

INTRODUCTION

FAMINE CONDITION IN RAICH

FAMINE CONDITION IN KOPBA

INTRODUCTION

IT is sad to have to confess it, but nevertheless it is true beyond all possibility of argument or doubt, that Hyderabad, the premier State of India, is for all its brave and sometimes almost defiant show of contact with the newest achievements of modern science, still, in the things and ways that in the final analysis are what really matter, steeped in medievalism. And to anyone who believes, as I do, that anything less, by even the shadow of a shadow, than the right to the utmost freedom of thought and word and deed is a betrayal of one of the fundamental birthrights of human beings, it is a tragic portent auguring ill for the future, that it should be so pitifully easy to trace in the total absence in Hyderabad of what is known as Public Opinion, the demoralising effects of the barbarous laws that were fashioned to suppress all legitimate freedom of speech and any real freedom of the Press in the State. Nothing but the utter lack of a consciousness of its own right and its duty to watch over and protect the welfare of all those whose destiny is bound up with and dependent upon the State, can explain the attitude of criminal apathy that has been shown by the Public of Hyderabad towards what is, in the most literal and terrible meaning of the phrase, a question of life and death for thousands upon thousands of unhappy men and women living within the Nizam's Dominions.

In October 1934, there were a few casual, brief and rather vague references in the newspapers of Hyderabad to the imminence of a dreadful famine in different parts of the State on account of the failure of the monsoon and the consequent failure of crops. The Government, having issued a Communique on the 3rd December 1934, announcing that the Kharif crops in Raichur District had failed and that it was starting Relief Works there, did not consider it necessary to enquire further into the matter. And the Public of Hyderabad, with that curious and almost pathological lack of imagination which is symptomatic of a suppressed people, was content to remain ignorant of what the months that followed held, both of acute physical suffering and poignant mental anguish, for all those who were living on the extreme verge of famine. It was not until a few weeks ago, when the sudden and heavy rainfall in the last week of January 1935 damaging the Rabi crops all over the Dominions increased the misery of the rayats of Raichur and Koppal a hundredfold, that the public of Hyderabad was, at long last, roused from its lethargy to a belated sense of its responsibility towards them and its duty to enquire into their condition. It was in answer to this that the Government issued on the 10th Ardebehist (15th March 1935), a pale and languid Communique protesting that all was well.

I toured the five affected Taluqs of the Raichur District (Manvi, Sindhunur, Lingsugur, Kushtagi and Gangavati) as well as the Koppal Jagir in the middle of February 1935, and in order to be in a position to make a just estimate of the situation there I took special care to make a comprehensive study of it, making detailed enquiries regarding all its aspects. I interviewed Government Officials of various Departments and visited all the Relief Works started by the Government to collect official statistics, and I interviewed land-owners, merchants, lawyers and other representative men in each of the affected Taluqs to obtain their independent views on the prevalent conditions. Above all, I visited a large number of villages in each of the affected areas and personally questioned the rayats in the presence of the Patels and Patwaris, and often in the presence of Government Officials, about their difficulties regarding irrigation, cattle, crop conditions, purchase of food-stuffs and fodder, unemployment, etc. In addition to this I also visited Bellary where famine had already been declared and where the general conditions of climate, rainfall and cultivation are similar to those of Raichur and Koppal, and made a comparative study of its present condition. I welcome this opportunity of

expressing my deep appreciation of the unvarying courtesy with which I was given whatever information and help I needed, both by the officials and non-officials in Raichur, Koppal and Bellary. I also acknowledge with much pleasure my thanks to Mr. Janardhan Rao Desai and Mr. Narsingh Rao, Editor of the "Rayat", for having accompanied me on my tour, as without their aid my task would have been almost impossible owing to the difficulty of languages. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Narsingh Rao also for the invaluable help he has given me in collecting the necessary information about Raichur District.

Having carefully sifted the large mass of official and un-official evidence in my possession regarding conditions in Raichur and Koppal, I find myself unable to accept without protest the Government view as presented in its Communique of 10th Ardebehist (15th March 1935) that while "Scarcity conditions exist in five Taluqs of the Raichur District as a result of a partial failure of the monsoon and an unsatisfactory distribution of the rainfall, the Government are satisfied that actual famine conditions at present exist nowhere and that the recent rains in January have greatly improved the late-sown Rabi crops which, fortunately, this year are reported to have been more extensive than usual. The Government are satisfied that the utmost liberality permissible out of the public funds has hitherto been shown to the people of the affected areas. Similar steps to those sanctioned by Government have been ordered by Nawab Salar Jung in Koppal Jagir." I feel it my duty to repeat what I have already said that even though the Authorities directly concerned are still busy quibbling delicately over the precise shade of difference in the meaning of the words "Scarcity" and "Famine", I have no hesitation whatsoever in declaring that An acute state of famine prevails today in Koppal Jagir and in the five Taluqs of the Raichur District (Manvi, Sindhunur, Lingsugur, Kushtagi and Gangavati), and further I maintain that so far no adequate measures have been adopted to meet the situation.

In all these areas, a succession of years of insufficient rainfall unevenly distributed, followed by a complete failure of the monsoon last year, has produced amongst the rayats distress of the most appalling dimensions. The Kharif crops having failed entirely, the Government granted in Raichur District a suspension of collections on the Kharif Kist to the value of 14 As in the rupee in addition to the general remission of 2 As in the rupee granted throughout the Dominions owing to the economic depression. It also distributed Faecavi loans of a lakh and a half and sanctioned nine and a half lakhs for Relief Works. In Koppal, however, where as in most other Jagirs in the Dominions, there is no more than a pitiful and futile pretence at any ordered Administration, neither remission nor suspension was granted on the Kharif crops that had failed, and the Revenue demand was in many cases enforced with so much harshness that the rayats unable to pay had no alternative except to leave their villages and migrate to British India where there is neither a welcome nor any certain hope of work and prosperity for them. In Raichur District, too, migration has taken place on a large scale, partly to other fertile parts of the District itself in search of fodder for the cattle, and partly to British India in search of work.

It is maintained by the Government that the Famine Relief Works that have been started are capable of providing labour for large numbers of people in each of the affected Taluqs. But, with the exception of the Village Relief Works which have been started on too small a scale to afford employment to many, these cannot really be called Famine Relief Works in the technical sense of the word because, instead of being conducted departmentally, as in Bellary, they are being run on the Contract System as in the case of ordinary P. W. D. construction works. As it is unreasonable to expect that the Contractors, who make no pretence of being philanthropists, should run their works on any but profitable lines, the special needs and difficulties of the agricultural population for whom these works are supposed

ed to have been started have not been taken into consideration. Neither the type of work, which consists largely of road-metalling and excavation of hard ground both of which require skilled labour, nor the hours of work, are suited to the unskilled rayat already considerably debilitated through continuous undernourishment and malnutrition and accustomed only to agricultural labour and hence it is impossible for him to earn sufficient to feed himself and his family and also buy fodder for his starving cattle unless a minimum wage, i.e., a fixed wage irrespective of his outturn of work, is given. Only if the Government takes steps to start feeding the children and dependents of the labourers and also to provide central depots for the distribution of fodder as is being done in Bellary, can it be made possible for the agriculturist to earn a living wage at these Relief Works.

The cattle throughout the District are suffering hideously for want of fodder and drinking-water, and whilst already the last Cattle Census shows a decrease of 50 per cent in the Raichur District, unless immediate steps are taken to make adequate arrangements for providing these so that the rayats need not be driven through sheer despair to selling off valuable cattle for two or three rupees each to the butcher for slaughter, it is possible that there will be no cattle left anywhere in the District, and even in the doubtful event of there being sufficient rainfall this year the rayats will be unable to carry on their agricultural operations. In addition to selling off their cattle, the rayats both in Raichur and in Kopbal have had to sell everything else that they possessed such as jewellery, agricultural implements and even household goods, and to-day they own nothing but unproductive lands which they can neither mortgage nor sell.

The Government's contention that "The recent rains in January have greatly improved the late-sown Rabi crops which fortunately are reported to have been more extensive than usual this year," is not confirmed either by the statements of the land-owners and the rayats of the District, nor by the Weekly Weather Reports issued by the Department of Statistics for the weeks ending 8th Azar, 22nd Azar, and 30th Isfandar 1344 F. The Rabi crops can be said to have been as great a failure as the Kharif crops and it is possible in Manvi and Sindhunur Taluqs and also in Kopbal to drive for miles at a stretch and see fields that should have been ready for harvesting as bare as though the lands had never been cultivated. Such Jawar and Cotton crops as did come up in spite of late sowing are exceedingly poor and even these were damaged considerably both in Raichur and in Kopbal by the sudden and heavy rainfall in the last week of January. In Kopbal, the Melon crop was damaged to the extent of about Rs. 30,000, and in Mudgal (Lingsugur Taluq), there was, in one day, 10 to 11 inches of rainfall which resulted in the four tanks of the village and the tanks of the surrounding villages being breached so that all the fields were inundated and stones appeared on the surface. In fact 20 to 30 Survey Numbers were temporarily ruined, and I was informed that to make them once again fit for cultivation would require from 200 to 400 rupees for each Number.

In Kopbal Jagir, orders have recently been issued for a remission of 2 As and suspension of collection of 4 As. in the rupee on the Rabi Crops, and Rs. 60,000 have been sanctioned for the starting of Relief Works similar to those in Raichur, and it is possible that in their own good time these may come into being. In Raichur, however, so far no remission has been made on the Rabi crops though the conditions both in Kopbal and in Raichur are exactly similar to those prevailing in the Ceded Districts where a timely realisation that if the rayats are to survive the terrific struggle for existence that the next few months hold for them, they cannot do it alone, has made the Government of Bellary declare a famine. That there is an urgent need for a similar declaration in Raichur and Kopbal together with a frank Recognition of all the responsibilities that such a declaration implies, nobody who goes through the villages of Raichur and Kopbal can have the shadow of a doubt. Even to eyes less accustomed than mine to the general material want and physical impoverishment that are, alas, such inseparable factors of village life all over India,

there is a story too plainly told to be either mistaken or ignored in the starving cattle that are being kept alive on Neem and Sendhi leaves; and in the emaciated bodies and hunger-stricken faces and tragic eyes, haunted by the dread of worse things to come that I have seen in village after village of Raichur and Kopbal. It is unfortunate that the Authorities concerned seem to have decided that it is a story that they will neither read themselves nor allow anyone else to read. One is justified in wondering if the exaggeratedly morbid and almost hysterical sensitiveness of the Governments concerned to any legitimate inquiries about conditions in Raichur and Kopbal may not be merely the outward and visible token of the inward consciousness that, whilst many things have been done that ought not to have been done, many more things have been left undone that ought to have been done. I myself have had the novel experience of having my personal motives in visiting Raichur and Kopbal questioned; and a deliberate and malicious attempt has been made to misinterpret my purpose as having been intended for carrying on secret propaganda for the boycott of labour at the Relief Works, non-payment of taxes and other similar programmes, the mere suggestion of which in connection with a people facing death from starvation would have been ludicrous and absurd had it not also involved a direct reflection upon my personal integrity of purpose that does not, and will never, allow me to use one type of work as a screen for another. I challenged the Authorities concerned to hold any enquiry into the matter and either produce evidence to prove the charges brought against me, or else, in fairness to me, to withdraw the charges. But they evaded the issue by answering that the charges had been based on a confidential report (in which case, surely, it was a grave indiscretion to have referred to it at all, and much more so to have quoted from it), thereby proving that the whole thing from beginning to end had been merely an elaborate but clumsy attempt at bluff. Similarly a naive theory that has emanated from certain interested quarters that my visit to Kopbal Jagir was actuated by motives of "communal prejudice" is, in relation to one who, even for the purposes of the Census refuses to be described as belonging to any specific religion and cannot therefore even technically be called as a "Hindu", definitely comic, and can be ignored except as a potential theme for an Operetta in the style of Gilbert and Sullivan.

