PROLOGUE

I am very glad to bring out the e-Book Edition (CD version) of the Satara District Gazetteer published by the Gazetteers Department. This CD version is a part of a scheme of preparing compact discs of earlier published District Gazetteers.

Satara District Gazetteer was published in 1963. It contains authentic and useful information on several aspects of the district and is considered to be of great value to administrators, scholars and general readers. The copies of this edition are now out of stock. Considering its utility, therefore, need was felt to preserve this treasure of knowledge. In this age of modernization, information and technology have become key words. To keep pace with the changing need of hour, I have decided to bring out CD version of this edition with little statistical supplementary and some photographs. It is also made available on the website of the state government www.maharashtra.gov.in. I am sure, scholars and studious persons across the world will find this CD immensely beneficial.

I am thankful to the Honourable Minister, Shri. Ashokrao Chavan (Industries and Mines, Cultural Affairs and Protocol), and the Minister of State, Shri. Rana Jagjitsinh Patil (Agriculture, Industries and Cultural Affairs), Shri. Bhushan Gagriani (Secretary, Cultural Affairs), Government of Maharashtra for being constant source of inspiration.

Place: Mumbai
Date :25th December, 2006

DR. ARUNCHANDRA S. PATHAK
Executive Editor and Secretary
PREFACE

THE GAZETTEER of the Bombay Presidency was originally compiled between 1874 and 1884, though the actual publication of the volumes was spread over a period of 27 years. The Satara District Gazetteer was published in 1885. The core of the district was supplied by the Satara principality after its lapse in the year 1848. Several boundary and sub-divisional adjustments were later on made with the neighbouring districts and with the lands of the neighbouring Indian Princes. With the merger of the Princes' territories in 1947, the district was enlarged and divided into North Satara and South Satara. In 1960, the North Satara reverted to its original name Satara, and South Satara was designated as Sangli district. This Volume deals with the present Satara district.

This revised edition has been prepared under the orders of the Government of Maharashtra by an Editorial Board, specially created for that purpose in 1949. The following are the present members of the Editorial Board:—

Chief Secretary to Government (Shri N. T. Mone, I.C.S.).

Dr. S. G. Panandikar, retired Principal, Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, Bombay.

Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. V. V. Mirashi, Nagpur.

Dr. S. M. Katre, Director, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Poona.

Shri S. L. Karandikar, Poona.

Director of Archives, Bombay (Dr. P. M. Joshi).

Executive Editor and Secretary (Shri P. Setu Madhava Rao, M.A., I.A.S.).

The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, enacted with the object of decentralization of democracy and administration, came into effect in the district, as in all the districts of Maharashtra, from 1st May 1962. As the manuscript of this volume was already in the press the salient features and the changes that have emerged with the introduction of the Act have been given at the end of the volume as an appendix.

Diacritical marks to explain the pronunciation of names of places and of words in Indian languages have been used only in three chapters, namely, Chapter 2—History, Chapter 3—People and Chapter 19—Places of Interest and also in the Directory of Villages and Towns. In other chapters the current spellings have been retained. A key to the diacritical marks used is given at page 939.

This office has published so far (1) Poona, (2) Dharwar, (3) Kolhapur, (4) Jalgaon, and (5) Ratnagiri District Gazetteers. Of these, the press copy of Poona Volume was prepared under the direction of Prof. D. G. Karve, the first Executive Editor and Secretary (1949-52), Dharwar Volume was published by Prof. M. R. Palande (1952-1960), who succeeded Prof. Karve as Executive Editor and Secretary. Much of the compilation of Kolhapur, Jalgaon and Ratnagiri Volumes was done under the direction of Prof. Palande. However the volumes were published by the present Executive Editor and Secretary who took charge on 1st May 1960.
My thanks are due to Dr. B. G. Kunte, M.A., Ph.D., Assistant Editor, Shri K V. Yohannan, B.A., LL.B., Superintendent, Prof. A. N. Weling, M.A., Sarvashri D. C. Deo, M.A., and K. K. Chaudhari, M.A., Research Assistants and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this volume.

My thanks are also due to the Director, Government Printing, Stationery and Publications, Bombay, and the Manager, Government Central Press, Bombay, for the execution of printing work of this Volume.

BOMBAY: P. SETU MADHAV A RAO,
May 1963. Executive Editor and Secretary.
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ABOUT SATARA

Satara, the seat of Chhatrapati dynasty of Maharashtra, is the highest sugar-producing district in the State, catering to the 12 cooperative sugar factories functioning in its jurisdiction. The district has taken a quantum leap in dairy production and development. The massive Koyna hydroelectric project or the dams at Dhom, Kanheri, Urmodi and Tarali have made the district fertile though some talukas are still awaiting irrigation. Satara is called the District of Power due to a chain of windmills, which dot its mountain ranges. It has won laurels at the national level for attaining high adult literacy. Mahabaleshwar is a hill station that is still unparalleled owing to its pristine beauty and restorative weather. No wonder, this is the first choice of tourists. Maharashtra’s doyen Y.B.Chavan made this district well known.

1. District
Satara

2. Area
10475 sq. k.ms.

3. Sub-divisions
4 (Satara, Phaltan, Wai, Karad)

4. Taluks
11 (Satara, Karad, Wai, Mahableshwar, Phaltan, Mann, Khatav, Javli, Koregaon, Patan and Khandala)

5. Distance from Mumbai
250 kms.

6. Means of Transport
Main Airport-Karad
Railway Stations -Satara, Karad, etc.

7. Population
Total-27,96,906
Male-14,02,301
Female-13,94,605

8. Literacy
Per cent-78.52
Total-19,20,176
Male-10,75,247
Female-8,44,929

9. Area under Irrigation
1,89,000 hectares

10. Irrigation Projects
Major-10
Medium-13
Minor-80

11. Industries
Big and Medium-2842

12. Languages/Dialects
Marathi

13. Folk-Arts
Lavani, Gondhli, Dhangar songs

14. Weather
Temperature-
Max.-37.5 Deg.C.
Min.-11.6 Deg. C.
Rainfall- 2643 mm (Average)

15. Main Crops
Sugarcane, jowar, vegetables

16. Area under Horticulture
33000 hect.

17. Health Infrastructure
PHCs-71
Rural Hosp.-10
Dist. Hosp.-1
Big Hosp.-1

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SOURCE: CENSUS OF INDIA 2001
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

As EARLY AS 1843 an attempt was made to arrange for the preparation of Statistical Accounts of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency. The following extract [Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, Vol. I, Part I (History of Gujarat), pp. iii and iv.] will be found interesting as giving an idea of the intention of those who desired to have such Accounts compiled: —

Government called on the Revenue Commissioner to obtain from all the Collectors as part of their next Annual Report, the fullest available information regarding their districts ..........Government remarked that, as Collectors and their Assistants during the large portion of the year moved about the district in constant and intimate communication with all classes, they possessed advantages which no other public officers enjoyed of acquiring a full knowledge of the condition of the country, the causes of progress or retrogradation, the good measures which require to be fostered and extended, the evil measures which call for abandonment, the defects in existing institutions which require to be remedied, and the nature of the remedies to be applied. Collectors also, it was observed, have an opportunity of judging of the effect of British rule on the condition and character of the people, and their caste prejudices, and on their superstitious observances. They can trace any alteration for the better or worse in dwellings, clothing and diet, and can observe the use of improved implements of husbandry or other crafts, the habits of locomotion, the state of education, particularly among the higher classes whose decaying means and energy under our most levelling system compared with that of preceding governments will attract their attention. Finally they can learn how far existing village institutions are effectual to their end, and may be made available for self-government and in the management of local taxation for local purposes.

