

CHAPTER THREE

REVENUE SYSTEM OF THE PATWARDHANS

Land revenue was the main source of income of the Maratha Government. The old revenue system of the Southern Maratha countries was the basis of the Patwardhans' revenue system, though they modified it from time to time in the British period. Patwardhans inherited Maratha administration originated by Shivaji and later on modified by the Peshwas.

Under the Peshwas, the village was a self-supporting unit of administration. Of the 12 Balutedars the Patil was the most important functionary in the village. He held his office by grant from the government. In virtue of this, he held lands and fees and he had various privileges and distinctions: "His office and emoluments were hereditary and saleable with the consent of the government, but were seldom sold except in cases of extreme necessity, though a partner was sometimes admitted with a careful reservation of a superiority of the old possessor."¹

The Patil was the head of the village Police administration and also administration of justice in the village. He did the job which the Mamlatdar or Collector does on a larger scale. He was regarded as the representative of the rayats. He was also government representative in the village.

Next to the Patil comes by way of customs and traditions the Kulkarni. The Kulkarni's functions were described by Captain Grant Duff in the following words:

- 1) He did the general measurement and description of all the village lands;
- 2) He maintained the record and the list of fields, with the name, size and quality of each land, the terms by which it was held, the name of the tenant, the rent for which he had agreed and the highest rent ever produced by the field;
- 3) He maintained the list of all inhabitants, whether cultivators or otherwise, with the statement of dues, from each to Government, the receipt and balance in the amount of each;
- 4) He also maintained the general statement of the instalments of revenue which have been realised;
- 5) the detailed account where each branch of revenue is shown under a separate head, with the receipt and balance of each."²

The Chaugula acted under the order of the Patil and assisted him in his duties. He also took care of Kulkarni's records.³

The Potdar was the village goldsmith. He assayed all money paid to Government and private individuals.

Mirasdars and Upris

In the village community the cultivators were divided into two classes, i.e., Mirasdars and Upris. The Miras tenure of land had the following characteristics:

- 1) The land held constituted, what is called, "the Private Property" which was heritable and transferable. Such a transfer was attested not by Patil and Kulkarni, but by the hereditary district officials, the Deshmukh and Deshpande.
- 2) The assessment upon such land was theoretically supposed to be fixed but in practice such limitations were not observed. In fact the Mirasdars were taxed heavily than other cultivators.
- 3) The Mirasdar had what was practically an in-alienable right to the possession of his land, he might even leave the village for an indefinite period and omit to pay the assessment upon it, and yet, upon his reappearance, he would be allowed to reclaim his property, even though it might have passed into the possession of another person. He was not required to make up the arrears of assessment.

- 4) In the event of a resident Mirasdar failing to pay his assessment the whole body of Mirasdars was held responsible for the deficiency, though this rule was abrogated if the defaulter had left the village.
- 5) Miras lands which were called gatkul or deserted (from Gat = gone and Kul = tenant) were at the disposal of Government either to lease on the Upri tenure or to hand over to others on the Miras tenure on payment of a fee." This power of disposal seems to have rested with Patil.⁴

The second class of tenure was known as "Upri". "The Upris were mere tenants at will, cultivating Government land at a yearly rental, at the end of which time they were free to resign and go elsewhere."⁵ An Upri could become a Mirasdar by paying a "nazar" (registration fee) to the ruler or his representative.⁶ The Uparis were more or less licensed cultivators for a short period on the basis of certain terms and conditions.⁷

After village the next division was Turruf. It was composed of a number of villages with uninhabited mountain and forest-land. "A Turruf is under no particular officer."⁸ A number of such Turrufs would make a Paragana. The Paragana was under a Deshmukh who performed the same functions in the