I wish to emphasise that if the Authorities persist in this unreasonable attitude of suspicion and distrust towards all those who are moved by a genuine desire to serve the peoples of the famine-stricken areas, not only will they create and foster the impression that there is something exceedingly wrong with their administration that will not bear the light of investigation but they will also be deliberately depriving the unfortunate people of Raichur and Kopbal of the sympathy and help of the public of Hyderabad on whom they have a claim. It is not only the inalienable right but it is also the urgent duty of the public of Hyderabad to demand of the Government that a special commission be appointed immediately to enquire into the conditions prevailing to-day in Raichur, Kopbal, Karimnagar, Gulburga and any other parts of the Dominions that may be affected, and to give an exact report of them together with a detailed account of the Relief measures that have been started so that it can decide for itself whether these are adequate or not, and take steps to organise such other means of relief as it may consider necessary. It is equally the duty of the public of Hyderabad to demand an explanation from the Government of why no serious endeavour has yet been made to protect and provide with some small measure of security the thousands that live eternally on the verge of starvation in an area notoriously doomed to scanty rainfall through its location in the famous "Famine Zone" that includes Bijapur and the Ceded Districts. A rational scheme of afforestation, an increase of the acreage under fodder crops, a comprehensive development of the great potentialities for Cottage Industries such as hand-ginning, hand-spinning, hand-weaving and salt-making that the District already possesses, so that the rayats could have a permanent additional source of income, and above all, no matter at what cost, some infallible means of irrigation, would have done much to save the rayat from being tragically dependent on the annual rainfall. If

only an honest attempt were made to change the Tungabhadra Project from being just a debatable subject for academic discussion between the various Governments concerned, into a practical reality it would change the whole future history of Raichur and the people would have the chance of evolving from a race mentally and physically stunted from constant starvation of body and uncertainty of mind into a people capable of contributing much towards the prosperity of Hyderabad.

If, as is stated in the Budget Note of 1344 F. there is a Famine Reserve Fund of two crores and sixty-four lakhs, the public of Hyderabad has the right to demand that as much of it as is necessary should be spent, and spent without any further delay, for the people of Raichur and Kopbal and any other parts of the Dominions where they may be suffering from famine conditions. It is only just that the money that has been coined by the labour of the rayats in their time of prosperity should revert to them in their time of need.

I hope that when the Government of Hyderabad does declare a famine and take upon itself the manifold responsibilities that such a declaration involves, it will not be, as in Bellary, in the mean and niggardly spirit of the soulless "Famine Code" that, devised with a pathetic lack of imagination and a deplorable ignorance of the most elementary principles of human psychology, aims only at keeping men and women alive and literally nothing more. What is wanted is a magnanimous interpretation of the Code of Human Ethics which claims for every living thing an equal right to live and prosper.

— PADMAJA NAI

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN RAICHUR DISTRICT

In the history of nations there is nothing more absorbing and at the same time more suggestive than the study of the changing material conditions of any people from one generation to another. And a comprehensive survey of the Raichur District for the last quarter of a century is a significant commentary on the economic history of one whole generation of its people. In common with the people of the other districts of the Nizam's Dominions, and indeed, with the whole of the rest of India, nearly 70 % of the entire population of Raichur District irrespective of whether it is Muslim or Lingayat, Koli, Dhangar, Bhendar, Dhed or any of the other castes and subcastes that it comprises, is either directly or indirectly connected with agriculture and solely dependent upon it for a living. It is an accepted fact that the Indian agriculturist poorer than the agriculturist in any other part of the world for the obvious reason that, living in a country that is alternately ravaged by floods and droughts of great magnitude, he is absolutely at the mercy of nature. In the bleak Deccan the struggle for existence is a bitter and unceasing strife against natural forces, and, according to Wilfred Scawen Blunt, "**The Deccan Rayat is the poorest peasant in the World**" ("India under Lord Ripon"). Hence while the question of the annual rainfall is one of vital importance to the agriculturist in every part of India, it assumes almost titanic proportions in the Deccan, especially in the Raichur District and parts of the Gulbarga, Bjr, Oosmanabad and Nalgonda Districts, which are classified by the Revenue Department of Hyderabad as Famine Areas and are included in the famous "Famine Zone" that stretches across India and includes Bijapur and the Ceded Districts. A reference to "The History of Famine in the Deccan" by Nawab Mohsin ul Mulk (Hyderabad Affairs Vol. 7) will show that in the Raichur District alone there have been eight famines of terrible severity during the last 135 years. The reason for this is that the Raichur District which has an area of 6630 Sq. miles and is bounded on the north by the Krishna River, on the west by the Bombay Presidency and on the south by the Tungabhadra River dividing it from the Bellary District, is dependent for the early rainfall necessary for the success of the Kharif crops on the South-west monsoon which is usually deflected by the Ghats of the Malabar and the Konkan coasts. For the later rainfall essential for the Rabi cultivation, Raichur is dependent on the North-east monsoon and in the event of this being scanty, as it often is, severe drought and famine ensue. According to the report of the Geological Survey Department, this tendency to scanty rainfall in the Raichur District has been greatly aggravated by the "cutting down of the forest on the face of the Western Ghats and to the denudation of all trees over the black cotton soil area, not only in H. E. H. the Nizam's State, but also in British India."

The only wealth that the rayat possesses are his crops and his cattle, and while the condition of the crops depends upon the favourable or unfavourable nature of the seasons, the cattle depend entirely upon the success of the crops and hence upon his ability to feed them. If there is no timely rain, or if there be a paucity of rain, or untimely rain, or excessive rain, all the symptoms of famine appear immediately in the Raichur District. Though the Raichur Doab lies between two enormous rivers, the Krishna and the Tungabhadra, they have not yet been harnessed to provide any means of irrigation, and owing to the salinity of the soil that makes even the provision of wells for supplying the ordinary daily needs of the people a difficult and expensive problem that is being dealt with by the Well-Sinking Department, the agricultural occupation of the rayats consists wholly of the cultivation of dry lands which are usually of the black soil variety in which the Kharif and Rabi crops are sown. The Kharif crops, include Jawar, Bajra, Pulses such as Tuar, and Cotton, and the Rabi crops consist of White Jawar, Wheat, Gram, Karad, Linseed, Tobacco and Cotton. The sowing of the Kharif crops begins with the South-west monsoon in the

month of Amardad (June), and if timely sowing is done these crops ripen between Aban and Bahman (September and December). The Kharif crops, which include the grains that are the staple food of the poorer classes, being cultivated in lands where the moisture is not retained for many days, the success of these crops depends entirely upon an even distribution of rain over the different Karties. The minimum amount of rainfall, evenly distributed, that is required in each Kartie is as follows:—

Rohini:	Margesera,	Arudra,	Punarvasu,	Pushya,	Aslaisha,	Megha,
3 In.	3 In.	1 In.	1 In.	1 In.	2 In.	2 In.
Hubba	Uttara	Hasta	Chitta	Swati.		
2 In.	2 In.	1 In.	1 In.	1 In.		

The average rainfall in this District for the 30 years from 1309 F. (1901) to 1338 F. (1930) was 21 inches 59 cents (Figures from the Geological Survey Department of H. E. H. the Nizam's Government). If this rainfall is considered from the point of view of distribution per taluq, there has been a deficiency of rain in the majority of years, and in the taluqs affected by famine this year, there has been in the last 30 years:—

10 years of rainfall below 20 inches in Manvi Taluq.					
13	"	"	"	"	Sindhunur Taluq.
17	"	"	"	"	Lingsugur "
10	"	"	15	"	Kushtagi "
14	"	"	20	"	Gangavati "

If at least this rainfall had been regularly distributed, there might have been no cause for complaint, but the monthly average rainfall of the last 20 years shows that in the month of Amardad (which includes the 2 Karties, Margesara and Arudra) the following was the rainfall in the affected areas:—

Manvi 2·83" Sindhunur 2·39" Lingsugur 2·52" Gangavati 1".

The above figures prove that during the sowing season of Kharif crops there has always been a deficiency of rain, and insufficient rain in Amardad inevitably spells failure of the Kharif crops. In the Raichur District the Rabi cultivation starts in August with the North east monsoon, and it is the usual practice to sow the seeds in August in anticipation of timely rains in the months of September, October, November and a part of December. Except in famine years, September and October are sufficiently wet, but November and December are the most uncertain and critical months, and in the last 20 years there have been so many failures of the Rabi crops that according to the Anawari calculations the proportion of the results has been 8% good, 45% fair, 39% bad and 8% famine years.

It is interesting to survey the decade from 1921 to 1931, which according to the Hyderabad Census Report (1931) is considered to have been, on the whole, a period of prosperity. In 1921 and 1922 when famine was declared in other parts of the Dominions such as Warangal, Karimnagar, Aurangabad, and Bir, the conditions of rainfall and produce in Raichur were fairly normal. In 1923 however, the Kharif crops proved a failure, and in 1924 both the Kharif and the Rabi crops suffered on account of scarcity of rain and measures had to be taken to relieve the distress of the rayats. The years 1925 and 1926 were fairly satisfactory, but, in 1927, there was great scarcity and distress in the Raichur District, the Kharif crops yielding less than 25%, and the Government was obliged to start Relief Works, give Taqqavi Loans, and provide fodder for the cattle. The effects of the 1927 scarcity had hardly worn off when, due to excess of rainfall, the Kharif crops were badly damaged in 1928, and later, due to a long spell of dry weather, the Rabi crops were ruined. The year 1929 was no better as regards crops, as, the first showers not being sufficient, the sowing of the Kharif was delayed and could only be done on a small scale, and, afterwards, due to irregular rain, the tender crops were destroyed by insect ravages. The same condition prevailed in 1930; the earlier rains were so scanty that only a limited area of land could be cultivated, and in most places the tender sprouts withered away, those that survived being

eaten up by insects. From this brief review of the crop conditions during a decade that, it is claimed, was prosperous, it will be seen that there were only four years when the crops were satisfactory, and compared with these the years of scarcity were greater and of these 6 years it can be said that, even though not declared as such, they were years of famine. The following rainfall chart gives the amount of rainfall in the affected Taluqs during the last 5 years and also shows the amount of rainfall required for normal crops in each Taluq.

Rainfall Chart for the 5 affected Taluqs of the Raichur District (1340-1344F)

Year	Manvi		Sindhunur		Lingsugur		Kushtagi		Gangavati	
	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.
1340 F	18	18	16	58	25	1	18	19	24	28
1341 F	17	13	21	30	24	63	26	80	17	70
1342 F	23	33	37	87	29	85	27	79	29	56
1343 F	34	62	29	4	29	65	30	20	32	56
	33	22	27	23	27	18	27	7	32	92
1344 F	13	40	13	65	14	69	12	69	15	36
	13	40	13	93	14	69	12	69	15	36
Average Rainfall required for Normal crops.	24"		25-30		25"		20"		25"	

In 1344 F. the cultivation of the Kharif crops was done at the usual time (Amardad), but there being no rain until the end of Azur, the crops proved a complete failure, and the Government was obliged to declare a suspension of collection to the value of 14 annas in the rupee in addition to the general remission of 2 annas in the rupee that had been granted throughout the Dominions on the grounds of economic depression.

The continued scarcity of rain delayed the sowing of the Rabi Crops which was done on a smaller scale than usual, and, owing to the fact that there was not later the even distribution of timely rainfall required for them, at the best a very poor crop could have been expected. The following extract from the Inspection Note of the Registrar of the Co-operative Societies, Hyderabad-Deccan, dated Bahman 16th 1344 F. is interesting in view of the Government's contention in its communique of 10th Ardebehist 1344 F. (March 15th (1935) that "the Rabi crops this year are reported to have been more extensive than usual."

".....When touring Raichur District accompanied by Professor Keshava Iyengar, Assistant Registrar, Gulburga Division, I noticed that from Raichur to the commencement of the Manvi Road (a distance of about 6 miles) the condition of the Rabi crops was good, but beyond that, as far as Sindhunur, on either side of the road, practically all the area for miles was uncultivated, or else, where it had been cultivated the condition was so bad that it is most doubtful whether there will be any produce".

During the last week of January 1935 there was sudden and heavy rainfall throughout the Dominions, in some cases accompanied by hailstorms, that in the Raichur District did considerable damage to the Rabi crops. The early Jawar crops that had ripened were beaten down by the wind and rain and got rotten, while the unripened Jawar crops were attacked by insects. The matured pods of the earlier cotton crops that were ready for picking fell off and the later cotton crops were either beaten down or attacked by insects. Throughout my tour of the affected areas of Raichur, I made a careful study of the damage that had been done to the Rabi crops by the recent rain. I observed that six miles beyond Raichur Town, after the village of Kallur was passed, the crops which everywhere were both scanty and stunted, had obviously being damaged by the heavy rain. Similar conditions prevailed throughout the five Taluqs, except between Manvi and Sindhunur, and Sindhunur and Maski (Lingsugur Taluq) where there were no crops to be damaged because no crops had come up at all owing to the late sowing and the subsequent scarcity of rain. For miles on either side of the road between Manvi and Maski the fields were as bare as a desert. In the face of this it is strange and indeed almost paradoxical to find the Government, in its Communique claiming that, far from damaging the Rabi crops the sudden and heavy rainfall in the last week of January had benefitted them and averted all possibility of a failure of crops. In direct contradiction to this contention I can produce the unanimous evidence of land-owners, large and small, and of rayats in each of the affected Taluqs, showing that the Jawar and Cotton Rabi crops were irreparably damaged by the last rains. I give below extracts from a few of the numerous signed statements given to me with regard to the effect of the rainfall of January on the Rabi crops.

