

MAHARASHTRA AHEAD



e *nitiatives*

People-Centric Revenue Administration

- Records of Rights
- Agricultural Survey
- Settlement
- Mutation

- e-Chavadi
- e-Mojani
- e-Pherphar
- e- Abhilekh
- e-Registration
- e- Nakasha



Maha-e-Seva

Certificates Issued By Maha-e-Seva Centres

- Age and Nationality
- License for Cultural Programme
- Arms License Renewal
- Hotel License
- Temporary Fireworks License
- Identity Cards for Freedom Fighters (Duplicate)
- Non Agricultural Permission
- Solvency Certificates
- Quarry Lease License
- License for Minor Minerals
- License for Stone Crushers
- Certified Copy
- Certificate for Project Affected
- Income Certificate
- Permission for sale, gift, partition and mortgage of land from command areas
- Change in the Certificate of Project Affected
- Renewal, cancellation and license for Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY)
- Cancellation, renewal and license for Standardised Agency System [SAS]
- Non-Creamy Layer Caste Certificate
- Domicile Certificate
- License for Eating House
- Shraavan Bal Seva Rajya Nivrutti Vetan Yojana (National Old Age Pension Scheme)
- Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar /Arthik Durbalansathi Anudan Yojana





People Oriented Revenue Administration

The month of January, first month of the year always brings vigour and enthusiasm. New resolves are made in this month while reviewing the year gone. 3rd January is Birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule who carved a pathway for Women Education in India. Birth anniversary of Rajmata Jijau- mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is also celebrated in this month. The Birth anniversary of Balshastrri Jambhekar (Darpankar – Father of Marathi Newspaper Realm) is celebrated on 6th January. It is a great coincidence that Birth anniversaries of Great Sons of India like Swami Vivekanand, Lala Lajpatrai, Subhashchandra Bose and Guru Gobind Singh are celebrated in this month. Republic Day celebrated on 26th January is an occasion of pride and honour for Indians. It is our moral duty to salute Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary on 30th January. The pious Id-E-Milad is also celebrated in this month.

We are ringing in the New Year at MAHARASHTRA AHEAD with Special Issue on Revenue. In ancient times, village was considered as Unit of administration. Rules were made about revenue collection for village lands. Concurrent systems regarding land revenue underwent changes with passage of time. It was accepted that the king had ownership rights for specific area of land and he was bestowed with powers of revenue collection with expectations that he should protect people from foreign invasions. Around a sixth of income was collected as land revenue. The King was supposed to be the owner of agricultural lands and tiller was considered as an 'occupant'. Due to an agro based economy and deep rooted belief in masses that agriculture was best, business came next and service at the lowest, agricultural ownership/ transactions held important social position.

In Kautilya's economic treatise, he has dealt with various remedies for agricultural prosperity and Government policy for the same. Agriculture was a major business in the Maurya era. Catering to water needs through minor irrigation, providing quality seeds to farmers, financial advances to farmers and provisions of foodgrains in the State warehouses for an eventuality of famine were part of many initiatives taken by the Government. Besides major agriculture taxation- *Bhag*, two other taxes *Bali* and *Kar* were collected.

In the medieval era Mohammad Bin Tughlak appointed an officer '*Amir-E-Kuhi*' to oversee schemes for agriculture development. Pherozshah Tughlak by bringing fallow lands under cultivation, tried to increase the revenue. Apart from the huge canals on rivers Yamuna and Sutlaj he also created many other sources of irrigation from other rivers.

Emperor Shershah Suri chalked a policy to collect land revenue at an average upto 33% of income after measurement,

classification and gradation of lands instead of collecting it on the basis of gross agricultural income. He obtained affidavits from farmers and leased lands to them on their names. Emperor Akbar also planned land revenue based on the revenue policy administration adopted by Shershah. Malik Ambar improved revenue administration by practicing '*Malikambardhara*'.

In 1793 Lord Cornwallis introduced 'Permanent Settlement' system in Bengal. In this system tax collected by Zaminadars was collected as 10/11 part for the Government and 1/11 part for themselves. Afterwards the British implemented various systems like '*Mahalwari*', '*Malgujari*' and '*Rayatwari*' in other States.

Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966 came into existence for streamlining the revenue rules prevalent in various areas. Due to effective implementation of Acts, like Fragmentation of Land Holdings Act, Tenancy Act, The Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling On Holdings) Act, 1961, The Land Acquisition Act and the Mamlatdar Court Act, Revenue administration of the State is considered as an ideal one in the country.

Presently, the Revenue administration has undergone a sea change. Due to the multifarious duties and responsibilities of revenue administration such as Records of Rights Management, implementation of Land Reforms Acts, social assistance schemes like Old age pension scheme, Niradhar Anudan Yojana, Disaster Management, monitoring of EGS, Rehabilitation of projects affected, monitoring of law and order, scarcity eradication, supply of essential commodities and foodgrains, Minor minerals and Entertainment tax collection, Revenue Administration is regarded as the backbone of the administrative system of the State. Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan is being implemented successfully in the State. Adoption of new technology has accelerated the speed and transparency in administration. Hi-Tech revenue department has made the administration people-oriented to serve the citizens more effectively.

In MAHARASHTRA AHEAD, we have tried to cover various facets of Revenue Administration and are confident that readers will appreciate this issue also.

Best wishes and a Happy New Year to all our readers, subscribers and contributors.

Pramod T. Nalawade
Editor-in-Chief, '*Maharashtra Ahead*', DGIPR

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Fourth Revolution Not Far...

e-office Projects will certainly enhanced the speed and transparency in administration

Revenue Department is a mirror of the administration. If one wants to know about the public feelings for administration, whether the Government services and facilities are satisfactory or otherwise and about further expectations of the populace from the Government, you will have to look only at the Revenue system...the Chief Minister **Prithviraj Chavan** explains...



Revenue Department is of utmost importance. The common people are directly in contact with the department; hence we accepted this challenge of providing accurate information to the people with minimum efforts and shortest time with total support from technology. In this situation importance of the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan escalates to a great extent. Because Information Technology is the base of the Revenue Department's planning and the

facilities it provides.

Many times Government's good initiatives are not reached out to the people. I believe that the Revenue Department will overcome the hurdles through this Campaign and set a new precedence. Various events such as organising camps for issuing different certificates, Chavadi reading for redressing complaints and resolving public issues at Chavadi - a common central place for the villagers, making application forms available online, simplifying the procedure etc

organized under this Campaign.

I visited Sindhudurg District recently. It is the first district to implement total e-office in administration. Our former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had dreamt of the 21st Century while bringing the Computer evolution. This was the time when a decision was taken to make computers operational in Indian languages. I had been given the responsibility for the same as I was a Minister with Prime Minister's Office then. Today, as the Chief Minister of

Maharashtra, I feel proud to see the proliferation of all these things in Maharashtra.

The e-office projects will certainly enhance the speed and transparency in administration and I am sure that the dream of paperless office will become a reality in near future. E-office project will be implemented in the entire Konkan and then in other districts like Nandurbar and Jalna. After this the Zilla Parishads will follow the suit. E-office will bring a revolution at all stages from Talathi to the Chief Minister. Drastic changes are expected in computer systems in next 3-4 years. Whatever you say would be fed to a computer instantly. From the administration point of view this would be the Fourth Revolution.

Recently while speaking at the State level Conference of the Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors held in Pune. I had raised a point of imparting training to the State Cadre Officers on par with the Indian Administrative Services. It's imperative today to make administration techno-savvy and focus on the common man. And therefore to train State cadre officers to be in tune with the time is a must. There is no harm in undertaking such initiative through Maharashtra Public Service Commission.

Special efforts will be made so that the good officers go to the remote areas. I have already instructed concerned authorities to felicitate District Collectors and Additional District Collectors for their excellence on the Revenue Day. In the newly constituted districts projects such as construction of Government buildings, to fill up the vacant posts at the earliest, giving prompt and transparent permissions for NA, preparing data bank of the Government lands in the State, implementing path-breaking projects for re-survey of lands are extremely important. Many officers have carried out innovative experiments in some

districts of the State. These should be made applicable elsewhere suitably.

Some systematic changes such as application of barcode on the Minor Minerals Transport Licenses and receipts, sand auctions through e-tendering, implementing the Zero Pendency scheme, scanning old revenue records, easy availability of 7/12 extracts, Birth and Death certificates, NA permission within 10 days, implementation of Nanded pattern for computerisation of 7/12 extracts, scanning of Kotwal Book records, preparation of a website for the quasi-judicial work implemented by District Collector, Satara, removal of the encroachment on farm roads as per village maps, holding Pherphar Adalat at circle headquarters, implementing the Samadhan Scheme for making available all the facilities under one roof, making available e-Lokshahi services, e-Chavadi scheme, re-measurements, as well as standardization of various application forms have been very effective and resulted in bringing fraudulent transactions to a halt.

Latur Collector has implemented an innovative programme for providing 354 types of services through the SETU Centre. District Collector, Sindhudurg has implemented many projects in e-administration using the Information Technology. From these the inward application management system has been decided to be implemented at other Districts.

District Collector, Aurangabad has made the use of AADHAAR Number for Special Assistance Schemes. This would be implemented in other Districts as well. During the first phase of AADHAAR registration, Maharashtra has topped at the national level with more than 5 Crore registrations. We have to complete registration of 7 Crore people by 31st March 2013. This is a very ambitious project for all of us. We shall have to tread the same path in future as well. The technology is going to accelerate

the administration work. However for this it is necessary to change our mentality. Recently we successfully removed the injustice faced by the Khandakari farmers since last six decades. The Government has also given tough legal fight to streamline the problems faced by Khandakaris. The historians will have to prominently mention the movement and the struggles of Khandakari farmers while writing about Maharashtra. The Khandakari farmers who have fought for a long time for their rights should now concentrate on enhancing the productivity of their own lands with the use of modern technology.

The State had 85,000 acres of lands with the Agriculture Corporation. This has 4015 Khandakari farmers. As the State had taken a firm stand on their issue, the Khandakari farmers are getting back their lands. There are certain issues of the workers with Agriculture Corporation. There is also an issue of non-cultivable lands. All of these would be considered sympathetically and would be resolved soon. The Government has constantly put in efforts for justified rights of farmers, farm labourer and workers. In order to make the Revenue Department more people oriented and transparent we have disposed off 61,000 out of the 68,000 pending applications of land measurements. We have initiated e-tendering. Decision has been taken for renovation of the Regional offices under Revenue Department. We have to agree that drought situation in some areas today is severe than those in 1972. The drinking water problem is getting worse. We are putting in efforts to provide work to those who ask for, drinking water, fodder for animals and cattle camps. Although this is a huge challenge before Revenue Department under the present circumstances, it is not difficult to manage. ■

- As told to:

Aniruddha Ashtaputre

The State of Philanthropic Administration

The Revenue Officer has rightly been called as the backbone of administration

Revenue Department which is directly in touch with the people at large. As most of the work connected to this department is closely related to the lands and the day to day lives of people, everyone comes in touch with this Department right from the farmers to labourers and from rural population to the urbanites...the Deputy Chief Minister **Ajit Pawar** explains...



All the issues linked to Revenue Department are closely related to the problems at heart of the populace. It is from the public behaviour of officers from this Department and their promptness in attending public problems that an image of the Government gets created in the minds of common people. I earnestly feel that we need to put more efforts at every level with a view to develop and improve work culture in these offices.

Many departments contribute their might to the overall development of the State. The implementation of various people oriented and development projects from the Government is carried out through various departments such as Agriculture, irrigation, education, cooperation, health, industry, power and others. An effective control and coordination is essential for implementation of all these programmes. This responsibility is shouldered by the Revenue

Department. While considering the responsibilities of a Revenue Officer he is rightly called as the backbone of administration. A Revenue Officer is also considered a link between the elected representatives and the common people. When we look at all these factors of importance for Revenue Department, all of us are striving for making it more people oriented, efficient, speedy as well as transparent and we are gaining success in the same.

Various Government departments have many efficient and prompt officers and staff. On their own everyone tries for improvement in administration. They are implementing many innovative schemes to streamline and accelerate the administrative work by bringing simplicity in the system. Many a times their efforts are reciprocated by the public as well. The thought of compiling information about all such notable schemes and processes implemented all over the State and proceed to implement these on State level came up during the meeting of District Collectors held in Pune last year. A decision was taken by the State to implement the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan at all the Districts in the State from 1st May 2011 and its implementation started immediately. In addition, making better facilities available through the medium of this Campaign, the Revenue Department also has tried to use the Information Technology effectively to bring improvement in the Government work and this is really a commendable effort.

The Campaign was able to accelerate many schemes such as online process for issuance of various certificates by Revenue Department, e-Lokshahi helpline for getting information about the various Government schemes and redressal of public grievances, implementation of e-Chavadi system etc. Usage of most modern systems and technology such as mobile, Internet, Video Conferencing, GPS, Satellite imaging in Government work so as to resolve the public problems promptly, deferred and appeal Revenue matters to be decided on priority, setting up of a HELP DESK and Public Relations Cell in every District Collector and Tehsil office, setting up of Biometric System for attendance records of officers and staff and others. As many such decisions were implemented through the Swarna

Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan all over the State, one can see the resultant acceleration in administrative work at every place.

With an immaculate public response to the Campaign, the enthusiasm of the Revenue Officers has also increased. We can always say that a great work to uplift the image of the Revenue Department and alternatively of the State Government is being carried out successfully through this Campaign.

The Campaign has been successful in inculcating a work culture in the officers and the staff of Revenue Department.

The Right to Information Act has definitely brought restrictions on the evil tendencies and illegal practices. Besides this, the effect of the campaign has made the decision process more people-centric, transparent and clear.

However the officers need to work with the sentiments for public welfare instead of a dread. They should understand the problems of the people and come forward to help them with a sensitive mindset.

Over the last few years the Revenue Department has taken great efforts in bringing improvements in their work. District Collector Nashik has implemented computerised system for providing NA permission in short time and efforts to stop illegal constructions. This project will shortly be implemented in the entire State. We have started e-tendering process for sand auctions. Apart from prevention of the illegal activities, this has also helped in improving the revenue collection. The relations between the revenue administration and the people at large have been strengthened due to prompt services provided to them through various innovative schemes such as e-Mojani, e-Pherphar, e-Nakasha, e-Chavadi and Scanning of land records.

The State Government could effectively resolve the issues

of distribution of lands to the Khandakari farmers due to the efforts taken by the Revenue Department. All of us are satisfied that we could provide justice to the Khandakari farmers and their heirs after a positive decision by Hon. Supreme Court. We were also successful in providing ownership rights to the bedekhal kul [farm labourers] from Konkan by resolving long pending matters and thus providing justice to them. We were able to restore justice to the landholder farmers from Vidarbha and to provide them ownership rights, a special campaign has been implemented. The Revenue Department has provided a huge assurance to the people of Vidarbha by resolving the question of about 40,000 Nazul lands in Nagpur and Amravati regions. Through a relaxation of the condition for a Domicile Certificate for examinees born in Maharashtra we took a decision to accept either Birth Certificate or the School Leaving Certificate. We could mitigate a huge inconvenience to the students and youth of the State due to this decision. We have been able to decide around 3,50,000 matters placed by the Adivasis in connection with the forest lands rights and they have now been provided with ownership of these lands. The process of N. A. permissions in the Municipal Corporation areas has been simplified.