"In obedience to these orders, reports were received from the Collectors of Ahmedabad, Broach, Kaira, Thana and Khandesh. Some of the reports contained much interesting information. These five northern reports were practically the only result of the Circular Letter of 1843."

The matter does not seem to have been pursued any further.

In October 1867, the Secretary of State for India desired the Bombay Government to take concrete steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteer prepared during that year for the Central Provinces. The Government of Bombay then requested some of its responsible officials to submit a scheme for carrying into effect the orders of Secretary of State, and in 1868, appointed the Bombay Gazetteer Committee to supervise and direct the preparation of the Gazetteer. After a few organizational experiments the responsibility was finally entrusted to Mr. James M. Campbell of the Bombay Civil Service, who commenced the compilation in 1874 and completed the series in 1884. The actual publication, however, of these volumes was spread over a period of 27 years between 1877 and 1904 in which year the last General Index volume was published.

Though a Gezetteer literally means only a geographical index or a geographical dictionary, the scope of this particular compilation was much wider. It included not only a description of the physical and natural features of a region but also a broad narrative of the social, political, economic and cultural life of the people living in that region. The purpose which the Gazetteer was intended to serve was made clear in the following remarks of Sir William Hunter, Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India, when his opinion was sought on a draft article on Dharwar District in 1871. He said—

"My own conception of the work is that, in return for a couple of days' reading, the Account should give a new Collector, a comprehensive, and, at the same time, a distinct idea of the district
which he has been sent to administer. Mere reading can never supersede practical experience in the district administration. But a succinct and well conceived district account is capable of antedating the acquisition of such personal experience by many months and of both facilitating and systematising a Collector's personal enquiries............But in all cases a District Account besides dealing with local specialities should furnish a historical narration of its revenue and expenditure since it passed under the British rule, of the sums which we have taken from it in taxes, and of the amount which we have returned to it in the protection of property and person and the other charges of civil Government.” [Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Vol. I, Part I (History of Gujarat), p. vii.]

The Gazetteer was thus intended to give a complete picture of the district to men who were entire strangers to India and its people but who as members of the ruling race carried on their shoulders the responsibility of conducting its administration.

The Gazetteer had 27 Volumes, some split up into two or three Parts, making a total of 35 books including the General Index which was published in 1904. Some of the Volumes were of a general nature and were not confined to the limits of a particular district. For example, Volume I dealt with history and was split up into two Parts, one dealing with Gujarat and the other with Konkan, Dekhan and Southern Maratha Country; Volume IX was devoted to the Population of Gujarat and contained two parts, one describing Hindus and the other Mussalmans and Parsis, but there was no corresponding Volume devoted to the population of Maharashtra or Karnataka; Volume XXV gave an account of the Botany of the area covered in the whole Presidency. The remaining volumes dealt with various districts of the Presidency and with what were then known as Native States attached to the Bombay Presidency. Some of the District Volumes had two or three parts, for example, those of Thana, Kanara, Poona and Bombay. On the other hand, there was only one combined volume for some districts, as for example, Surat and Broach, and Kaira and Panch Mahals.

The scheme of the contents was more or less the same for all the District Volumes though the accounts of particular items varied considerably from district to district. Information was collected from Government offices and, in respect of social and religious practices, from responsible citizens. Eminent scholars, experts and administrators contributed articles on special subjects.

This Gazetteer compiled over eighty years ago had long become scarce and entirely out of print. It contained authentic and useful information on several aspects of life in a district and was considered to be of great value to the administrator, and scholar and the general reader. There was a general desire that there should be a new and revised edition of this monumental work. The then Government of Bombay, therefore, decided that the old Gazetteer should be revised and republished, and entrusted the work of revision to an Editorial Board specially created for that purpose in 1949. This new edition has been prepared under the direction of that Editorial Board. In view of the reorganization of States in 1956 and the coming into existence of the State of Maharashtra in 1960, areas for which no District Gazetteer had previously been compiled will be taken up and new District Gazetteers will be compiled in accordance with the common pattern.

In the nature of things, after a lapse of over 80 years after their publication, most of the statistical information contained in the old Gazetteer had become entirely out of date and had to be dropped altogether. In this edition an attempt has been made to give an idea of the latest developments, whether in regard to the administrative structure or the economic set-up or in regard to social, religious and cultural trends. There are portions in the old Gazetteer bearing on archaeology and history which have the impress of profound scholarship and learning and their worth has not diminished by the mere passage of time. Even in their case, however, some

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restatement is occasionally, necessary in view of later investigations and new archaeological discoveries by scholars, and an attempt has been made to incorporate in this edition, the results of such subsequent research. The revision of old Volumes has, in fact, meant an entire rewriting of most of the chapters and sections. In doing so, statistical and other information was obtained from the relevant Departments of Government, and articles on certain specialised subjects were obtained from competent scholars.

In this dynamic world, circumstances and facts of life change, and so do national requirements and social values. Such significant changes have taken place in India as in other countries during the last half a century, and more so after the advent of Independence in 1947. The general scheme and contents of this revised series of the Gazetteers have been adapted to the needs of altered conditions. There is inevitably some shift in emphasis in the presentation and interpretation of certain phenomena. For example, the weighted importance given to caste and community in the old Gazetteer cannot obviously accord with the ideological concepts of a secular democracy, though much of that data may have considerable interest from the functional, sociological or cultural point of view. What is necessary is a change in perspective in presenting that account so that it could be viewed against the background of a broad nationalism and the synthesis of a larger social life. It is also necessary to abridge and even to eliminate, elaborate details about customs and practices which no longer obtain on any extensive scale or which are too insignificant to need any elaboration. In the revised Gazetteer, therefore, only a general outline of the practices and customs of the main sections of the population has been given.

An important addition to the District Volume in this edition is the Directory of Villages and Towns given at the end which contains, in a tabulated form, useful information about every village and town in the district. The district map given in this edition is also fairly large and up-to-date.

The revised Gazetteers are published in two series:—

1. The General Series.—This comprises Volumes on subjects which can best be treated for the State as a whole and not for the smaller area of a district. As at present planned, they will deal with Physical Features, People and Their Culture, History, Language and Literature, Botany, and Public Administration.

2. The District Series.—This contains one Volume for every district of the Maharashtra State. The information given in all Volumes will follow the same pattern, and the table of contents will more; or less be the same for all districts.

It was originally thought feasible to number the district volumes in the alphabetical order in the District Series and accordingly the Poona Volume which was the first revised District Gazetteer to be compiled and published by the Board (in 1954), was numbered as Volume XX. However, the arrangement was not found to be suitable and it was, therefore, subsequently decided not to give any number to any volume.

In the preparation of this volume, the Board has received every assistance from the Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, Government of India. A draft copy of this volume was sent to the Gazetteers Unit and was returned with valuable suggestions which have been incorporated in the volume. The Government of India gives a grant-in-aid of Rs. 6,000 per volume towards the cost of compilation and 40 per cent, of the actual printing charges.

BOMBAY: P. SETU MADHAVA RAO,
May 1963. Executive Editor and Secretary.