RAICHUR: 1. Extract of signed statement given by Mr. Hanumantha Rao, Land-owner and President, Co-operative Central Bank Raichur; Mr. P. Kishen Rao, Vakil and Land-owner, and Mr. B. A. Patel, Merchant and Land-owner:—

".....The recent rains did more harm than good, and the loss is estimated at about 40%. At Raichur proper and for 6 miles around it, it would seem that there had been no damage, but this is deceptive. In reality, there has been damage, as the colour of the Jawar that had ripened before the rains has undergone a change. Where the jawar had not ripened it has rotted. The pods of the Cotton crops that were ready for picking have been attacked by insects, and the flowers of the later crops have been destroyed with the result that only about half of the total output of the cotton can be expected".

2. Extract signed of Mr Goodihal Hanumanta Rao, Vakil:—

".....I can say that the recent rains have very considerably damaged the crops. The produce has been affected in this way that the Jawar crop fell to the ground with the wind and rain and got destroyed, and only a very small quantity will be realised. The pods of the Cotton have been attacked by insects and the flowers have all fallen off. My lands are in the Manvi Taluq in the village Gurdhani and also in the village of Gudihal in the Sindhunur Taluq. I have inspected my lands and have with great regret got to state that the recent rains have done great damage to the crops which cannot be expected to yield even 25%".

MANVI: 1. Extract of signed statement of Hampangowda, Sowcar and the Patel and Patwari of Neer Manvi Village, (Manvi Taluq).

".....The area cultivated for the rabi has been between 12½ and 25% of the usual cultivation, and even in this only about 40% of the produce was expected, but this has been further reduced by 12¼% due to the recent rains".

2. Extract signed statement of Mr. Sreenivas Rao, President, Co-operative Bank, Manvi:—

".....The recent rains have adversely affected the Rabi crops and the cotton crops have been seriously damaged. As the rain came when the cotton and Jawar crops were fully grown, hence not only did it do no good whatsoever, but, on the contrary, it did harm as all the pods of the cotton crops were washed away and spoilt.

3. Extract of signed statement of Mr. Hanumantha Rao, Mr. Bheemsen Rao, and Mr. Anant Rao, land owners of Manvi: —

".....The condition of the crops of Manvi is very precarious as the recent rains have ruined the remaining Cotton and Jawar crops. The Rayats have neither grain nor fodder".

4. Extract of statement signed by the Patel, Patwari and other landowners of Kotal Pati (Manvi Taluq).

".....The recent rainfall has damaged the gram, cotton, jawar and white jawar crops. Insects have attacked the jawar and gram".

SINDHUNUR: 1. Extract of signed statement of Mr. Venkoba Rao Sahu, Mr. Nagu Rao, Vakil, Mr. Hanumantha Rao, Vakil, Hussain Naick and other land owners and merchants of Sindhunur Taluq:—

".....The cotton crop that was sown in Swathi Karti is not expected to yield any produce. The Hubba Kartie crop may, however, yield something. The condition of white jawar is also not satisfactory, and on the whole the white jawar is not expected to yield more than 12½%. No benefit was derived from the recent rainfall. On the other hand the Cotton crop suffered as the cotton that was ready for picking fell to the ground and was all ruined by the mud".

LINGUSUGUR: 1. Extract of signed statement of Mr. Venkat Rao, Vakil, Sardar Khan, Landowner, Naglah, Landowner and other landowners and Vakils of Lingusugar Taluq:—

".....The seeds that were sown out of season were not at all benefited by the recent rains and no yield can be expected, because the young jawar was eaten up by the deer that could not get any grass. The average expectation of wheat may be between 18% to 29%. The recent rains have ruined the jungle pastures as white ants have attacked the jungle produce".

2. Extract of signed statement by Veerpaksappa Karbasiah, Anant Rao Patwari, Rachappa and others of Maski (Lingusugar Taluq):—

".....The recent rains have ruined the remaining crops and the grass of the jungle has rotted and been attacked by white ants."

3. Extract from the signed statement of Mr. Abdur Rehman, Mohd. Rasool, Sarakshappa, Karappa and landowners and rayats in Mudgal (Lingusugar Taluq).

".....Non-seasonal sowing was done because of the absence of timely rain with the result that the seeds did not germinate properly, and even those that did germinate were destroyed by the recent rains. The white Jawar has been attacked by parasites."

KUSHTAGI: 1. Extract from the signed statement of Mr. Sham Rao, Vakil, Madhava Iyer, Kishita Chary, Vakil, Venkat Rao, Patwari, and Mr. Mahboob Khan and other landowners of Kushtagi.

".....The recent rains have very considerably damaged the white jawar and cotton crops. Hailstones fell in the villages of Mutakara, Harinadihal, and other places which caused much destruction. As a result of these rains insects have attacked the Jawar. In the western villages the most that can be expected is a yield of 25%. In the eastern and northern villages the condition of the crops is very bad and the produce is expected to be less than 12%.

GANGAVATI: 1. Extract of signed statement by Mr. Krishnamurthy, and Mr. Keshava Rao, Vakils, Mr. Syed Ghouse, Pleader and the Patels and Patwaris of the Khaski Lands, Gangavati Taluq:

".....The recent rains have destroyed all crops. For instance the Gram Crop has been damaged by insects having attacked the entire crop. The Jawar has been damaged similarly, and no grain can be expected while the pods have all dropped off from the Cotton Crops. The present crops can be estimated at between 6¼ to 12½% but we cannot be certain even of this until after the harvest".

I could quote endlessly from similar statements that have been given to me in every village of the five affected Taluqs, but I prefer to quote a confirmation of the above statement from a statement given to me at Gangavati by the Agricultural Officer and the Agricultural Propagandist: who say:

"The recent rains did not affect the Wheat crop as it was already harvested. It affected the gram and Jawar and damaged the entire crops. The cotton was sown soon afterwards and was not affected, but the cotton that was ready before was badly damaged. The crop was beaten down by the wind and the rain, and the flowers fell off. This year the Rabi crops may be estimated at between 6¼ to 12½%. More cannot be expected. The percentage above mentioned refers to Jawar and other grains. There is no expectation from the cotton crops."

If further evidence be necessary to prove that the Government's contention, as expressed in its Communiqué of 10th Ardebehist 1344 F. that "the recent rains in January have greatly improved the late sown Rabi Crops which fortunately this year are reported to be more extensive than usual", cannot be accepted, it can be found in the Weekly Weather Report for the Week ending 30th Isfandar 1344 F. issued by the Department of Statistics of H. E. H. the Nizam's Government. In stating that the rainfall had done harm to the Rabi crops in Karimnagar, Adilabad, Medak, Nizamabad, Gulburga and Bidar, it says with regard to the Raichur District "The Rabi crops are still standing though, in certain places, the crops have been damaged by the recent rains". There can be no doubt that the rainfall of the last week of January by ruining the Rabi crops has greatly increased the misery of the Rayats of Raichur.

The following chart shows the affected areas of the Raichur District as well as the estimate of outturn in each Taluq. It will be noted that there is a discrepancy between the figures supplied by the Revenue Department and those supplied by the Taluqdar, and similar discrepancies occur in later charts between the figures supplied by the Taluqdar and the Tahsildars.

*N. Figures

obtained from:

* Revenue Office

*Taluqdar.

AREAS AFFECTED IN RAICHUR DISTRICT.

TALUQ	Total number of villages.	Number of affected villages.	Estimate of Out.turn.
Manvi ...	163	$\frac{163}{84}$	63. below As. 4 100. below As. 8
Sindhunur ...	165	$\frac{162}{158}$	150. below As. 4 12. below As. 8
Lingsugur ...	141	$\frac{141}{135}$	All below As. 4
Kushtagi ..	197	$\frac{197}{21}$	All below As. 4
Gangavati ..	119	$\frac{119}{111}$	All below As. 4
Total ...	785	$\frac{782}{509}$	

The following statement gives the forecast of the out-turn of Kharif Crops :—

Statement showing the out-turn of the Kharif Crops,
(28th January, 1935).

(N. Figures supplied by the Statistics Department).

TALUQ.	Cotton.	Jawar.	Wheat.	Ground-nut.
Manvi ...	7 As.	6 As.	Average.	9 As.
Sindhunur ...	6 As.	2.4 As.	Average.	6 As.
Lingsugur ...	7 As.	8 As.	Fair.	8 As.
Kushtagi ...	10 As.	4.6 As.	8 As.	6 As.
Gangavati ...	10 As.	2 As.	Fair.	6 As.

The accompanying statement (B), shows the cultivable areas, the areas cultivated in the years 1339-1344 F., and the areas left fallow this year in each of the affected Taluqs owing to the scarcity of rain and the impoverish-
ed condition of the cultivator.

Statement showing areas cultivated in 1340-44 F. and areas left fallow:—

Figures supplied by Tahsildar of Taluqs.

Taluq.	cultivable area.	cultivated in 1340 F.	cultivated in 1341 F.	cultivated in 1342 F.	cultivated in 1343 F.	cultivated in 1344 F.	Land left fallow owing to scarcity of rain
Manvi	357378 acres.				349243 acres.	329318 acres. 255484 acres.	28060 absolute failure of crops 48524 acres.
Sindhur	321711 acres.	344339 acres. 30 guntas	315361 acres. 18 guntas.	341812 acres. 16 guntas	331386 acres. 18 guntas. 286883 acres.	299124 acres.	36000 acres.
Lingsugur	272659 acres.	270785 acres. 21 guntas.	270785 acres. 21 guntas.	270785 acres. 21 guntas.	270785 acres. 21 guntas. 262908 acres.	261147 acres. 25 guntas. 231147 acres.	
Kushtagi	372086 acres. 36 guntas	313415 acres. 15 guntas.	313129 acres. 21 guntas.	312585 acres. 29 guntas.	301032 acres. 30 guntas	300800 acres. 269091 acres.	70286 acres. 237301
Gangavati	199829 acres.	161712 acres. 38 guntas.	168741 acres. 32 guntas.	16977 acres. 15 guntas.	163532 acres. 1 gunta. 163531 acres.	188984 acres.	10845

The Statement (given below), shows the comparative figures of the total produce of the main crops of each Taluq for the last five years, i.e., 1339-1344 F.

	Year.	Cotton. Mds. Sr.	White Jawar. Mds. Sr.	Yellow Jawar.	Kangni.	Bajra.	Wheat.	Biranj Rice	Red. Jawar
Sindhur	1339	272253-10	833530						
	1340	22699-36	824940 2						
	1341	19855-14	1642692-24						
	1342	38756-0-4	6151-23						
	1343	25302-29-4	242514-33						
Lingsugur	1339	26317	246444	209604	16347	57195	196458		
	1340	25213	243876	211830	15954	51594	195846		
	1341	25113	244182	243876	15639	54645	150705		
	1342	23318	241166	214827	15645	51675	170073		
	1343	32899	243855	191919	14835	50826	167541		
Kishtagi	1343		227263		918628	745640	107313		529019
Gangavati	1339	24738	120402		29971	33461		22965	
	1340	41006	101090	15102	28125	33045		25350	
	1341	50105	80412	18204	32120	41020		28575	
	1342	15785	56757	95157	94921	43225		8176	
	1343	16438	52966	67712	57842	26382		8495	

It might be maintained that the failure of the crops is not of the magnitude to warrant the declaration of famine conditions. I can do no better than to reproduce statements about conditions of famine in the past. Referring to the Great Famine of 1877, Sir Richard Temple speaking of the affected tracts says:—"It is estimated that an yield of 2 to 3 annas (one seventh of a normal crop) has been secured." (84, 'Hyderabad Affairs' Vol. VII). From the same source it can be gathered that, in the Great Famine, the estimated failure of crops in Kushtagi was 10 annas in the rupee, while in Sindhunur it was barely annas 2.

