waste land assessed at Rs. 17,908-4 were taken up for cultivation by ryots. By the end of the year 1883-84 A.D. the area of waste land was reduced from 97,363 acres to 36,659 or in other words considerably more than half of waste land was brought under cultivation. In 1885-86 A.D. the area of waste lands in the state were reduced to 13,356 acres. During the next two years the area of the waste land was still further reduced to 5,431 acres. During the year 1891-92 the area of cultivable waste land was 4,149 acres. During 1895-96 A.D., the same area was further reduced to 3,397 acres and 30 Gunthas.¹⁷

In the year 1940-41, the cultivable area, forest, Kurans, hilly tracts were respectively 6,09,400 acres,

62,000 acres; 10,500 acres and hilly tracts 45,100 acres.

III. GROWTH OF INDUSTRIES

In the first decade of the 20th century, Sangli State was very backward in the industrial field. There were a few crafts, such as preparation of gold and silver ornaments, copper and brass smithy, preparation of iron tools, carpentry, pottery, and blanket weaving¹⁹ etc. The manufacturing activity within the State is also described in the Report for 1919-20 A.D., as follows²⁰:-

"Sangli is noted for its copper and brass pots, as well as for its silver pots and articles of gold and silver. The traders keep these articles for sale in the shops, and they also execute orders, which are received in large numbers every year. Terdal and Hangandi make copper and brass pots of large sizes. Country blankets are manufactured at Shirhatti and adjoining villages. Kavathe Mahankal manufactures felt and rough woollen carpets. Marihal and Balekundri in Shahapur taluka and Bannikop in Shirhatti taluka have small factories of glass-bangles. Belhatti in Shirhatti taluka makes very nice articles and utensils of domestic use from soft stones found in the quarries in its neighbourhood".

The history of industrialisation of the Sangli State

dates back to 1910 A.D., when the Kirloskar Brothers factory was established at Kundal Road, which later came to be known as Kirloskarwadi.²¹ This proved a landmark and a turning point in the history of the industrialisation of the Sangli State. Since then, the pace of industrialisation was rapid.

The industrialisation in the Sangli State, can be discussed as follows:-

1. Shri Gajanan Mills and other factories

In 1914 A.D. Mr. Vishnu Ramachandra Velankar came to Sangli and under the patronage of Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, the third ruler of the State, started a small powerloom unit for the manufacture of saris. The phenomenal growth of powerloom weaving in the Southern Maratha Country was a great tribute to Mr. Velankar. He deserved the credit of first placing Sangli on the industrial map of India by the fame of Shri Gajanan Mills, which set a new fashion in the Maharashtrian middle-class women's apparel, by producing saris of high count yarn in dependable, attractive colours and fancy borders and putting them on the market at prices to suit the purse of the middle class.²²

About this time two other manufacturers viz. Messrs Dandekar and Bhide started making mots of from-sheet, groundnut

decorticators, turmeric polishers, grinding machines etc. at Sangli.²³

The Administration Report for 1919-20 A.D. of the Sangli State, lists the following factories in the State²⁴:-

i. Ginning factories	15
ii. Groundnut sheeling, turmeric polishing factories	4
iii. Weaving factory	1
iv. Cotton Press	1
v. Oil Mill	1

In addition to this a second weaving Mill was opened in Sangli in 1935 A.D. and some more oil mills also.²⁵

2. Jubilee Electric Works

In order to promote industrial development, Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, the ruler of the State laid the foundation stone of Jubilee Electric Works in 1935 A.D., on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Year of the reign of His Majesty King George-V. Two generating sets of 100 Kw. each were installed and connections for the distribution of electric power were given in 1937 A.D. The works were managed as a State-Department through a Board, on a commercial basis.²⁶