Paragana, which Patil performed in the village. The Deshmukh was assisted by a Deshpande who represented the Kulkarni and a higher revenue unit. About the Deshmukhs and Deshpandes, Elphinstone says "It is universally believed in the Maratha country that the Daishmooks, Daispandees and Collectors were all officers appointed by some former Government, and it seems probable that they were the Revenue Officers of the Hindoo Government that these officers, being hereditary like most others under the Hindoos, they were in possession of too much knowledge and influence to be dispossessed by the Mahomedans, who, though they appointed District Officers, availed themselves of the experience of the Zamindars, and allowed them to settle with the Patils, explaining their proceedings to the more immediate officer of Government."⁹

"The Deshmukhs had acquired so much authority that they were able to maintain their independence by their embezzlements of public revenue almost to set aside the employment of the Zamindars and transacting all business directly with Patil. This change was very beneficial to the Government."¹⁰ Though the Zamindars had lost their prestine authority, yet they were considered as a check on the Mamlatdar. Elphinstone says, "no accounts were passed, unless corroborated by corresponding accounts from them but even this practice has been disused since the farming system, except in the distant provinces of Gujrat and the Carnatic."¹¹

Agriculture was the main source of revenue and, therefore, the Peshwas were meticulous in informing their subordinate officers to encourage agriculture and keep the rayat in a happy frame of mind. Dr. Sen says, "They were also asked to base their assessment on actual inspection of the condition of cultivation and careful survey of the cultivated area."¹² Generally, the Peshwas had issued the following instructions:

- 1) An instruction was issued in 1747 to a Mamlatdar of Revdanda that steps should be taken to plant cocoanut trees at the rate of five trees per year, for every hundred trees then existing.
- 2) Bullocks and buffaloes purchased for agriculture purposes by the Rayats should be exempted from Octroi for five years.
- 3) The lands should be classed as superior, ordinary and inferior and also as jirayat, bagayat, as well as Patasthal and Motasthal and should be measured.
- 4) Waste lands should be brought under cultivation and a detailed report of cultivation should be submitted to the Sarsubha annually.
- 5) Tagai should be given in the sowing season.

- 6) Land mortgaged or sold should be taken back and restored to the Rayat.

Classifications of Lands

Assessment of land without classifying it was impossible. So, the land was classified according to its productivity. "It was divided into *Awal*, *Duaam* (second class) and *Seem* (*Seem* = inferior). This division was confined to *Jirayat* land only. The *Bagayat* land was further divided as *Patsthal* (land irrigated by *Pat* i.e. channel) and *Motasthal* (land irrigated by *Mot*. *Mot* = a device to bring water from well with the help of bullocks). The highest *Jirayat* land was charged at Rs. 2 per bigha. The *Duaam* land was charged at Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ per bigha and *seem* land was charged at Re. 1 per bigha. "Though it was a practice to collect the revenue in cash, some times it was also collected in kind."¹³

The lands were divided into 3 classes, superior, ordinary and inferior for revenue purposes. While fixing the land tax the condition of irrigation and the nature of crops were taken into consideration.

The lands already under cultivation were taxed higher than those lately brought under cultivation. The rate of land tax and the manner of payment differed from area to area. In 1740-41 *Balaji Bajirao* had given the following instructions

to his subordinates:

- 1) Rice lands should be assessed at 10 maunds per bigha;
- 2) Lands producing sugarcane should be assessed at Rs. 5 per bigha;
- 3) Lands producing vegetables should be charged at Rs. 21 per bigha;
- 4) Lands under summer crops should be assessed at Rs. 1-8-0 per bigha.

During Balaji Bajirao's period the following rates were fixed according to the produce of the land in the Prant Wai.¹⁴

<u>Class of the land</u>	<u>Maunds</u>	<u>Payli per bigha</u>
Superior	$3\frac{1}{4}$	1
Ordinary	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2
Inferior	$1\frac{3}{4}$	1

Also the land was charged for black and rocky soils. As regards the Jirayat and Bagayat lands the following rates were implemented:

- 1) Jirayat land with black soil, under cultivation should be assessed at Rs. 2 per bigha. Land of rocky description already under cultivation should be assessed at Re. 1 per bigha.