Through a variety of such people oriented decisions by the Revenue Department, the gap between the Government and the populace has definitely reduced and the people of the State have been convinced that the Government and the administration is committed to public interests. I am confident that Revenue Department would continue to work with a people oriented, efficient, speedy as well as transparent approach in the future. ■

- As told to:

Sanjay Deshmukh

Transparent and Citizen-centric



Common man is at the centre of all the schemes being implemented by Revenue Department

The Revenue Department has a vast gamut from birth records to inheritor certificates various things related to day-today life of the people. It is the trustee of the crores of citizens of the State. It is the Department that can reach out to the last person in the village, hence it also implements other departments' schemes such as Small Savings, Family Planning, Public Distribution System etc. explains **Balasaheb Thorat**, Minister for Revenue



What were feelings at the time of accepting the responsibility of this department considered to be vital in the cabinet hierarchy?

Revenue Department has a revered history and a tradition of more than 150 years. Revenue and Police are the

first two departments British started when they created the administrative system in India. Having served as the MLA for 27 years, including 12 years as Minister of State and Cabinet Minister, when I got this opportunity, I felt honoured. I

resolved to dedicate all my efforts and work vigorously.

What was your experience so far handing this Department?

As I have said earlier, the scope of work this Department is tremendous.

I took over the charge in November 2010, on the verge of the Winter Session of the Legislature at Nagpur. I took as the auspicious occasion rather, as the best time to study the administration and understand its intricacies for one gets best informed about the topics that are placed in the House through Q and A, Calling Attention Motion, Cut Motion, Half-an-hour Discussions and other such democratic weapons used by the Opposition. One gets a fair idea about the working of the Department. I had apprised myself of the land distribution policies, the relevant Acts. This initial experience proved invaluable for me.

As Minister for Agriculture you successfully implemented the 'Mahapeek' campaign. Did you initiate any such campaign in Revenue Department?

In the Revenue Department with the routine work different initiatives are undertaken as a continuous process such as revision of voter lists, students' census etc. Updating the revenue records, tally of revenue receipts and inspection of the revenue records were carried out traditionally every year after the onset of monsoon for nearly 4 months. However this included mostly internal aspects and common man was not benefited in such initiatives. The Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan, was taken up on 1st May 2011. This included 11 different schemes. This year we have added 19 schemes in the Campaign. The common man was at the centre of all the schemes.

What are the results of the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan?

The Campaign is being very efficiently implemented. Last year we have distributed total 42,40,000 certificates of various kinds. The administration gave a pleasant surprise to the citizens by handing over the necessary certificates by organising camps. This came as a great relief for them as hurdles and

hitches of getting the certificates from the concerned offices were avoided. In the same way we undertook a campaign to remove encroachments on farm roads to make them available for transport. Under this project encroachments from over 25,000 kilometers of farm roads were removed. Around 7,50,000 farmers were benefitted. The whole exercise was implemented through public participation, meaning the Government did not have to bear any expenses for removal of these encroachments. As the farm roads were cleared, it was easy to transport farm produce. At the same time we organized Pherphar Adalat at Revenue circle level for deciding mutations for long pending land ownership right matters. Total 9,00,000 mutations were carried out. The Samadhan Scheme envisaged a gathering of the concerned Government officers from various departments from Taluka at the Revenue circle with a view to get the different work done for which people do not have to go taluka offices. Over 19,70,000 citizens benefited from this scheme. Under the e-Chavadi project the Talathis purchased the laptops on their own. All records were computerized. The scheme is in progress at 24 of the 35 districts. The project is getting overwhelming response.

What modifications have been done to the Land Records, the most crucial part of the Revenue Department?

As far as the Revenue Department is concerned, people only know about Talathi, Tehsildar, Sub-divisional officer, District Collector offices and the work carried out at these places as Revenue Department. Very few people know that the Stamp Duty Offices and Land Records offices working upto taluka level are also a part of the Revenue Department.

The Land Records section deals with the land measurements, boundary corrections, land maps, village maps and others.

By creating original land records,

this department lays foundation of work for entire Revenue Department. For the land measurements, common man comes in contact with this section. On taking over the charge I gave first preference to the large number of pending applications for measurement and the time required for measurement.

I discussed with the Settlement Commissioner. When I found out that we did not have the necessary manpower for deciding the huge number of pending applications, we took a policy decision to carry out measurements by a private Surveyor. Apart from this we felt the need for a time bound programme for deciding all the pending measurement matters. We took a decision to implement Zero Pendency Scheme in May 2011. Accordingly we prepared an action plan to mitigate all the matters pending as on 31st May 2011 to be decided by the end of December 2011. We even transferred services of the staff from one district to other one where there was larger burden of measurements.

The officers and the staff of the Land Records Department provided good cooperation and support, as a result, 98 per cent of the 65,000 pending matters for measurements were completed and the maps were handed over by the end of December 2011. The unresolved 2 per cent cases were either sub-judice or addresses of the occupant were untraceable.

Our next step is e-measurement. Under this Scheme, when a person submits application for the measurement, he is provided with the date of measurement and the name of the surveyor in writing along with the receipt of his application.

There was a dreadful question of vacant posts. We sanctioned the recruitment for posts in Land Records Department. The recruitment is now complete. All the Taluka and District level offices of Measurement were connected by Internet and new computers were made available to them.

Which are the ambitious projects undertaken by the Land Records Department?

Land Record is the base of the Revenue Department. This department prepares original land records. The Settlement programme - measurement of the land in the entire State - was initiated in 1830 and was completed in 1930. The other important constituent of the settlement is fixing of land revenue based on the grade of the land. In the recent past many of the non-cultivable lands have been brought under cultivation due to the use of latest agricultural technology and if fresh settlement is to be carried out it would place non-cultivable land under the land revenue. The land which was earlier of a lower grade and got upgraded due to modern technology would attract land revenue at a higher rate. However this would put extra burden on the farmers. Considering all these factors we have taken a decision to effect only a re-survey instead of the fresh

settlement. This is also an extensive work and we would be using the latest technology for the same. On an experimental basis the re-survey work has been started for an area more than 6,000 hectares in Mulshi Taluka of Pune District. Considering the experiences from this pilot project a programme for re-survey of entire land in the State will be undertaken. The extent of this work is enormous and requires a huge component of manpower. The project will also be funded under the National Land Records Modernization Programme.

Once this work is complete the disputes emerging from the boundaries and occupancies would be over. The common man will get a huge relief through this exercise. With the availability of accurate land records there would also be a reduction in litigations. Alongwith this, the e-Pherphar scheme has also been on experimental basis. Once the land sale transaction has been registered with the Sub- Registrar, a mutation notice is printed immediately and

signatures of occupants are obtained on the same. Within a period of 15 days any objection can be raised about the transaction. The mutation can be sanctioned after the expiry of this period. Thus the mutation process starts as soon as the transaction is complete. Under the e-records project, old 7/12 records and to keep track of mutation entries that notify changes in ownership of land over the years are being made available to the public. This project has also been taken up on an experimental basis in Haveli and Mulshi Taluka of Pune District and we are thinking about implementation of the same all over the State in the ensuing year.

What changes have been brought about in Stamp Duty Department?

Stamp Duty Department is an important constituent of the Revenue Department. Last year this Department contributed over Rs 14,000 crore revenue to the State exchequer. The offices of this Department are in every Taluka.



Documents such as sale and purchase of land, lease deeds, contracts of various types have a legal standing only when these are registered. Considering the value of registered document as a legal proof, the number of documents being registered is increasing every year.

A master plan has been drafted for providing basic facilities such as waiting room, drinking water and others for common people who visit the offices for registration. Under this we are renovating all Registration offices in the State within next 5 years at an expense of Rs. 300 crore. Funds of Rs. 55 crore were made available last year for this renovation and also provision of Rs 25 crore has been made. We are also starting 29 new offices at Mumbai, Pune and Thane. Out of these 2 offices in Mumbai have started to work from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. so that the general public can utilize the services of Registration offices after their daily chores are over.

The e-payment method is being implemented so that the Stamp duty required for various transactions could be paid online. As the facility for payment of Stamp duty is available online through the net-banking, the matters such as handling of cash, purchase of Stamps and getting the franking for documents are avoided.

Out of the total revenue generation of Rs. 14,500 crore, an amount of Rs. 7,300 crore has been credited through e-payment.

With a view to save waiting time for the citizens at registration offices, the e-Step in scheme has been implemented in the State. With this the registration time can be booked in advance through the Internet. While carrying out the property transactions, the clients check the records for last 30 years to find out if there are any obstacles or otherwise. This is called Search.

Till now for this work one had to visit the concerned office and pay the Search fees to search the documents. As the computerization of the Registration offices was started in 2002, the complete data between 2002 and 2012 is available from the Data registration department. e-Search facility has been made available on the website of the Inspector General of Registrations. A very ambitious programme of connecting all the sub Registrar offices of the State to the Central server has been undertaken. Immediate compilation of various information, proper control, safe storage of the documents for general public are some of the benefits that will accrue to the public with the use of I-SARITA software. While discussing matters of the Stamp duty and Land

Records Department it is observed that computerization has been used on a large scale.

Land Records and Stamp Duty sections of your Department have been computerised? What way has it been useful?

A decade has passed after we entered the 21st Century. The World has come closer with Internet. The use of computers is increasing in the Stamp Duty and Registration Departments. The Revenue Department does not also lag in the use of computers. In the Pune Revenue Division, the regular review for all the Districts under its jurisdiction is carried out with a specially developed computer system. All the information from the Districts upto taluka level is available through this method.

After considering the experiences from Pune region, the system would be implemented all over the State during the next year. The e-Office system was inaugurated at the hands of Chief Minister in Sindhudurg District on the 24th December 2012. All Tehsil offices have been connected to the District Collectorate and the submission of files and the decisions are being taken online. At the same time with the increasing use of Video Conferencing the proportion of regular types of face to face meetings of the Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors has reduced. The Revenue Department now aims at making its services available to the public online instead of making people stand in a queue at the concerned offices.

Please spell out the important policy decisions of the Revenue Department?

Many policy decisions have been taken. The decisions which provided relief to the common people are important from my point of view. We were witnessing the fight of the Khandakaris for the last 5 decades. We fought for removal of the historic injustice to these farmers upto the Hon. Supreme Court. We removed all





the obstacles in the way of returning lands to the khandakari farmers. The distribution of these lands is in progress at the moment. The decisions on matters such as renewal of lease for Nazul lands in Vidarbha and providing land ownership rights to the landholding farmers were being delayed for many years. We took policy decisions in both these matters. The revised policy decision on Nazul lands has provided relief to more than 40 lakh lease holders. More than 86,000 land holder farmers have been bestowed with ownership rights for more than 1,20,000 hectares area. While implementing the Forest Rights Act we could provide legal rights to more than 3,25,000 Adivasi land holders. We took a decision to increase the remuneration of Kotwals working for Revenue Department at the village level. At the same time we reserved 25% of the posts of Peons (Class IV category) for recruitment from the Kotwals.

More than 11,500 Bedakhal Kul farmers from Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts could be provided ownership rights through our efforts.

The condition to obtain permission for selling the land received by the tiller was removed by making an amendment in the Act. I took many other decisions. But through the decisions mentioned here, I felt satisfied that I could do something for the common people...

What are the future plans for the Revenue Department?

During my tours and in the meetings in different areas of the State it occurred to me that in many of the Districts there were certain local problems pending for a long time. In Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts there are certain problems regarding the lands held by Bengali refugees. The Rajura, Korpana and Jivati Talukas of the Chandrapur District were a part of Hyderabad State earlier. I felt it necessary to undertake a planned strategy to find such problems, think about viable solution to resolve the same and take a time-bound decision on the same.

We are issuing instruction to District Collectors to find out such chronic problems from the District

and to include the same in the District plans. With this we would ensure a thorough discussion on the chronic and delayed problems and most of the problems could be on way to be resolved. At the same time we are thinking to increase the use of Information Technology in day to day activities of the Revenue Department and to make available most of the revenue services online.

Many of the Acts, Regulations and Policies related to the Revenue Department have become redundant. It is necessary to bring in changes with the passage of time.

By appointing an expert committee, we will obtain a report on the changes that are necessary to be implemented. This would make the provisions of the Acts and Regulations simple and useful to common people. To summarize, I would say that the objective of Revenue Department would be to make available their services to common people in an accurate, prompt, simple and transparent manner. ■

As told to: **Manik Gutte**, Deputy Secretary, Revenue Department

Accelerating Towards New Avenues

The State has collected 143 per cent more revenue than the estimated targets...

Revenue Department promptly handles people-oriented issues. Apart from dissemination of Government schemes among the people, with the help of modern technology we have emphasized strengthening of Revenue Department explains Minister of State for Revenue, **Prakash Solanke**.

Revenue Department holds significant importance in the Government. The farmers and the common people are regularly in touch with this Department. In order that various matters related to the public should be handled promptly and to make revenue administration people oriented we decided to implement "Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan" in the State. The objective was to carry the effective implementation of schemes already successful at some revenue districts in other districts as well. At the same time through this movement we also initiated innovative procedures which would address and resolve the grievances of the citizens in a transparent and accelerated manner considering him to be the core entity of the process.



from this the complicated land survey work, was made easier through e-survey. Right from registering the applications for survey and providing a date for the same to the completion of the process, the work is being carried out through the software.

A special initiative has been taken to transform the landholding farmers to landowners across the Vidarbha

Apart from effective dissemination of Government schemes among the people, with the help of modern technology we have emphasized strengthening of the Revenue Department. We have brought standardization for various certificates and services provided by the Revenue Department as also the applications, forms and affidavits etc

under the E-District Project. Under the National e-governance Project, it has been decided to create a Mah E-service Centre for every four villages.

We have also started an e-Lokshahi System (Helpline) to procure information and complaint redressal.

Under the e-Chavadi project the Talathis started to oversee the official work through a Laptop. The effective use of Information Technology in terms of Mobile, Internet, Video Conferencing, GPS and satellite images was increased in Government work.

The computerization of 7/12 extracts was undertaken at a massive scale. The work would be completed within next two years. The e-Tendering system was made mandatory for sand auctions. Apart



In addition to this the schemes utilizing modern technology such as e-Pherphar (Online Mutation), e-Nakasha (Digitalization of Maps), Scanning of the Land Records, Barcode System and e-Chavadi would be extremely useful in providing Quality services to the people.

Revenue Department has also been assigned many other operational duties. In order to appropriately felicitate the officers and the staff who toil earnestly to achieve targets to fulfill the revenue responsibilities. We celebrate Revenue Day every year.

The officers and the staff putting in the best efforts on a Regional level are felicitated on this day.

Over the last year we have provided a new direction to the Revenue Department through various path breaking decisions. For applicants appearing for competitive entrance examinations and also for those seeking admission for higher

During the 1st year of the "Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan", there was a great response from the public. Camps were organized under the movement for distribution of various certificates and 40 lakh Certificates were distributed during the period 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012. Through the public participation 25,323 kilometers of roads were constructed passing through the encroached and barren agriculture land. By organizing 'Pherphar Adalats' (Modification Camps) a total of 8,70,272 land records were sanctioned. 56,000 revenue and appeal matters deferred till 1st April 2011 were decided. Under the e-Chavadi scheme 2,500 Talathis were provided with Laptops and 82,000 documents such as 7/12 extracts and others were distributed apart from 19 lakh various certificates under Samadhan Scheme...

studies we have relaxed the conditions and agreed to accept school leaving certificate in place of domicile certificate. We have started distribution of lands to those Khandakari farmers. Bedakhil Kuls from Konkan have been provided with

the ownership rights of the lands. We have carried out a time bound project by completing the delayed land surveys on priority and bringing in zero pendency. In order to resolve the survey matters of the farmers without any delay we have appointed Private Surveyor. For bringing transparency in sand auctions, e-tendering is being implemented. The renovation and repairs of the Regional Revenue offices has been planned. Commands for the e-surveys have been prepared for matters of survey. While the lease rentals for Nazul lands have been fixed the Government has declared Nazul strategy for Nagpur and Amravati regions with simplified procedure for transfer permissions. In order that the public should receive excellent services and facilities, the Government has started modernization of Stamp Duty offices in the State. ■

- As told to **Mukta Pawar**



Conceptualizing the New Ideas

Post your Complaints: CALL TOLL FREE HELPLINE...