Contents
LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

INTRODUCTION

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE DISTRICT is conducted by various statutory bodies enjoying local autonomy in different degrees. The progress of these institutions could be marked in three spheres. First, in regard to their constitution, from full or partly nominated bodies they have now become entirely elective. Secondly, their franchise, which had gone on widening, has, with the enactment of the Bombay Local Authorities Adult Franchise and Removal of Reservation of Seats Act (XVII of 1950), reached the widest limit possible, viz., universal adult franchise. Every person who (a) is a citizen of India, (b) has attained the age of 21 years, and (c) has the requisite residence, business premises or taxation qualification, is now entitled to be enrolled as a voter. Prior to 1950 reservation of seats for women, Muhammedans, Christians, Anglo-Indians, Harijans and Backward Tribes, had been provided in municipalities and District Local Boards, and for women, Muhammedans, Harijans and Backward Tribes in village panchayats. Muhammedans were also provided separate electorates in local boards and municipalities before 1947. The enactment mentioned above, abolished the reservation of seats for Muhammedans, Christians and Anglo-Indians but continued it for ten years from the commencement of the Constitution of India (i.e., till 25th January 1960) for women, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which castes and tribes, more or less represent Harijans and Backward Tribes.

Thirdly, wider and wider powers have been gradually conferred on local bodies for the administration of areas under their charge.

Another recent reform is connected with Controlling Authority over institutions of Local Self-Government. Before the enactment of the Bombay Commissioners of Divisions Act, 1957 (VIII of 1958), the Divisional Officer who was also designated as the Director of Local Authorities of the Division used to exercise this control but since its enactment, the posts of Commissioners have been revived and Commissioners of Divisions now exercise the powers and functions which the Director of Local Authorities used to exercise in respect of the following Acts:—

1. The Bombay Village Sanitation Act (I of 1889).
2. The Bombay District Vaccination Act (I of 1892).
3. The Bombay District Municipal Act (III of 1901).
4. The Bombay Town Planning Act (I of 1915).
5. The Bombay Local Boards Act (VI of 1923).
8. The Bombay Village Panchayats Act (VI of 1933).

The Commissioner, Poona Division, has jurisdiction over the Satara district.
MUNICIPALITIES

The total area in the district under the administration of municipalities in 1958, was 102.31 square miles with a population of 1,21,742, according to the 1951 Census. The Phaltan municipality from the former Phaltan State was constituted as a district municipality under the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901 (III of 1901), after the merger of the Phaltan State. There are two borough municipalities in the Satara district, viz., the Satara City Borough Municipality and the Karad Borough Municipality, which are governed by the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925 (XVIII of 1925), and the others are district municipalities governed by the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901 (III of 1901).

The following is the list of the Municipalities in the Satara district with their population according to the 1951 Census, area, number of wards, total number of councillors, number of seats reserved for the representatives of women, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and number of nominated seats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Municipality</th>
<th>Population 1951 Census</th>
<th>Area in sq. miles</th>
<th>Number of Wards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Satara City Borough.</td>
<td>38,521</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Satara Sub</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Rahimatpur</td>
<td>8,055</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Mhaswad</td>
<td>9,145</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Phaltan</td>
<td>12,142</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Karad Borough</td>
<td>25,721</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Wai</td>
<td>16,099</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8 Mahabaleshwar</td>
<td>4,972</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Panchgani</td>
<td>4,538</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,21,742</strong></td>
<td><strong>102.31</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Name of Municipality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Municipality</th>
<th>Number of Councillors.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Reserved for women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) Satara City Borough.</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Satara Sub</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Rahimatpur</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Mhaswad</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Phaltan</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Karad Borough</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Wai</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Mahabaleshwar</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Panchgani</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The population given in the Census Hand Book is of the revenue village which in area is much bigger than the Municipal district administered by the municipality. But the population of the revenue village more or less approximates to the population of the municipal town, as the area of the revenue village not included in the municipal district is more or less unhabitated as it is composed only of agricultural fields. The cultivators stay in the town and go to the fields when they have to perform agricultural operations.

### District Municipalities.

Under the Bombay District Municipal Act (III of 1901), the State Government has power to declare by notification any local area to be a "municipal district" and also to alter the limits of any existing municipal district. In every municipal district a municipality has to be constituted, consisting of elected councillors, the Commissioner of the Division having power to nominate councillors to represent constituencies which fail to elect the full number allotted them. The State Government has power to prescribe the number and the extent of the wards to be constituted in each municipal district and the number of councillors to be elected by each ward. Till 26th January 1960, it could also reserve seats for the representation of women, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.
The term of office of a municipality is four years, but it can be extended to an aggregate of five years by an order of the Commissioner, Poona Division. Under the Act every municipality has to be presided over by a president selected from among the councillors and either appointed by Government or elected by the municipality, if the State Government so directs. A Vice-President is elected by the councillors from among themselves, but in the case of a municipality whose President is appointed by Government the result of the election of Vice-President is subject to the approval of Government. At present all municipalities in the Satara district are allowed to elect their Presidents.

The Government of a municipal district vests in the municipality. The President's duties as the head of the municipality are:—

(a) preside at meetings of the municipality;

(b) watch over the financial and executive administration and to perform such other executive functions as may be performed by the municipality; and

(c) exercise supervision and control over the acts and proceedings of all officers and servants of the municipality.

There is provision for the compulsory constitution of a managing committee in the case of all municipalities. Option is also left to municipalities to appoint other executive or consultative committees.

The act divides municipal functions into obligatory and optional. The former include all matters essential to the health, safety, convenience and well-being of the population, while the latter are matters, which though they are legitimate objects of local expenditure, are not considered absolutely essential. The following are among the obligatory duties laid on all municipalities:—

(a) lighting public streets, places and buildings;

(b) watering public streets and places;

(c) cleansing public streets, places and sewers, removing noxious vegetation, and abating all public nuisances;

(d) extinguishing fires, and protecting life and property, when fires occur;

(e) regulating or abating offensive or dangerous trades or practices;

(f) removing obstructions and projections in public streets or places;

(g) securing or removing dangerous buildings or places, and reclaiming unhealthy localities;

(h) acquiring and maintaining, changing and regulating places for the disposal of the dead;

(i) constructing, altering and maintaining public streets, culverts, municipal boundary marks, slaughter-houses, latrines, privies, urinals, drains, sewers, drainage works, sewerage works, baths, washing places, drinking fountains, tanks, wells, dams and the like;
(j) obtaining a supply or an additional supply of water, proper and sufficient for preventing danger to the health of the inhabitants from the insufficiency or unwholesomeness of the existing supply when such supply or additional supply can be obtained at a reasonable cost;

(k) registering births, marriages and deaths;

(l) public vaccination;

(m) establishing and maintaining hospitals and dispensaries and providing medical relief;

(n) establishing and maintaining primary schools;

(o) disposing of night-soil and rubbish and, if so required by the State Government, preparing compost manure from such night-soil and rubbish;

(p) constructing and maintaining residential quarters for the conservancy staff of the municipality;

(q) providing special medical aid and accommodation for the sick in time of dangerous disease; and taking such measures as may be required to prevent the out-break of the disease and to suppress it and prevent its recurrence;

(r) giving relief and establishing and maintaining relief works in time of famine or scarcity to or for destitute persons; and

(s) paying for the maintenance and treatment of lunatics and lepers and persons affected by rabies, in case they are indigent and have been resident in the municipality for one year.

Municipalities may, at their discretion, provide out of their funds for the following among others:

(a) laying out new public streets;

(b) constructing, establishing or maintaining public parks, gardens, libraries, museums, lunatic asylums, halls, offices, dharamshalas, rest-houses, homes for the disabled and destitute persons and other public buildings;

(c) furthering educational objects;

(d) securing or assisting to secure suitable places for the carrying on of offensive trades;

(e) establishing and maintaining a farm or factory for the disposal of sewage;

(f) the construction, purchase, organisation, maintenance, extension and arrangement of mechanically propelled transport facilities for the public;

(g) promoting the well-being of municipal employees and their dependents;

(h) providing accommodation for municipal employees and their dependents;

(i) construction of sanitary dwellings for the poorer classes; and
(j) taking any measure likely to promote the public safety, health, convenience or education.