As regards the land newly brought under cultivation, the following rates were made applicable:

	<u>Black soil per bigha</u>			<u>Rocky soil per bigha</u>		
	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
1st year	0	4	0	0	2	0
2nd year	0	8	0	0	4	0
3rd year	1	0	0	0	8	0
4th year	1	8	0	0	12	0
5th year	2	0	0	1	0	0

2) Bagayat lands already under cultivation including lands growing sugarcane and other crops should be assessed at Rs. 10 per bigha.

Waste lands newly brought under cultivation and irrigated by canal should be assessed as under:

1st year Rs. 5 per bigha

2nd year Rs. 6 per bigha

3rd year Rs. 7 per bigha

4th year Rs. 8 per bigha

5th year Rs.10 per bigha

In case of Jirayat land converted into Bagayat by the sinking of new wells the following assessment rates should be imposed:

1st year Re. 1 per bigha
 2nd year Rs. 2 per bigha
 3rd year Rs. 3 per bigha
 4th year Rs. 4 per bigha
 5th year Rs. 5 per bigha

Mango tree in bagayat lands should not be separately taxed. Another document quotes different rates at different places. This document belongs to the period of Madhavrao I.¹⁵

	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>A.</u>	<u>P.</u>	
1st class land	5	0	0	per bigha
2nd class land	4	0	0
3rd class land	3	0	0
Rabi lands	1	8	0
Warkas lands	1	8	0
Hemp lands	5	0	0
Sugarcane land	5	0	0
Palm trees	0	4	0	for every tree
Cocoanut trees	0	8	0

It is evident that payment was made both in kind and cash according to the convenience of the rayats. The rayat was often permitted to commute rent in kind into rent in cash although the Peshwa sometimes felt disinclined to encourage such commutations.

Madhavrao I, the Peshwa, had also instructed that "should any person plant the following trees, no tax shall be levied on their accounts for the number of years specified below."¹⁶

Cocoanut trees : 18 or 20 years according to the nature of the land,

Betelnut trees : 15 years,

Undani trees : 12 years.

After the lapse of the period the levies that were collected were :

- 1) for each cocoanut tree: 4 annas and a load of loppings,
- 2) for each cocoanut tree used by Bhandari: Re. 1 and a load (Bhandari = Liquor manufacturer) of lopping,
- 3) for each Betelnut tree: 1 anna,
- 4) for each Undani tree: 3 annas.

It is also mentioned that according to customs, cocoanut trees on sandy soil should be exempted from taxation until they were eighteen and on red soil until twenty years old.

Betelnut trees, jack trees and Undani trees were not taxed until they were fifteen and twelve years of age respectively.

The Policy About the Waste Lands

Efforts were made to encourage the farmer to bring the waste land under cultivation. During the reign of Sawai

Madhavrao some special concessions were granted to farmers in their bid to bring the waste land under cultivation. The Peshwa had issued an instruction to the farmers of Anganvel and Suvarndurg for bringing the waste land into use. It was reported to the governmental authorities that the land was so rocky and barren that there was no possibility of growing crop or tree or grass. It was stipulated that:

- 1) If a person brings rocky ground under cultivation by covering it with earth and by providing embankments around it, half the land shall be given to him as Inam; and the remaining half shall be continued rent-free for twenty years.
- 2) If a person reclaims cultivable land on the seacoast by providing embankments, one-fourth of the land shall be given to him as an Inam and the remaining portion shall be continued rent-free, and at reduced rates, for such periods as upon a consideration of the money and labour spent, may seem fit.¹⁷

Also the Peshwa had granted a Kaul to his rayats exempting them from any revenue to be so collected. They used to admit remission and an istawa rate to the rayats, who would perform the following things:

- 1) Those who would convert the rocky soil into fields by

breaking earth from elsewhere and by breaking stones of the rocks and filling the natural ditches and depressions with earth. The persons would get half of the land as Inam, and the remaining half would be left to him for 20 years.