3. Ugar Sugar Works, Ltd.

The most important enterprise promoted by the State was Ugar Sugar Works, Ltd. registered in 1939 A.D. The State gave to the concern certain concessions with regard to the income tax and agreed to contribute one and a half lakhs of rupees to its capital of 15 lakhs. In 1941 A.D., Messrs Shirgaonkar Brothers associated as Managing Agents. A factory with a crushing capacity of 500 tons of sugarcane was erected and sugar was first produced in 1942 A.D.²⁷

4. Factories Regulation (No. II of 1944 A.D.)

Chintamanrao Appasaheb-II, the ruler of the State, appointed a committee in May 1943 A.D., with Mr. E.M. Joshi, District Judge, as a Chairman and one representative each of mill owners and mill workers to report on measures for the removal of the grievances of the local factory workers, to frame a set of rules for the maintenance of good relations between the factory-owners and factory workers and propose a machinery for carrying the rules into effect. The committee recorded the evidence of the Girani Kamgar Union and mill-owner and submitted a unanimous report in September 1943 A.D. The Regulation approved by the ruler in February 1944 A.D. was based on the committee's report. The object of the Regulation was stated to be to remove the grievances of industrial workers in

the Sangli State without a wholesale resort to the Indian Factories Act of 1934 A.D. The Regulation provided for the inspection of factories, maintenance of cleanliness, safety of the workers, compensation for injury, establishment of Panch committee in factories and of Conciliation Committees to inquire into industrial disputes. The Regulation set up a simple working machinery appropriate to the stage of industrial development in the State.

The hours of work permitted by the Regulation were 60 per week, which were reduced to 48 in 1947 A.D. The employment of children under 12 was forbidden altogether, as also night-work for women.²⁸

5. Industrial Bank (1946 A.D.)

The scheme of an Industrial Bank for the purpose of giving aid to industries in the State was under the active consideration of Government in connection with its Five Year Plan. It gradually took shape as the result of frequent discussions between Government and the sponsor of the scheme Mr. M.H. Godbole. The Industrial Bank, Sangli was registered in 1946 A.D., with an authorised capital of Rs. 10,00,000. The State decided to contribute two lakhs of rupees to its capital and keep a deposit of 1 lakh with the Bank for an initial period

of two years. The Bank made a promising start and earned profit during the very first year; it suffered a loss of Rs. 11,000 by arson in February 1948 A.D.²⁹

6. The Maharashtra Metal Mill (1947 A.D.)

A factory of of a distinctive variety, viz., "The Maharashtra Mill" was set up at Sangli in 1947 A.D., for rolling brass and copper sheets and pressing utensils from metal sheets.³⁰

7. A Scheme of Large Scale Development

An important step in the direction of industrial development was the execution of an agreement in August 1944 A.D. with Mr. Vaman Shridhar Apte, a leading industrial magnate of Bombay, under which he undertook to make an industrial investment of not less than 50 lakhs of rupees in the course of ten years. The main concession granted to him was exemption from Income Tax for a period of ten years and the levy of income tax at a flat rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas in the rupees for a further period of 10 years. Mr. Apte and his partners had in view the projects of a Sugar Factory, Vegetable Ghee Factory, Spinning and Weaving Mill and a factory for the manufacture of tinned containers involving a total investment of 2 crores.³¹

The first industrial project to take shape was the Vegetable Ghee Factory. Machinery worth 20 lakhs had arrived by the end of 1947 A.D. Out of this machinery worth Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs was destroyed in February 1948 A.D. In consequence of this misfortune Mr. Apte gave up further activities and thus a scheme of development conceived on generous lines and backed by business enterprise with ample capital resources came to a sad end.³²

Growth of industries from 1910-11 A.D. to 1943-44 A.D.

From 1910-11 A.D. to 1943-44 A.D., various industries in the State were as follows:³³

Types of industries	Year 1910-11	Year 1920-21	Year 1930-31	Year 1943-44
1	2	3	4	5
Weaving	-	1	4	4
Lace making	-	-	-	1
Gins	2	13	13	14
Hosiery	-	-	2	4
Cotton Presses	1	1	2	1
Turmeric and groundnut	3	6	10	26
Oil Mills	-	2	3	6
Sugar Mills	-	-	-	1

contd.