Municipal taxation may embrace the following items: —

(i) a rate on buildings and lands;

(ii) a tax on all or any vehicles, boats, or animals used for riding, draught or burden;

(iii) a toll on vehicles (other than motor vehicles or trailers) and animals used as aforesaid;

(iv) an octroi on animals and goods;

(v) a tax on dogs;

(vi) a special sanitary cess upon private latrines, premises or compounds cleansed by municipal agency;

(vii) a general sanitary cess for the construction and maintenance of public latrines, and for the removal and disposal of refuse;

(viii) a general water-rate or a special water-rate or both;

(ix) a lighting tax;

(x) a tax on pilgrims; and

(xi) any other tax which the State legislature has power to impose.

Instead of (i), (vii), (viii) (general water-rate) and (ix), a consolidated tax assessed as a rate on buildings or lands may be imposed.

The rules regulating the levy of taxes in the case of district municipalities have to be sanctioned by the Commissioner, Poona Division who has been given powers to subject the levy to such modifications not involving an increase of the amount to be imposed or to such conditions as to application of a part or whole of the proceeds of the tax to any purpose.

The State Government may raise objections to the levy of any particular tax which appears to it to be unfair in its incidence or obnoxious to the interest of the general public and suspend the levy of it until such time as the objections are removed. The State Government may require a municipality to impose taxes when it appears to it that the balance of the municipal fund is insufficient for meeting any cost incurred by any person acting under the directions of the Collector or of the Commissioner, Poona Division for the execution of any work or the performance of any duties which the municipality is under an obligation to execute or perform but which it has failed to execute or perform.

Many of these taxes are levied by municipalities, but the rates at which they are levied do not enable them to meet all their expenditure. Their incomes have to be supplemented by numerous grants made by Government, both recurring and non-recurring. For instance, grants are made by Government to municipalities towards maintenance of municipal dispensaries and hospitals, water-supply and drainage schemes, expenditure on epidemics, payment of dearness allowance to staff, etc. These grants add substantially to the municipal income.
Since the passing of the Bombay Primary Education Act (LXI of 1947), control of primary education has virtually been transferred from district municipalities (i.e. those working under the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901) and the District Local Board to the Satara District School Board, and the financial liabilities of district municipalities have been limited.

The District School Board has control of primary education in their areas, but the municipalities concerned pay over to the District School Board five per cent, of the rateable value of the properties in their areas as a contribution towards meeting the expenses on primary education. Compulsory education has been introduced in all municipal areas.

Control over the municipalities is exercised by the Collector, the Commissioner, Poona Division and the State Government. The Collector has powers of entry and inspection in regard to any immovable property occupied by a municipality or any work in progress under it. He may also call for extracts from the proceedings of a meeting of the municipality or for any books or documents in its possession or under its control. He may also require a municipality to take into consideration any objection he has to any of its acts or any action on its part. These powers can be delegated by the Collector to the Assistant or Deputy Collectors.

The Commissioner has powers to order a municipality to suspend or prohibit, pending the orders of the State Government, the execution of any of its order or resolution, if, in his opinion, it is likely to cause injury or annoyance to the public or to lead to a breach of the peace or is unlawful. In cases of emergency, the Commissioner may provide for the execution of any works or the doing of any act which a municipality is empowered to execute or do and the immediate execution or doing of which is necessary for the health or safety of the public, and may direct that the expenses shall be forthwith paid by the municipality.

Subject to appeal to the State Government, the Commissioner is also empowered to require a municipality to reduce the number of persons employed by it and also the remuneration assigned to any member of the staff. On the recommendation of a district municipality he can remove any councillor guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties.

When satisfied that a municipality has made a default in performing any statutory duty imposed on it, the State Government may direct the Commissioner of the Division to fix a period for the performance of that duty, and if that duty is not performed within the period stipulated, the Commissioner may appoint some person to perform it and direct that the expenses shall be forthwith paid by the municipality. If the State Government is of the view that any municipality is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in the performance of its duties or exceeds or abuses its powers, it may either dissolve the municipality or supersede it for a specific period. The president or vice-president of a municipality or municipal borough may be removed by the State Government for misconduct or for neglect or incapacity in regard to the performance of his duties.

The audit of all Local Fund Accounts is provided for by the Bombay Local Fund Audit Act (XXV of 1930). The Commissioner of the Division on receipt of the Report of the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts, may disallow any item of expenditure which appears to him to be contrary to law and surcharge the same on the person making or authorising the making of the illegal payment. Appeal against the order may be made either to the District Court or to the State Government.

Borough Municipalities.

The Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act is applied in the Satara district to the Satara City Borough and Karad Borough municipalities. This Act, enacted in 1925, confers greater powers on a
municipal borough than those conferred on municipalities governed by the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901.

In the case of a borough municipality a standing committee is appointed instead of the managing committee as in the case of district municipalities. The powers of the standing committee are wider than those of the managing committee. The appointment of a chief officer is made compulsory and he has been given powers under the Act in respect of control of the subordinate staff. A chief officer has to be a graduate of a recognised university or a qualified engineer, and it is laid down by section 33 that no chief officer shall be removed from office, reduced or suspended unless by the votes of at least two-thirds of the total number of councillors.

As regards taxation, a borough municipality is empowered to levy (a) a drainage tax and (b) a special education tax, in addition to the taxes leviable by municipalities governed by the District Municipal Act.

In the case of district municipalities the Commissioner of the Division has power to sanction the rules relating to the levy of taxes; to remove, on the recommendation of the municipality, any councillor guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties and to extend the term of a municipality from four to five years. In the case of borough municipalities similar powers are exercised by the State Government.

The municipal borough of Satara is an authorised municipality under the Bombay Primary Education Act (LXI of 1947), i.e., it is authorised to control all approved schools within its areas and manage primary education.

An account of the individual municipalities in the district will be found in chapter XIX.

**DISTRICT LOCAL BOARD**

The District Local Board.—The administration of the Local Self- Government of the Satara district, excluding the municipal areas, is entrusted to the Satara District Local Board, which is constituted under the Bombay Local Boards Act (VI of 1923). The area administered by the Board is 3,835 sq. miles and according to the Census of 1951, it contained a population of 10,53,567. The Board is wholly elected and is composed of 53 members. Of these ten seats are reserved for women and scheduled castes. Its term of office is for four years, and is extensible by order of the Commissioner to a period not exceeding in the aggregate five years. If an election does not result in the return of the required number of qualified persons willing to take office, the Commissioner has to appoint the necessary number.

The President of the Board is elected by the Board from among its own members. His term of office is co-extensive with the life of the Board. His chief functions are: (a) to preside at the meetings of the Board; (b) to watch over the financial and executive administration of the Board; (c) to exercise supervision and control over the acts and proceedings of all officers and servants of the Board in matters of executive administration and in matters concerning the accounts and records of the Board; and (d) subject to certain limitations prescribed by Rules framed under the Act, to dispose of all questions relating to the service of the officers and servants and their pay, privileges and allowances. Without contravening any order of the Board, he may, in cases of emergency, direct the execution or stoppage of any work or the carrying out of any act which requires the sanction of the Board.
There is also a Vice-President of the Board who is elected in the same way as the President. He presides at the meetings of the Board in the absence of the President and exercises such of the powers and performs such of the duties of the President as the President may delegate to him. Pending the election of a President or during the absence of the President on leave, he exercises the powers and performs the duties of the President.