- 2) If anyone reclaims cultivable lands now engrossed in the sea water, by constructing dams, he would get as Inam one fourth of the land reclaimed.

Revenue System Under the Patwardhans

After a brief survey of the Maratha revenue system of the 18th century, we can turn to the revenue history of the Patwardhans with a special reference to the Sangli State which came into being in 1760s. But before dealing with the system proper, it would not be out of place to sketch out the Patwardhans coming into being.

Govind Hari, the fourth son of Harbhat Patwardhan, was given a Tainat Jabta by Peshwa Madhavrao I in the year 1863-64. The Wad diary tells us that:

"The amal of Karyat Ainapur was divided in equal shares between Govind Hari, the holder of taluka Miraj and Udaji Chavan, Udaji's share having been confiscated, Govind Hari was directed to make two equal divisions

comprised in the turf and hand over one of them to government retaining the other for himself. A Kamavisdar Nago Ram was appointed to manage the villages falling to the share of Government."¹⁸

The Thana of Mangalwedha originally belonged to Govind Hari but was taken by Government in 1762-63 and was ordered to be restored to Govind Hari. "In 1763-64 the fort of Miraj was taken from Trimbakrao Laxman and handed over to Gopalrao Govind."¹⁹ The Paragana of Padashpur and the turf of Tasgaon and the villages of Bharatgaum in Poona, Dewar Ashta in Budhgaon, Rahimatpur in Koregaon and four others were conferred as a military Saranjam on Govind Hari."²⁰ Besides Govind Hari, Parshuram Ramchandra Patwardhan was given the Paraganas of Yadwad, Jamkhandi and Anwal and the villages of Puntambe, Moshi and five others."²¹

In all Govind Hari was given the Tairat Jabta in 1764 A.D. for Rs. 24,00,000 for 8,000 horsmen. The Tairat Jabta was issued in the name of Govind Hari but the Jabta gives the following details:

4,600	Govind Hari should supply 4,600 sowars to the Peshwa
2,400	Parshuram Ramchandra should supply 2,400 Sowars to the Peshwa
1,000	Nilkanthrao Trimbak should supply 1,000 Sowars to the Peshwa
<u>8,000</u>	

The average each horseman was to get Rs. 300. Besides Tainats, the Patwardhans were granted 76,900 Rs. as clothing allowance out of which the following grants were made to various members of the Patwardhan family and others:

Rs. 40,000	Govind Hari and Gopal Govind
,, 10,000	Parshuram Ramchandra
,, 4,000	Meghshyam Krishna
,, 5,000	Mora Bulal
,, 3,500	Purshottam Krishna
,, 3,000	Antajee Vitthal
,, 2,000	Baji Ballal
,, 6,000	New Tainat and palanquin
,, 3,000	Vaman Hari
,, 3,000	Konhevan Trimbak ²³

Thus, the Patwardhans came to be established at Miraj in 1764 permanently. As in other parts of the country there was also a practice of issuing Kaulnamas (deeds of guarantee) to the Patil and Kulkarni of each village. Fixed revenue appears to have been settled on the several villages. In 1734 the officer in charge of the Miraj fort had issued a Kaulnama to some villages. The land revenue of village Nandre (near Sangli) was settled at Rs. 500 plus Nalbandi of Rs. 100. "The headmen were personally responsible for the state revenue payable on the several villages and if they failed to pay up the stipulated amount, it was a condition that their Vatans, their private lands and other property should be forfeited to the State."²⁴

These headmen gradually brought tenants on the village

lands and settled the amount of revenue payable by each tenant. In old tumultuous times there was no pressure from higher authority exerted in the defence of the tenancy and the village officers were left to use their powers as they chose. They transferred lands from one tenant to another. The hereditary village officers were the sole managers of the village.

In 1751 instead of the Chhatrapati issuing the Kaulnama, the officer at Miraj issued orders under the authority of the Chhatrapati. And the revenues for the area near Miraj were fixed at Rs. 675 plus Rs. 100 Karkuni.²⁵

In 1754 all orders regarding revenue were issued under the authority of the Peshwa to the village headman.