1	2	3	4	5
Electric Power	-	-	-	3
Leather	-	-	2	1
Iron foundries	-	-	2	2
Copper and brass foundries	-	-	-	9
Grinding Mills	2	3	22	51

IV. Village Industry

Village industry existed in the Sangli State was pretty old, as in Maharashtra. It consisted one of the prerequisites of constructional activity of any kind.³⁴ The village industries were as follows:-

1. Carpentry and Blacksmithy

It was a hereditary occupation of Sutars and Lohars. In villages they were engaged either in making or repairing the agricultural implements like ploughs, hoes, harrows, bullock carts which had local markets. Carpenters were also engaged in house buildings, tonga making etc. Smiths were generally did the work of repairing masonry tools, carts etc. Some smiths manufactured buckets, axles of carts and nails.³⁵

2. Bricks, Tiles and Pottery

This industry was found in many villages in the Sangli State, mostly followed by Kumbhar families as a hereditary occupation. They manufacture bricks and tiles in the basins of the rivers Krishna and Warna, where ample water and clay were available. Bhilawadi, Bramhnal, Sangliwadi, Haripur, Ankali, Dhamani were the important centres of this industry.³⁶

3. Goldsmithy and Silversmithy

Sangli was famous for the making ornaments of gold and silver articles. It was an important centre where gold and silver articles were prepared and marketed on large scale. The artisans mainly comprise the community of Sonars who were traditionally engaged in the industry.³⁷

4. Copper and Brass Works

Sangli, Terdal and Hangandi were the centres of this industry.³⁸ A majority of the persons engaged in the industry belonged to the Tambat and Kasar communities. The establishments were mostly non-mechanised and manufacture vessels by the hammering process. Brass-sheets were beaten into required shape to form utensils such as ghagar, handas, lotas and tapeli for domestic use.³⁹

5. Bamboo-Working

Bamboo-working was generally followed by members of the Burud community as a hereditary occupation. Every village or town had at least one or two families of artisans. They made Kanagi, mats, supas, topalis, etc.⁴⁰

6. Rope making

In every village of the State there were rope makers belonging mainly to the caste of Mangas. Ghayapat or Kekti, grown all over the state, from which fibre was extracted to prepare big and small ropes called nadas, kasaras, saunders and bullock neck-bands.⁴¹

7. Oil-pressing

The Sangli state was well-known for its groundnut crop. Groundnut was produced practically by every farming family of the state. There was at least one ghani in every village driven by bullocks. In some places oil was extracted from kardi and jawas. Besides, karanji seeds were also crushed into karanji oil. Generally, the adult member of the Teli family operated the ghani. The industry was seasonal from November to July. In rainy season, the artisans took to agriculture as a subsidiary occupation.⁴²

8. Handlooms (Cotton Weaving)

The important handloom centres in the state were Miraj, Kavathe-Mahankal, Sangli etc. The art of weaving had been hereditary and most workers were trained. Almost all the looms were run by independent weaver families. The products of the industry were sarees, patalis, dhotis, shirtings and pasodis. The handloom products were locally sold at the markets at Sangli, Miraj, Kavathe-Mahankal etc.⁴³

9. Wool-weaving

Wool weaving was one of the oldest industries in the state. Nagaon-Kavathe was one of its important centres. Wool-weaving was done by the artisans called Sanagars and sheep-breeding was undertaken by the Dhanagars. Rough woolen blankets called ghongadi were manufactured by the wool weaver. During summer weavers move from place to place selling their products. This was seasonal industry and the artisans took to agriculture during the rainy-season.⁴⁴

10. Tanning

Tanning industry was followed by Dhors and Chambhars as a hereditary occupation. Some of the important centres of this industry were Sangli, Kavalapur, Miraj etc. All the members of

the tanner's family were engaged in the industry throughout the year except the rainy season. The tanners were generally poor. They found it difficult to compete with well-organized leather manufacturing concerns which sold their products at lower prices.⁴⁵