Under the Act, it is compulsory on the Board to appoint a standing committee. The appointment of other committees is optional. However, the Board has appointed the following sub-committees in addition to the Standing Committee:—

(1) Works Committee.

(2) Budget Committee.

(3) Public Health Committee.

(4) District Boarding Committee.

(5) Village Improvement Committee.

(6) Appellate Committee.

(7) Pharmacy Committee.

(8) Law and Reference Committee.

(9) Village Panchayat Committee, which is discontinued since the transfer of village panchayats to Government i.e., from 1st July 1959.

The Standing Committee is to consist of not more than nine members and not less than five members as the Board may determine. The President of the Board is the Ex-officio Chairman of the Committee. Re-appropriations and estimates of works costing not more than Rs. 5,000 are sanctioned by it. It also considers subjects that generally do not come within the purview of the other committees.

The obligatory and optional functions of the Board are set out in section 50 of the Local Boards Act. The obligatory duties are:—

The construction of roads and other means of communication and the maintenance and repairs of all roads and other means of communications vested in it;

(2) The construction and repairs of dispensaries, dharamshalas and other public buildings and inspection, management and maintenance of these institutions;

(3) The construction and repair of public tanks, wells and water works, the supply of water from them and from other sources; and the construction and maintenance of works for storing and preservation of water for drinking and cooking purposes and prevention of its pollution;

(4) Public vaccination, and sanitary works and measures necessary for the public health; and

(5) The planting and preservation of trees by the side or in the vicinity of roads vesting in the Board.
With the passing of the Bombay Primary Education Act (LXI of 1947), and the rules framed under it, which came into force from 1st April 1949, the District Local Board, Satara, has no longer any administrative or financial control over primary education. The only duty of the Board is to hold an election of the members of the District School Board as prescribed in the Act and to assign a revenue equal to 15 pies of the three anna cess on land revenue and water rate.

The main financial resources of the Board as set out in section 75 of the Bombay Local Boards Act are:—

(1) a cess on land revenue up to a maximum of three annas in the rupee;

(2) a cess on water rate up to a maximum of three annas in the rupee;

(3) all rents and profits accruing from property (including ferries) vested in the Board; and

(4) grants from Government.

Under section 79 of the Act, the Board has to assign to every municipality two-thirds of the cesses on land revenue levied on lands within that municipality. The Board now levies the cesses on land revenue and water rate at the maximum of three annas in the rupee.

Under section 118-A of the Act, the State Government has to make every year a grant to every District Local Board equivalent in amount to 15 per cent, of the land revenue, including non-agricultural assessment, realised during the previous year from lands within the limits of the Board, excluding lands within municipal boroughs, municipal districts or village panchayats.

The controlling authorities in relation to the District Local Board, Satara, are the Collector; the Commissioner, Poona Division and the State Government. They exercise in the case of the District Local Board more or less the same powers that they have over the municipalities.

The following were the receipts and expenditure of the Satara District Local Board under the various heads in 1959-60, excluding primary education (which is now looked after entirely by the District School Board) and Deposits, Advances, Investments and Provident fund:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Land Revenue</td>
<td>1,27,296</td>
<td>1. Refunds and drawbacks.</td>
<td>9,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Local Rates</td>
<td>6,36,478</td>
<td>2. Administration</td>
<td>82,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Interest</td>
<td>4,964</td>
<td>3. Law and Justice</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Police</td>
<td>1,796</td>
<td>4. Education</td>
<td>3,43,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Education</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>5. Medical</td>
<td>2,02,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Medical</td>
<td>99,551</td>
<td>6. Minor Departments</td>
<td>1,07,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Minor Departments</td>
<td>1,02,219</td>
<td>7. Superannuation Allowance and Pension.</td>
<td>24,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>90,041</td>
<td>8. Civil works</td>
<td>2,99,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Civil works</td>
<td>126,813</td>
<td>9. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>31,841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contents
Under Deposits, Advances, Investments and Provident Fund, the receipts were Rs. 2,36,035 and the expenditure Rs. 57,652,

The Board has unrestricted power of appointment of its officers and of payment to them. At present the Board has appointed a Chief Officer and an Engineer both in the scale of Rs. 220—15—400—E.B.—20—500—E.B.—25—650.

On 31st March 1960, the Board had under its jurisdiction a total road mileage of 544.96. The maintenance of these roads is a responsibility of the Board. Of these 152.14 miles were metalled, 252.83 miles unmetalled and 149.99 miles cart tracks. The Board is required to frame a yearly programme of road improvements and to submit it to the Commissioner, Poona Division for sanction. Current repair works are generally provided from the local fund. During the five years ending 31st March 1960, the Board has improved a length of 171 miles of roads according to this programme.

Water Supply.—Government under its resolution, Health and Local Government Department, No. S-92, dated 24th April 1947, has sanctioned a scheme with a view to providing; drinking water supply facilities to villages with a population of 200 and above and in backward areas in villages with a population of 100 and above, which lack an adequate supply of drinking water. In the Satara district, before the merger of the States, there were 1,152 inhabited villages as per 1951 census of which 974 had a population of 200 and more. From the beginning of the scheme, the Board has completed well-works in 165 villages, in Jaoli, Karad, Khatav, Koregaon, Man, Patan, Phaltan, Satara and Wai talukas and Khandala and Mahabaleshwar petas. After the merger of the States, 112 villages were added to the Local Board area.

During the year 1959-60, the Board had undertaken to sink new wells in the following talukas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Wells.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Karad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Patan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Khandala Peta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Khatav</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Koregaon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health and Sanitation.—The District Health Officer appointed by the Government looks after the arrangement in connection with the control of epidemics. The Board appoints inoculators and supplies vaccine and other drugs for inoculation and disinfection of water supply on the advice of the District Health Officer. Preventive as well as curative measures are carried out by the District Health Officer through his own public health staff and the staff appointed by the Board. Similarly the vaccination staff appointed by the Board does the vaccination work under the control of the District Health Officer.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.—The Board maintains six allopathic dispensaries out of which four are grant-in-aid medical dispensaries and two are maintained by the Board from its own funds. The Board also maintains 17 ayurvedic dispensaries from its own funds. The expenditure in connection with the maintenance of allopathic dispensaries and ayurvedic dispensaries was Rs.
46,188 and Rs. 72,355 respectively during 1959-60, against which a grant-in-aid of Rs. 8,884 and Rs. 6,120 respectively was received by the Board from the Government.

There were 20 subsidised medical practitioners' centres in the district during 1959-60. The Board is required to pay one-fifth of the expenditure of these centres to the Government.

The Board maintained in 1959-60, ten veterinary dispensaries at the cost of Rs. 83,107 against which a grant-in-aid of Rs. 44,350 was received by the Board from the Government.

Other Amenities—(1) District Local Board Pharmacy. —The Board has started its own pharmacy in order to provide good medicines for its ayurvedic and allopathic dispensaries and village panchayats. It also maintains a dispensary under the Pharmacy Manager for its own employees.

(2) The Board has introduced a Village Improvement Scheme from 2nd October 1952 and has maintained five motor trucks and a special staff for the purpose. These trucks are given at a nominal rent to the villagers who volunteer to work for the improvement of roads in their villages. Technical guidance is also given. A number of villages are taking advantage of this scheme.

(3) Boarding Houses.—The Board has constructed nine boarding houses at different places in the district to provide residential facilities to the students in secondary schools coming from rural areas.

The District Health Supervisor appointed by the Board looks after the sanitation in rural areas, trains the village panchayat secretaries in public health and sanitation and in the technique of vaccination and inoculation.