In 1756 for the first time the tenantry of the villages and officers in charge of the Miraj fort were brought into personal direct contact with the Peshwa. In other villages such a method of collecting revenue was not in existence. In early days there was no uniform system of collecting the revenue. Some times the means so employed in recovering arrears were generally oppressive and cruel. They had the practice to put the debtor under restraint, confining him in a room in the Chavadi, placing a heavy stone on his head and making him stand in the sun.



In 1756 a document known as Lavani Patrak was prepared for the first time in the Raibag Paragana.²⁶ This document gives the extent of land in the occupation of each holder - the revenue payable by him - the rate of revenue per bigha. In this year the rate varied from Rs. 6 to 9.4 for Mali lands. The other rates ranged from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 7.8 per bigha.

During this year the Akarbandi were also prepared. It gave the following information:

- *1) The whole cultivable land which was in occupation of tenants;
- *2) The rate of assessment per bigha,
- *3) The description of various temporary holders ranging from an annual holder to holders for seven or eight years with various rates of rent known as Istawa (gradually increasing rentals),
- *4) Holders holding lands according to a system known as Mogham Khand, i.e., rentals were settled with the holder in a lump by the headman,
- *5) A description of lands held in Partnership by the State with the tenants.
- *6) Rates and cesses on trades and professions, i.e., Balutedars.

In 1758 an irregular survey was made of the Paragana by

Shivaji Ballal Joshi of Sholapur, who was the officer at the fort of Miraj. It was Shivaji Ballal Joshi who revised the prevailing rates and granted to the holders certain rights and guarantees in respect of the land revenue assessment. He assessed the following rates for lands under cultivation and Istava (waste land brought under cultivation with gradual increase in rent) lands.²⁷

For Lands Under Cultivation

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) First class lands (black) per bigha | Rs. 6-4-0 |
| 2) Second class lands
(mixture of red and black) per bigha | Rs. 4-12-0 |
| 3) Third class lands (Mal) per bigha | Rs. 3-4-0 |

For Istawa Lands

- 1) Istawa lands to be continued according to the customs,
- 2) For Mali (alluvial lands) half as much again as has been levied for 1st class lands,
- 3) For garden lands double the rate levied on 1st class lands.

With the new assessment the old cesses of all kinds perished. A consolidated charge by way of land revenue was extended to every village.

The wages of Patils and Kulkarnis were ordered to be paid in cash in a definite proportion to the collections

instead of being a fixed charge or being an Inam grant.²⁸ According to this order all village lands were classified and named. Also the extent in the occupation of each holder was specifically determined and the rates of assessment according to the quantity and quality of the soil were charged. Old Inams were exempted from land revenue.

In this Paragana the measurements were by bighas, Pands and Kathis etc.

1 Kathi - $7\frac{1}{2}$ Cubits
 1 Pand - 20 Kathis
 20 Pands - 1 Bigha

The classification of soil was made into:

Kali (rich black)
 Movat (mixture of red and black)
 Mal (red and stony)
 Karak or Karal (layer of black soil over
 a stone foundation)
 Kadtar - hard rocky
 Mali - alluvial.²⁹

As regards the Inam lands the policy was to exempt it from land revenue. This policy is evident from a Nandre case. In this particular case Inam land of Baba Budan Fakir consisting of 4 Bighas and half Pand was totally exempted

by Shivaji Ballal Joshi. The principle was not to make any innovations or to introduce fresh practices. After this survey the method that was followed can be summarised as below:

The annual amount of assessment was fixed in regard to each village, at the fort of Miraj in the presence of village officers. The papers were prepared by the village officers or their work was examined by the in-charge officer.

A complete list of lands under cultivation and land with Istawa was prepared. The Istawa lands granted in Inam were deducted from the assessment. The Jain, Hindu and Muslim shrines were exempted.