With reference to declared famines in other parts of the Nizam's Dominions, Mr. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner during the Famine Relief Operation of 1309 F. states that the average estimate of Kharif crops in the famine districts was annas 4 in the rupee and two annas for the Rabi crops. And, the following figures are from the report of the Famine Commissioner in charge of the Famine Relief Operation during the years 1328 F.

1329 F.

1330 F.

"The average produce of crops in annas in the affected districts in 1327, 1328, and 1329 Fasli was as follows:—"

Year	Kharif	Rabi.
1327	0-6-0	0-7-8
1328	0-4-8	0-5-10
1329	0-7-3	0-7-1

The intimate part that cattle play in the work of the agriculturist in India is of almost incalculable importance. From time immemorial, owing to the rayats total dependence upon cattle both for the cultivation of the lands that are his sole means of livelihood, and also for the diet necessary for his subsistence, the bull and the cow have come to assume a symbolic significance in the daily life of the rayat. Everywhere in India one finds cattle being treated as part of the family, and anyone who has any experience of trying to improve the conditions of sanitation in Indian villages knows of the almost insuperable difficulty that there is in persuading the villager that it is not conducive either to his own health, or to the health of the cattle, for him to share his living quarters with them. That the Raichur District was no exception to this rule I discovered on my first day in Raichur when I was fortunate enough to be shown a splendid experiment in Rural Reconstruction that is being carried on in the village of Agyshal a few miles from Raichur, through the idealism and patient practical labour of a group of young enthusiasts under the direction of Dr. Hashim Ameer Ali, P. Hd. who is applying the valuable knowledge he acquired through years of work at Shantiniketan to conditions in Hyderabad. Model huts, new roads and schools, new types of wells and improved methods of sanitation, and, above all, new conceptions of their responsibilities towards themselves and towards each other, all these things are being accepted eagerly by the villagers of Agyshal, but I found that there is still a great reluctance, common to all classes of people there, to have the cattle separated from the actual living quarters of the family. In spite, however, of this tender personal care of their cattle on the part of the rayats everywhere, it must be admitted that from the economic point of view both the quality and the quantity of cattle in the Raichur District, even in normal times, is very far from satisfactory. According to the cattle Census of 1339 F. the number of agricultural cattle, which include bullocks and Khulgas, in the Raichur District was 221918, and the number of Pattedars in that year was 141997. As the average holdings of a Pattedar was about 20 acres the proportion of cattle per pattedar works out at about 1-56 which, obviously, in comparison with the average holdings

of the Pattedar was wholly insufficient. The following figures show the average proportion of cattle per Pattedar in the Districts of Hyderabad.

Gulbarga.	Osmanabad	Bidar	Mahboobnagar	Raichur
2.49	4.90	4.39	5.77	1.56

The figures are very significant in view of the point to be considered, viz., whether the tendency of the number of cattle in the Raichur District is towards an increase or decrease. That it is definitely towards a decrease will be seen from the following figures of two of the five affected Taluqs:—

AGRICULTURAL CATTLE.

Taluq	According to Revision Settlement Report	Cattle Census (1339 F.)
Manvi	25569	19219
Kushtagi	51156	25626

It is, however, an acknowledged fact that in the Raichur District the areas cultivated in proportion to the number of bullocks is far too large to be satisfactory. To quote some figures:—

Taluq	Average acreage cultivated in proportion to one pair of Bullocks.
Manvi	30 Acres
Sindhnur	46 "
Lingsugur	32 "
Gangavati	28 .. "

The result of this great disparity between the acreage cultivated and the number of bullocks is that a proper tillage of the lands is not possible and this inevitably affects the produce, while the animals, which even in normal times suffer from a deplorable scarcity of fodder and water, are greatly over-worked.

In his "Economic Investigation in the Hyderabad State," Professor Keshav Iyengar, Special Officer for Economic Investigation in the Hyderabad State, wrote in 1931 as follows about the condition of the cattle, and the scarcity of fodder in the Raichur District.

"It is surprising that even in the central areas with very little rain, poor soil and very poor fodder supply, they are pulling along. While the hardships they are put to on account of want of drinking water are being and will be met considerably by the Well-sinking Department, the difficulties on account of fodder are seriously increasing. Warangal is a District in which nature is kinder to cattle: for several months in the year they graze (free in some cases, for annual payment in more cases) on meadows and in forests. In Raichur this facility is practically absent (except along the river bank) and even then the acreage under fodder crops is quite inadequate. The following figures (Table XII) show that cattle etc., per average acreage number 7.66 in Warangal District and 16.19 in Raichur District. The figures are of the Statistical Department.

TABLE XII

District	Acreage under fodder crops (1339 F)	Cows, Oxen and buffaloes	Sheep and goats	Other domestic animals requiring fodder	Total live stock	Cattle per average acre under fodder crops
Warangal	247923	1229213	660059	4949	1900212	7.66
Raichur	70815	553812	530033	12563	1146408	16.19

Professor Iyengar further adds that :

“Investigations by the Agricultural Department with a view to speedily increase the acreage under fodder crops are urgently called for. In the meantime, immediate relief is required in this respect in the shape of special arrangements for the supply of fodder at concessional rates. The Agricultural Department may consider the feasibility of applying for and administering a recurring grant on this score by the Famine Board. Umrabad forests are nearby, and the Forest Department may be moved to assist in securing the fodder supply. If such fodder supply is maintained for five years, conditions may be expected to improve slightly on account of work in other directions”.

Although there is a Government Order to the effect that, in proportion to the land given for cultivation the percentage of pastures should be at least 10, it can be seen from the Government Reports that this percentage exists in no Taluq. On the other hand, now that all the lands have been given for cultivation, the Settlement Officers do not recognise the necessity of leaving any pasture grounds and it is proposed to hold the cultivator responsible for the grazing of the cattle. It passes all comprehension how a small cultivator can be expected to provide pastures from the land in addition to paying land revenue on his small holding. The inevitable result is therefore that the cattle of Raichur are small, stunted and underfed even in normal times. And, when it is stated that since the failure of the last monsoon that has so dangerously accentuated the scarcity of fodder and drinking water, no measures have been devised by the Government for providing fodder, it ought not to be necessary for me to dilate at any length upon the pitiful condition of the cattle today throughout the length and breadth of the Raichur District. There is no grass available anywhere, and the karvi which is commonly used for fodder has become both scarce and expensive owing to the failure of the Jawar and Bajara crops. The following figures, kindly supplied by the Tahsildars of the different Taluqs, show the comparative prices of fodder for 1343 and 1344 F.

KUTS PER RUPEE

Taluq	1343	1344
Manvi	6	2
Sindhur	2½	1¼
Lingsugur	600 lbs	300 lbs
Kushtagi	2½	1¼
Gangavati	4	1½

I may add that in Mudgal (Lingsugur Taluq) it is difficult to obtain even one Kut of fodder per Rupee. Everywhere throughout the Raichur District the unfortunate rayats have been struggling to keep their cattle alive on Neem and Sendhi leaves, but the Abkari contractors raise objections to the use of the latter, whilst, in the Gangavati Taluq the Forest Department objects to the cattle being fed on forest produce. The inevitable results of this scarcity of fodder and drinking-water have been

A. A serious decline in the number of cattle in the District.

According to the Tahsildar of Manvi the Cattle Census being prepared now shows a decrease of 50-60%.

B. An almost incredible decrease in the price of cattle.

The great difficulty in obtaining fodder, even for those who can pay for it is driving the rayats to dispose of their cattle for almost nominal prices and in almost every Taluq I found that cattle had been sold off in large numbers to butchers for slaughter. I quote below some examples that will show the amazing decrease in the prices of cattle in the different Taluqs.

- i. In Maski (Lingsugur Taluq) bulls are being sold for Rs. 10 each; and one villager, Amarappa, sold two bulls for 7 rupees.
- ii. In Mudgal (Lingsugur Taluq) bullocks formerly costing Rs. 25 to 40 rupees, are now being sold for Rs. 2-8 while cows cost Rs 2 each. The butchers are the chief buyers and are slaughtering ten to twelve cows per day. In Mudgal beef costs only half an anna per seer.
- iii. In Kushtagi, cattle costing over Rs. 50 are being sold for one rupee each.
- iv. In Tavargira (Kushtagi Taluq) the price of cattle has decreased by 75%
- v. In Golgira (Kushtagi Taluq) where cattle had to be sold to pay the Kharif Khist dues, cattle costing over Rs. 50 were sold for Rs. 2-3.
- vi. In Gangavati the price of cattle has been reduced by 75%, and one rayat named Tamhatti Swami sold 21 cows for Rs. 40.

If immediate steps are not taken by the Government to provide centralised fodder-depots and such facilities for drinking-water for the remaining cattle in Raichur, as will help them to tide over the summer months ahead, it is probable that the district will be faced with a total annihilation of cattle.

An invariable and infallible symptom of distress in any agricultural area is the migration that takes place, and two very serious aspects that must be taken into consideration in making any estimate of the distress prevailing in famine-stricken areas is the magnitude and the type of migration that takes place. By type of migration I mean migration outside the Dominions in contrast to the normal migration that takes place annually to other parts of the Dominions at harvest time. As soon as the Kharif crops in the Raichur District failed and it became evident from the continued scarcity of rain that there was no prospect of the Rabi crops providing either labour or profit, people began to migrate in large numbers from the affected Taluqs. Such of the rayats as were in search of fodder for their cattle, migrated to more fertile parts of the District such as Alampur, Deodrug and the Tari villages of Gangavati where there was also the prospect of finding work until the end of the harvest season in March. The rest have migrated together with their families and all their belongings to the Mysore State and to different parts of British India such as Dharwar, Gadak, Roan, Hubli etc., where it is obvious they must be facing great hardships. I was given to understand at Bellary that the Collector of Dharwar had been obliged to send letters to the Bellary and Hyderabad Authorities protesting against the enormous influx of emigrants from the famine-stricken areas of Bellary and Hyderabad. The following figures will give some idea of the migration that has taken place from different Taluqs of the Raichur District:—

MANVI TALUQ.

According to the Statement of the Tahsildar, there had been up to the week ending 29th Isfandar 1344 F. a migration of 504 people to British India, and up to the week ending 5th Farwardi 1344 F. a total migration of 2282 people from the Manvi Taluq.

Kotal Village.

According to the signed Statement of Amarappa, Patel; Venkat Rao, Patwari; and Ranga Rao, Patwari, 125 people had migrated from the village, some towards Gadak, and some towards Deodrug.

SINDHNUR TALUQ.

The Tahsildar states that 4615 people have migrated from this Taluq.

Gudhihal Village.

According to the signed statement of Mr. Hanmanth Rao, Deshpandia and High Court Vakil, the majority of the villagers has migrated from the village.

Khandagi Village

According to the signed statement of Virpangauda, Govindappa and others, several persons have migrated from the village.

Harapur Village.

According to the signed statement of Rajasab, son of Khajasab, Rachappa and others, out of a population of 150, 60-70 have migrated some towards Gurugunta and some towards British India. Only one person has remained behind in each house.

Gurdhani Village.

According to the signed statement of Gundappa, Iyappa, Baswappa and others, out of a population of 200, 40-50 have migrated to Gadak.

LINGSGUE TALUQ.

The Tahsildar states that while bona-fide agriculturists have not yet migrated from the Taluq, hired labourers and those taking their cattle to other places in search of fodder, have left. Capt. Munn, Special Officer in charge of the Well-sinking and Geological Departments, has mentioned having met more than a hundred families, together with all their belongings, near Sirwar, on the Lingsugur-Raichur Road. Some were going to Deodrug in search of fodder, while others were looking for work and did not seem to know that work was to be obtained at the Boydmarchal Relief Works. Mr. K. Venkata Rao, Vakil, Mr. Sardar Khan, Mr. Darappa, and other landowners of Lingsugur, state that large numbers have migrated to Bombay Presidency, Mysore State, and other parts of the Dominions.

Maski Village.

According to the signed statement of Veerappa, Ananth Rao, Patwari, Mulkaajappa and others, out of a total population of 5000 more than half have migrated, some towards Hospet and Gadak, and some to other parts of the District.

KUSHTAGI TALUQ.

No official figures regarding migration were available but the Tahsildar admitted that in the course of his tours he had found that the people had migrated to Kampli, Hospet and Gangavati.

