

CHAPTER III

TILE INDUSTRY IN KUMTA AND HONNAWAR TALUKS OF UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT - GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION:- Food, shelter and clothing are the physiological needs. All are making all types of efforts to acquire the necessary material to fulfill these needs.

In order to have good shelter, roofing is one of the very important aspect. Grass, Co-conut leaves, arrecanut leaves, cane leaves etc, were widely used in olden days for roofing. Even today use of these is not totally disappeared. But the Grass or Co-conut or arrecanut leaves etc. are yielding more easily to rain and storm which are very frequent in west-coast. These materials are also not durable. Apart from this, these roofing materials caused either repair or reconstruction every year. So slowly people started the use of "Tile" for roofing. In earlier days the "Tile" was hand made and it was "U" shaped, but now "Tile" is produced in factories in large scale with the help of machine and it is "Rectangle" shaped.

2.GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TILE INDUSTRY IN KARNATAKA

About 130 years back tile industry was firstly established on an organised factory basis in this country "Mangalore Tiles for roofs" had become a notion and was very famous and enjoyed fine reputation even in European countries even in 19th century.

The modern Tile industry owes its origin to the humanitarian outlook and pioneering zeal of the missionaries of the Basel Mission society. The role of missionaries is something unparalleled with regard to the Growth and Development of Tile Industry in India, particularly in the South Kanara and Uttara Kannada districts of Karnataka State.

The Basel mission society established the first Tile-factory in Jeppoo, Mangalore in the year 1865. The factory is located on the bank of river Netravati. The Jeppoo, Mangalore Tile factory was the first of its kind in the organised factory system of Tile-Industry in Karnataka. The pioneer of the Jeppoo tile factory was Mr. Charles Andrew Flybst. In 1851 he came to India because of his close contact with Basel mission society.

Mr. Flybst who started Manufacturing of Tile at Jeppoo in 1865 of "Rectangle shaped" using the French German Tile technology for the first time. That technology is known as "Mercyllis". But later on he made some changes in the original technology of Tile-making and that improved technology is known as "Flybst Tile-Press System". Mr. Charles Andrew Flybst died in the year 1888. By that time there were more than "10" Tile industries in India.

Apart from Jeppoo Tile factory another Tile-factory was "started in the year 1883 at Kudrolli, Mangalore. By the end of 1992 there were more than 162 Tile industries in Karnataka State. These tile-factories have given employment to more than 40,000 persons directly.

The following Table gives vital informations relating to the Tile industry in Karnataka State up to 1992.

TABLE - 62

District	No. of Tile Untis	Production capacity per year (No. of Tiles) in lakhs	Actual Production (No. of Tiles) in lakhs	Percentage
South Kanara	75	2950	2030	68.81%
Uttara Kannada	14	650	520	80.00%
Kolar	43	750	550	78.57%
Others	30	600	400	66.67%
Total	162 Units	4900	3500	71.42%

[SOURCE :- Collected from Karnatak State Gazzetteier from 1970 to 1992.]

The above Table reveals that 55% of the Tile - factories of Karnataka i.e. 89 Units, are located in only two districts i.e. South Kanara and North Kanara. The production capacity of the Tile Units of these two districts also more because of the bigger size. The tile units of these two districts cover 73% of total tile production in the Karnataka State. This is clear from the above table that there are some specific reasons. firstly, both the districts are located along the west coast, secondly, number of rivers are flowing, so that

"clay" which is one essential raw material is very easily available along river side. Thirdly, the eastern side is surrounded by sahyadri forests, so that fire wood supply was not problem in the past, finally, the infra-structure is available at reasonable costs.

Because of these factors the Tile -Industry is developed in karnataka, particularly in South Kanara and Uttara Kannada districts.

3. TILE INDSTRY IN UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT

Uttara Kannada district is a specialised place in the State of Karnataka. It is often called as "forest district" On the western side there is arabian Sea and on the eastern side Sahyadri Ghat is located On the Southern direction South Kanara district is situated. The total area of the district is 10291 square Kilometers. The Total population is more than 12 lakhs. Six rivers are flowing in the district. The Uttara Kannada district is divided into two parts :

- (1) West Coast area consisting five Taluks and
- (2) The other part is "malenadu" which is popularly called up ghat area, the Sahyadri is located between these two parts. the rivers, Sharavati Aghanasini etc. born at "Sahyadri" hill and flowing towards west coast. These rivers are ultimately submerging in Arabian sea. Along side these rivers number of Tile- factories have come up.

The district has a plenty of scope for Tile - industry for the following reasons:-

- a) Availability of high quality clay.

- b) Availability of adequate firewood as thick forests are surrounded the district.
- c) Availability of all types of labour.
- d) Availability of all modes of transport i.e. Sea, River and Road transport.
- e) Good environmental conditions.