Further, a deduction of land at the rate of 15 bighas for every Chavur (120 Bighas) for the remuneration of Deshmukhs, Deshpandes, Patils, Kulkarnis, Chaugales was accorded. On these the Peshwas' seal was fixed. When the army devastated the villages, remissions were granted.

Mangalwedha

Before 1750 the Mangalwedha paragana was under the belt of the Mutaliks of Pant Pratinidhi of Oudh named Yamajee and Antajee Shivdev. In 1751 Sadashiv Chimanjee - Bhausahab - captured the paragana and handed over it to Gopal Govind Patwardhan. The Peshwas issued Kaulnama in the favour of

Deshmukh and Deshpande for an annual payment of Rs. 1,40,000 for the whole Paragana. The charge was given to Gopalrao Patwardhan. In 1770 the Paragana was handed over to Gopalrao's cousin, Meghshyam Krishna Patwardhan with a duty to survey and settle the assessment. It seems that lands were not classified. The lands were charged on the bases of garden lands, dry crop lands or paddy lands.³⁰

- 1) For dry crop land - 1 rupee per bigha
- 2) For all black lands, garden lands and paddy lands - 2 rupees per bigha

The measurements were the same as those in Miraj Prant except that one Kathi measured $5\frac{1}{2}$ cubits instead of $7\frac{1}{2}$.

Terdal Prant

In 1779 the villages of the Terdal Prant were brought under the charge of Harihar Pandurang Patwardhan. Survey measurements were introduced but when those were introduced is not known. The measurements were as follows:

- 72 Takas - one chahur (120 bighs - 1 chahur)
 - 1 Taka - $1\frac{3}{4}$ bighas
 - 18 Takas - 1 Par
 - 4 Pars - 1 Chahur
- One Kathi is equal to 5 cubits.

- 1) Best land was charged at Rs. 5-8-0 per Taka,
- 2) Lowest land was charged at Re. 1 per Taka.

The responsibility of collecting revenue was thrown to the village officers, before the Rayatwar system came into existence.

Shirhatti

The survey of this area was carried out earlier. This survey differed from the survey of Shahapur. The following measurements were used:

- 1 Kuri = 2 bighas,
- 4 Kuris = 1 mar (= 36 bighas).

Rates of Assessment

- 1) The best land was charged at Rs. 4-0-0,
- 2) The lowest land was charged at Rs. 2-0-0.

"The land tax so levied was very high in Miraj Prant. Terdal had represented the standard assessment to be recorded if all the circumstances were favourable and it was ordinarily higher than in other talukas and in all cases it was higher than the land owners could afford to pay."³¹ The revenue system was defective and vicious but was administered in a manner that subjected the people to far less oppression.

There is no sufficient data in the old records to ascertain in what way the people were affected by the implementation of various rates in various Prants. The village accounts were kept on loose papers and were never balanced at the end of the year. "Waste lands were often entered as cultivated lands and lands let at reduced rates were recorded as fully assessed."³²

New Era Dawns

Sawai Madhavrao died on 27 October, 1795 and Bajirao II succeeded to the Peshwaship on 6.12.1796. It is during Bajirao's time that the Marathas lost their freedom on 11th Feb. 1818.

The Chhatrapati was released from the captivity of the Peshwa. Lord Hastings, the Governor General of India, entrusted the entire settlement to M. Elphinstone who was raised to the exalted post of the Commissioner of the Deccan. Soon after he took charge of the State he issued a proclamation which is known as the Satara Proclamation on 11th Feb. 1818. It runs thus:

"All wuttuns and Enams (hereditary lands) Wurshaushuns (annual stipends) of all religious and charitable establishments will be protected, and all religious seats will be tolerated and their customs maintained as far as is just and reasonable. The farming system is abolished, officers shall be forthwith appointed to collect a regular and

moderate revenue on the part of the British Government to administer justice and to encourage the cultivators of the soil; they will be authorised to allow remissions in consideration of the circumstances of the times.