Mr. Sham Rao and Mr. Mahadeviah, Vakils, Mahboob Khan, Malangauda, Durgappa and other rayats state that many people have gone to Hubli, Dharwar, Roan and Gangavati.

Golgire Village.

According to the signed statement of Rachappa and others, 200 out of a population of 500, had migrated to Hubli and Dharwar. Most of the young men had gone away and only the middle-aged and old were left.

GANGAVATI TALUQ.

No Official figures were available but the Tahsildar admits that migration on a large scale to Kampli and Hospet in search of labour has taken place. According to the statement of Mr. Krishnamurti, Vakil, Mr. Keshav Rao Vakil, Mr. Syed Ghouse, Mr. Govindappa, Jagirdar and the Patels and Patwaries of the dry land areas, more than 50 per cent. of the population of the Taluq have migrated in search of livelihood, and those that have been left behind, find it difficult to get even one meal a day. In the village of Harur alone 100-150 people have migrated toward Dharwar, Sandar and other places in British India.

It is tragic to think of thousands of people being forced to leave their homes and go in search of work in strange lands on whose people they have no claim whatsoever. But a study of the normal economic conditions of the rayats of Raichur will explain why they have no reserves upon which to draw in times of emergency.

It is not possible to understand the economic conditions of the Rayats of Raichur without at least a cursory glance at the system of assessment of land practiced there. In order to estimate the effects of the Settlement Policy which influenced the land revenue demands in Raichur, it is necessary to survey the history of Settlement for the last 50 years. When the Survey & Settlement work was first started in 1286 Fasli (1876) in the Nizam's Dominions, it was laid down by Sir Salar Jung that the Rate of Assessment should be fixed in such a manner as to be no burden to the Rayat, and in the event of any doubt in the final fixing of assessment it should be settled so that the benefit of the doubt is given to the Rayat. Survey Administration Report Aurangabad District 1296. At that time no increase was made anywhere on the former rates. The explanation for this will be found in 'The Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Hyderabad', by the late Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur, where he writes: "The survey operations have not tended to enhance the revenues to any great extent for this reason that the old rates of assessment had reached their maximum limits and did not leave much margin for any great increase." This policy of the Government continued until the beginning of the present century, and wherever it found the figures suggested by the Settlement Department were too big it did not sanction them. To quote one example, when in 1294 F. the Jamabandi Reports of the Taluqs of Lingsugur and Gangavati were submitted to the Government for sanction, it refused to sanction them on the grounds that the people of Lingsugur had suffered from a succession of famines and bad seasons and also because the suggested rates were too high. But unfortunately for Raichur District this policy was subsequently changed and the assessment was increased by the Revenue Settlement. The result of the first revision settlement in the five affected Taluqs of Raichur are shown in the following figures compiled from the Revenue Settlement Reports :—

TABLE (A)

Taluq.	No. of Villages.	Year of original settlement.	Revenue of original settlement.	Year of 1st revision settlement.	Revenue of 1st Revised settlement.	Percent- age of increase.	Year of second revision settlement.
Manvi	164	1297 F.	283626	1319 F.	360154	26.08	1340 F.
Sindhunur	139	1297	249344	1319 F.	318505	27.74	1338 F.
Lingsugur	141	1297	162342	1319 F.	198845	22.48	1339 F.
Kushtagi	106	1296	74333	1318 F.	107597	44.75	1339 F.
Gangavati	113		133209		176071	32.17	

There are one or two pertinent objections that can be raised with regard to the figures quoted above. One is that in the Taluq of Kushtagi, which like the other four Taluqs is included in the 'Famine Zone' where it is acknowledged that the cultivators cannot expect more than one good crop in three or four years, the revised settlement imposed shows an increase of 44.37 per cent. which is more than it should have been according to the standard sanctioned by the Rayatwari system which definitely lays down that, at the time of revision there should not be an increase of more than 33% on the previous amount. The second objection is that, while according to the principles of the Rayatwari system the period of settlement should be for 30 years, in all these five Taluqs the

period was fixed for 15 years and there were two separate revisions at intervals of 15 years each, the assessment being increased twice in thirty years though the results were not declared immediately. The final rates of the second revisional settlement, which are the rates prevailing now, have been declared in all the Taluqs except Gangavati and may be seen from the following Table :—

Taluq	1st Revision	2nd Revision	Increase %.
Manvi	... 364763	468188	33.26
Sindhunur	... 322224	400057	24.16
Lingsugur	... 203733	251042	23.88
Kushtagi	... 213172	262202	23.00

It is unfortunate that the material condition of the Rayats of Raichur did not during this period increase in proportion to the land settlement though the reasons put forward by the settlement officers were as follows:—

(1) That although these five Taluqs are included in the Famine Zone no famine worth mentioning had occurred in the intervening period, and that in such years of scarcity as had occurred the Government had relieved the distress of the Rayats by starting Relief works.

(2) That rainfall conditions had been better.

(3) That there had been an increase in the following :—

- a. the cultivation of Cotton
- b. the value of grain
- c. population
- d. the number of cattle.

(4) That there had been no arrears of revenue.

(5) That there was willingness to pay part of their unearned increment to the Government.

All these deductions, as will be seen from the data I have compiled regarding these factors mentioned above, were based on an imaginary conception of the increased prosperity of the Rayats of Raichur. The results have been injurious for the smaller land-holders and for those who own lands of poor quality and who themselves cultivate the lands and have no subsidiary occupation and hence no additional source of income. For example, it can be seen from the Revenue Reports that in the Manvi Taluq: 9625 Small Patadars out of a total of 16,035 are paying a land revenue ranging from Rs. 1 to Rs. 30/-annually, while in Kushtagi Taluq out of a total of 3,222 Patadars there are 8,506 who are paying a revenue of from Rs. 1 to Rs. 20. These have all been affected seriously by the increased rates. In this connection it is worth noting that at the time of the original settlement which was made according to the quality of the land itself, the lands were divided into four groups and their respective values were fixed. For instance, in Manvi Taluk the following were the rates of assessment :—

Group I.	Group II.	Group III.	Group IV.
Rs. 1-8-0	Rs. 1-4 0	Rs. 1-2-0	Rs. 1-0-0
per acre.	per acre.	per acre.	per acre

There having been an increase of population since the date of the original settlement and there being no means of livelihood other than agriculture open to the people, a large acreage of lands of poor quality came under cultivation. This brought about at the time of the first revision a complete

re-grouping, the first & second groups being combined into one, and the third & fourth into another, and the following rates were fixed.

Group I.	Group II.
Rs 1-8-0	Rs. 1-4 0
per acre.	per acre.

In the second revision this grouping was maintained, but the rates were increased to Rs. 2 on the 1st group and to Rs. 1-8-0 on the 2nd group. Similar conditions prevailed in the Taluqs of Sindhunur, Kushtagi and Lingsugur, and the following Statement shows the increase of the average assessment per acre and per rupee:—

Taluqs	Average assessment per acre		Average increase	
	1st Rev :	2nd Rev :	per acre	per rupee
Manvi.	0 15 10	1 5 4	0 5 6	0 5 4
Sindhunur.	1 0 1	1 4 9	0 4 8	0 3 5
Kushtagi.	0 10 5	0 12 6	0 2 1	

It can be seen clearly from the above that the determination of the increase in assessment which was made at the time when the general economic depression had already set in, was done in a very arbitrary manner. The fact that there were no arrears of revenue dues is not by any manner or means indubitable proof of the prosperity of the people. And the fact that the people did not give up their lands after the declaration of the revenue dues cannot be interpreted as meaning that the people had accepted the increase willingly. (As a matter of fact, there is awaiting consideration at the present moment a petition on behalf of the majority of the Rayats of Sindhunur Taluq protesting against the enhanced rates and expressing their inability to pay). The people were forced to keep their lands in spite of the increased rates because they have no other means of livelihood.

About the general indebtedness of the rayats of Raichur during normal times volumes could be written, but it is unnecessary to produce more than a few instances. According to the findings of Professor Kesava Iyengar's investigations, the average indebtedness per residential family in Raichur is Rs. 135, the conditions in the Taluqs of Alampur, Manvi, Sindhunur and Gangavati being the most deplorable. Professor Iyengar states that in the Raichur District, within four months of the harvesting of the Rabi crops, the rayats are again forced to borrow to the extent of one-eighth of the existing debt and this debt is incurred mostly for the immediate daily necessities of life. The logical conclusion to be drawn from Professor Iyengar's statement is that the people of Raichur, instead of living on the produce of their fields, live on loans. His view is that there is little chance of this debt ever being cleared by the rayats of Raichur is confirmed by Mr. B. A. Collins, formerly Director General of Commerce and Industries, H. E. H. the Nizam's Government, who; in an introduction to Professor Iyengar's book, writes : " The experience of the Co-operative Department in this district is very similar to that of the Bombay Co-operative Department in the adjoining areas, viz., that it is very difficult to recover loans once made to Societies." In addition to the normal difficulties of a district in the Famine Zone must be added the effect of the general economic depression upon the rayats. 1339 Fasli (1929) was the beginning of the world-wide economic depression that had its repercussions on the rayats of even the most remote villages in the interior of the Nizam's Dominions. It is not necessary to emphasise the adverse effects it had on all agricultural countries. The following statement of the comparative prices of Jawar and

Cotton in Sindhunur shows the steady decrease that there was in the prices of the produce:—

SINDHUNUR TALUQ.

<u>Fasli</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Jawar</u>	<u>Cotton</u>
	1338	Rs. 6 4 3	Rs. 40 6 8
	1339	4 12 3	30 8 2
	1340	2 10 6	16 2 1
	1341	3 5 8	18 4 6
	1342	2 13 4	19 1 2
	1343	2 12 7	17 0 6

The effect that this steady fall of prices and the consequent decrease in their incomes have had on the rayats, may be seen clearly from the following Statement of the Economic Conditions of the people of Gangavati.—

**STATEMENT SHOWING INDEBTEDNESS OF THE
GANGAVATI TALUQ.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>Average per head</u>	<u>Rupees</u>
Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	
1338 F.	1676424	25 13 0	
1339 F.	680782	10 7 0	
1340 F.	744984	11 7 0	
1341 F.	773724	11 14 0	
1342 F.	623220	9 9 0	
1343 F.	480785	7 4 0	
Average Annual Income for Six Years ...	829982	12 12 0	
Total Debt (1338 Fasli)			2559312/-
Annual Interest on above Debt, at 2 per cent. per annum			511086/-
Annual average land revenue for the last 6 years (1338 to 1343 F.)			209244/-
Total Average Annual Liabilities for six years			720330/-

N.

TOTAL POPULATION: 64950.

TOTAL NO. OF FAMILIES: 15234.

Average Debt per Resident Family, Gangavati, Rs. 168-11-0.

According to the Famine Code and Jail Rules, it is laid down that the minimum ration of Jawar necessary to keep human beings alive are as follows:—Man= 18 Chataks, Woman= 16 Chataks, Child= 14 Chataks.

It is interesting to study with reference to this, the economic conditions of the people of Raichur during normal times. In 1338 F. Nawab Mashuq Yar Jung, then Taluqdar of Raichur, and at present Joint Revenue Secretary to the Nizam's Government, in investigating the economic conditions of the rayats of Raichur Taluq selected a village called Chicksugur, 11 miles away from the Railway station. In selecting this village the considerations were that it should be neither absolutely famine-stricken nor entirely free from scarcity. The population of the village is 943, consisting of 279 men,

304 women and 360 children. According to the scale mentioned above, the men required 1833030 Chataks, the Women 1775360 Chataks, and the Children 1839500 Chataks making a total of 5447990 Chataks, or 340499 Seers. Nawab Mashuq Yar Jung states that the total quantity of different grains such as Bajra, Jawar, Rice and Wheat that was used in feeding the people of Chicksugur for one year was 179169 Seers. From the above figures compiled from "The Economic Survey Report of Chicksugur Village, Raichur Taluq" by Nawab Mashuq Yar Jung, it is clear that even in times of comparative prosperity the people of Raichur do not always get the minimum rations that are allotted to prisoners and those in famine-declared areas. It is obvious that, with insufficient food, there must inevitably be a definite effect on the physique of the people. According to the Census Report of 1340 Fasli (1931), the average Birth and Death rates in the Raichur District for the years 1921-1931, were 7.8 and 7.5 respectively. Although these figures may not be very alarming in view of the fact that there has been an increase of 15.8 % in the population of the whole of the Dominions yet while in the adjoining districts of Mahbubnagar, Gulbarga and Osmanabad there has been an increase of 25.5, 12.1, and 12.6 per cent respectively, in the Raichur District there was an increase of only 3%. Even this increase becomes negligible when compared with the decrease of 7.4% during the period 1911-1921. The population of Raichur District in 1931 was 937535 as compared to 953324 in the year 1911 A. D. Medical practitioners of the Raichur District are very definitely of the opinion that the general physique of the rayats of the Raichur District is very low, and that during the present scarcity not only are the children unable to secure sufficient milk for their normal development, but adults also are not getting the minimum rations necessary to maintain their health and protect them from the various epidemics such as Small pox, Plague, Malaria and skin diseases which are a permanent feature of the District. Should there be an outbreak of the terrible diseases such as Cholera, Dysentery, Enteric, etc., that usually accompany famine conditions the mortality must inevitably be very heavy.