“We have devised a strategy by which young officers inducted into Indian Administrative Services would be required to serve Tribal areas during their 1st posting. Eight such IAS officers are already serving in tribal areas as Project Director at the Integrated Tribal Development Project in the State” **Swadhin Kshatriya**, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue.



How did the huge success of Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan unfold?

It has been proved beyond any doubts that the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan (Golden Jubilee Revenue Campaign) has resulted in a tremendous success. I would say that the Government of Maharashtra created this immense people oriented drive under the aegis of Revenue Administration and the people of the State reciprocated with a huge positive response to the same.

One of the main targets of the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan was clearing of encroachments from thousands of village farm roads with the help of local villagers. It was

not an easy task. We had to show them the land maps from the British era where perfect marking of farm roads was available including their length and width. However over the generations together the roads were being encroached upon. We also had to make it clear to them that if they do not cooperate in removing the encroachments the Government could use quasi-judicial powers of Tehsildars to remove the encroachment. In such case the village people would not get relief from any Court as there are proper land records of the farm roads with the Government. We also assured the villagers that if they arranged

for leveling of the sunken roads and digging of roadside trenches for effective drainage, the Government will convert the farm roads into tar roads.

The persuasion proved valuable. There was a positive response and we could restore thousands of farm roads in 14 districts. I personally visited many villages without giving prior notice to the concerned persons to verify the results of the drive and found that the people were happy. Earlier they were not able to drive tractors or farming machinery to their farms but now they were able to transport their agricultural produce without any hindrance by these farm roads.

We are aware that the challenge

before us now is to make the drive sustainable. I am discussing with Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors via video conferencing once in a month to take stock of various drives implemented by the Revenue Department. In addition to this I am the only Principal Secretary or now Additional Chief Secretary from the Department who calls for a meeting of the officers in addition to the video conferencing. This is a two-day comprehensive meeting where we analyze our successes and failures in implementing schemes of the department. During such meeting I provide them a phased out programme for implementation throughout the year. The programmes which were implemented successfully and have become part of system are not repeated next year. For example the installation of Biometric System at Revenue Offices was implemented successfully and hence it was not repeated in the implementation list for the next year.

We have also put in place call centres in 25 districts to receive grievances and provide us a feedback about working system of Revenue Department. People just have to dial a TOLL FREE number and post their complaints at the HELPLINE.

This year we have introduced open reading of land records at villages. We called it 'Chavdi Vachan' (Public Reading at Chaupals) Programme. The Revenue Officials reaches the village and reads out official land records in terms of the quantum of lands in the village held by persons with their names. When some mistakes are found while reading of these records the villagers come forward and tell us about the present status of the land. The status is about a certain holder of the land who may have died or certain persons may have been shown to hold more or less of the land than what is shown in the land records. After verification of the facts the land records get corrected following due procedure. I have also directed the officials to clearly inform



the villagers of the number of public places with their respective areas and the total area of the village as well. Sometimes people inform us that the land earmarked as cremation ground for the village has been encroached and a building has been constructed on that land...!

We have distributed caste and income certificates at special camps held at schools. We have also removed the mandatory provision that an application is required to be submitted for these certificates. The school children need this certificate when they pass their SSC examinations and go for college admissions. This drive has helped the students in many ways. On taking over as Principal Secretary of Revenue Department I visited Tehsil offices and found a huge number of youth waiting in long queues to apply for Domicile Certificates. The application form had certain questions which were found to be ridiculous in nature. We sent a proposal to the Government mentioning that those who had valid birth certificate from the State and have completed school education in the State should not be asked for Domicile Certificate to apply for higher education in the State.

We have standardized the format of the application form required to be submitted for 16 certificates issued by Revenue Department. Earlier the format of the application form was different according to the region. This has been streamlined for the whole State.

One of the salient features of the Campaign has been resolving the Nazul land issue. How was this attained effectively?

The problem of Nazul land existed in Vidarbha and Marathwada. Nazul means Government land. These Nazul lands were given in the Nizam era. 40,000 pattas or lease of land were given by Nizam. There was a long term lease with duration ranging from 30 to 60 years. There was no policy in place to renew the lease of this land. In 1999 the State Government chalked out a policy for renewal of the lease but 642 petitions were filed in the court against the policy. The High Court asked State Government to either withdraw the policy or the Court will quash the same. Considering this we came out with a new policy and not a single petition was filed against the policy. It is a win-win situation for both the parties as the lessee are getting a chance to renew their lease and the State Government is benefitted by a huge revenue generated from the exercise.

A similar problem was faced in Mumbai as well. There are about 1600 lessee in Mumbai who were given land in the British era. The State Government came out with a policy to renew the lease but the people were unhappy and sought justice from Hon. High Court. The High Court has held that it was within the purview of the State Government to increase the lease rent but the same ought to be reasonable. We

studied the judgments of both the Hon. High Court and Supreme Court. On the lines of judgments delivered in these cases, we came out with 75:25 formulas for the lease rent and till date nobody has approached the Courts against this formula. We have taken decisions through a deep study and a will to resolve the matter. It can be seen that the people have accepted the method completely and with the least grouse.

You have personally visited tribal areas to verify the progress of the Government schemes being implemented in these areas. Could you elaborate on the significant Government plans to strengthen the official machinery in these tribal regions?

With a large Tribal belt in the State, there was always a void in understanding the needs and aspirations of the Tribals. With a view to provide better administration and a resolve to bring these people to the mainstream, we decided to create a source of interaction between the administration and the Tribals. We have devised a strategy by which young officers inducted in to Indian Administrative Services will be required to serve Tribal areas during their 1st postings. Eight such IAS officers are already serving in tribal areas as Project Director at the Integrated Tribal Development Project in the State.

I have taken up discussions with these officers via video conferencing. During the latest one, I spoke to Shri Chaudhari presently posted in Aheri Tehsil in a remote area of Gadchiroli district to know firsthand about his experiences in the area. During this discussion attended by all Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors he informed us categorically that it was the Revenue Department alone that was welcome in the region. Even the Naxals have told the people that Revenue Department is working excellently in a people oriented manner and that

the people have been able to take advantage of various schemes of the Department. I think this speaks volume about the sentiments of the people and truly endorses the success of Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan even in Naxal affected areas. The Tribals are participating in huge numbers at the camps organized by us for facilitating them in various matters.

When I personally visited tribal regions, I found out that the succession of the land ownership had not taken place for many years. So we thought of and implemented a special drive for



granting succession rights to Tribals.

We have been blessed by our great inheritance in terms of land records. These records have been maintained for last 200 years in the least. With the help of these records we have corrected the rights of 85,000 Tribals in Vidarbha region. We carried out this scheme successfully by organizing huge camps in an open atmosphere and with total transparency in the process.

Organization of Camps and bringing all concerned officers under one roof has been a very effective mass communication method. Could you explain the success with an example?

First of all we used the camps as a two way communication tool with the masses. This has resulted in a huge success with the people. Camps have been successful to extend benefits of all Government schemes to the people at large. Officers from all Departments are available under one roof at these

Camps. The people are made aware of various schemes and can avail all the benefits of these schemes. Villagers from 10 to 20 villages are usually called for such camps.

Take this example: While we announce the names of families below poverty line in these camps people are allowed to openly point out if a beneficiary is not eligible for the same. The records are corrected with due diligence. This is the way we have brought transparency to the system.

What are your main initiatives in terms of lands?

The Government is considered as Trustee for all the lands available in the State. Hence these initiatives have to be totally in sync with the expectations of the masses. We have taken certain major initiatives in case of lands held by Maharashtra Land Development Corporation. We have decided to hand over 25,000 acres of lands from these to the farmers in a phased manner. The farmers have been fighting for the land for the last 30-40 years and I am sure that their demands will be met soon.

There were certain clauses in the Land Tenancy Act which warranted a review in the changed context of the use of lands. We have made amendments in the Land Tenancy Act considering the issues. Now tenants can sell their land with due permission of the Revenue Department. We have simplified the procedure to sell the land as we consider them owners of the land for the last 50 years or so.

Revenue Department has been made famous through a Bollywood Film titled 'Lagaan'. Collection of the 'Lagaan' or revenue is one of our prime responsibilities however we are also charged with the responsibility as a nodal agency for other Government Departments. With totally dedicated efforts Revenue Department is striving to improve services and to make it speedy, transparent and people friendly in every sense of the word... ■

- As told to **Subhash Shirke**

Campaigning the Sociable Administration

Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan is implemented by amalgamating people oriented initiatives

The Revenue Department is continuously striving to overcome obstacles, disseminate Government schemes to the people and strengthen and empower the Revenue administration with effective coordination. In order to make Revenue administration more people oriented, efficient, speedy and transparent, the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan is being implemented by integrating many intellectual talents.



Revenue Officer happens to be the backbone of the administration and he is also an important link between elected representatives and the people at large. The common citizens who are connected with the land in number of ways and day to day problems at heart of the farmers are in his contact. While the State is celebrating the Golden Jubilee Year, the Revenue Department is determined to speed up administration and take assured steps to resolve problems of citizens. The Revenue Department is continuously striving to overcome obstacles, to disseminate Government schemes to the people and to strengthen and empower the Revenue administration with effective coordination. In order to make the Revenue administration more people oriented, efficient, speedy and transparent, Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan is being implemented by integrating many intellectual talents.

BEGINNING

The visionary perceptions by the elected representatives and the work of the administrative officers are the two major contributors to the progress made by a State. One has to face many administrative obstacles while resolving the problems faced by the common people. Administrative officers often devise many innovative ideas and experiments in their districts so as to make the administrative machinery act faster and in a coordinated way and make it easier for the public. If an innovative experiment proves successful and receives huge positive response, the experiment gets implemented not only at the State but at the national level as well. A conference of all the Divisional Commissioners and the District Collectors was held on March 8, 2011 at YASHADA, Pune under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, as it was felt that compiling all these various ideas and experiments and bringing it under one umbrella

and integrating it in the State will benefit the citizens. Some of the successful schemes implemented by the District Collectors and the Divisional Commissioners for making the administration speedy and people oriented were presented at the Conference. By amalgamating a few selected schemes the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan is being implemented in all the districts of the State with effect from 1st May 2011.

AIMS OF THE DRIVE

- Compilation of the projects undertaken earlier for the benefit of the people/success stories.
- Simplification of law/rules and the system of its working.
- To achieve public interest by decentralization of power and administrative reforms.
- Effective use of Information and Technology in the administrative work.
- To uplift the image of the administration in the minds of the common people.

CAMPAIGN FEATURES

A Government Order was issued for implementation of the Golden Jubilee Revenue Campaign on the 13th April 2011. The Government Order mentioned a total of 11 initiatives. It was mandatory to implement a minimum of 8 initiatives out of these considering the priorities of the District. The initiatives were:

- Organizing camps for issue of various certificates.
- Availability of requisite application forms for certificates ONLINE...
- Making the facilities for applying ONLINE after compliance of the required documents through SUVIDHA SETU CENTER and Common Service Centre [Maha-e seva Kendra]
- Open up the encroached and various blocked/ shut entries/village roads to the villages as per the village maps.
- Disposal of the Pherphar/Mutation

entries pending for more than one month. Hold Pherphar/Mutation Adalat at mandal Headquarters (Pherphar Adalat).

- Making available a Helpline called e-Lokshahi for getting information and resolve the complaints.
- To implement Samadhan Yojana to provide all facilities for the citizens under one roof.
- E-Chavadi Scheme
- Dispose off all pending quasi judicial matters in original jurisdiction and appeals as of April 1, 2011 within one year.
- Start a Facilitation Centre at every district collectorate and tehsil office for the convenience of the citizens.
- Install Bio-metric attendance system for attendance recording of officers and staff at the divisional Commissioner/district collector/sub-divisional office and tehsil offices.

The Campaign received an overwhelming response all over the State. The citizens and the elected representatives were seen striving for the success of various schemes alongwith the Officers. The Revenue Administration reached the doorsteps of the population through its programmes including the certificate camps, Pherphar/Mutation Adalats and Samadhan Scheme. This helped spread of positive message among all the citizens about the administration. The officials and employees were devoid of the fear and took to extensive use of the facilities in the IT. On the whole the picture was tremendously positive and one of assurance.

BENEFITS

- Different certificates are a subject matter close to the citizens. The Revenue administration was successful in giving a pleasant surprise to the people at the time of admissions of students to schools and colleges. Through innumerable camps held all over the State a huge number of Certificates were issued.



The programme was implemented by officers and the staff at Villages and remote areas of Adivasi habitats as well as urban area at time forgoing their weekly holiday. The division wise certificates issued given below speak for themselves:

Sr. No.	Region	No. of certificates issued
1	Amravati	416521
2	Aurangabad	896832
3	Konkan	517516
4	Nagpur	431625
5	Nashik	1129896
6	Pune	593251
	TOTAL	3985641

• Availability of requisite applications online

Under the National E-governance project, a decision has been taken by the State Government to start a Common Service Centre called Maha-e-Seva Kendra for each of four villages. Many Districts have launched their own websites and taken a lead in the distribution of certificates ONLINE.

FARM ROADS

Paths leading to the farms are subject close to the heart of the farmers. Revenue department receives several complaints always with regard to the paths being blocked. In this drive with the help of public participation and with the help of the village map, the encroachments were removed. A number of blocked roads in the entire State were freed and cleared of encroachments thus giving relief to the villagers. Not resting here work on several roads were taken up number of districts under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The division wise figures of the roads:

S. No.	Region	Roads cleared (in Kilometers)
1	Amravati	3853
2	Aurangabad	11590.3
3	Konkan	144.81
4	Nagpur	2186.03
5	Nashik	2658.85
6	Pune	4890.81
	TOTAL	25323.33

• Organisation of Pherphar/ Mutation Adalats

Mutation is extremely important in land documents. The common people always find the Mutation process as complicated. In order to mitigate this fact, a Mutation Adalat is organized on second Tuesday of every month at Mandal level. The revenue administration went a step ahead not only in the case of mutations deferred for more than a month but strived 24x7 for removing the shortcomings of old remarks, recording of heirs, expired banks, society charges were rectified and removed from the land records of the applicants.

In State in a month record number of 870282 mutations were carried out.

• e-Lokshahi System

With the effective use of Information technology the e-Lokshahi system was implemented throughout the State to resolve the complaints of the citizens. The citizens can lodge their complaints sitting at home. The system is operative in 21 districts of the State.

• **SAMADHAN SCHEME to provide all facilities to the citizens under one roof...**

The Samadhan Yojana was implemented successfully with a view that those at villages and who are eligible for the different Government schemes and to get the different work done need not come to taluka head quarters and they should get all the benefits of various schemes at the Mandal level itself. A total of 1905062 citizens from the entire State took benefit of the SAMADHAN Yojana.

Sr. No.	Region	No. of Citizens who took advantage
1	Amravati	159621
2	Aurangabad	233942
3	Kokan	211273
4	Nagpur	542839
5	Nashik	73818
6	Pune	683539
TOTAL		1905062

• **e-Chavadi Scheme...**

An experiment of making the employees adopt the Information Technology in their work culture instead of running away from it proved successful in the entire State. The Talathis are carrying out their office work with Laptops. The Talathis have spontaneously purchased the laptops. A total of 2259 Talathis from the State have purchased Laptops and are making use of the same for their day to day work.

• **Disposing off pending quasi judicial matters...**

The number of quasi judicial matters pending as on 1st April 2011 was

Sr. No.	Region	Number of matters decided
1	Amravati	4128
2	Aurangabad	2693
3	Kokan	12913
4	Nagpur	9553
5	Nashik	11310
6	Pune	14969
TOTAL		55566

gathered and scrutinized for partly heard matters. Of them the matters pending for a long time were handled and disposed off on priority. This has helped decisions on the semi-judicial matters in a time bound and qualitative manner.