Wuttundars and other holders of lands are required to quit his standards and return to their villages within two months from this time."³³

With the beginning of the British rule the Maratha Sardars naturally came under the control of the British. The Chief of Sangli State, Chintamanrao Appasaheb I (1783-1851) refused to serve under the British claiming that he was a servant of the Peshwas, and only the Peshwas were capable of enlisting his service. He was willing to hand over to the British a commensurate piece of land in lieu of his personal service to them. But he had to adopt the British India ways and means of living. Though he personally did not introduce the British revenue system still he could not ignore the changes coming into force.

The British after taking charge of the country, decided to put the land revenue on a sound footing. Due to the farming system the gulf between the rayat and the Peshwa had notably widened. The British tried to bridge the gulf. "The only remedy for this impossible state of affairs lay in the introduction of a true system of Rayatvari settlement based upon a proper land survey accompanied by an assessment of the Land Revenue upon

certain fixed principles."³⁴

Various attempts were made by independent officers. Mr. Thackeray in the Southern Maratha country tried to solve this problem but it was out of his capacity owing to multifarious duties he had to discharge. Finally, in 1827 Mr. Pringle was appointed to devise a system of survey and settlement. Mr.

Pringle based his system on the following principles. These principles were known as the Pringle Principles:

- 1) To divide the soils into classes
- 2) To ascertain the average gross produce of each class,
- 3) To discover the average cost of producing these amounts,
- 4) To find the 'net produce' of each class by deducting the average cost of produce from average gross produce.³⁵

In 1836 the British Government appointed Mr. Goldsmith and Lt. Wingate to rearrange the revenue system. Mr. Goldsmith and Wingate had accepted the principles of classification of soil into nine divisions. These lands were divided as under:

- 1) Black soil,
- 2) Red soil,
- 3) Gravelly soil

Each of these types was further divided as 1st class black, 2nd

class black and 3rd class black, 1st class red, 2nd class red, 3rd class red and so on making nine classes in all.

A further development in the settlement was suggested by Lt. Davidson. He suggested the following scale:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Anna valuation</u>	<u>Depth</u>
1	16	$1\frac{3}{4}$
2	13	$1\frac{1}{2}$
3	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$
4	8	1
5	6	$\frac{3}{4}$
6	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
7	3	$\frac{1}{4}$
8	2	-
9	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-

The classification scale was based upon depth and quality of soil pure black soil of $1\frac{3}{4}$ hathas (hands) (hath = 1 foot 6 inches).

After disposing of the classification of dry-crop land, Lieut. Davidson started considering the system of classification to be adopted in the case of garden or Bagayat lands. While considering the classification of Motasthal land, there are three factors (Motasthal means the water supplied by Mot):

- 1) The supply of water,
- 2) The quality of the soil,
- 3) The sufficiency of land under the well.

The second classification of Bagayat land was Patasthal land irrigated by Pat (Pat - channel).

This system further received a renewal in 1847 when the Joint Report was presented to the Government. This Joint Report was prepared by Lieut. Wingate and Mr. Goldsmith. This report laid down certain definite rules for surveying the lands and assessing the land revenue to be collected from the rayat. The Joint Report laid stress on the following items:

- 1) Revenue survey numbers,
- 2) Khatedar (Names of the cultivators),
- 3) A person whose name is entered to Inam lands is called the 'Inamdar',
- 4) One whose name is not entered as Inamdar was called 'Pot Lavnidar',
- 5) The survey number was divided according to the 'Vahivat' (actual possession) of each 'Khatedar'.
- 6) The Kulkarnis of villages had a register in which every "Revenue Survey Number" was shown. Whether it is "Inam" or Government and who is the Inamdar, Khatedar or Vahivatdar and the work must be carried on according to the entries in the Register.³⁶

(i) The classes of land: The Joint Report divided the land under three principal heads, i.e., Dry crop, Garden and Rice. Cultivated lands are divided into Garden and Rice lands. The garden land was further divided into Motsthal and Patsthal lands.