11. Leather

This industry was also carried on as a hereditary occupation by members of the Chambhar community. This industry was mainly localised at places like Sangli, Miraj, Manerajuri, Kavalapur etc. The articles which were produced usually in large quantities were chappals, shoes, sandals. There was full time employment to the artisans, except in the rainy season when the work was slack.⁴⁶

V. Economic Life of the People

As in other parts of Maharashtra in 19th century the economic life of the people in the Sangli state was depended upon agriculture, trade, commerce and village industry. The village economy was regarded as selfsufficient, because the needs of the people were very much limited and fulfilled by the agricultural labour as well as Balutedars and Alutedars like Sutar, lohar, kumbhar, Sonar, Shimpi, Tambat, Kasar, Koshti (Weaver), Mang, Mahar, Teli, Dhanagar, Bhoi, Burud, Jinagar,

Rangari, Gavandi, Patharwat, Chambhar etc.⁴⁷ In regard to economic life of the people the following points were important:

1. Agriculture: Although agriculture was the main source of livelihood of a majority of the people in the State, apathy towards modern ways of production and meagre financial resources prevented the cultivator from having recourse to the new mode of cultivation thereby affecting the production adversely.⁴⁸ In addition to this, the economic life of the people worsened due to the presence of recurring droughts and famins in A.D. 1876-77, 1891-92, 1896-97, 1899-1900, 1900-1901⁴⁹ combined with irregular rainfall and pests as well as other natural calamities like havoc committed among the crops by multitudes of rats in 1878 A.D.⁵⁰, bubonic plague in 1897 and 1899-1900⁵¹ etc.

a. Crops: Jawar and Bajari were two main crops. In addition there were other crops like wheat, rice, Til, Gram, Tur and other pulses, tobacco, turmeric, chillies, cotton and other minor crops. However, cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane and groundnut had improved considerably the economic condition of agriculturists.⁵²

b. Water Supply: As in the presence of recurring droughts combined with irregular rainfall and pests, for an assured

water-supply, there was system of irrigation at some places, chiefly carried on by three processes, viz., bunding up small nullas or rivulets and turning of the water in the direction required, drawing water from wells and tanks by means of 'motes' (leather bags). And where the elevation of the bed of a tank was sufficient, the water accumulated during the rainy season was drained off into the neighbouring fields as it was required.⁵³

The rainfall in the Sangli State was comparatively low and it was varied from year to year and from place to place. It was as it is today, was comparatively better in the western part and very low or scanty in Southern and eastern parts of the State. The average rainfall was mentioned at about 25 to 30 inches in the West and 15 to 20 inches in the east.⁵⁴

2. Cooperation

In order to provide to the farmers improved seeds and modern agricultural implements and thereby to increase the agricultural production and to improve the economic condition of farmers, number of co-operative institutions were established in the Sangli state.

The co-operative movement was first launched in the

Sangli state in 1910 A.D. and by 1920 A.D., the number of co-operative societies rose to 25.⁵⁵ After the usual ups and downs and set-backs, the movement became established during the next 10 years. In 1930 A.D., the number of co-operative institutions of all kinds was 69 of which 60 were Agricultural societies, 8 non-Agricultural and one was the central Bank.⁵⁶

The Sangli State Central Co-operative Bank was organised in 1927 A.D. for the purpose of financing the co-operative movement in the State. The state subscribed one-half of its share-capital of 2 lakhs, one of the non-agricultural societies was the Shri Ganapati Co-operative Sale Shop, opened in 1926 A.D., "with a view to securing a timely and fair custom for the agricultural produce of the cultivators in general and the members of the Agricultural Societies in particular."⁵⁷ And the expansion of the co-operative movement in the Sangli state was remarkable.