	1329 30 F.	1344 F.
Manvi	Rs. 15-30	Rs. 5.
Sindhunur	Rs. 25-60	Rs. 5
Lingsugur	Rs. 10 20	Rs. 20 (Chalka Land) Rs. 30 to 35) (B. C. S. Land)
Kushitagi	{ Rs. 10-20 (Chalka Land) Rs. 50-60 (B. C. S. Land)	Figures not available but the Tahsildar admits great depreciation in price.
Gangavati	Rs. 40-125	Rs. 17

The Lingsugur figures for 1344 F. were supplied by the Tahsildar, but I was personally offered Chalka Land at Rs. 5 per acre, and Black Cotton Soil Land at Rs. 10/- per acre in the following villages, within two miles of the town of Lingsugur:—

1. Karadadkal
2. Huligud
3. Yellaga.

Sowcars have everywhere without exception stopped giving fresh loans as they themselves are greatly affected by their inability to recover past loans as well as by the economic depression and the increase of crimes against property throughout the District. The Deputy Superintendent of Police of Raichur informed me that there is a definite increase in crimes against property, and that the financial stringency is driving people to loot grain stores. To take one typical example:—During the first quarter of 1343 Fasli, the number of thefts and robberies in Manvi Taluq was 8, whereas the figures for the corresponding period of 1344 Fasli is 21. It is obvious that, with insufficient food, there is likely to be a great increase of crime.

The Statement given below, shows the comparative prices of food-stuffs for the last five years, 1340-1344 Fasli.

Taluq.	Year.	White Jawar.	Yellow Jawar.	Wheat.	Gram	Rice
Manyi ...	1340	12	13½	5¾	10½	5
	1341	11	12	6	7	5
	1342	15	20	6	9	5
	1343	15	20	6	9	5
	1344	10	12	6	6	5
Sindhunur ...	1340					
	1341					
	1342					
	1343					
	1344					
Lingsugur ...	1340	16-18		5-7		
	1341	13-14		6-7		
	1342	15-17		6-8		
	1343	14-16		6-8		
	1344	12-14		6-7		
Kushtagi ...	1340	8	7½	6		3½
	1341	12	12	7		4
	1342	9	12	5		5
	1343	9	15	5		5
Gangavati ...	1340	8 srs.				
	1341	6 sr. 14 ch.				
	1342	10 srs. 13 ch.				
	1343	10 srs 24 ch.				
	1344					

It might be argued that when Jawar can still be purchased at a fairly reasonable price, food is not scarce and therefore there is no famine. But, it must be remembered that, in the affected Taluqs, the rayat who has produced nothing is not in a position to buy food in spite of the low prices. Under these conditions, therefore, his problem is not so much one of food prices as of earning enough to meet his daily expenses. The following quotation from "The History of Famine in the Nizam's Dominions," by Nawab Moshin-ul-Mulk ('Hyderabad Affairs,' Vol. VII), will show that the fact of the existence of grain in the market or the export of grain from the Dominions is no proof at all that famine conditions do not prevail in the Dominions:— "Throughout the period of Distress" (he refers to the Great Famine of 1876-1878 when Relief Operations were carried out on a large scale by the Hyderabad Government), "No great complaint of the scarcity of grain was made. What was wanted was the means to purchase it by the lower classes of the people. It is considered that the produce in a favourable year is sufficient to cover the consumption by the Nizam's subjects for two years. During the period of distress more than one hundred thousand tons of grain were exported to British territory."

According to the President of the Co-operative Society, Manvi, agriculturists are so hard pressed that, during the last three years, the Society has not been able to recover any loans advanced to them, with the result that no fresh loans were issued during this period. Even in cases where the lands of the defaulters have been confiscated by the Society, as the result of Arbitration Award, the Society has not been able to recover its dues as land at present has no value whatever and there are no buyers. The following shows the comparative prices of cultivable land per acre:—

* Figures from Keshav Iyengar's Economic Survey.

* " " " the Tahsildars (Raichur).

RELIEF MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

The following are the Relief Measures adopted by the Government:—

1. Village Relief Works.

The statement given below shows details of the Village Relief Works conducted by the Local Fund Department. These works consist chiefly of the construction and maintenance of the cart-tracts which are the only means of inter-village communications. These works are more popular with the agriculturist than the Test Works conducted by the Public Works Department, for the following reasons:—

- (a) The Earth-work is easier than Excavation work and Road Metalling, and so the rayats can earn a living wage.
- (b) These Works provide work for the rayats close to their villages.
- (c) There is daily payment of wages.

There is a prospect of large numbers of agriculturists flocking to these works after the present harvesting is over, and it would be advisable to enlarge the scope and nature of these works.

Village Relief Works conducted in the affected areas. (Raichur District.)

Taluq.	Nature of Work.	Amount sanctioned	as per report ending.	Labour engaged with rates.		
				Men.	Women.	Children.
Manvi.	Improvement of cart track (80 miles completed)	2558	5th Farwardi	157 3 as.	2½ as.	...
Sindhur.	Repairs of Cart tract of following.	1500	12th Farwardi	75 4 as.	3 as.	
	a. Sundhwind-Balgarwe "Dhargur-Turvihal.					
	b. Repairs to Chowdis & Tanks in the Taluq.					
Lingsugur.		No. information is available.				
Kushtagi.	Construction of cart tracts.	anticipated				
	1. Kustagi to Dunhilal.	3,000	3rd Farwardi	313 3 as.	2½ as.	1½ as.
	2. "Hauamsagr"	1000				
	3. Taverira-Madnur.					
Gangavati	Construction of cart tracts	1000 (600 spent)	12th Farwardi	357 3 as.	2 as.	

2. P.W.D. Relief Works.

The Statement given below gives full details of the Relief Works conducted by the P.W.D. in the affected Taluqs. These are at present executed by Contractors over whom the Department exercises only a nominal supervision but has no authority to interfere with the terms of wages working hours, etc., arranged for the labourer; nor can it insist on the Contractors engaging purely local unskilled labour in preference to skilled labour from other parts of the Dominions. Hence, at Boyd Marchaid (Manvi Taluq), 612

imported labourers from Mahboobnagar District are working, and on the Lingsugur-Tavargira road 500 Vadars, with a hundred carts, have come from Banjapallicheru (Nizamsagar, Nizamabad District), to do Road Metalling. It will thus be seen that it is not possible for unskilled rayats, used only to agricultural operations, to earn a living-wage in competition with skilled labour, especially at such hard work as Road Metalling and Excavation or Moram ground.

Other reasons for their reluctance to join the P.W.D. Relief Works are:—

(a) **Distance from their Homes:** Although the Revenue Department provides hutting arrangements for the labourers and their families, there is no accommodation for their cattle and hence many villagers who have not yet disposed of their cattle will not come.

(b) **Hours of Work:** Agriculturists are used to starting their work at Sunrise and finishing by mid-day, and find it difficult to accustom themselves to working from 9 A.M., to 5-30 P.M., through the heat of the day, especially as no shade is provided for them where they can take shelter during the one hour's interval given to them for their mid-day meal. The labourers come to the Works at 7 A.M., but have to wait for the Overseers to come and give them work which very often means nine O'clock.

(c) **The system of stopping work on the Bazar day** and spending one day on measuring the work finished, deprives the task-workers of two days labour and wages.

(d) The system of weekly payments instead of daily wages is of great hardship on the rayats because the shop-keepers will not give them credit.

Detailed statement of Famine Test Works conducted by P.W.D., in 1344 F. in the affected areas.

No.	Name of Work.	Locality,	Nature of work.	Amount Sanctioned	As per weekly Report ending.	Labour engaged with rates.		
						Men.	Women.	Boys.
No. 19								
1	Boyelmerchaid Tank.	Boyelmerchaid.	Filling breach earth-work.	46850	5-5.44F.	99 4 as	35 3 as.
2	Constg. Kopbal Kushtagi Road.	Kushtagi Taluq.	Earth-work & metal breaking	127768	28-4.44 F.	115 5 as.	69 3 as.	7 2 as.
3	Constg. Tawirgira Sindhnoor road.	Sindhnoor & Kushtagi Taluqs.	do.	346400	do.	213 5 as.	103 4 as.
4	Metallg. Lingsugur Gangavathi road upto Tawirgira.	Lingsugur Taluq.	Metal breaking.	324350	5-5.44F.	509 4 as.	154 3 as.
5	Remetalling Raichur Manvi Road.	Raichur & Manvi Tq.	do.	93700	28-4.44 F.	174 4 as.	91 2½ as.	1 1½ as.

3. Taccavi:

STATEMENT OF TACCAVI LOANS.1344 F.

(Figures supplied by the Tahsildars)

Taluqs.	Amount Distributed.	Number of loan-holders.	Max.	Min.
Manvi	Rs. 49360	1233	30	10
Sindhunur	Rs. 52201	3152	50	10
Lingsugur	Rs. 18340	776	20	5
Kushtagi	Rs. 20000 Rs. 17000 (distributed)	764	150	5
Gangavati	Rs. 90425	3175	100	5

Rs.

Total Amount of Taccavi Sanctioned for the District : 2,36,000.

" " **Advanced 1,56,861.**

It will be seen from the above statement that while the number of Taccavi Loan-holders is comparatively small, yet the average received individually is not sufficient to provide any real relief; and, judging from the condition of the cattle, it seems obvious that the Taccavi loans have not been used for procuring the necessary fodder. It would, therefore, be advisable to start Central Fodder Depots for the distribution of fodder rather than give fresh Taccavi loans.

4. Revenue Remissions and Collection of Suspensions. Apart from Taccavi Loans, other forms of financial help that have been given to the rayats are :—

1. Remission of Revenue Dues.
2. Suspension of Collections.

Due to the world-wide Economic Depression that has its inevitable repercussions in the remotest villages in the interior of the Dominions, a general Remission of 2 annas in the rupee had been sanctioned. In addition to this, a Suspension of Collections on the Kharif Khist to the value of As. 14 in the rupee has been granted, the remaining dues to be paid in 3 annual instalments. This Suspension has been applied everywhere on a uniform scale, except in the Kushtagi Taluq where, for no adequate reasons, a sliding scale according to individual capacity for payment has been applied to the 21 villages that have been declared affected. The total Suspension of Collections in Kushtagi Taluq has been only Rs. 44887, and in Gangavati there has been total Suspension.

CONCLUSION.

In a few days now, when the harvesting season is over, the rayats of Raichur will be faced with the terrible prospect of having to pay the Revenue Dues on the Rabi Crops which have been a failure. Nothing short of a miracle could make this possible, for the rayats to-day in the five affected Taluqs of Raichur possess nothing whatsoever except valueless lands that they can neither mortgage nor sell, as most of them have already sold off their cattle and even their Agricultural implements. The system of Suspension of Collections, while it may have temporary value in a crisis, is no real solution of the problem of giving relief to rayats faced with season after season of failure of crops. Only a generous gesture remitting all Revenue Dues of Rabi and Kharif Khists can save the rayats at this junction. Unless the Government takes immediate steps to declare a famine, with all that such a declaration implies, I fear that the rayats of Raichur are faced with absolute starvation.

A declaration of famine by Government will solve all the problems to which I have referred in this Report, because among other things, it will guarantee the following:—

1. A Control of food prices, so that grain and fodder can be obtained at Central Stores at minimum prices.
2. A total Remission of all Revenue Dues.
3. Poor Houses where all children and old and disabled people will be fed daily.
4. Suitable work and a minimum wage for all able bodied men and women. That is, regardless of their outturn of work, even unskilled labourers will be paid a daily wage (varying according to the price of grain), sufficient to ensure the minimum ration required by adults:—

Man: 18 chataks of Jawar per day.