• **Extensive use of Mobiles, internet.....**

Information Technology tools are being effectively used in all the offices of the Divisional Commissioner/ District Collector/Sub-Divisional Officer and Tehsil offices. This has accelerated the work process and resulted in saving time and money.

• **Facilitation Centres at district and tehsil offices**

Facilitation Centres have been set up in all the districts in the State for guidance, dialogue and co-ordination and clearing the doubts of the visitors.

• **The way ahead through successful planning...**

With an overwhelming success of this Campaign, it was resolved to implement this campaign with necessary amendments at a conference of all the Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors held at YASHADA, Pune on the 17th and 18th May 2012 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister. It was further decided to continue with the most beneficial schemes of the earlier year and to include additional schemes to the plans to be implemented during the current year. The Government has vide its order dated July 4, 2012 decalred the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan for the year 2012-13. The modified programme was launched in all the districts on 1st August 2012. Previously the Campaign included



• **Biometric attendance system**

In order that officers and employees attends office in time thereby making the administration effective and people oriented, the Government had issued instructions for initiating Biometric System vide a Government Order dated the 27th October 2010. This has helped in bringing the punctuality in the administrative work.

11 schemes and now contains total 19 schemes which are also receiving overwhelming response from the people.

• **Zero Pendency...**

This drive will be undertaken to complete the administrative work within the specific time frame by clearing the pending work in



the revenue offices by classifying them. In addition to this records will be modernized and 6 Bundle Duftar system will be implemented predominantly.

- **Chavadi Vachan (Public Reading of Records of Rights)...**

The core of this scheme is public reading of the village records at least once a year and thus keeping the village records updated and rectify the lapses.

- **Non Agriculture Permissions with faster and transparent system...**

The method implemented by the District Collector, Nashik for curbing the unauthorized constructions and make the permissions available to the people with less efforts and time to be implemented all over the State.

- **E-tendering System for Sand Auctions...**

This year the E-tendering system for Sand Auctions has been made mandatory all over the State.

- **Online Mutation...**

In order to carry out mutations of the registered deeds, the offices of the Talathi and mandal will be connected

to the office of the Sub-registrar with the dedicated network and system. As the office of the Sub-registrar will undertake computerized mutation of entries, the citizens will not be required to go to the office of the Talathi.

- **Land Revenue Settlement of Village...**

This has been a sensitive issue but has been ignored to some extent. It has been decided to complete the Jambandi of all the villages by 31st July and the demand for the next year will be finalised based on them.

- **Scanning of Land Records...**

All important records such as old mutations old 7/12 extracts, Aakarband are now being preserved by way of scanning these records. It would be possible to make them available to the citizens as and when required.

- **Information Kiosks...**

An Information Kiosk will be designed with a facility of touch screen so that all the scanned records are available for viewing and these could also be easily printed.

- **Mining Monitoring System**

- **(Bar coding)...**

With a view to prevent the misuse of the minor minerals transportation passes and curb bogus receipts, the receipts issued for such transportation will include the bar codes.

- **Implementation of Government Schemes through AADHAAR CARD number...**

With a view to enhance the use of AADHAAR CARD and to provide the benefits of various Government schemes through the AADHAAR CARD, all the District Collectors would be implementing this scheme after studying the system adopted by District Collector, Aurangabad.

Considering the benefits of the drive undertaken last year the drive is being implemented this year also making use of the experience of last year and with certain modifications. The entire administration is confident that the drive will be successful this year too.

There is no doubt that the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan which has become so popular in a very short period will surely the image of the administration of not only the State Government which is on forefront at all times, but also of the Centre.

- Archana Shambhakar

Land Revenue Policy of Shivaji Maharaj

Shivaji Maharaj drafted new policy for land revenue

Shivaji Maharaj was always quite alert so that there should not be any injustice from his officers towards the population. He brought many reforms in the Land Revenue system and promulgated changes based on local conditions, says the senior historian **Pandurang Balkawade**

India being an agrarian country, mostly people here depend on the agriculture. In the event of a drought for consecutive two years the farmers used to exit the villages and lands and went absconding. The raids from the adjoining emperors were a routine matter. This used to result in destruction of crops. Many a times the natural infestation destroyed the crops. Not only the entire villages but the granaries were also looted. The most distressing factor was the looting of cattle useful for cultivation. The culmination of all these factors was deprivation of peace and stability for the farmers. The populace used to vacate village after village and no crop was taken from the lands at vacated places. Many reports on the events at the villages carried references such as the village was in ruins or that it has been deserted and the standing crops were grounded due to crop diseases. On the whole, the farmers were in a totally distraught and precarious condition and were able to generate income just enough to sustain life. The crops were lost either due to droughts or excessive rains and floods. Sometimes the cattle was lost due to diseases and made cultivation for the next season very difficult. In addition to all these, the Government officers used to collect exorbitant revenue from farmers. The land assessment and taxes were indefinite

and ascending...

In other words the agricultural conditions were totally unstable. The farmers were crushed between Mughal and Adilshahi kingdom and their tyrannical methods of tax collection and could not get any solace whatsoever. This had resulted in the farmer of this country becoming bankrupt.

THE CONDITION OF FARMERS IN MUGHAL EMPIRE

The tyranny inflicted on the populace has been described by some contemporary Europeans in their works. Francisco Pailsayart was an officer of the Dutch East India Company and served at their Agra warehouse from 1621 to 1627. In his 1627 report he has described the condition of farmers in the Mughal Empire. He says, "The poor farmers are so much oppressed for copious revenue collection that at the end of a year they are not left with enough food to mitigate their hunger. If due to drought or excessive rains and floods the farmer was unable to pay the Government revenue, the Government officer attached and confiscated his property and robbed him of his cattle and wealth. If this was not enough for an unfair officer, he would also forcibly rob the farmer of his wife and children and sell them as slaves in the market. If

a person moves the administration against these excesses, the administrators are themselves found to encourage such acts. Then who will provide them justice? Who will be punished? Even if Kazi has the Law books, usually the laws are not followed. No one can get justice or mercy without money."

A French Doctor Franswa Bernie who stayed in the Mughal Empire from 1658 to 1667 states, "A major portion of the fertile lands in the Mughal Empire lies barren without farmers. This is because many of the farmers die due to the tyranny of the officers. Left without any option by the excessive tyranny they decide to leave the village to seek shelter in a city or military camp picking up poor jobs as labour, water boys, horse attendants and others to sustain life. The condition at the Mughal State is dilapidated due to excessive expenditures on the lakhs of people in military and the pomp and show at the Royal Mughal Court. Even with these conditions, the lavishness and the pomp and show of the Mughal Emperor and his Court have not reduced a bit".

THE CONDITION OF FARMERS IN ADILSHAHI

If this was the state of affairs in Mughal Empire, the conditions were not much different in the Southern

AdilShahi. In a letter dated 25th July 1664 to the then Govenr General of the Dutch East India Company by Peter Von Santavalet from Vengurla states, "The Jahagirdars of the AdilShahi entrust the work of collection of revenue from their Jahagir to a money lender on contract basis. This is a worst system through which these money lenders collect maximum revenue from the populace at times with extreme tyranny as well. These contractors move with honour and freedom in the society even while they carry out extortion, arson, massacre and burning lands."

CONDITION OF FARMERS IN QUTUBSHAHI

The same conditions prevailed within the QutubShahi Dynasty as well. The Chief Executive from Karo mandal warehouses of the British East India Company from 1618 to 1622, William Methwold wrote in 1626, "Just as other Emperors from India, this Emperor also gives his villages and provinces on rental basis. The rents are so exorbitant that the population has to sacrifice a lot due to the rentals or have to lead a beggar's life. All the high ranking officers are leading a lavish lifestyle based on the same extorted money while the population is completely distraught".

PUBLIC WELFARE POLICY OF SHIVAJI MAHARAJ AND PROSPERITY OF FARMERS

Shivaji Maharaj was the King of the people. He had very closely observed the devastated plight of the farmers and tillers and it is seen that he accepted the policy to bring reforms in this field at the Swarajya.

Shivaji Maharaj was aware that the earlier Governments and officers were collecting more than 50% of the income of the farmers as

taxes. This was a severe extortion for majority of people for whom the main profession was agriculture. While Shivaji Maharaj drafted the new policy for land revenue, he acted on a point of view that the whole population would be treated with the same principles irrespective of the religion they belonged to. He wanted to receive sincere affection and support from the farmers by eliminating the taxes laid on them through coercion.



Shivaji Maharaj brought many reforms in the Land Revenue system and promulgated changes based on local conditions. Instead of measuring the lands by thread system, he brought the stick system in operation. After this he eradicated the agents and middlemen from the collection system who were slowly eating up the base of the agriculture system itself. Further he decided the actual income from agriculture. For this he classified all the lands under his Government according to its fertility.

Changing the then existent Najarpahani or the Komula System at Adilshahi, Shivaji Maharaj brought and implemented Bighawani meaning measurements in terms of Bigha for the lands and started to fix the agricultural income. He also constructed Dams around the areas of Pune, made the water available for lands through canals and thus motivated the poor farmers about the help from the Government.

During the years 1667-1669 Shivaji Maharaj turned his attention to the Land Revenue system. He appointed Annaji Datto for accurate land measurements.

Annaji was a Surnis meaning a Government Record keeper. He used to prepare all the documents and proclamations. Shivaji Maharaj selected him as he was competent and experienced with excellent knowledge



about the traditions of the State. As he was a traditional Deshkulkarni from Sangameshwar he also had experience in maintaining income accounts of Mamle Prabhavali from Konkan.

The first project implemented by Annaji was for land measurements. There were three stages of this project namely Chavrana, Bighawani and Chakbandi. In other words, this was for deciding the boundaries for fertile lands and mapping them. Testing the quality of the soil was the next stage. After the classification of fertile lands, they were evaluated on the basis of crops. This was called as Lavani. This consisted either of Rabbi and Kharif crops or the two crops in a year. This would depend on whether the lands were arable or farmlands. The farmlands used to be divided in two

more classes such as Mot-sthal and Pat-sthal meaning lands irrigated under the water from a well or from a canal respectively.

The boundaries of such lands used to be marked with symbols. This was called as Chakbandi. Then a list was made of the people who held the possession of these fertile lands. This was called as Kulzada. Another list connected with the same land was then prepared. This was called as Jameenzada. Apart from these, it is found that there was another list called Sanadwar. This list contained the names of those who held the land documents as well as those of the PRAJA who were tilling the lands. Due to the Jameenzada the entire village as a community was responsible for payment of land taxes to the Government. Finally Annaji came to a conclusion that with proper implementation of the scheme 2/5th of the total income from the lands should reach the Government and 3/5th part should remain with the populace. He cancelled all the other taxation and troublesome cesses laid on farmers. The Patils, Khot, Kulkarni and other beneficiaries of a charter provided to them were sternly prohibited from exceeding their powers and interfere in the work of the Government officers. The taxes were charged only on the best quality fertile lands. The tax rates remained at 33% as earlier on the ordinary quality of lands.

Shivaji Maharaj was extremely careful about the cess and tax receivables on the lands. He paid special attention to the happiness of the populace. He made sure that none of the farmers or Zameendars was subjected to injustice. He prohibited his own officers from charging unjustified taxation. In order to achieve these objectives Shivaji Maharaj sought the help and cooperation of the local residents. In his mind the twin objectives of public interest and development of Swarajya had ultimate priority. However he never sacrificed public interest to

Agriculture before Shivaji era and Land Revenue System

India has been a traditionally agriculture based country and most of its population was more or less depended on agriculture. During the 17th Century a village was divided in two main parts. One was the residential land called 'Pandhari' (white) and the other agriculture land called 'Kali' (black). The black part was further divided into two main parts. The first was dependent on the nature and called arable land and the other was irrigated farmland. The farmland was further divided in to two parts. One was an area called 'patas' where the water from a dam, lake or canal was available and the other one was called 'Mot' which was irrigated from well water. Apart from this, the fallow lands on the borders of the village other than agricultural lands were used for feeding the cattle or as a grass fields. The main policy of the then Government was always to bring maximum of the fallow lands under cultivation and increase the revenue of the State. The same system prevailed in the Swarajya under the command of Shivaji Maharaj. It can be clearly seen that South Indian Kingdoms of Adilshahi, Nizamshahi and Kutubshahi as well as the Northern Mughal Empire were carrying out brutal economic exploitation of the farmers earlier to Shivaji era.

favour Swarajya development.

It is seen that the Government was fully aware of the problems faced by the farmers and an avalanche of calamities. Therefore Shivaji Maharaj was prompt in undertaking remedial measures so that the farmers were encouraged to bring their lands under cultivation.

While Annaji Datto moved from village to village and personally met farmers and the tillers, he minutely observed that certain lands were not yielding expected results even while these were quite fertile.

Although every care and caution was exercised in implementing taxation norms certain complaints from villagers remained unresolved. He took cognizance of these complaints and ordered for review of the cases where he felt that the complaints were genuine.

It can be clearly seen from this that the policy of the Government was not of extortion. It was only expected that the farmers deposit justified taxes with the exchequer. Shivaji Maharaj had ordered for making available the facilities such as bullocks, plough and good quality seeds for sowing to the poor farmers. The seeds used to be cultivated basically at Government lands. Shivaji Maharaj ensured that even the endowed lands did not remain as fallow ones. He withdrew such endowments. He endowed fallow lands to religious institutions so that they could bring them under cultivation and the foodgrain production was improved.

The residents of Akurdi village in Haveli Taluka took their plea to Shivaji Maharaj that even after toiling hard on the soil they could not get any yield. As a result the people have deserted the village. In addition to this the tax collector of the area had collected Rs. 40/- instead of Rs. 25/- from the villagers. Shivaji Maharaj took this tax collector to task in very harsh words.

In another incident, when the Government officers collected a higher quantum of land revenue

Another reform brought by Shivaji Maharaj was the large tax concessions and incentives provided to the farmers to encourage them to bring the fallow lands under cultivation. Shivaji Maharaj assured them of partial recovery of taxes from 4 years up to even 12 years. For the first 4 years there were no taxes to be paid. During the 5th year the taxation was 1/8th and then 1/6th, 1/4th, 1/2 and on 12th year, full land revenue were collected from the cultivator. This method of taxation with a bearing on the fallow land being brought under cultivation stage by stage is known as istava. Creating a confidence in the people the Government brought more and more fallow lands under cultivation and simultaneously added to the finances of the exchequer. The Government helped rehabilitation work in many ways. For example: If Kunbi people were ready to create a habitat with their cattle at a deserted village, they were allowed certain concessions in taxes. Similarly if a village was flooded or it was under a drought for two consecutive years or else the village was destroyed by enemy attack, the Government provided a liberal concession for land revenue and other taxes.

Shivaji Maharaj immediately ordered them to refund the excess amounts collected and adjust part in the taxes payable for the next year.

Shivaji Maharaj was always quite alert so that there should not be any injustice from his officers towards the population. While reminding about the duties as an officer through an order to a provincial officer of Prabhavali in 1676, Shivaji Maharaj wrote, "You should work honestly without getting enticed for even a leaf

(Shivcharitra Sahitya Vol. 9 Page 55)

Shivaji Maharaj was very strict that while the military was moving in the State, the people should in no way be inconvenienced by the forces. In the year 1674, Shivaji Maharaj issued an order to all ranks in his military where he stated, "You would intimidate the populace. Some will get the food grains and the others his bread and some grass, still others wood and else vegetables...This would result in deserting of the lands by whatever Kunbi are there at present....Many will start dying with hunger and then it would be everywhere that you are even worse than the Mughals earlier"... (Rajwade Vol. 8 Page 28)

If we can imagine the taxes and cess farmers had to pay in the 17th Century we can properly understand the immense significance of the Land Revenue Policy and Reforms implemented by Shivaji Maharaj. During the earlier period, the farmers had to bear almost 50 different taxes and cess such as Telpatti, Shendipatti, Lagnapatti, Tooppatti, Jangampatti and others. Shivaji Maharaj cancelled almost all of these successfully and implemented an amalgamated collection of tax at 40%.