**VILLAGE PANCHAYATS**

A village panchayat functions as a unit of Local Self-Government and of development activities in rural areas. Under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958 (Bombay Act No. III of 1959), an independent village panchayat is to be established in a village having a population of 500 and above. So also under special circumstances an independent panchayat can be established in a village with a population of 250 and above, if sufficient reasons exist for the same. There are 1,167 villages excluding municipal towns in the district. Fifty-eight villages out of these will be submerged under the waters of the Koyana river on account of the Hydro-Electric Project at Koynanagar. There were 676 village panchayats in the Satara district on the 31st March 1960, covering all the villages in the district.

**Gram Sabha.**

In respect of every local area declared to be a village, all persons whose names are included in the list of voters referred to in section 12 of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, are deemed to constitute a Gram Sabha for the village. The meetings of the Gram Sabha are ordinarily held in the Office of the panchayat or the village chavadi or at any convenient public place in the village as may be determined by the Sarpanch or in his absence by the Upa-Sarpanch. The first meeting of the Gram Sabha in every financial year is to be held within two months from the commencement of that year and the second meeting in November on such date and at such time as may be fixed by the Sarpanch, or in his absence by the Upa-Sarpanch. The Sarpanch may, at any time on his own motion, and shall, if so required by the Panchayat Mandal or the Collector, call an
extra-ordinary meeting of the Gram Sabha. The Panchayat is to place before the first meeting of the Gram Sabha:—

(i) The annual statement of accounts;

(ii) The report on the administration of the preceding financial year;

(iii) The development and other programme of work proposed for the current financial year;

(iv) The last audit note and replies, if any, made thereto;

(v) Any other matter which the Panchayat Mandal or the Collector or any other officer authorised by the Collector requires to be placed before such meeting,

The Panchayat is to consider suggestions, if any, made by the Gram Sabha.

The maximum number of members for a panchayat is fifteen and the minimum number is seven. The members are to be elected on adult franchise.

In every panchayat two seats are to be reserved for women. The State Government has been given power to reserve seats for the representation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, if found necessary, having regard to the population in the village of such castes and tribes, till the expiration of the total extended period of 12 years from the commencement of the constitution of India, i.e., till 1962.

The members of the panchayat hold office for a term of four years which may be extended by the Collector for a period not exceeding in the aggregate five years. Every panchayat is to be presided over by the Sarpanch to be elected from amongst its own members. The panchayat is also to elect one of its members to be Upa-Sarpanch.

Having regard to the extent and population of the village and the income of panchayat, there is appointed a Secretary for every panchayat or a group of panchayats. He is appointed by Government and is a full time Government Servant, His salary and allowances are not a charge on the village Fund.

Sub-section (1) of section 45 of the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958, lays down that subject to the general control of the Panchayat Mandal, it shall be the duty of a panchayat, so far as the village fund at its disposal will allow, to make reasonable provision within the village in regard to all or any of the following matters, namely:—

I. In the sphere of sanitation and health—

(a) the supply of water for domestic use and for cattle;

(b) the cleansing of public roads, drains, bunds, tanks and wells (other than tanks and wells used for irrigation) and other public places or works;

(c) sanitation, conservancy, the prevention and abatement of nuisance, and disposal of carcasses of dead animals;

(d) the preservation and improvement of the public health;
(e) the regulation by licencing or otherwise of tea, coffee and milk shops.

(f) provision, maintenance and regulation of burning and burial grounds;

(g) the lay out and maintenance of playgrounds and of public gardens;

(h) the disposal of unclaimed corpses and unclaimed cattle;

(i) the construction and maintenance of public latrines;

(j) the taking of measures to prevent the outbreak, spread or recurrence of any infectious disease;

(k) the reclaiming of unhealthy localities;

(l) the removal of rubbish heaps, jungle growth, prickly pear, the filling in of disused wells, insanitary ponds, pools, ditches, pits or hollows, the prevention of water-logging in irrigated areas and other improvement of sanitary conditions;

(m) maternity and child welfare;

(n) providing medical relief;

(o) the encouragement of human and animal vaccination.

II. In the sphere of public works—

(a) the removing of obstructions and projections in public streets or places and in sites, not being private property, which are open to the public, whether such sites are vested in the panchayat or belong to Government;

(b) the construction, maintenance and repair of public roads, drains, bunds and bridges:
Provided that if the roads, drains, bunds and bridges vest in any other public authority, such works shall not be undertaken without the consent of that authority;

(c) the maintenance and regulation of the use of public buildings, grazing lands, forest lands including lands assigned under section 28 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927, tanks and wells (other than tanks and wells used for irrigation), vesting in or under the control of the panchayat;

(d) the lighting of the village;

(e) the control of fairs, bazars, tonga stands and cart stands;

(f) the construction and maintenance or control of slaughter houses;

(g) the planting of trees along roads, in market places and other public places, and their maintenance and preservation;

(h) the destruction of stray dogs;

(i) the construction and maintenance of dharma shalas;
(j) the management and control of bathing or washing ghats which are not managed by any
authority;

(k) the establishment and maintenance of markets;

(l) the construction and maintenance of houses for the conservancy staff of the panchayat;

(m) the provision and maintenance of camping grounds;

(n) the establishment, control and management of cattle pounds;

(o) the establishment and maintenance of works or the provision of employment in times of
scarcity;

(p) the extension of village sites, and the regulation of buildings in accordance with such
principles as may be prescribed;

(q) the establishment and maintenance of warehouses;

(r) excavation, cleansing and maintenance of ponds for the supply of water to animals.

III. In the sphere of education and culture—

(a) the spread of education;

(b) the establishment and maintenance of akhas, clubs and other places for recreation;

(c) the establishment and maintenance of theatres for promotion of art and culture;

(d) the establishment and maintenance of libraries and reading rooms;

(e) the promotion of social and moral welfare of the village including the promotion of
prohibition, the removal of untouchability, amelioration of the condition of backward classes, the
eradication of corruption and the discouragement of gambling and useless litigation.

IV. In the sphere of self-defence and village defence—

(a) watch and ward of the village, and of the crops therein:

Provided that the cost of watch and ward shall be levied and recovered by the panchayat
from such persons in the village, and in such manner, as may be prescribed;

(b) regulating, checking and abating of offensive or dangerous trades or practices;

(c) rendering assistance in extinguishing fires, and protecting life and property when fire
occurs.

V. In the sphere of administration—

(a) the numbering of premises;
(b) the drawing up of programmes for increasing the output of agricultural and non-agricultural produce in the village;

(c) the preparation of the statement showing the requirement of supplies and finances needed for carrying out rural development schemes;

(d) acting as a channel through which assistance given by the Central or State Government for any purpose reaches the village;

(e) making surveys;

(f) the control of cattle stands, threshing floors, grazing grounds and community lands;

(g) the establishment, maintenance and regulation of fairs, pilgrimages and festivals;

(h) the preparation of statistics of unemployment;

(i) reporting to proper authorities, village complaints which are not removable by panchayat;

(j) the preparation, maintenance and upkeep of panchayat records;

(k) the registration of births, deaths and marriages in such manner, and in such form, as may be laid down by Government by general or special order in this behalf;

(l) the preparation of plans for the development of the village.

VI. In the sphere of welfare of the people—

(a) assistance in the implementation of land reform schemes;

(b) the relief of the crippled, destitute and the sick;

(c) assistance to the residents when any natural calamity occurs;

(d) making arrangements for co-operative management of lands and other resources in the village, and organisation of collective farming, credit societies and multi-purpose co-operative societies;

(e) the reclamation of waste land and bringing waste land under cultivation with the previous permission of the State Government;

(f) organising voluntary labour for community works and works for the uplift of the village.

(g) opening of fair price shops.