(ii) The factors of value: The chief factors of value were the following:

- 1) The quality of the soil,
- 2) Certain extrinsic circumstances,
- 3) Facilities for irrigation.

(iii) The system of field classification: The system of soil classification was the one that was suggested by Lieut. Davidson. This classification comprises annas based on depth and soil fertility. The classification is shown in the Table below³⁷:

Class	Anna value	1st order depth: cubit	2nd order	3rd order
1	2	3	4	5
1	16	$1\frac{3}{4}$	-	-
2	14	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	-
3	12	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	-
4	13	1	$1\frac{1}{4}$	-

contd..

1	2	3	4	5
5	8	3/4	1	-
6	6	1/2	3/4	1
7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/4	1/2	3/4
8	3	-	1/4	1/2
9	2	-	-	1/4

Rice lands were separately estimated. There were two facilities supposedly under consideration. The first facility was the inherent moisture due to the position of the field. The second facility was the supply derived from tanks or other sources.

Thus, the Joint Report definitely put before the government certain principles of land revenue. The British Government passed the Survey and Settlement Act I of 1865. This act was made applicable to the Sangli State. So all the six Prants of the State were brought gradually under the settlement scheme. The survey settlements were extended in the State on Bombay model under the directives of Col. Anderson of the Bombay Revenue and Survey Department in the years mentioned in the Table below:³⁸

<u>Taluka</u>	<u>Year of first settlement</u>
1. Shirhatti	1866
2. Shahapur	1868
3. Mangalwedha	1868
4. Miraj Prant	1879
5. Kuchi	1879
6. Terdal Mahal	1879

In 1867 the Shirhatti taluka came under settlement. With the concurrence of the Political Agent SMC the dry crop rates were of Rs. 2 and Rs. 1-12-9 according to the necessity.³⁹

Under the survey rules the salaries of the village officers were fixed according to a scale known as Wingate's Scale.

Patil's Scale

- 1) On the gross land revenue upto Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 3 %
- 2) From Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 - Rs. 2 %
- 3) From Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 - Re. 1 %

Kulkarni's Scale

- 1) Upto Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5 %
- 2) From Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 - 4 %
- 3) From Rs. 2,000 to 3,000 - Rs. 3 %
- 4) From Rs. 3,000 to 4,000 - Rs. 2 %
- 5) From Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 - Re. 1 %

Agriculture in the Sangli State

Col. D.C. Anderson, the Survey and Settlement Commissioner, Southern Division, has made a lengthy statement to the Political Agent on the 9th Dec. 1878. The statement pertains to the original settlement of the Sangli State. He has made the following observations in the above mentioned letter:

- 1) There is a considerable area of garden land watered by wells and in the eastern villages by wells and Pats or channels led from streams;
- 2) The sums entered under "Tota" or permanent remission are permanent reductions from the Kamal (highest) assessment for the time being, the casual remissions show the amounts of assessment foregone each year at the Jamabandi."
- 3) The revenue actually collected upto 1859 shows a moderate rate of assessment not materially in excess of what would have been collected on the rates of assessment in force in the adjacent villages of Athani and which were brought under the survey assessment about seven years before 1859. These rates were undoubtedly full low.⁴⁰
- 4) Col. Anderson divided the villages of the Jahageer into 7 groups. The lowest dry crop rate was at one rupee and eight annas per bigha. The highest dry crop rate was fixed

at Rs. 3-8. The remaining five groups were charged as below:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Maximum dry crop rate</u>	<u>Maximum rice rate</u>
1	3-8	8-0
2	3-2	8-0
3	2-10	8-0
4	2-5	8-0
5	2-0	8-0
6	1-12	8-0
7	1-8	8-0

- 5) The Patasthal gardens were charged at Rs. 8-0. The two Temple Inams of Sangli and Sangliwadi were charged Rs. 3-8-0 for dry crop rate at Rs. 8-0 Rice crop.

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