From these factors we can clearly visualize the anxiety carried by Shivaji Maharaj about securing the farmers and the tillers from the tyrannical taxes laid on them. The people also provided an appropriate response to him. This was because the farmers exactly knew how much of the taxes and cess they had to pay to the



of lettuce from the residents truthfully and rightfully...the part that belongs to the populace must go to them and the part that belongs to the State should come to us. Your behaviour to intimidate and the wrongdoing with the populace would mean that we are not happy with you...Make the populace happy and let us know... You should move from village to village and bring all the available Kunbi together...Allot the land that he is capable of undertaking"...

exchequer and it can also be seen that the farmers were paying their dues without any sort of coercion.

The most important factor is that the Land Revenue System implemented by Shivaji Maharaj never differentiated between the State and public interests.

The simple, justified and profitable proposition of effecting an appropriate and affordable taxation for a great expanse of land must have provided a huge satisfaction to the farmers and tillers. By using this method Shivaji Maharaj brought total surface of the land, every part and parcel of land and the hilly terrain from Swarajya under cultivation and phenomenally improved the State exchequer by nurturing nutritional and useful herbs...

It is a fact worth consideration that the Shivaji Government developed immensely due to the cooperation from the population. After carefully going through the Shivaji era lands and the Land Revenue, Major Jervis concluded that even while the period was full of confusion, wars and hostility, the conditions of Land Revenue and the population had improved. Major Jervis prepared his report on the Agriculture in Maharashtra in the year 1820 (Jervis, Page 93) and we do not have any options but to accept his views entirely.

Instead of unlawful filling up the coffers of the Government exchequer



The Reforms brought by Shivaji Maharaj in the Agriculture and Revenue System

1. Shivaji Maharaj got all the lands in the Swarajya measured accurately.
2. Brought barren and fallow lands under cultivation.
3. Decided agricultural income based on periodical inspection of the lands.
4. He safeguarded the crops, taxes and villagers from any calamities.
5. He converted the agri-parts based on the market rates at the harvest time.

through huge illegal taxation laid on the populace, Shivaji Maharaj provided a practically successful exercise of increasing the public income through various concessions and then improving the Government income through various reforms as well as appropriate and moderate taxation. The ideal has been placed

before us by Shivaji Maharaj 350 years ago and the same is truly inspirational for the whole world even today.

Due to these people-oriented welfare policies, Shivaji Maharaj was decorated as King of the people. It was therefore that Mahatma Jotiba Phule religiously honoured him as “Kulwadi Bhushan.” ■

Revenue Administration Challenges and Opportunities

The Revenue Department is considered to be backbone of the Government

There are as many as 22 departments whose work Revenue Department is required to handle involving more than 100 subjects of diverse nature. Some of the important amongst them are Rural Development, Co-operation, Special Assistance, Civil Supplies, Public Health, Education, Home, Planning, Tribal, etc. says **V.P. Rane**, I.A.S (Retd.)



The local Revenue Administration in the District has always made pivotal contribution to the various tasks before the Government. As far as political input, it has successfully conducted elections from Lokasabha to Gram Panchayat and has strengthened democratic process. As regard Economic input, its contribution particularly after Independence when economic laws such as abolition of Tenancy, Ceiling on land holdings, consolidation of land holdings, etc. were passed,

was monumental. As regards implementation of schemes for social transformation, issue of various certificates such as Caste, Income, Domicile, etc. have been instrumental in giving desired eligibility to vast numbers of population for enabling them to fulfill conditions for acquiring higher status in life through their efforts. Even in the Development process also. Acquisition cases completed successfully have made major contribution in implementation of various projects for economic development through provision

of required infrastructure. The rehabilitation of population affected by land acquisition by providing them with land for cultivation, house-sites and other infrastructure facilities as per Government schemes, is also a land-mark work. Besides its regular work, the Department is required to handle many schemes of other departments for fulfilling socio-economic objectives of various Government Programmes. It has been assessed that there are more than 188 Acts and Schemes implemented by the Revenue Department. Considering the Department as its backbone, Government entrusts every new scheme to the Department for implementation and considering the increasing trend in this regard, it is evident that Government has rightly no regrets. There are as many as 22 departments whose work Revenue Department is required to handle involving more than 100 subjects of diverse nature. Some of the important amongst them are Rural Development, Co-operation, Special Assistance, Civil Supplies, Public Health, Education, Home, Planning, Tribal, etc. Recently even the job of inspection of Sonography equipment has been entrusted to the Revenue Department.

The forgoing assessment of the Department's work is seldom scientifically studied for evaluating

its intrinsic strength as an invaluable Asset to be developed for Social and Economic Growth of the society. Such an evaluation is immediately necessary considering challenges before the State in the 21st Century and the fact that due to direct recruitment at the level of Naib-Tehsildars, there are now a large number of personnel highly qualified academically who with proper motivation and guidance can be moulded into an excellent personnel. While Government has initiated measures in this regard, they need to be intensified after selection of areas needing immediate application.

There is need for introducing massive training programmes at all levels in the department. Presently there are some training programmes only for higher level officers but they are meager and without integrated objectives. Besides training for updating knowledge and perceptions in the subjects they regularly handle, personnel should be exposed to Computer Literacy, inter-personal relations, motivational skills, and modern concepts of professional management for building up their inner strength by confidence building. Besides having its own professionally managed training institutes, Government should also link up with established training institutes for designing and implementing training programmes. Considering the huge staff to be trained scientifically and professionally, there is dire need for settling up a Training Institute for the Department. It is learnt that at Bavdhan in Pune District, Training Institute is under implementation. The same should be expedited. It is also important that personnel should not look at training as paid holidays. Excellence displayed in Training Programme should be the basis for future advances in the careers. In times to come, with coalition Government in charge of affairs of the State, administration is going to be a complex phenomenon. Unless personnel at all levels are trained to

handle complexities by exposure to detailed.

There should be continuous programme for identification of Excellence in the Department. There are quite a few instances in which some officers through their own initiative, have produced outstanding results in their own respective areas of operation. In a recently published book, there is a mention of number of measures introduced to make Administration more responsive. There are also instances initiated for more collection of municipal taxes and dues by application of new ideas. Additional Revenue of crores has been realized through such measures. Removal of encroachments for implementation of Development Plans without creating Law and Order problems, have also successfully taken place due to initiatives for implementing integrated Plans of Actions. For successful implementation of Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan 2012-13, detailed instructions have been issued in some areas through local initiatives, for educating staff and also for attaining better coordination with the population in this regard. Detailed booklets have been printed with the objective of better implementation of Government Schemes. Pursuit of Excellence is a change in in-built confirmed perception that there can be no change in Government Administration. Before introduction of Lakhina Pattern, the perception of a Government office was that it should be full of dust and dirt all over, files indiscriminately spread over, chairs broken and without handles, without toilets and least facilities for visitors. But Lakhina who was then Collector of Ahmednagar, resolutely changed this perception.

As mentioned above, the Revenue Department is required to implement large number of schemes of the other departments and handle emergent situations through process of coordination. In order to enable the officers to discharge this function of

coordination efficiently, it is necessary for the Governemnt to designate these officers as Coordinating Authorities so that the process of co-ordination is smooth.

It is also necessary to take steps to make departmental staff more result-oriented through training and other measures, it is equally important to improve the image of the department. As stated by Pavan Verma in his masterful delineation 'the menace of corruption must be handled by new policy directions. The moral relativism of Indians allows them to practice and condone corruption on a scale that has few parallels in other societies with pretensions to be called modern. The Government must drastically reduce its discretionary powers. To some extent this is already happening, but more needs to be done. Incorruptible technology must replace corruptible human beings much more rapidly. Even as IT is creating jobs and increasing revenue, it needs to be consciously harnessed to devise systems that eliminate or greatly reduce human intervention in the conduct of everyday life and the daily needs of individuals. An entire range of activities – booking of rail tickets, allotments, payment of bills, tax calculations, the issuing of license, admissions to educational institutions – which normally incubate corruption, can be made transparent through the intervention of technology. The Government must concentrate on enabling the Internet and computer technology to overarch human venality, and empower the ordinary person to access and monitor the availability of basic services directly. This will not be an easy task for a country the size of India. Innovation and ingenuity will be required, which the Government should reward. Availability of 7/12 on Internet is no doubt creditworthy and promising development. Computerisation in the Registration Department is proof that we can do it. We must pursue it vigorously and accomplish its objectives ■

e-Initiative for Land Records

e-Mahabhoomi has been planned for Integrated Land Records Modernisation and Management.

The Land records in the State are more than 100 years old. Under the National Land Records Modernization programme, it has been decided to implement a modern all inclusive and transparent Land Records Management System in the State. Alongwith the Conclusive Land Titling system, the system envisages to provide Total Guarantee for Ownership says Settlement Commissioner, **Chandrakant Dalvi.**



Up to date land maps would thus be available to the public. The Pilot Project for the same will be initiated at an expanse of 6,000 hectares from 12 villages in Mulshi Taluka from Pune District. The E.T.S. / G.P.S. methods as well as High Resolution Satellite Imagery will be used in this project. Further resurvey for the State would be carried out based on the experiences from this Pilot project.

e-MOJANI

The Regional Land Records office carries out the survey work. The number of matters for land records is increasing every year. If the staff available for work is utilized in a planned manner the delays in these matters could be brought under control. This has been observed during the Zero Pendency Mission. Settlement Commissioner and Director of Land Records (Maharashtra State) Pune has developed e-Mojani software with technical assistance from National Informatics Center, Pune to meet the functional requirements for conducting the land measurement cases. Through this software the total office procedures from receipt of survey application to the finalization of the survey matter have been computerized. For this all the Land Records offices in the State have been provided with Internet connectivity. The software was commissioned all over the State from 2nd January 2012.

The original land records and survey at the State has been carried out over 100 years ago. At present we are going by the original Land Survey records prepared during the British regime and the records created thereafter. However during this period of time there have been many changes in the lands. New part records got created. Roads, dams, lakes, industrial estates, residential habitats were created. However many of these changes have not been reflected in the Land Survey records. Hence there are differences between the practical position seen at the lands and the one shown in

the concerned records. In order to bridge this gap there is a need for resurvey at the State level. Due to the phenomenal rise in land prices it has become a crucial need of the time to create land records using modern instruments and to bring these to the coordinate system. Under this project re-measurement will be undertaken with modern techniques and the records would be created in a digital format. The re-measurement of the entire State will be carried out with a combination of Satellite imagery, E.T.S. / G.P.S. The digital data resultant from the exercise would be available for official and public use.

With this software, the applicant for survey is provided with details of the fees payable for the survey along with the Challan for the same. As soon as the fees are paid by the applicant is immediately provided with a receipt for payment along with the date of the survey, the name of the surveyor and mobile number.

e-PHERPHAR (ONLINE MUTATION)

National Informatics Centre, Pune has developed software titled E-Pherphar. Through this software the procedure for mutation on village level would be computerized. The Tehsildar office at Taluka level, the Sub Registrar office, Taluka Inspector of Land Records and the office of the City Survey Officer would be connected to the State Data Centre through MLPS – VPN connectivity. Through this software it is immediately possible to take up the pherphar (mutation) as soon as the property documents are registered with the Sub Registrar office. The information of the registered document is received by the document register at Tehsil office and a mutation notice is created through the software. As soon as the notice is signed information is passed on to the Sub Registrar office. The Sub Registrar office downloads the notice and takes a print of the same. Afterwards this notice is served to the persons present for registration. The concerned Talathi and the parties in the document are served the mutation message through SMS. Due to this both the document registration and the mutation procedures are carried out simultaneously. Thus the citizen will not be required to separately visit Talathi office for mutation of his name on the property. The software uses Digital Signature and SMS.

The path breaking use of this software has been initiated at Mulshi, Haveli and Pune City Talukas of Pune District and during the year 2012-2013 the same would be implemented all over the State. ■

- Archana Shambhakar

e-Chavadi (Computerization of Talathi records)

A software e-Chavadi has been developed for computerization of the records maintained by Talathi for the area under his control. The Talathis can use this software with their Laptops. These Laptops will be linked to the State data Centre through connectivity. The computerized 7/12 extracts placed on the website would be used in this software. Real time information about the land revenue collection would be available instantly. The use of e-Chavadi software will bring coordination and streamlining and thus reduce their workload so that they can attend to other revenue work efficiently. The services of Talathis would thus be available promptly to common people. The trial usage of this software has been started at one village each from the six administrative regions. The e-Chavadi project will be implemented throughout the State within the present fiscal year 2012-13.

e-Abhilekh

The citizens require old land records available at the records sections at the offices of Tehsildar and Taluka Inspector of Land Records for their day to day work. The location of these records and providing their copies is an extremely tedious task. The citizens have to repeatedly visit these offices for a follow up in the matters. In order to resolve this problem, the official records from the record rooms would be scanned under the concept of E-RECORDS. Under this programme, the records pertaining to old mutations, old 7/12 extracts, property cards etc and the documents from the Offices of the Taluka Inspector Land Records such as notes, Akarphod patrak, Gunakar Book, Akarbandh, Consolidation scheme, Crop Register etc. would be scanned for preservation. After the path breaking project undertaken at Haveli and Mulshi Taluka of Pune District is successfully completed, the project will be implemented at the entire State very soon. Due to this the citizens will be able to receive their land records from the offices immediately. They can also view the same on a computer.

e- Nakasha (Digitization of the Maps)

The Taluka level offices of the Department of Land Records have preserved many types of maps. With the help of these maps the land boundaries are finalized at the time of a survey. These maps therefore are immensely important. As these maps have been prepared many years ago, they are in a very precarious state. Digitization of these maps is the need of the hour. Considering this fact an E-MAP Project has been undertaken. Under this project Digitization of various maps such as division maps, Land acquisition maps, Non Agricultural land maps and others available in the offices of the Taluka Inspector Land Records will be undertaken. With this in place, the citizens will be able to receive a computerized map along with the computerized 7/12 extract. These maps will also be available for viewing by the citizens through GIS system on a website.

e-Registration

Maharashtra is the 1st State in the country to have undertaken Computerization of the Revenue Department. Under the e-Registration programme, the registration Department would be linked to the Revenue and Land Records Departments. Thus there would be total coordination between the three departments and the citizens will be able to receive one stop service from all the three departments.

e- Bhoolekh

The citizens will be able to get all their requirements of computerized 7/12 extract, computerized maps, scanned old records and maps after the Resurvey at one place on the network with a website/portal. As the software is based on the GIS system, it would also be a useful planning tool for Government departments.

In this way through the e-Mahabhoomi Project, the Revenue Department, Land Records Department and the Registration Department are getting ready with the latest technology to provide services to the citizens.

Cognizance of Rightful Land Owners

It is essential for the applicant to produce circumstantial evidence that he was tilling the lands continuously for 12 years

The State Revenue Department is constantly burdened with the difficult task of proving the rights of a common man and making the same available to him as its rightful owner. This is because the lands are ultimately connected with Revenue Department. From the last few years Government is striving hard to solve problems faced by Bedakhal Kuls from Konkan and in particular from the Districts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg.

In accordance with the principle of Land to the Tiller a special Act under the title Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 has been implemented in the State.