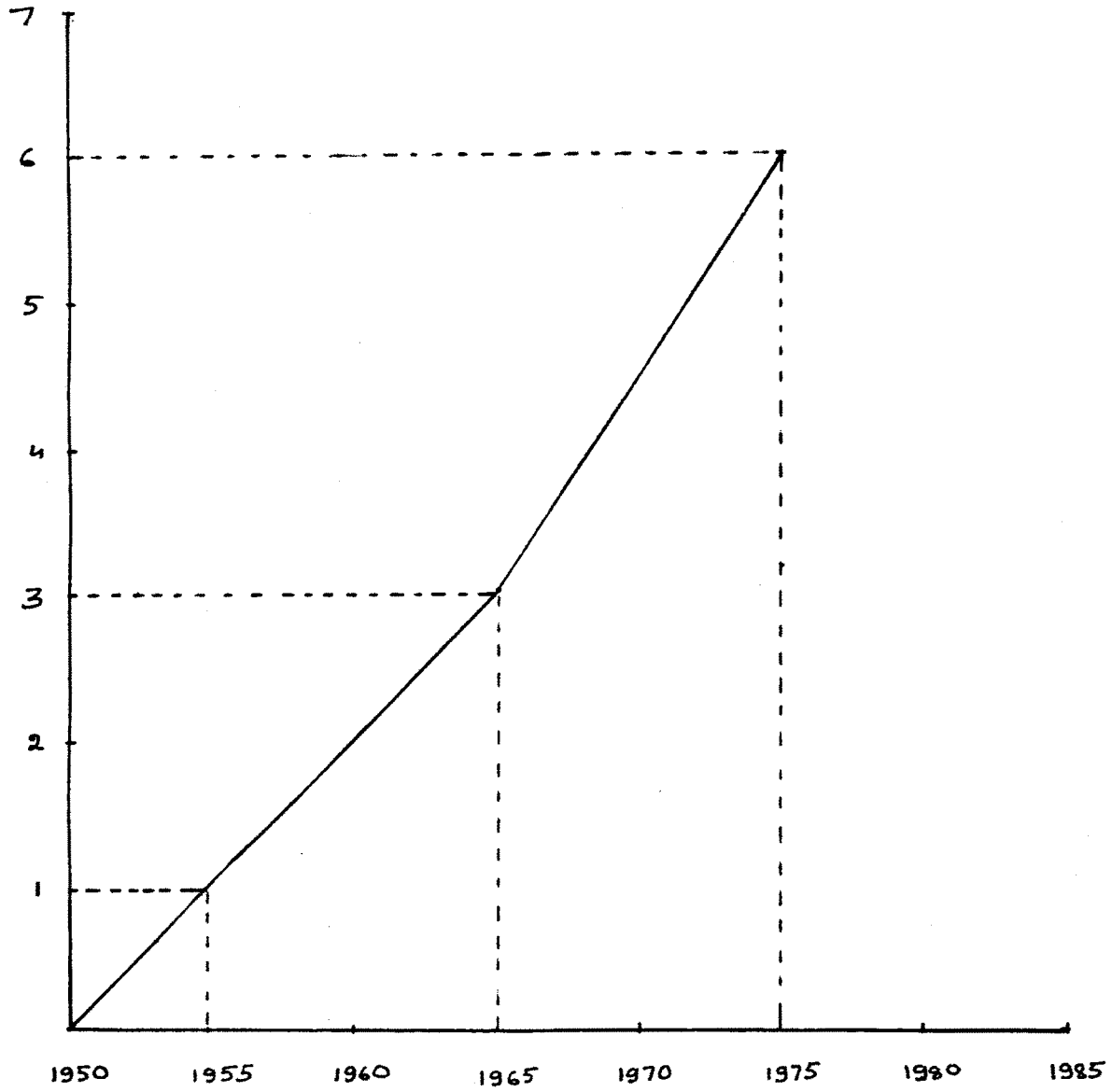
All the tile -factories of Uttara Kannada district are started only after independence. The North Kanar district Co-operative Tile factory Kasaragod the first of its kind in Uttara Kannada was started in the year 1955. But the end of 1992 there were 14 tile industries. The total production capacity is 650 lakhs tiles per year. On an average these are operating at 70 to 80% of there production capacity. (See table NO.62) of these four Units are big sized and remaining are small sized. These tile factories are giving employment to more than 3000 workers.

4. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TILE INDUSTRY IN KUMTA AND HONNAVAR TALUKS OF U.K. DISTRICT

The map given in Appendix-III gives the Geographical structure of Kumta and Honnavar Taluks. These two Taluks are very important Taluks of Uttara Kannada District. Both the Taluks are surrounded by "Sahyadri Hills" consisting thickforest to the east and to the west Arabian Sea. The river sharavati and Aghanashini are flowing in these two Taluks.

Six Tile-Units, out of fourteen Tile units of Uttara Kannada District are located in these two Taluks. Three of them are medium sized and remaining three are small sized. All the six units are modernised. The following Graph shows

GRAPH SHOWING
GROWTH OF TILE INDUSTRIES IN KUMTA AND HONNAVAR TALUKS



(Years)

the Growth of Tile-Industry in Kumta and Honnavar Taluks. Of these Four units are on the bank of river and Two units are located behind "Sahyadri Hill".

The first Tile-industry was established in the year 1955 at Kasarakod on Co-operative basis. By the end of 1965 the total number of Tile units gone up to three units and by the end of 1975 there were six Tile units. There after no new unit is established till the end of 1992. and also no unit is closed till today. The total production capacity of these six Tile units is 330 lakhs Tiles per year. Of the six units, Two units are producing Bricks in addition to Tiles, and one unit is making Tailar Tiles. But the production of Bricks as well as other products are under taken in very small quantity (Table No.52)

On an average these Tile factories are operating at their 70% capacity.

These six units have employed 1479 persons (Table No.51) and Majority of them are local persons. Thousands of people are depending on Tile-factories for their daily bread in these Two Taluks either directly or indirectly.

All the six units are now modernised and are using "continuous" kiln. All the six units are selling their products in India only. Mainly their market is Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Thus, the Tile industry, is one of the important industrial activity in these Two Taluks.