VII. In the sphere of agriculture and preservation of forests—

(a) the improvement of agriculture and establishment of model agricultural farms;

(b) the establishment of granaries;
(c) bringing under cultivation waste and fallow lands vested by Government in the panchayat;

(d) securing minimum standards of cultivation in the village with a view to increasing agricultural production;

(e) ensuring conservation of manurial resources, preparing compost and sale of manure;

(f) the establishment and maintenance of nurseries for improved seeds and provision of implements and stores;

(g) the production and use of improved seeds;

(h) the promotion of co-operative farming;

(i) crop experiments and crop protection;

(j) minor irrigation;

(k) raising, preservation and improvement of village forests.

VIII. In the sphere of breeding and protecting cattle-improvement of cattle and cattle breeding and the general care of livestock.

IX. In the sphere of village industries—

the promotion, improvement and encouragement of cottage and village industries.

X. In the sphere of the collection of land revenue—

(a) collection of land revenue when so empowered by the State Government under section 169; and

(b) maintenance of village records relating to land revenue in such manner and in such forms as may be prescribed from time to time by or under any law relating to land revenue.

Subject to such conditions as the State Government may impose, it is also competent to a panchayat to perform other administrative duties including the distribution of irrigation water that may be assigned to it by the State Government after consultation with the Panchayat Mandal.

Under section 124 (i) of the Act it is competent to a panchayat to levy all or any of the following taxes and fees at such rates as may be decided by it (but subject to the minimum and maximum rates which may be fixed by Government) and manner and subject to such exemptions as may be prescribed, namely:—

(i) a tax on buildings (whether subject to payment of agricultural assessment or not) and lands (which are not subject to payment of agricultural assessment), within the limits of the village;

(ii) octroi;

(iii) a pilgrim tax;
(iv) a tax on fairs, festivals and other entertainments;

(v) a tax on bicycles and on vehicles drawn by animals;

(vi) subject to the provisions of article 276 of the Constitution, a tax on the following professions, trades, callings or employments, that is to say: —

(a) shop-keeping and hotel-keeping;

(b) any trade or calling (other than agriculture) which is carried on with the help of machinery run by steam, oil or electric power or by manual labour;

(c) the profession or calling of brokers in cattle markets;

(vii) a general sanitary cess for the construction or maintenance, or both the construction and maintenance, of public latrines and for the removal and disposal of refuse;

(viii) a general water rate which may be imposed in the form of a rate assessed on buildings and lands or in any other form as may be best adapted to the circumstances of any class of cases;

(ix) any other tax (not being a toll on motor vehicles or trailers, save as provided by section 14 of the Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1935), which the State Legislature has, under the Constitution, power to impose in the State and which has been sanctioned by the State Government;

(x) a fee on markets and weekly bazars;

(xi) a fee on cart-stands and tonga-stands;

(xii) a special water rate for water supplied by the panchayat through pipes, which may be imposed in any form including that of charges for such water supplied, fixed in such mode or modes as shall be best adapted in the circumstances of any class of cases;

(xiii) a fee for the supply of water from wells and tanks vesting in it, for purposes other than domestic use and for cattle;

(xiv) a fee for temporary erection on, or putting up projections over, or temporary occupation of, any public street or place;

(xv) a special sanitary cess upon private latrines, premises or compounds cleansed by the panchayat agency;

(xvi) a fee for cleansing a cess pool constructed on land whether belonging to a panchayat or not;

(xvii) a fee for grazing cattle on grazing lands vesting in a panchayat.

The tax upon buildings or lands is not to be levied by a panchayat on all buildings and lands or any class of buildings or lands situated in an area predominantly populated by members of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

In regard to the fact that a factory itself provides in the factory area all or any of the amenities which such a panchayat provides, a panchayat may arrive at an agreement with any
factory to received a lump-sum contribution in lieu of all or any of the taxes levied by the panchayat.

Section 128 of the Act gives the Panchayat Mandal power to compel a panchayat to levy or increase any of the taxes or fees specified if it appears to the Mandal that the regular income of the panchayat falls below what is necessary for the proper discharge of the obligatory duties of the panchayat.

Section 131 of the Act lays down that Government shall pay to every panchayat in each year an amount not less than 25 per cent. and not exceeding 30 per cent of the ordinary land revenue collected in the revenue year immediately preceding, within the limits of village. For the purpose of the payment of the grant aforesaid, panchayats are, having regard to the factors prescribed by Government to be classified into such grades or categories and the percentage of the grant payable to the panchayats of each such category is to be such as may be determined by Government from time to time.

According to section 63 of the Act, there is to be a Nyaya Panchayat for the administration of civil and criminal justice in a group of contiguous villages not being less than five in number. It consists of one person elected by such panchayat which is to elect out of the members of the Gram Sabha of that village, one person for the purpose of constituting the Nyaya Panchayat. It is to sit, for the hearing of a suit or trial of a case, in the village where such suit or case has been instituted. It is to be presided over at each such place by one of its members. The term of office of the members of the Nyaya Panchayat expires with the term of the panchayat which elected them. The State Government has power to remove any member of the Nyaya Panchayat for reasons of misconduct in the discharge of his duties or of any disgraceful conduct or neglect, refusal or incapacity in regard to the performance of his duties as a member of the Nyaya Panchayat. The Secretary of the panchayat of the village where the sitting of the Nyaya Panchayat is held acts as the judicial clerk of the Nyaya Panchayat.

The Nyaya Panchayats constituted as aforesaid may exercise all or any of the powers mentioned in sub-section (1) and (2) of sections 73 and 75, as Government may by general or special order specify. Government may also direct the Nyaya Panchayats to exercise all or any of the judicial powers mentioned in sub-section (3) of section 73 and section 79 of the Act.

Pleaders, vakils, etc., are not permitted to appear on behalf of any party to any suit or case.

Appeals are allowed to the District Court in civil suits and to the Sessions Court in criminal cases.

For the purposes of encouraging the establishment and fostering the development of panchayats and for the supervision and control of the administration thereof, Government has constituted for every district a District Village Panchayat Mandal with the Collector as its Chairman. The Panchayat Mandal has power to call for information and to compel the panchayat to take into consideration any objection which the Panchayat Mandal has to any acts of the panchayat, either of omission or of commission, or any information which necessitates the commission of any act by the Panchayat. The Panchayat Mandal can also compel the Panchayat to reduce the number of persons maintained by a panchayat as officers or servants or the remuneration given or proposed to be given to them. In addition, the Collector has powers of suspension and prohibition in respect of the execution of any order or resolution of a panchayat which, in his opinion, is likely to cause injury or annoyance to the public or to lead to a breach of the peace. In cases of emergency, the Collector may also provide for the execution of any work or the doing of any act which a panchayat is empowered to execute or do, and the immediate execution or doing of which is, in his opinion,
necessary for the health or safety of the public, and may direct that the expenses shall be forthwith paid by the panchayat.

The audit of the accounts of a panchayat is carried out by Government in the prescribed manner and a copy of the audit note is forwarded to the panchayat and the panchayat mandal within one month of the completion of the audit. If it appears to the Panchayat Mandal that a panchayat has made default in the performance of its obligatory duties, it may order the duty to be performed within a specified period, and, if the duty is not performed within that period the Panchayat Mandal can appoint some person to perform it and direct that the expense be paid by the defaulting panchayat.

The State Government also is given power to carry out at the cost of the panchayat any of the panchayat's obligatory duties when it appears to it that the Panchayat Mandal has neglected to take action. The State Government has also powers, after consultation with the Panchayat Mandal to dissolve or supersede a panchayat, if, in its opinion, the panchayat had exceeded or abused its powers or made persistent default in the performance of its obligatory duties, or persistently disobeyed any of the orders of the Collector. If a panchayat is superseded, all the powers and duties of the panchayat will be exercised and performed by a person or persons appointed by the State Government.