The Act protects the rights of a persons lawfully cultivating the land belonging to another person and gave him rights to notify his name on the records of rights. However even while the provisions under the Act existed, complaints were regularly being registered with the Government that the rights of tenancy holders [Kul] were obstructed as the entries of the Record of Rights were not carried out properly in the Kul and Wahiwat Register over the last few years especially from Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district saying that the noting about the Kul was not carried out in a proper manner at the village records and this was causing obstruction to the rights of tenancy holders. Taking notice of these complaints and considering the specific conditions in these Districts, a thought process was initiated at the Government level as to how justice could be restored to the Kuls from these two districts.

In order to evaluate the reasons due to which the entries were not carried in the Kul and Wahiwat



Register and Agricultural Survey of all talukas in these two Districts and with a view to find out possibilities of remedial to protect the rights of Kuls the Government appointed a committee in September 1983 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Parulekar and another committee in December

under the Chairmanship of Barrister Sharad Palav. This Committees put forward their recommendations in a Report presented to the Government on the 31st June, 1986.

According to the recommendations of the committees there are many such *Kuls* in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg

Districts, whose names have not been entered in to the revenue records inspite of tilling the lands years together. These *Kuls* have been deprived of their rights under the provisions of Kul Kayada (Tenancy Act). In order to provide the benefits of the provisions of the Tenancy Act to these farmers it was decided to amend the provisions of Section 4 under the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948. An Ordinance has been issued and the Act has been duly amended.

NATURE OF REFORMS

In order to prove his rights as a tenant, it is essential for the applicant to produce circumstantial evidence that he was tilling the lands continuously for 12 years. The person in possession of the land will have to produce a certificate to the effect that he was tilling the concerned land continuously for 12 years from the village Sarpanch, Police Patil or a well known personality from the village. Another requirement would be a resolution from the Gram Panchayat under the jurisdiction of which the concerned land falls. Affidavits and certificates from the cultivating farmers from adjacent land as well as other prominent citizens of the village will also be required. If the rights of tenancy are established the said rights will be decided and admitted on the basis of land purchase value reforms and at 200 times the land revenue. This amendment was decided to be implemented from the 24th January 2001.

However even after the amendment in the Act, there were obstacles in providing the Kuls Applications were received by the Government both from the aggravated tenants as well as people's representatives. Procuring the documents in accordance with the conditions for proving the tenancy rights and the documents as a proof of the circumstantial evidence were troublesome and expensive processes for the Kuls. Therefore they were finding it stressful and expensive.



Considering all the complaints and representations as well as the conditions in the Districts, the Government decided to further amend section 4 in the year 2004 and promulgated an Ordinance to the effect and the Regulations were published in 2006.

In order to make it possible for the Bedakhil Kuls from Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts, the revised provisions of the section 4 of the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948 can be used. Under these provisions the concerned tenant needs to procure an affidavit from the Sarpanch of the village or Police Patil or Chairman of the Multipurpose Cooperative Society and affidavits and certificates from the cultivating farmers from adjacent land to the effect that the land in question was in the possession of the person and that the person has been tilling the land continuously for the last 12 years on oath. Only in such cases the person would be acknowledged as a Kul. The circumstantial evidence to the effect will have to be submitted.

The process of providing the ownership rights to the lands under the Bedakhil Kuls is in progress at Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts. After the implementation of the

amendments, the Government had received a total of 3766 matters in Sindhudurg District. Out of these 1876 matters have been decided and 1890 matters have been rejected for want of appropriate evidences. Today, Sindhudurg District does not have even a single undecided case.

In Ratnagiri District a total of 7065 matters have been received till date. Of these 6638 matters have been decided and the number of unsettled matters is 418. In order to decide these remaining matters a Special Campaign is being carried out at each taluka level. Through this 99 matters have been decided providing complete success to the efforts by the Government. The Government is committed to restore the rights to the common people of the State. The Bedakhil Kuls from Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg who were tilling the lands for years together were deprived of their rights as their names were not brought on the Revenue records for the land. By suitable amendments and re-amendments in the Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948, the Government has taken cognizance and provided them the benefits. In this way these reforms have achieved 100% success... ■

Government Policy for Nazul Land

The Government land which is available for non agricultural purpose is termed as 'Nazul Land'.

The Nazul lands were granted on leasehold basis initially for a period of 30 years subject to renewal from time to time as per the guidelines issued in Revenue Book Circular, states **Venugopal Reddy**.



There was not any specific policy of British Government in India until 1863 for the management of open land in or around city or goathan. However over a period of time it was found that the demand and value of such lands is increasing day by day. In view of this, the erstwhile British Government for the first time imposed certain restrictions on the transfer and alienation of these lands. A detailed study was conducted in 1890 for the management of open lands and instructions were issued

on 26.10.1891 for its management. Accordingly, all unalienated open lands in and around city and goathan area were termed as Government Nazul Lands. These lands were surveyed and settlement was carried out. Rules were framed for the management of these land and initially were made applicable in the Central Province (Nagpur Region) in 1891 and thereafter in the year 1912 in Berar (Amravati region) of Vidarbha. Thus the term 'Nazul Land' came into existence.

The Government land which is available for non agricultural purpose is now termed as 'Nazul Land'. These lands were generally granted on lease on a long term basis in C.P. region of Vidarbha. However in Berar region, it was granted on occupancy rights. While applying these rules to Berar region in 1912, the question of granting Nazul Lands on lease basis was considered, however, it was not agreed upon by the local administration in Berar. Therefore many of the Nazul Lands have been granted on occupancy rights in that region. However in both the regions Nazul lands still vest in the Government.

During the settlement of 1912-13 all Government lands were classified into two categories 1) Nazul Lands 2) Milkiyat Sarkar. As per the provision in C.P. & Berar Land Revenue Code 1916 all Government lands which are suitable for construction or other non-agricultural purposes were termed as Nazul land. These lands were granted on leasehold basis initially for a period of 30 years subject to renewal from time to time as per the guidelines issued in Revenue Book Circular.

After coming into force of Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code 1954, the classification of holding of lands under the old C.P. & Berar Land Revenue Code was revised and the land holders were categorized as Bhumiswami and



Bhumidhari under section 240 of the code. The landholders having Nazul Land in leasehold right are supposed to be classified as Bhumidharis.

However, the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code 1966 is now applicable in Vidarbha region. As per section 29 of the code, the land holders have been classified as Occupant Class I, Occupant Class II and Government leasee (Pattedar). Accordingly, Nazul land holders were classified as occupant Class II having restricted tenure. As per Revenue Book Circular No.3, Para 84, the lease holders were allowed to transfer or alienate the land with prior permission of Government subject to the deposit of 50% of unearned income. However, if the Nazul Land is transferred/ alienated without permission, the unearned income upto 60-75% was required to be deposited.

There is no provision in the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code 1966 for renewal of Nazul Land granted on lease for 30 years. This was provided for in Government Resolution No. LND 4981/14707/G-8 dtd. 11.1.1983. However, the Nazul Land lease holders have filed Writ Petitions in Hon. High Court, Nagpur against the recovery of unearned income.

Taking into consideration the judgments in various Writ Petitions from time to time by the Hon. High

Court, recommendations of Bhoge Committee appointed in this regard by the Government and after considering all other relevant aspects, especially the judgment of the Hon. High Court dated 30.9.2008, the Government of Maharashtra has announced revised policy in respect of Nazul Lands.

Some of the silent features of the policy are as under:

- The lease amount will be payable as per the old rate upto 31.12.2011 and after renewal, new rates shall be applicable.

subject to deposit of occupancy price; however the tenure of the land will remain as occupant class II.

- The lease holder shall be responsible to submit authorized document while transferring change of user to the Nazul Land on occupancy right.
- The above option shall be available up to two years from the date of declaration of the revised policy.
- Land revenue assessment shall be applicable as per prevailing rules from time to time to the occupancy right Nazul Land holder.



- Lease shall be renewed for 30 years with effect from 1.1.2012 with 25% increase every ten years in the lease amount of proceeding year.
- The lease holder may transfer the Nazul Land on occupancy rights

- Power to grant permission of renewal, transfer, change of user etc. of Nazul land shall vest in the Collector. However, he may delegate these powers to the concerned Sub Divisional Officer. ■

Between the Conflicts and Consensus

Every document to be executed must be registered

Every farmer must have a basic file containing the relevant papers such as Documents of ownership, 7/12 extracts, Land measurement maps, Tippan and Falani, 8A extract, Revenue receipts, House property, Papers relating to litigation, etc. of his lands, explains **Shekhar Gaikwad**, Joint Secretary, Chief Minister's office



If men were simple then justice would have been simpler said great thinker Plato. However, facts and ground realities are altogether different. Humans do not like a simple life and are never satisfied with it. People are ambitious, jealous and hate each other. In everyday news, we read about civil and criminal disputes of property among people resulting in quarrels, fighting and murders. We also talk about the notion that “the law is an ass”. Therefore some people believe that the faulty laws are responsible for such a mess. However after 25 years of experience in revenue service and especially after conducting more than

25000 land dispute cases and having gone through numerous land laws, I have come to the conclusion that it is the people who should be blamed and not the laws. Because no law in this country prescribes that same piece of land can be sold to many people and they can be cheated. It is very interesting to explore this aspect to know exactly who is responsible for land disputes, whether law or people.

LARGE NUMBER OF DISPUTES

A tendency of disputes among the land holders is an age old. Around 32 million cases are pending in various courts of India today. Maharashtra alone has 3 million cases pending.

Even if we consider minimum two sides to any litigation then at least 60 to 70 million litigants and their families are involved in litigation. Considering at least 5 persons in each family, around 35 crore people are directly affected by litigation. It means 1/3rd of our population has to frequent the offices of advocates, police stations, land record rooms, civil and criminal courts, family courts, District Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court on day to day basis. Majority of the cases have property dispute as an underlying cause.

While working as Deputy Collector in Kolhapur district a very old and

complicated land case which had started in 1903 came for hearing before me in 1989. The case involving issues of adoption, tenancy and Watan Act was going on for last 86 years. Both the original owners contesting the case had died. The sons of both of them were fighting the case from tenancy court till Supreme Court 2-3 times. Both the advocates who appeared on behalf of original litigants had died and their sons who became advocates were fighting the case. The strange fact about the case was that the land area in dispute was only 46 acre. I was shocked to see such a case being fought over 86 long years for an area of 46 acre. It came to my mind that both the advocates must have purchased 46 acres of lands each for himself on the basis of this case. The farmers therefore must mull over the economics of litigation.

I personally feel that if the farmers have legal literacy, they would be better equipped to resolve land issues. There are mainly four reasons of land disputes:

NOT KEEPING THE GIVEN WORD

Not keeping the given word is the biggest reason of land disputes. Normally a land dispute doesn't start overnight but there is definitely a process involved. For example; Shamrao, a land owner was in need of money and borrowed money from the Rama on terms agreed orally by them. However, Shamrao was unable to fulfill his promise of refunding money in time due to crop failure. Rama the lender, then insisted on observing the time limit. In the process there was delay in repayment of money which created suspicion in the mind of the Rama. He then tried to take agreement of sale of same land from Shamrao. Because of Shamrao's obligation to repay the loan amount, he signed the document but was not willing to really part with his land to Rama. The dispute ultimately went to a court of law. This is how the land dispute starts. It's not that every time

borrowing of money is the reason but there are other issues also where the given word is not observed by land holders, leading to land disputes.

IGNORANCE ABOUT LAND LAWS

Ignorance of law is not accepted as an excuse by any court. Any new act published in gazette is made applicable to all citizens on very same day. Therefore getting updated about provisions of various land laws is quite essential. Lately farmers have started adopting modern agricultural practices by experimenting and using modern technology for enhancing the productivity of lands. Coupled with his efforts if a farmer can also enhance his knowledge of land records and land laws, he will be able to progress systematically. To achieve this, every farmer needs to update his personal land records.

In fact, all laws are based on common sense. There is a definite philosophy behind every law called Jurisprudence. Further the principal of natural justice of giving reasonable opportunity of hearing to every party to dispute, making a reasoned and speaking order etc., must be understood by every landholder. The preamble of any act indicates the spirit behind the legislation. The social legislations like tenancy act, rehabilitation act of project affected persons, agriculture ceiling act must be viewed from social angle.

Even the history of land and tenures should also be studied for better understanding of various conditions attached with the land. During prehistoric times land belonged to nobody and it was a free gift of nature. Slowly the human race started cultivating lands by felling of tress and clearing of timber. Initially a method of shifting cultivation was followed. After a few generations because of population pressure, people started regular agriculture by growing cereal crops. Slowly people settled in fertile basins of rivers. During Mughal period the land rights

were given to those Watandars who offered soldiers to fight a war on behalf of Mughal emperor. The order of grant of land was called as Mansab and the area given in Watan, the free gift, was called as Jagir. All such lands were given as free gifts by the king and therefore the condition of non-transferability was always attached to such lands.

After Independence all such Watans were abolished through various Watan Abolition Acts. By these abolition acts Watandars were given an opportunity of retaining original Watan lands with them after payment of some meager amount and thus such lands were re-granted to them on new tenure. All such lands have become occupant class II lands under Land Revenue code. All such lands before transfer to third party require a prior permission of Collector and payment of 50% of market value to Government. The land holders today must understand this legal position, so that no complications arise in transfer of such lands. However, there is a growing tendency among holders to avoid payment of market value to Government by creating either fraudulent documents or by showing lower market value.

During last six decades, a lot of infrastructure projects have been taken up by Government of India as well as State Governments. Lands are being acquired for public purposes such as Railways, Roads, Flyovers, Industries, irrigation projects, etc. A large number of villages get submerged in various irrigation projects and require rehabilitation. The process of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation is very complicated and leads to a large number of litigations. The apportionment of land acquisition amount, exact area of acquisition, compensation of trees, wells, structures etc., selection of beneficiaries for alternate land, disputes among successors are the common causes for ligation. The land held by temple trust and the various claims of cultivators against the trust

and rent act cases in urban areas also form their share of litigation.

There are approximately 3279 Central Acts and more than 30000 State Acts. More than 1000 Acts have land related provisions. Therefore it is very difficult to grasp the complex legal provisions scattered over numerous acts, rules, regulations, Government resolutions, Circulars etc. Even the court procedures are not known to farmers. They do not know the exact forum where they should put up the litigation, the jurisdiction of courts limitation period, appellate authorities, etc.

HUMAN TENDENCY

Majority of court cases are also due to basic human tendencies such as ambition, opposition, hatred, greed, jealousy, competition, etc. and contribute to 35-50% of total land litigation. No land case is simple in nature and people try to mix up social issues such as village level elections, social and religious differences, festivals, etc. to create litigation about right of way or pipe line required for improvement of land. Property disputes by fraudulent transfers, forged documents are not uncommon. Further, the delay in various courts also lead to further complications.

ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS

Almost 10-15% of disputes occur on account of administrative and clerical errors on the part of revenue, land record and registration functionaries at grassroot level. It is mainly due to basic errors in land record such as Tippan, Falani or 7/12, misinterpretation of laws by officers, procedural errors.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

It is not that this trend of increasing litigation would continue forever. The coming generations of farmers can definitely take proper care to update themselves with changing nature of landlaws and by taking following simple measures.

1. In fact, now every farmer must



have a basic file containing the relevant papers such as Documents of ownership, 7/12 extracts, Land measurement maps, Tippan and Falani, 8A extract, Revenue receipts, House property, Papers relating to litigation, etc. of his lands.

2. Every farmer must know the names of all legal heirs of grandfather, his successors, uncles and aunts, total land held, land partitioned etc.

3. Every landowner must verify his title every year from the 7/12 extracts. He must also check the crop cultivation column of 7-12. Every owner should also tell importance and contents of land records to his family members.