Woman: 16 „ of Jawar per day.

While on the subject of suitable work for agriculturists, I would like to urge the introduction and development of Cottage Industries on a large scale in the Raichur District, as a permanent additional source of income for a huge rural population pathetically dependent for its living on agriculture in an area where a few inches more or a few inches less of rainfall in any year can make the difference between comparative prosperity and absolute starvation. I am convinced that there are great potentialities in the District for the development of Cottage industries and that if a careful investigation were to be carried out by the Commerce and Industries Department the labour and expense involved would be amply repaid by the increased prosperity of the rayats. For example, the very salinity of the soil that makes the providing of the sweet-water wells such a difficult problem in the Raichur District could be made the basis of a big Salt Industry which would do much to cure the poverty of the rayats. I visited the salt-pans at Sarjapur in the Lingsugur Taluq where a considerable amount of both edible and tanning salt is being made by the process of Solar Evaporation common throughout the District. As edible salt can be sold at the rate of 16 seers per rupee and tanning salt 30 seers per rupee, it is possible for an average family carrying on salt-making as a subsidiary occupation to make a clear profit of Rs. 10-12 a month. The edible variety of salt is largely manufactured in and around Gudinhall in the Lingsugur Taluq and other centres are Rajavoli, Mohmadpur and Jagarkal in the Raichur Taluq, and Kallur in Manvi Taluq, while tanning salt is manufactured throughout the District. In 1932, the Commerce and Industries Department financed some experiments on Stack Evaporation of Brine that were carried out by the Geological Survey Department under the direction of Captain L. Munn, Special Officer in

charge of the Department. These experiments, that were based on a process commonly in use in Germany and France, proved that the Stack method of Evaporation, if introduced and popularised amongst the rayats of Raichur, "would give a larger number of salt crops during a given season, and be a real benefit to the manufacturers..... because huge quantities of weak brine available in the area, but not now utilised may be worked with profit when quicker methods of evaporation are introduced" (Journal of Hyderabad Geological Survey Vol. 11 Part 1, "Experiments on Stack Evaporation" by L. S. Krishnamurti B. Sc. Petrologist, Hyderabad Geological Survey Department.

The advantages of Stack Evaporation over the ordinary Solar Evaporation now in use may be briefly summarised thus :—

1. The proportion of production is in the ratio of 1 to 22.5.
2. Most of the material required can be easily obtained by the rayat as bamboo and hard jungle wood, waste cotton-plant stalks or toddy palm stalks will serve his purpose.
3. The Stack Evaporation of brine can be carried on from the second week of November to about the end of May.
4. During Famine years, due to the insufficiency of rainfall, the period of Stack Evaporation is expected to be much longer and the amount of evaporation that takes place much greater than in other years.

Similarly there is a great future for hand-ginning and hand-spinning in a district where cotton is one of the main crops and where there are large colonies of weavers. For instance there are 300 families of weavers and 700 looms in Maski (Lingsugur Taluq) and in Mudgal in the same Taluq there are 60 Muslim and 10 Christian families of weavers. Tavargira (Kushtagi Taluq) has 170 families of weavers and 300-400 looms, while in Gangavati there are more than a hundred families possessing 600 looms. In all these places are woven the famous Yerka series which are in great demand throughout the Dominions and are exported on a large scale to Dharwar and Sholapur.

The Weaving of Woollen Kamals for which Pothanhal (Manvi Taluq) is famous, could also be developed on a large scale.

It is interesting to note in the Report of the Famine Commissioner in charge of the Famine Relief Operations in the Nizam's Dominions in 1328, 1329, and Azoor 1330 that, "Purdanasheen women who could not work on the Village Relief Works were given cotton to spin, and the yarn spun by them was taken from them and supplied to the weavers who were thus kept on work in their own villages. The cloth prepared was either distributed to the poor or sold, and when sold, its value was credited to the Government."

It is only by providing work suited to the different sections of the population and planned according to their special needs and difficulties that the problem of unemployment that is unavoidable in all agricultural countries for several months of the year can be solved. And when this problem is solved in the Raichur District, it will be the beginning of a new Era of prosperity for her people.

NOTE ON FAMINE CONDITIONS IN KOPBAL JAGIR.

In the course of my tour of the affected areas of the Raichur District, I visited the Kopbal Jagir belonging to Nawab Salar Jung, where similar climatic and rainfall conditions to those of the Raichur District prevail, and where owing to the failure of the last monsoon, there has been great distress amongst the rayats. I interviewed the Taluqdar and a large number of the prominent citizens of the town of Kopbal and also visited many of the affected villages to ascertain the conditions there, and the following note has been compiled from the information gathered from the above sources.

The Kopbal Jagir which consists of the Taluks of Kopbal and Yelberga has a total population of 156579 out of which except for the colonies of weavers that are scattered about and a small number of people that are employed in the one State-owned Ginning and Pressing Mill and the 30 other mills for ginning and pressing cotton, shelling groundnuts, and pressing oil, the whole population is either directly or indirectly connected with agriculture. It can therefore be easily understood that the question of the rayat's prosperity is entirely dependent on the annual rainfall.

For the last five years the rainfall in Kopbal has been very uncertain and capricious, being either excessive or deficient, and in both cases unevenly distributed. It can be seen from the following figures that the average outturn of food crops has been increasingly poor during the last five years especially during the Rabi seasons. These figures are approximate.

Year.	Kharif.	Rabi.
1339 F.	8 As. in the rupee	4 As. in the Rupee.
1340 F.	12-13 As. " "	Total Failure.
1341 F.	8 As. in " "	2 As. in the Rupee
1342 F.	8 As. in " "	2 As. in the Rupee.
1343 F.	Total Failure.	Only wheat 8 As. all other crops total failure.

The Taluqdar of Kopbal states that 17 to 18 inches of rain if evenly distributed over the different Karties is the minimum rainfall required annually for normal crops. The following figures supplied by him show the deficiency in the rainfall this year:—

Year.	Kopbal Taluq.	Yelberga Taluq.
1342 F.	17 Inches 20 cents	27 Inches 21 cents.
1343 F.	19 Inches 50 cents	19 Inches 95 cents.
1345 F.	13 Inches 56 cents	12 Inches 86 cents.

One noteworthy result of the above deficiency has been a decrease in the area of dry lands cultivated this year out of the total cultivable area of 481684 Acres, 28 Guntas in the Kopbal State.

At the beginning of the Kharif season in 1344 F. a certain amount of sowing was done throughout the State, the main crops being Jawar, Wheat and Rice, but, owing to the lack of rain, most of the crops dried up resulting in the total waste of both seeds and labour. There was comparatively very little sowing of Rabi crops this year, and it is possible to see for miles at a stretch fields that should have been ready for harvesting as bare as a desert. Even though there were not many Rabi crops to be damaged by the sudden and heavy rainfall in the last week of January, the Taluqdar admits that the Cotton crop has been spoilt. Considerable damage has also been done to the following:—

1. **Fodder:** half the stock of karvi and bran that had been stored for fodder were damaged.
2. **Melon Crops:** Melon crops to the value of Rs. 30,000 in the River-beds were ruined.

3. **Salt-Pans** : The Salt-pans where salt-making is being carried on in some places as an additional source of income got broken.
4. **The Nathurwadi Canal** : was damaged involving leakage and loss of valuable water.

In normal years a large amount of wheat is exported from the villages to Koppal town and British India. This year owing to the poor produce there has been no export, but so far there has not been as might have been expected, a very great increase in the price of Jawar. According to the Taluqdar, the price of Jawar this year is 11-12 seers per rupee, whereas last year, it was 14-15 seers per rupee, while cotton shows an increase of Rs. 25-30 per bale. But, as in Raichur, the fact that the grain has not become prohibitive in price does not minimise the distress of the rayats, because their purchasing power, already weakened by a succession of years of failure of crops, has this year been reduced to nothing. They are unable to secure any fresh loans from the Sowcars, and when it is mentioned that in one village alone, Adoor, (Yelberga Taluq), the indebtedness to Sowcars amounted to over Rs. 50,000 with a rate of interest of 18%, it can be realised how badly the sowcars themselves have been affected by the present conditions when they cannot realise even the interest on moneys due. Everything else that they possessed having been disposed of to pay the land-revenue on the Kharif crops, all that the rayats possess now are valueless lands which they can neither mortgage nor sell. And while on the one hand the rayats are faced with complete starvation, on the other, owing to the inadequate and inefficient medical organisation of the state, they are in constant danger from a series of epidemics against which they have no means of protection. Malaria, for which neither prophylactic nor curative measures are provided is a permanent menace, and according to the Director of the Medical Department and Public Health of the Nizam's Government, there were 117 attacks and 99 deaths from Plague in the Yelberga Taluq upto the week ending 10th January 1935. From the information that I was able to gather during my visit, the following villages, Koknur, Singirhal, Harakal, Bhanapur and Halligoda were still infected with Plague, and the poor villagers, already sorely tried by the difficulty of feeding themselves, were obliged to leave their villages and provide themselves with huts at a safe distance from the infected areas. No arrangements were made for inoculation although the villagers were not only willing but anxious to get inoculated. There are no satisfactory arrangements for supplying pure drinking water anywhere in the Koppal State. In Koppal town itself the only source of drinking water is the Koppal tank, but no care is taken to ensure that it is kept clean. The scarcity of drinking water, both for human beings and cattle is one of the many serious problems in Koppal that require immediate attention. The cattle are in a terrible condition and the rayats are helpless to do anything for them, for, apart from the scarcity of drinking water, there is as the Taluqdar admits, an appalling dearth of fodder, and so far, no steps have been taken to cope with it. A cartload of Karvi that last year used to cost Rs. 3-4 can with great difficulty be obtained for Rs. 8-10. The Taluqdar states that there has been a decrease of 50 per cent. in the prices of cattle and I found that in some parts where people were driven to dispose of their cattle not only by the scarcity of fodder, but also by the urgent necessity of paying revenue dues on the Kharif Khist there was a decrease of more than 75 per cent. in price. To quote a few figures :

1. In the village of Harichanhal (Yelberga Taluq) 700 out of the 800 bulls there were sold to pay revenue dues on Kharif.
2. In Adoor village (Yelberga Taluq) rayats who once possessed 8-10 heads of cattle each now scarcely have more than one each, and cattle formerly costing Rs. 150-200 each were sold for Rs. 20-25.
3. In Gurdhali village (Koppal Taluq) bulls costing Rs. 100 each, cannot fetch even Rs. 10 and the average price of buffalos and cows is Rs. 2.

4. In Muddapalli village (Kopbal Taluq) the average price of cattle is Rs. 3 to Rs. 4.

Unlike the Raichur District, where a few Taluqs have not suffered from a deficiency of rainfall, there are in Kopbal no fertile areas where the people can migrate with their cattle in search of fodder. Migration has taken place from Kopbal, and on a large scale, but, it has been for a different reason. No figures regarding migration were available from the Taluqdar who was only prepared to state that there is an annual migration from Kopbal in search of work just as there is an annual influx for the same purpose. But an inspection of any village in Kopbal State will show that a large number of houses are uninhabited and inquiries will prove that from every village a fairly large proportion of the population has migrated. The reason for this is that the total failure of the last Kharif crops left the majority of the rayats absolutely unable to pay any revenue dues. So, when the demand was made, and I am forced to infer from the signed statements in my possession, that it was enforced with deplorable harshness in a number of villages (Kavalur, Pura, Raghunathanhalli, Gurdihal, Budugumpa and Harihanchanhal amongst other,) there having been cases (in Pura and Raghunathanhalli) where by way of coercion the villagers unable to pay were made to stand in the sun all day with large stones on their backs, those who could realise the necessary money by selling of cattle, jewellery, agricultural implements and even household goods did so. The rest migrated, and I give below a rough idea of the migration from some parts of Kopbal.

In Benikoppa: (Yelberga Taluq) there are only 50 out of 432 houses occupied to-day, all the other families having migrated to British India. Only Patadars paying a revenue of Rs. 150 and upwards have remained behind.

In Harihanchanhal: (Yelberga Taluq), out of a total population of 2000 people, 1,500 have migrated to British India.

In Adoor Village: (Yelberga Taluq), migration started 3 months ago and about 300 people, together with their families have gone to Hubli.