According to section 136 of the Act, Government has appointed a District Village Panchayats Officer in the Deputy Collector's grade for Satara district to discharge the functions prescribed under the Bombay Village Panchayats Act, 1958. He is to Act as Personal Assistant to the Collector for Village Panchayat matters and to work as Secretary of the Panchayat Mandal. Several duties have also been placed on this officer, and he is expected to do everything that is possible to popularize village local self-Government and to make the working of Village Panchayats really effective. He has to exercise supervision over the affairs of panchayats already established in the district, tour round and explain to the panchayats the system of panchayat administration, watch the actual working of the panchayats and give them guidance if their working is not proper, and persuade women to take active interest in the affairs of panchayats. He is directed to hold annual gatherings of members of panchayats so that panchayats may become aware of the activities of one another. The programme for the collection of information relating to Village Panchayats at the taluka, district, divisional and State levels has been prescribed by Government. The procedure for the publication of the Annual reports on the working has also been laid down by Government. The information received from Taluka/Mahal/Block Officers has to be consolidated by the Collector. He writes his own descriptive report and forwards it to the Commissioner before the 31st of May every year. After the information has been submitted to the Commissioner the Collector has to publish his district report in the prescribed form in the regional language before the 15th of August.

**TOWN PLANNING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT**

**Organization.**

The Maharashtra State has an independent "Town Planning and Valuation Department" under the administrative control of the Urban Development and Public Health Department. This department came into existence in the year 1914, with the Consulting Surveyor to Government as its Head. The department principally deals with two important subjects viz., town planning and valuation of real property.
**Town Planning.**

The duties and functions of the department as stipulated by Government are as under:—

1. Educating the municipalities regarding the advantages of town planning and preparation of development plans and town planning schemes under the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954.  
2. Advising the municipalities in the selection of suitable areas for preparation of town planning schemes.  
3. Giving the required assistance to the municipalities in the preparation of development plans and town planning schemes in the shape of advice as well as loan of the services of technical assistants for the preparation of drafts of town planning schemes.  
4. To perform the duties of the town planning officer when so appointed by Government, to scrutinise building permission cases, to tender advice to the Board of Appeal and to draw up the final schemes.  
5. To issue certificate of tenure and title to the owners of lands included in town planning schemes.  
6. To advise Government on all matters regarding town and country planning including legislation thereon.  
7. To advise and prepare town development, improvement, extension and slum clearance schemes under the Municipal Acts.  
8. To prepare development schemes or layouts of lands—(i) belonging to Government and (ii) belonging to co-operative housing societies and private bodies with the sanction of Government.  
9. To advise Officers concerned in respect of village planning and preparation of layouts for model villages, etc.  
10. To advise Government on housing, slum clearance, regional planning and prevention of ribbon development including legislation.  
11. To prepare type designs for the housing of the middle and poorer classes including Harijans.  
12. To scrutinise miscellaneous building permission cases and layouts received from the Collectors and recommend suitable building regulations for adoption in the areas concerned.

**Valuation.**

The Consulting Surveyor to Government is the chief expert adviser of Government on this subject and his duties under this head include:  
1. Valuation of agricultural and non-agricultural lands and properties in towns and villages belonging to Government and intended for the purpose of sale or lease.  
2. Valuation of Government properties for the purpose of rating under the Municipal Acts.  
3. Valuation for miscellaneous purposes such as cantonment leases, probate or stamp duty, etc.  
4. Valuations for the purposes of fixing standard rates of non-agricultural assessment and prescribing values for zones in all villages and newly developing localities in the vicinity of important and growing towns.  
5. Valuations for the purposes of fixing standard table of ground rents and land values in respect of lands in cantonments.  
6. Scrutiny of awards of compensation (as received from Government).  
7. Supplying trained technical assistants to do duty as the special land acquisition officers in important towns where land acquisition work is of a very important and responsible nature.  
8. Giving expert evidence when called upon to do so in District Courts and the High Court when appeals are lodged against awards of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act.  
9. Undertaking valuation work on behalf of railways and other departments of the Central Government and private bodies with the sanction of Government on payment of fees, etc.  

The department was started in the year 1914, with the Consulting Surveyor to Government as its head who was later on assisted by one Assistant Consulting Surveyor to Government, one Deputy-Assistant Consulting Surveyor to Government and two senior assistants with the requisite staff. As the activities of this department increased, these assistants had to be posted at prominent places in the state to attend to the work of town and country planning very essentially required in
and around the towns and cities. There has been a rapid expansion in the activities of this department in recent years with the consequential increase in the number of branch offices in the state. The head office of the department is at Poona and the other branch offices are at Bombay, Kolhapur, Kalyan, Nagpur, Amravati, and Aurangabad. Some of the officers have been appointed to function as land acquisition officers. There is thus a full time special land acquisition officer at Poona and one full-time Land Acquisition Officer at Bombay in addition to two part-time Land Acquisition Officers at Bombay and Poona.

The statutory powers regarding planning embodied in the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915, have been replaced by the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. This Act generally incorporates the provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915, and in addition makes obligatory on every local authority (barring village panchayats) to prepare the development plan for the entire area within its jurisdiction. The development plan would aim at the improvement of existing congested gaothan portion of the town and would make proposals in respect of outlying open areas so as to guide the development on planned basis. The proposals of development plans can be implemented by the preparation of statutory town planning schemes. In preparing town planning schemes, planner can ignore to a great extent existing plot boundaries. In designing his layout, existing holdings can be reconstituted and made subservient to the plan, and building plots of good shape and frontage can be allotted to owners of lands ill-shaped for building purposes and without access. The cost of a scheme can be recovered from the owner benefited, to the extent of 50 per cent, of the increase in the value of the land estimated to accrue by the carrying out of the works contemplated in the scheme. When a draft town planning scheme prepared by a local authority in consultation with the owners is sanctioned a Town Planning Officer is appointed. His duties are to hear each owner individually, consider his objections or proposals and make suitable adjustments or amendments in the draft scheme proposals, if found necessary.

Most of the local authorities have no technical staff of their own to prepare a development plan and it has been decided that this department should prepare the development plans on behalf of local authorities under the provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. Accordingly the scheme for preparation of development plans has been provided in the Second Five-Year Plan and additional staff has been sanctioned for this purpose. From the Satara district, the town of Satara has been selected so far for the preparation of a development plan under the provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. This department had prepared a master plan for Karad with the assistance of the additional staff sanctioned for then purpose in the year 1947 and the same has been submitted by the local authority to Government for sanction as development plan under the provisions of Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. There is one town planning scheme at Karad viz., Town Planning Scheme, Karad No. 1, which is in a draft stage. The same is on hand with the Assistant Consulting Surveyor to Government, Bombay as Arbitrator. There is no branch office of the department in Satara district and the development plan of Satara is being prepared by the branch office at Kolhapur. The other work from this district is being dealt with generally by the Kolhapur branch office.

In connection with the Koyna Project, about 80 villages will be either partly or completely submerged under the proposed reservoir. A special officer designated as Rehabilitation Officer has been appointed by the Public Works department to work under the Chief Engineer, Koyna. The work of preparing the layouts for the new gaothans is being carried out by this office. However, besides the sites which are available in the district for rehabilitating the said villages a number of sites from the district of Sangli, Poona and Kolaba have been selected and the work of preparing suitable layouts is in progress. The work was initially spread over three years and still continues.

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