4. Every owner must have the measurement maps of lands owned or possessed by him. Instead of measuring lands when encroached upon by neighbour, every owner should measure his land in advance and if possible periodically after every 15 to 20 years.

5. Every land owner should keep all the information and papers relating to entries in other right column of 7/12 extracts of properties held. These include the mortgage papers of banks or mortgage contracts of cooperative banks, the names of which appear in 7/12.

6. Every farmer must keep the word without raising any technical issues in any kind of mutual agreement.

7. Every document to be executed must be registered.

8. Land owner should not avoid taking notices of land acquisition or resettlement given by Government functionary. They must exercise their right of putting their view point appropriately before any authority within stipulated period.

With changing modern technology in agriculture, the farmers must update themselves with awareness of changing land laws. Past generations of farmers had to suffer due to ignorance of land records and land enactments. ■

e-Chavdi of Kolhapur

Within two years 19,57,000 certificates and 7/12 extracts were issued to citizens through e-Chavadi

While moving through the 21st Century and amidst an IT enabled era, the village level revenue offices of the Talathi needed to be strengthened with the latest technology. It was therefore decided to implement e-Chavadi as a part of E-governance states **Appsaheb Dhulaj.**



Revenue constitutes one of the ancient departments of the Government. Even before the British Empire the Land Revenue was collected in the periods of Mughal and Babar. Methodical measurements did not exist at the time and hence the decision of the revenue taxation was taken on the basis of general assumptions and financial needs of the exchequer.

The methodical agricultural land measurements were initiated by Malik Ambar during the period of Sher Shah Suri. The land revenue was also collected during the period

of Maratha regime under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. It was after the British arrived in India that the land was measured in terms of Acre and Guntha and the land revenue taxes were demanded accordingly. During the same period, the British stopped the Mahalwari System (sub-divisional system) and practically started with Rayatwari (individual taxation) System. Collection for land revenue became scientifically based as it was carried out from owners of the lands and the tillers.

After the land measurements were carried out the land revenue

collection started on the basis of area in Acres/Gunthas and from the concepts of original owner of the land, i.e. cultivator occupant, joint occupant etc. The entire gamut of actions was carried out under the Bombay Land Revenue Act 1879. After Independence various Acts were implemented for Land Reforms. There was very effective implementation of Acts such as Bombay Tenancy and Land Agricultural Land Act 1947, Maharashtra Agricultural Lands [Ceiling on Holding] Act 1961 Bombay Personal Inam Abolition Act 1952 and Watan Abolition Act 1958.

After the formation of Maharashtra State in 1966, Maharashtra Land Revenue Code 1966 was implemented so that it would be convenient to Vidarbha, Marathwada and Western Maharashtra. Under this FOUR volumes were created. the 4th volume is most revered book for Talathis with provisions regarding updating of the records of rights and maintaining them properly by Talathi and the Circle Officers.

The concept of e-Chavadi first emerged from the idea by Laxmikant Deshmukh, the then District Collector of Kolhapur and the same was implemented effectively in Kolhapur District. The Revenue Department already had tremendous historical perspectives. With the new Land Revenue Acts, the ever increasing population or the number of family members the number of occupants and joint occupants kept on increasing. For example a single 7/12 extract could find around 150-175 names entered in the document. A variety of records with Talathi such as Land Revenue, settlements, *Tharavband* factors, records of rights, Mutations, Demand note for land revenue, Collection, Collection receipts and their challans, the annual notes about every crop, harvest and items of produce, resources for irrigation, cattle and population records etc. and other connected administrative forms were becoming extremely complicated and strenuous to be accurately maintained in a hand written form.

While moving through the 21st Century and amidst an IT enabled era, the village level revenue offices of the Talathi needed to be strengthened with the latest technology. The identity of Talathi as an old styled Deewanji writing the 7/12 extracts and making notes of the mutations was to be transformed through the medium of e-Chavadi to a hi-tech Talathi and the Collector had to practically implement this concept at a village level. The work of relating various old formats to the new concept and

maintaining all the formats up to date was getting extremely complicated. It was therefore decided to implement e-Chavadi as a part of e-Governance.

The Collector emphatically placed the concept before all his colleagues, Zonal Officers, Representatives of the Talathi Organization as well as all the elected representatives of the people and convinced them. It was a significantly happy fact that the District Talathi Organization took up an active role and worked wholeheartedly to bring the e-Chavadi concept to a practical fruition. In order to implement this project successfully, there was an extremely positive technological support from Girish Lad, CEO, Magnum Opus and his efficient team of Sandeep Patil, Rahul Mahajan and Rahul Ingrole. The team went to every village in the District which faced problems and created timely changes in the software to weed out inconsistencies. Due to all these it was possible to implement the project within shortest possible time...

Of the 467 Talathis working in the District, 434 volunteered to purchase their own Laptops. The Software created by Magnum Opus was downloaded on these Laptops. With a view for precise orientation of all the Talathis to the e-Chavadi system various Workshops were held. With 4 workshops at the District level and another 4 workshops on the Taluka level all the Talathis were practically trained to handle the software. They were apprised of the work that can be undertaken e-Chavadi. Residence certificate and income certificate immediately after a citizen applies was given through e-Chavadi. After local level inquiry it was possible to forward the case to the Tehsildar for Caste Certificate and also certificate to the effect of being a farmer or a farm labour and life certificate. Apart from this, the mutations and updation of 7/12 extract are being carried out with the help of laptops. Talathi started inspecting the crops and carrying out the necessary entries regarding crop

inspection at the actual agricultural site. This received overwhelming response. Within a span of 2 years 19,57,000 certificates and 7/12 extracts were issued to citizens through the medium of e-Chavadi.

In the beginning many of the Talathis had not even seen the laptops. However the biggest advantage from the project was that all the Talathis could easily and efficiently handle Laptops with the intensive training received by them. The data in the DBZ format was taken from the NIC and the relevant data of the village was uploaded on the Laptop held by the concerned Talathi. The data entry of the available and updated data in the *Gaon Namuna* was then carried out. This was the first and the most intricate and complicated job to have been carried out. In a typical Gat there were many co-occupants and joint occupants noting on other rights issues, Mutation notes, Gat number and their divisions, tenure, non-cultivable land, tenure and entries of crops according to their index in the *pere patrak* and so on. Through the use of Laptop it was also possible to make notes of the crops in the sowing format as per crop index and the area covered by each of the 7/12 extract with land revenue as well as information for a consolidated area of the entire village and the total land revenue meaning *Tharavband* factors.

As the formats 1 to 21 of the village forms were complementary to each other, incorporation of the same and process of noting the same took around 2 years and was carried out with the untiring efforts from all the officers and staff with the support of Magnum Opus. Considering the various provisions for the land and the differences in noting system prevalent in the 12 Talukas the changes were updated seeking the cooperation of the Magnum Opus Team. A special mention must be made of the efforts taken by Ranjit Desai, Tehsildar, Radhanagari Taluka with his entire staff. This was because any trial and error method was first



experimented in Radhanagari Taluka and once the implementation was found to be flawless, the same was being carried to the other 11 Talukas. Around 95% of the rights records and 7/12 extracts numbering 9,65,364 for 9,16,766 occupants have been completely updated and are available to the citizens at a single click through e-Chavadi as on today is the most credible achievement of the project. It is only due to this that the citizens have hailed a huge and hearty response to this scheme...

ADVANTAGES OF E-CHAVADI

- Due to the e-Chavadi the concept of e-office and e-governance did not just remain with the State or the District Headquarters, but for the first time reached the grassroot village level Revenue. The important process was carried out through passionate initiatives taken by the then District Collector Laxmikant Deshmukh.
- The administration needed to present annual demand for the forms 1 to 21 to the Printing Press. Now the same is not required. We have saved on the expenses on printing.
- Total transparency was brought in

the administration. As the actions that took around 1-2 weeks earlier can now be completed on the same day through e-Chavadi. Various certificates are now being issued.

- Accuracy in village settlement by carrying out tally of the total area of the concerned village, total area under cultivation, land revenue fixation and it's collection.
- According to the old method, the earlier 7/12 extracts contained the share of co-occupants in terms of Annas e.g. 4 Annas, 8 Annas etc. With the simplification adopted the same can now be accurately estimated in terms of the actual hectare, are and Sq. Meters besides the Annas system.
- For information on the actual land area under a specific crop at a typical village, one had to search through every page and then list out the details. Due to the e-Chavadi accurate information on the area under each crop is available just at a click.
- The information on lands under facets such as forests, fallow, temples, endowments and others is available just at a click.
- As the formats 1 to 21 can now be connected to each other the

overwriting or other associated mistakes in this work can possibly be avoided.

- On a handwritten 7/12 extract, it was possible to carry a maximum of around 8 names of the joint occupants in a legible way. The Talathis used to write the extra names elsewhere using the same forms. The new system can accommodate writing the names of 200 joint occupants on a single 7/12 extract.
- The earlier 7/12 extract did not have a provision of writing the area in terms of Square Meters. However in the e-Chavadi process even the non-agricultural plot of land or agricultural lands can also be mentioned in terms of smaller unit of square meters using a formula.

The process would have become almost impossible if the Talathi Organization and all the Talathis would not have responded positively and purchased the laptops and printers on loan on their own. The e-Chavadi system was successfully implemented in Kolhapur District only due to their earnest response to the same.

As the State Government has effectively implemented the e-Chavadi system under the Swarna Jayanti Rajaswa Abhiyan, it is planned all over the State and the practical implementation of the same has also started.

The incumbent District Collector Rajaram Mane has provided an initiative to the project and has carried the acceleration further. Under the guidance of Prabhakar Deshmukh Commissioner, Pune Region and initiative from Rajaram Mane, District Collector Kolhapur has been implemented a campaign for removal of encroachments on farm roads in the District. Around 585 kilometers of encroachments on 382 roads have been removed and the same is benefitting around 60,000 to 65,000 farmers across the District. ■

I SARITA- A Friendly Service For Registration

The Department has collected revenue of Rs. 14,800 crore during 2011-2012.

The Department of Registration and Stamps is an important component of Revenue Department of the State. Various documents are registered here. Hence about 1.5 to two crore people visit Registration Office personally. Earlier documents registration work used to be time consuming and clumsy. With the I-SARITA the registration process has become simple, speedy and time saving bringing in the transparency in the functioning.

The twin Acts namely the Registration Act and the Stamp Duty Act have been implemented to bring Revenue to the Government through Department of Registration and Stamps under the State Revenue Department. The Department has collected revenue of Rs. 14,800 crores during the year 2011-2012. This department ranks second in terms of bringing the largest revenue to the Government and contributes around 14% revenue to the exchequer.

Mainly the Registration Act 1908, Registration Rules 1961, Maharashtra Stamp Duty Act 1958, Indian Stamp Duty act 1899, Special Marriage Act 1956, Parsee Marriage Act, Marriage Registration Act etc are implemented through the Department of Registration and Stamps.

Under the provisions of the Registration Act 1908 the objectives and the duties of the Registration and Stamps Offices are to register various documents related to the transfer of immovable property such as Sale Deed, Gift Deed and Mortgage Deed etc. They are also required to permanently maintain the records of these documents as well as to provide the copies and true copies of these documents and to make



available the records in connection with the rights to a property to the common people according to their demand.

The Department of Registration and Stamps registers more than 22 lakh documents every year. A minimum of 1.5 to 2 crore people personally visit the Registration offices in this connection. Apart from this, around 50 lakh people are in indirect contact with this office for purchase of stamps, notary, refunds and appeal, search of an immovable property, getting the valuation carried out etc. Due to all these aspects this is an important Department of the Government reaching the common public.

It was felt that the common people should not find reaching this office for their work as a complicated exercise and should be able to mitigate their work in a simple and easy manner. Considering all inclusive people benefits and the common man at the core of the system the Department has started computerized Registration System using the modern technology since 2002 as the need of the changing times. Keeping in line with the changes in the information technology during the period, the earlier Registration process SARITA has been modernized and the Department has launched Web based system I-SARITA.

In order to make the Registration

process simple and faster, the current systems of stamps, stamp paper, franking, Challan, e-stamping systems of the Stamps, Demand Draft Challan, cash payment on account of Registration charges etc have been modernized through the medium of I-SARITA to e-search, e-step-in, e-payment, e-ASR, Bar Code utilization, e-Registration, and various other initiatives. This system is proving beneficial to the common people from the point of view of safety in all types of properties which are transferable.

I-SARITA CONCEPT

I-SARITA software system has been placed on the Central Server of the Department. The computers from

transaction by an e-challan through GRAS online at Mumbai, Thane and Pune cities in the first phase. Due to this the citizens can make all the essential payments for a particular Government work at one time, at one place, without delay and without standing in queue at their convenient time, this helps to complete the registration of documents within a short period of time.

E-SEARCH

Under this project there is a proposal for the citizens to search Index 2 records from any Sub Registrar office of the State comfortably from their home with the help of internet. This will help in reducing crowd at the Registration offices.

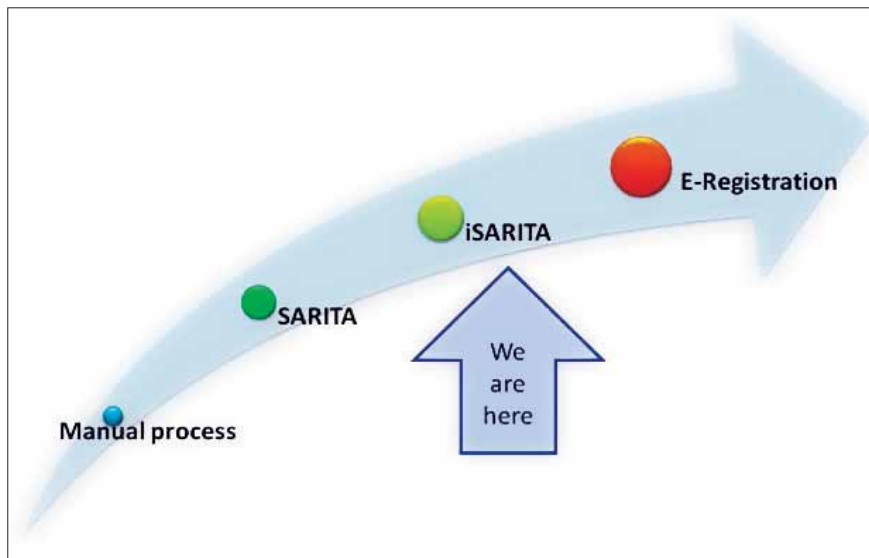
has been started at all Registration offices with concurred jurisdiction.

E-ASR

To bring transparency in the valuation process of the properties E-ASR is being implemented. Under this project the Annual Statement of Rates from 2010 to 2012 for all properties in the State has been made available for the citizens with the help of internet.

UTILIZATION OF PUBLIC DATA ENTRY AND BAR CODE

This facility has been made available on the website of the Department. The facility allows the client himself or with the help of others to get the important data from the documents to be registered converted to BARCODE and bring the same at the time of registration. Once the client has entered the data he brings an 11 DIGIT number for registration to the Sub Registrar Office. The Registrar takes up the data in original through a BAR CODE READER which automatically get converted into data on a computer in the field of I-SARITA and document immediately get registered. This project saves time of the administration as well as the public. As the people comes with their data entry, there is more accuracy which in turn speeds up the work of the Department.



all the Sub Registrar offices of the State are being connected to the Central Server of the Department. Through this the INPUT MODULE, REGISTRATION MODULE and the SCANNING MODULE access of I-SARITA from the Central Server is procured for the registration of documents.