3. Trade and Commerce

a. Important trade centres

Sangli was one of the important trade centres, where there was a flourishing trade in jaggery, turmeric, ghee, tobacco, cotton and chillies.⁵⁸ The other trade centres in the state were Rabkavi and Shahapur which exported cotton,

piece-goods and coloured cotton and silk yarn.⁵⁹

b. Trade routes and means of communication

By the middle of the 19th century there were very few routes of trade. Traffic was mainly by carts and pack bullocks. The Poona-Belgaum road which then ran through Satara and Tasgaon and the road from Satara to Kolhapur which then ran by Masur, Karad and Kasegaon to the Varna were partly passable to carts. During the eighties of the last century, the Poona-Belgaum mail road was the chief line of traffic. The Peth-Sangli road served as an artery to the main road.⁶⁰

The opening of the Irwin Bridge in 1929 A.D. made the Sangli market more accessible to places across the river like Ashta, Islampur and Shirala.⁶¹ In Oct. 1944 A.D., Sangli Motor Transport Co. Ltd. was registered by some private individuals, with the object of organising and managing the transport of passengers and goods within the state and neighbouring tracts.⁶² At the time of the merger of the state, the company was operating on the main and other minor routes totalling to 76 miles in length and running a daily bus mileage of 550.⁶³

c. Imports and Exports

The chief articles of import were groceries, rice, salt, metals, coconuts, dates, hard wares, machinery and cloth. Copper and brass were sometimes imported in sheets and then shaped into utensils, mill-made cloth was imported from Bombay.⁶⁴

In the last quarter of the 19th century the chief exports were molasses, grain, earthnuts, turmeric, chillis, cotton, timber and cloth. Besides coarse cloth, cotton sheets or pasodis and blankets were chiefly sent to other places out of the state.⁶⁵

The Trade Policy

The encouragement of trade was a cordial feature of the public policy of the rulers of Sangli state. The trade of Sangli town began to outgrow the capacity of Ganapati Peth and overflowed into the empty spaces to the east.⁶⁶ The state Railway opened for traffic on the 1st April 1907 A.D.⁶⁷ hastened this process. Godowns and dwelling houses continued to multiply in spite of the hardship caused by the flood of 1914 A.D., so that, by the end of 1919-20 A.D. there were no open places left for further construction in this locality. Besides the amenities of railway transport and water supply

a powerful contributory cause of the trading prosperity of Sangli was the sense of security engendered by the state administration in the minds of the people. It was not merely that life and property were safe. People also felt that they were safe from the arbitrariness of Government agents.⁶⁸

Chamber of Commerce

For the promotion of Sangli's trade, a Chamber of Commerce was established in 1910 A.D. This was a far-seeing and beneficial measure, and it facilitated the growth of trade by providing machinery for the voicing of the trader's needs, regulating, market-transactions, and settling disputes not only between traders but also between traders and customers.⁶⁹

Supply and Control during Second World War

During the time of Second World War Sangli state had necessarily to fall in line with the war-time controls operating over the rest of the country. The first and foremost commodity to come under price control and later on under physical control and rationing was foodgrains, in 1942 A.D.; and these were followed by cloth and yarn, kerosene, matches, sugar, fuel, milk, motor cars, tyres, tubes, petrol, paper, footwear, vegetable oil and cake, iron and steel, brass-utensils,

drugs and a variety of other articles in short supply.⁷⁰ In November 1942 A.D., the Department of Civil Supplies was set up with the Diwan as Director and Councillor incharge, and a Deputy Director as Head of the Department. Early in 1943 A.D. the Minister was associated with the Diwan in the working of the Department, and a Directorate of Civil Supplies brought into being with the Diwan and the Minister as joint Directors. On the recommendation of the Assembly, a Central Food Advisory Committee was appointed to advice the Directorate and the Textile Commissioner respectively on matters of general policy.⁷¹

People from outside the state, who were in a position to compare the conditions in the Sangli State with those prevailing elsewhere, used to speak in terms of praise of the arrangements made for the supply of foodgrains, especially in the town of Sangli, and of the quality of supply. The Sangli Government came out early 1944 A.D. with its plan for the procurement of foodgrains on a monopoly basis and implemented the plan with success.⁷²

Market Act (May 1935 A.D.)