In Kavalur Village: (Yelberga Taluq), about 75% of the total population of 3500 has migrated to Dharwar, Karwar, and Mysore.

In Muddapalli Village: (Kopbal Taluq), 100 people from a total population of 1100 have gone to Hospet.

In Hallapur: (Kopbal Taluq), 25% migrated to Gadag. Similar conditions prevail in practically all the other villages of Kopbal State and careful inquiries would show that nearly all the Patadars and labourers have migrated and that there are only 3 sections of the population left behind in the majority of the villages.

A. Those few who besides possessing large areas of land are rich enough to maintain their former standard of living.

B. The agriculturists working for the above.

C. A small group of middle class people, who considering it a disgrace to be forced to migrate, are managing somehow to maintain themselves and their cattle in the hope of better days to come.

One terrible consequence of the migration from Kopbal has been the great increase of begging amongst people of the respectable classes. In many cases the breadwinner of a family having migrated owing to his inability to pay revenue dues, his dependents have been left unprovided for and have been forced to resort to begging to keep alive. I quote a few instances:—

1. **Pota Reddy Timmamma** : a resident of Kavalur, 8 members of whose family that used to own 8 bullocks and pay an annual revenue of Rs. 150 have migrated, has been forced to take to begging.

2. **Tandappa Kogosi** : a resident of Alwandi whose sons have migrated is entirely dependent on the charity of others for his food.

3. **Mallaya** : a resident of Kavalur, who used to pay Rs. 85 annually by way of revenue is now reduced to being in the streets.

4. **Lingamma** : a resident of Alwandi whose sons were patadars owning 24 acres of land and had migrated is now driven to begging.

In concluding the evidence on migration, I would like to mention that during my interview with the President of the Central Famine Relief Committee of Bellary, I was informed of a letter from the Collector of Dharwar to the Collector of Bellary protesting against the huge influx of emigrants from the famine-stricken areas of Bellary, and I was also given to understand that the Collector of Dharwar had made a similar protest to the Kopbal Authorities.

RELIEF MEASURES.

As soon as it became apparent to the rayats of Kopbal that in spite of the total failure of the Kharif crops they were not going to be allowed any remission of revenues dues, they made desperate appeals both in writing and by way of deputations to the Tahsildar, the Taluqdar and the Nazim of the State to represent their pitiful condition to the Nawab Saheb. This proving futile and being unable to reach the Nawab Saheb through any other channel than the press, 42 rayats of Kopbal published an "Open Letter to Nawab Salar Jung" in the Taruna Karnatax of Hubli on 23 December 1934. In response to this and similar other appeals, the Nawab Saheb announced in the last week of January 1935, that he was issuing orders for a remission of 2 annas in the Rupee on the Rabi Crops, and a suspension of collection to the value of 4 annas in the Rupee and also that he had sanctioned the starting of Relief Works to the extent of 1 lakh of Rupees.

The accompanying statement gives the details of the nature of the Relief Works sanctioned for the Jagir and the estimate of the costs, together with the number of labourers employed and the wages given, as supplied by the Taluqdar. From what I could gather personally in Kopbal, so far, only one actual scheme, the Kopbal-Yelberga Road had been started, and even there work was practically at a standstill owing to the harvest. As in the Raichur District, one of the chief difficulties with regard to the Relief Works so far started, is the total unsuitability of the nature of work. The work of excavation and road-metalling is essentially one that requires skilled labour, and hence it is practically impossible for an unskilled rayat used only to agricultural labour to earn a living wage at it. The maximum of 3 annas per man and 2 annas per woman daily as mentioned in the statement, means of course that the average rayat working 7 hours daily earns considerably less. Another serious difficulty is that these works take people far away from their villages and so far, no hutting arrangements have been made for them. In Kopbal, as in Raichur there is an urgent need for cottage industries to be developed on a large scale throughout the Jagir. There are large colonies of weavers in Kopbal, and both hand-spinning and hand-ginning could easily, as well as profitably, be introduced, hand-ginned cotton securing a better price in the market than mill-ginned cotton. The rearing of silk-worms might also be tried as an experiment so that, if conditions prove suitable, the large quantities of raw-silk required for the silk-cloth woven in Kopbal might be supplied locally instead of being imported from Mysore. There are large saline tracts in Kopbal as well as in Raichur, and the salt-making industry that already exists could easily be developed.

4. In Muddapalli village (Kopbal Taluq) the average price of cattle is Rs. 3 to Rs. 4.

Unlike the Raichur District, where a few Taluqs have not suffered from a deficiency of rainfall, there are in Kopbal no fertile areas where the people can migrate with their cattle in search of fodder. Migration has taken place from Kopbal, and on a large scale, but, it has been for a different reason. No figures regarding migration were available from the Taluqdar who was only prepared to state that there is an annual migration from Kopbal in search of work just as there is an annual influx for the same purpose. But an inspection of any village in Kopbal State will show that a large number of houses are uninhabited and inquiries will prove that from every village a fairly large proportion of the population has migrated. The reason for this is that the total failure of the last Kharif crops left the majority of the rayats absolutely unable to pay any revenue dues. So, when the demand was made, and I am forced to infer from the signed statements in my possession, that it was enforced with deplorable harshness in a number of villages (Kavalur, Pura, Raghunathanhali, Gurdihal, Budugumpa and Harihanchanhal amongst other,) there having been cases (in Pura and Raghunathanhali) where by way of coercion the villagers unable to pay were made to stand in the sun all day with large stones on their backs, those who could realise the necessary money by selling of cattle, jewellery, agricultural implements and even household goods did so. The rest migrated, and I give below a rough idea of the migration from some parts of Kopbal.

In Benikoppa : (Yelberga Taluq) there are only 50 out of 432 houses occupied to-day, all the other families having migrated to British India. Only Patadars paying a revenue of Rs. 150 and upwards have remained behind.

In Harihanchanhal : (Yelberga Taluq), out of a total population of 2000 people, 1,500 have migrated to British India.

In Adoor Village : (Yelberga Taluq), migration started 3 months ago and about 300 people, together with their families have gone to Hubli.

In Kavalur Village : (Yelberga Taluq), about 75% of the total population of 3500 has migrated to Dharwar, Karwar, and Mysore.

In Muddapalli Village : (Kopbal Taluq), 100 people from a total population of 1100 have gone to Hospet.

In Hallapur : (Kopbal Taluq), 25% migrated to Gadag. Similar conditions prevail in practically all the other villages of Kopbal State and careful inquiries would show that nearly all the Patadars and labourers have migrated and that there are only 3 sections of the population left behind in the majority of the villages.

A. Those few who besides possessing large areas of land are rich enough to maintain their former standard of living.

B. The agriculturists working for the above.

C. A small group of middle class people, who considering it a disgrace to be forced to migrate, are managing somehow to maintain themselves and their cattle in the hope of better days to come.

One terrible consequence of the migration from Kopbal has been the great increase of begging amongst people of the respectable classes. In many cases the breadwinner of a family having migrated owing to his inability to pay revenue dues, his dependents have been left unprovided for and have been forced to resort to begging to keep alive. I quote a few instances :—

1. **Pota Reddy Timmamma** : a resident of Kavalur, 8 members of whose family that used to own 8 bullocks and pay an annual revenue of Rs. 150 have migrated, has been forced to take to begging.

2. **Tandappa Kogosi** : a resident of Alwandi whose sons have migrated is entirely dependent on the charity of others for his food.

3. **Mallaya** : a resident of Kavalur, who used to pay Rs. 85 annually by way of revenue is now reduced to being in the streets.

4. **Lingamma** : a resident of Alwandi whose sons were patadars owning 24 acres of land and had migrated is now driven to begging.

In concluding the evidence on migration, I would like to mention that during my interview with the President of the Central Famine Relief Committee of Bellary, I was informed of a letter from the Collector of Dharwar to the Collector of Bellary protesting against the huge influx of emigrants from the famine-stricken areas of Bellary, and I was also given to understand that the Collector of Dharwar had made a similar protest to the Kopbal Authorities.

RELIEF MEASURES.

As soon as it became apparent to the rayats of Kopbal that in spite of the total failure of the Kharif crops they were not going to be allowed any remission of revenues dues, they made desperate appeals both in writing and by way of deputations to the Tahsildar, the Taluqdar and the Nazim of the State to represent their pitiful condition to the Nawab Saheb. This proving futile and being unable to reach the Nawab Saheb through any other channel than the press, 42 rayats of Kopbal published an "Open Letter to Nawab Salar Jung" in the Taruna Karnatax of Hubli on 23 December 1934. In response to this and similar other appeals, the Nawab Saheb announced in the last week of January 1935, that he was issuing orders for a remission of 2 annas in the Rupee on the Rabi Crops, and a suspension of collection to the value of 4 annas in the Rupee and also that he had sanctioned the starting of Relief Works to the extent of 1 lakh of Rupees.

The accompanying statement gives the details of the nature of the Relief Works sanctioned for the Jagir and the estimate of the costs, together with the number of labourers employed and the wages given, as supplied by the Taluqdar. From what I could gather personally in Kopbal, so far, only one actual scheme, the Kopbal-Yelberga Road had been started, and even there work was practically at a standstill owing to the harvest. As in the Raichur District, one of the chief difficulties with regard to the Relief Works so far started, is the total unsuitability of the nature of work. The work of excavation and road-metalling is essentially one that requires skilled labour, and hence it is practically impossible for an unskilled rayat used only to agricultural labour to earn a living wage at it. The maximum of 3 annas per man and 2 annas per woman daily as mentioned in the statement, means of course that the average rayat working 7 hours daily earns considerably less. Another serious difficulty is that these works take people far away from their villages and so far, no hutting arrangements have been made for them. In Kopbal, as in Raichur there is an urgent need for cottage industries to be developed on a large scale throughout the Jagir. There are large colonies of weavers in Kopbal, and both hand-spinning and hand-ginning could easily, as well as profitably, be introduced, hand-ginned cotton securing a better price in the market than mill-ginned cotton. The rearing of silk-worms might also be tried as an experiment so that, if conditions prove suitable, the large quantities of raw-silk required for the silk-cloth woven in Kopbal might be supplied locally instead of being imported from Mysore. There are large saline tracts in Kopbal as well as in Raichur, and the salt-making industry that already exists could easily be developed.

It is hardly necessary to say much about the other forms of relief that have so far been given in the State, Viz: Remission and Suspension of collections, because the facts I have compiled will speak for themselves. It is obvious that the Remission and Suspension of collection were granted too late and on too small a scale to be of any real value. If they had been given on the Kharif Khist in a generous measure, it might have saved thousands of unhappy men and women from being driven away from their homes into strange lands where there is neither a welcome nor any certain hope of work or prosperity for them. As far as the Rabi Khist is concerned, it is difficult to understand how, even with a remission of 2 annas and the suspension of collection of 4 annas, the Authorities can expect to collect the revenue dues, unless of course they resort to the same methods of coercion that they are reported to have used in the collection of the Kharif dues. Unless scrupulous care is taken to supervise the collection of the revenue dues on the Rabi Khist—if collected they must be—and unless the relief measures announced are carried out with tact and sympathy, I fear that the help promised will be more an interpretation in the letter than in the spirit. In any case the measures so far sanctioned are but a handful of dust in the face of the bitter and urgent needs of a people whom only an immediate declaration of famine and a faithful fulfillment of all the duties and responsibilities that such a declaration imposes, can help at this critical juncture.

**STATEMENT SHOWING DETAILS REGARDING RELIEF WORKS
STARTED IN KOPBAL DISTRICT.**

Nature of Work:	Amount Sanctioned.
a. New Road from Kopbal to Gariknur ...	Rs. 20,000
b. Clearance of rubbish heap ...	Rs. 6,000
c. Gingira Tank ...	Rs. 3,000
d. Police Station House of Koknur ...	Rs. 3,500
e. Kutcheri of Yelberga ...	Rs. 10,000
f. Roads to Gingira and Kavargi ...	Rs. 2,687
g. Road inside Kopbal Town ...	Rs. 1,000
h. Singhalli Villages ...	Rs. 9,000
i. Banikop village ...	Rs. 1,700
J. Total amount for several villages: ...	Rs. 3,528
Sanctioned :	Grand Total : Rs. 60,415

Total amount spent: Rs. 30,000

Total No. employed: 3,000

Wages per day:

Man 0-3-0

Woman 0-2-0

Y: 4353 : 2254. 113
G5
63463