In September 1933, state Government introduced the Commercial Crops Market Bill in the Assembly, with the object

of establishing and regulating markets for the sale and purchase of commercial produce. This provided for the appointment of a Market Committee of five members for each market and invested the committee with certain regulatory powers conceived in the interest of cultivators and traders. The Bill had a stormy passage in the Assembly during two years and was passed in May 1935 A.D.⁷³

Sangli Market

A rough estimate of the value of commercial produce handled in the Sangli market in 1943-44 A.D. placed it at the figure of 1 crore and 30 lakhs. The sense of security, a well-laid out market area with residential accommodation and godowns, railway transport, the helpful activities of the Chamber of Commerce and the Market Supervising Board, and banking facilities were the main factors contributing to the prosperity of the Sangli Market.⁷⁴

Forward Trading

The existence of Forward Trading since about 1930 A.D. also gave stimulus to business activity in groundnuts, groundnut oil and turmeric. The Chamber of Commerce used to regulate all forward trading until 1944 A.D., which was mostly of the nature of hedging in ready commodities. From



1944 A.D. onwards, forward trading became dissociated from ready transactions and began to partake more and more of the character of speculation.⁷⁵

Thus from all the above information, it is evident that so far economic life of the people and the economic affairs of the State were concerned, the Sangli state and its rulers played very important role to maintain the good status in the state as well as outside of it. This was naturally helped the state to bring credit and prestige even from outside states and people.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

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- 2 R.C. Burke., Op. cit., pp. 133-134.
- 3 Ibid., p. 135.
- 4 Ibid., p. 143.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid., p. 145.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid., p. 147.
- 9 Ibid., pp. 147-148.

- 10 S.D.G., p. 320.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 The Revenue survey operations commenced from the year 1863 A.D. It had been made applicable to Shirhatti, Shahapur and Mangalwedha taluka between 1866 and 1868, and to Miraj Prant, Kuchi and Terdal taluka in 1869 A.D.
- 13 R.C. Burke., Op. cit., pp. 148-149.
- 14 Ibid., p. 158.
- 15 S.D.G., p. 322.
- 16 R.C. Burke., Op. cit., pp. 136, 138, 141-143.
- 17 Ibid., pp. 156-157, 159.
- 18 P.M. Limaye., Op. cit., part-II, Appendix-11, p. 39.
- 19 S.D.G., p. 339.
- 20 P.M. Limaye., Op. cit., p. 70.
- 21 S.D.G., p. 339.
- 22 P.M. Limaye., Op. cit., p. 75.
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- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Ibid., p. 203.
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- 28 Ibid., pp. 204-205.
- 29 Ibid., p. 211.
- 30 Ibid., p. 204.
- 31 Ibid., p. 210.
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- 33 Ibid., Part II, Appendix-23, p. 47.
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- 39 S.D.G., pp. 357-358.
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- 44 Ibid., pp. 365-366.
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- 50 Ibid., p. 76.
- 51 Ibid., p. 85.
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- 53 Capt. Edward W. West, Op. cit., p. 222.
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- 59 Ibid.
- 60 S.D.G., p. 415.
- 61 P.M. Limaye., Op. cit., p. 201.
- 62 Ibid., p. 215.

- 63 Ibid., p. 216.
- 64 S.D.G., p. 416.
- 65 Ibid.
- 66 P.M. Limaye., Op. cit., p. 68.
- 67 Ibid., p. 15.
- 68 Ibid., p. 69.
- 69 Ibid., p. 70.
- 70 Ibid., p. 159.
- 71 Ibid., pp. 156-160.
- 72 Ibid., p. 160.
- 73 Ibid., pp. 201-202.
- 74 Ibid., p. 202.
- 75 Ibid., p. 203.

CHAPTER-VII: CONCLUSION