E-PAYMENT

Under this initiative the payments towards registration fees, Stamp Duty and other charges receivable by the Department are enabled for

E-STEPIN

A facility has been made available to the public for reservation of a Token for Registration of their documents with a pre-determined convenient date, time and convenient office through Internet resulting in reducing time and efforts of the citizens and they do not have to wait at the offices unnecessarily as the documents are registered at a pre determined time. This has brought a transparency in the working of the Department and one can see reduction in unnecessary crowd at these offices. The procedure

E-REGISTRATION

There is a proposal for ONLINE registration of documents connected with Leave and License.

BENEFITS OF I-SARITA SYSTEM

- As the I-SARITA System and its data are available on the Central Server now it is possible to exert a technical control on the work at all the Sub Registrar offices, crisis management, system up-gradation and updating as well as continuous REAL TIME online implementation of the project. At the same time, information about the functioning of the Sub Registrar office, getting

SARITA

STAMPS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
BASED ADMINISTRATION

AN EXPERIENCE IN e-GOVERNANCE

various reports, issuing directives and instructions are also done online.

- As the Government GRAS system interlinked with I-SARITA, it is possible to actually verify the receipts of payments at the time of registration of the documents.
- While registering the documents through I-SARITA, the clients had to bring a Xerox Copy alongwith the original document. This copy used to be preserved at the office after signatures, stamps and paging has been done as per original. This was increasing the volume of records in the offices of Sub Registrar. At the same time the scanned data of the registered documents used to be preserved on CDs. It is very difficult to preserve these both types of records. Now while registering documents under I-SARITA there is no need for the clients to bring a Xerox copy of the original document. After the registration of document is complete the document is scanned and TWO thumbnails (1:4 ratio, front-back) prints are taken. One copy is provided to the client and after his verification, both the copies has been signed by Sub

Registrar and the client. One copy is preserved at the Sub Registrar office and the client is provided with the Original registered document and a CD of the second thumbnail print. This is reducing the volume of records in the office and these offices are becoming more spacious.

- As the post-registration office work has reduced to a great extent due to I-SARITA system the process for Registration of documents has become more transparent and people oriented.
- I-SARITA system has been implemented in the offices of Sub Registrar from the 11th JULY 2012 and it has been activated in 124 Sub Registrar offices in the State. An average 2,300 documents are being registered every day with this system and around 51,000 documents have been registered till today. By the end of October 2012, I-SARITA system is being implemented at all the 492 Sub Registrar offices in the State.

SALIENT FEATURES OF DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS

- Direct contact with around 1.5 crore people every year.

- First State in India to collect Stamp Duty in a coordinated way from the Stock-markets.
- Annual Statements of Rates are updated every year.
- There is an impressive enhancement in the collection of revenue although the rates for Stamp Duty are less than other State. The Department is well equipped with web-based centralised system for registration.
- Client oriented Public Data Entry facilities for Registration.
- Use of BAR CODE for data entry reading.
- Maximum revenue collection in the year in 2011-12 through ONLINE process.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

- Computerized Document registration System. Original Documents returned to the client within 20 minutes (proposed for improvements).
- Token booking through Internet by E-StepIn.
- Parallel connectivity of the taluka level Tehsildar office, Taluka Land Records office and Sub Registrar office Under the National Land Records Modernization Programme.
- LR-SRO Linkage software is being used in Mulshi Taluka of Pune district.
- The Mutation is recorded ONLINE immediately after the document is registered.
- Document Registration at any of the registration offices within the area of the Taluka.
- A total of 23,14,218 documents registered during 2011-12.
- An amount of Rs. 1370.14 crore was collected as Registration Charges during 2011-12. ■

- Mukta Pawar



A Great Struggle...A Huge Win...

Returning land to Khandakaris would provide economic stability to them

The peaceful struggle by Khandakari farmers from Maharashtra is the best example of how problems that have been lurking on the people for decades could be resolved through discussion and understanding. These Khandakaris have struggled for retrieval of their own lands persistently and constitutionally for the last 60 years and have succeeded in their mission ultimately through perseverance and follow up says **Adv. Pandurang Gaikwad (Patil)**



Khandakaris are the farmers who gave their lands to the private entrepreneurs/ industrialists on tenancy basis during 1932 and 1945 for a period of thirty years. Most of these Khandakaris were poor, needy and illiterate. In a way these people were exploited as they were paid a truly meager rent of Rs. 2 to Rs. 5 per acre. Although the rent gradually increased to Rs. 60 per acre the Government ceased the payment of rent in 1982.

As the rent paid to Khandkaris was extremely meagre, Late Shankarrao Bajirao Patil, ex-minister and MP led the struggle of farmers of Ratnapuri and compelled the concerned industrialist to raise the rent. Going even further he played a significant role in Khandkaris struggle for retrieval of their lands and achieved success in 1972 and

1978. Harshawardhan Patil, Minister for Cooperation, Government of Maharashtra adhered to the traditions and helped these poor Khandakaris to get back their lands. The dream of Khandkaris finally came true in 2012.

The struggle had commenced as early as in 1952. Many stalwarts such as Krantisinha Nana Patil, ex-MP Madhavrao Gaikwad, Padmashree Vitthalrao Vikhe-Patil, Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Mohite Patil, Shankarrao Bajirao Patil and Annasaheb Shinde soulfully supported this long and peaceful struggle. The year 2013 will bring a new cheer to the lives of these Khandakaris as 11,000 of them will get back around 24,000 acres of their lands rented out by them decades earlier. In the tradition of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who built Swarajya with the help of farmers the State

Government has provided justice to Khandakaris by giving them back their own lands.

The Land Ceiling Act and Maharashtra State Farming (MSFC) Ceiling Act was passed by the State Government in 1961. The act was made applicable to private industrialists as well. The Government of Maharashtra had 85,000 acres of land which was in possession of industrialists and framed MSFC in 1963. MSFC was governed and managed by the State Government with around 15,000 employees. The main crop that was cultivated in this land was Sugarcane. In addition to this crops such as Jowar and Bajra were also cultivated. There were large orchards of Mango, Chiku and coconut under cultivation. Dairy farming was undertaken at Ratnapuri and Shivpuri farms.

MSFC owned 14 farms in 7 districts of the State namely Pune, Solapur, Nashik, Kolhapur, Ahmednagar, Auranagabad and Satara and still exists at 14 farms located at Ratnapuri (Indapur), Shivpuri, Sadashivnagar, Shirpur (Malshiras) Sakharwadi (Phaltan), Kolhapur, Tilaknagar (Ahmednagar), Haregaon (Shrirampur), Sakharwadi (Shirdi), Laxmiwadi (Kopargaon), Ravalgaon (Malegaon), Gangapur (Aurangabad) and Changdeo (Kopargaon).

HUGE LOSSES

In fact as the MSFC ceased cultivation at these farms from 3rd April 2008

around 70,000 acres of land has remained uncultivated with certain exceptions. Thus the Government is incurring a huge loss to the exchequer. As of now the land is covered with futile vegetation and the Government has to provide funds to clear the lands so that the lands could be measured and given back to Khandakaris.

Khandakaris were already fighting against private entrepreneurs and industrialists to retrieve their lands since 1952. However since 1962 they found another opposition and had to fight it out with the Government of Maharashtra all the way. The State Government took a decision in 1970 to return a maximum of 4 acres of land to the Khandkaris who were poor and needy. This decision was taken in order to protect the rights of MSFC employees. With this decision around 15,000 acres of land out of the total of 85,000 acres of land with MSFC was distributed among Khandakaris in 1972 and 1978.

Not satisfied with the decision of the State Government, the Khandakaris continued to press their demand for retrieval of the rest of their lands. A number of demonstrations and protests were staged. Court cases were registered against many Khandakaris. Amendments to the Land Ceiling Act were made in 1975. Under the purview of the amendments it was decided that a Khandakari would be given 18 acres of irrigated or 54 acres of non-irrigated land. However the Khandakaris were still unsatisfied and pressed their demand for land upto the ceiling limit.

The State Government constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Ramraje Nimbalkar and with Harshawardhan Patil, Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil as well as Jayant Sasane as members of this august Committee. The committee submitted its report to the Court as well as the State Government in 2001. The report suggested remedial measures to safeguard the interests of MSFC employees and also for returning of the lands to Khandakaris.

A proposal to the effect was sent to the Hon. President of India for approval and the same was approved by Hon. President of India on 23rd April 2003. After receiving this approval, the State Government passed an Act on the issue of returning lands to these Khandakaris. Subsequently a circular was also issued. However the Khandakaris failed to submit their applications within the stipulated period of 90 days. Meanwhile the MSFC Employees Union submitted petitions at the Aurangabad Bench of Hon. Mumbai High Court as well as at the Supreme Court.

The Unions contended that the distribution of land among Khandakaris would lead to the unemployment of MSFC employees and posed a threat to the corporate relations. They wanted that the issues related to employees should be sorted out before returning lands to Khandakaris. The petition against the Government was turned down by Hon. High Court. The Government had made its stand clear that the quantity of lands remaining with MSFC after returning lands to Khandakaris would be enough to sustain MSFC employees as also to ensure existence of MSFC. The judgment was given in favour of the Government when the Government submitted an undertaking to this effect to the Hon. Court. This decision from the Court smoothed out the process of returning land to Khandakaris.

To continue the existence of MSFC it was decided to provide ownership of the present residential accommodation and a 2 Guntha plot to every MSFC employee, to pay employee dues in a one time settlement of Rs. 85 crore, to continue the scheme of Peekpani and to implement 5th Pay Commission to the MSFC employees. The State Government made these promises to fulfil demands from the Union.

The State Government made a plan to return to Khandakaris. The circular signed by the Hon. Governor of Maharashtra was issued on 2nd

February 2012. The circular stated that Khandakaris should submit their applications within 90 days and the process of distribution would begin. However the MSFC Employees Unions filed a Writ petition in the Aurangabad Bench of Hon. Mumbai High Court in April 2012. It was argued that the extension of the limit of 90 days was illegal. The Unions succeeded in obtaining injunction against the process of distribution of land. The injunction was cancelled by the Hon. Court in October 2012 and the same was confirmed by the Supreme Court. The applications submitted by Khandakaris within 90 days were declared as valid.

PRESENT SCENARIO

MSFC held 85,000 acres of land in 1963. 15,000 acres of land from this was returned to Khandakaris in 1972 and 1978. As on today MSFC has 70,000 acres of land out of which 24,000 acres would be returned back to 11,000 Khandakaris with annual irrigation rights. After the process of distribution, MSFC will still be left with 46,000 acres of land that can sustain the Corporation.

The Supreme Court judgment in favour of the State Government has smoothed out the process of distribution of lands. Chief Minister Prithivraj Chavan, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat and Cooperation Minister Harshawardhan Patil met the Khandakaris and assured them that they would be returned their lands before Diwali. Concerned departments have been directed to commence the process of distribution of land.

The decision made by the State Government to return lands to Khandakaris is indeed historic and revolutionary.

These Khandakaris will cultivate their lands in future and add to the national productivity as also income. The move would also provide required economic stability for Khandakaris. ■

A Fresh Breath for Farm Roads

Farm roads are as important to agriculture as blood vessels to human body

In an open economy the most important and urgent need is for permanent farm roads to carry the agricultural produce to the markets as well as ferrying the essential implements, resources and machines to the agricultural lands, explains Commissioner of Animal Husbandary, **Eknath Davale**.

India is an agrarian country and the income generated from agriculture has an extremely important position in the Indian economy. As we have adapted globalization and open financial system, though we are finding a higher GDP in business and services sectors, we cannot ignore the primary sector such as agriculture, which has been a major player in our economic system. Apart from availability of fertile lands, abundant water and adequate finances there is a need for modern technology, improved varieties of seeds, scientific approach and other basic facilities for this sector. It is said that the Indian agriculture is in a state of transition after the Green

Revolution. During the changing times availability of manpower has become an important task.

NEED FOR FARM ROADS

With the encroachments farm roads has been deteriorating. The main objective of the Campaign has been to make a proper transport road available to the farmers. The necessity of such farm roads could be understood from the following points.

- For want of transport roads, farmers cannot opt for cash crops such as Sugarcane, Banana, Fruit farms, Vegetable farms even if they desire...
- With the absence of farm roads ,it is very difficult to transport inter-cultivation equipments to and from

the farm is very difficult task .

- Due to this it was inevitable for the farmers to carry all the required agriculture items such as implements, seeds, fertilizers and insecticides well before the onset of monsoon...
- The non availability of the roads was adversely affecting the transport of fertilizers, fertilizer dosage at critical stages of the crops, spraying of insecticides and keeping a night watch on the fields.
- The timely transport of perishable agricultural produce such as fruits and vegetables to the markets was becoming a strenuous task due to non availability of farm roads. These perishable goods remained



grounded incurring a huge loss to the farmers. With such a huge loss, farmers hesitate to venture into profitable crops...

- With the absence of farm roads, the harvesting and cutting machines cannot be made to reach the fields and results in unnecessary losses for farmers...
- The encroachments on the farm roads create a huge number of litigations with administration at the Court of Law and precious time and money of the farmers is wasted. The personal enmity rises and sometimes ends in murderous events...
- Due to non availability of the farm roads, many farmers have to sell their lands against their will or otherwise are forced to part with their lands through a transaction...
- The farmers just cannot undertake any ancillary businesses such as poultry farming, milk or others due to absence of farm roads. This results in reduction of the economic status of the farmer...
- In order to improve the irrigation facilities lakes and canals were created. As the traditional roads went under water, road problems came up at many places. As an optional facility there was a need for clearing the encroached farm roads...
- The Gavthan area got changed due to rehabilitation of certain villages. This gave rise to the problem of roads passing through Gavthan to the fields and the new roads through Gavthan to the fields...

Considering all these factors the significance of perennial roads in the agricultural economy was properly underlined. The farm roads are as important to the agriculture as the blood vessels are to the human body. The farm road is a problem of life and death for the farmers. The Latur District administration had freed 140 roads from encroachments through the sediment removal campaign. Based on these experiences a time



bound action plan was prepared for removal of encroachments on the farm roads.

FREEDOM FOR ROADS CONCEPT

A campaign to remove collected sediments from a lake through public participation was successfully implemented in Latur district. Without burdening the exchequer even for a single rupee, the people themselves spent a huge amount of Rs. 72 Crores. With the help from Revenue and Irrigation Departments they evacuated an enormous sediment content of 90.23 lakh cubic meters (m³) from 205 lakes.

Remaining unfazed by the famine like conditions due to rain shortfall in rains and converting the same into an opportunity, the Latur district administration of Latur successfully implemented the sediment extraction campaign. The sediments were spread over an area of 19,000 acres of barren lands. Apart from making these lands more fertile the storage capacity of the lakes in the District increased by almost 90.23 million cubic meters (m³). However at this time alone the huge problem of farm roads stood as an obstacle before the administration. This was the time when the District administration who had successfully implemented the sediment extraction from the lakes through public participation accepted

the challenge for freedom for roads...

Under the existing Government procedures for farm roads it was not physically possible to carry out removal of encroachments and there was no system in place for the same. The Panchnama remained on paper with endorsements at Tehsildar, Sub-Divisional Officer and District levels that the complaint matter has been resolved and got filed. However the encroachments and the troubles for the farmers continued unabated.

The District Collectors realized that the matter of farm roads would not be resolved finally until the permanent demarcation lines for the agricultural lands of the farmers are not settled. Therefore farmers were made to understand that the problem will be resolved with a permanent solution only if they came forward to bear the expenditure for the same. Accordingly, it was unanimously decided to remedy the matter with public participation.

It was agreed to make understand the encroachers and if necessary use provisions of law and a time-bound programme was chalked out to remove encroachments from the farm roads.

ACTION PLAN

The District Collector held a joint meeting of various officers to implement time-bound programme for removing encroachment from



the farm roads. They were informed in detail about the village maps and roads with the help of actual maps. Village-wise review of encroachment of farm roads for each Taluka was undertaken. Relevant orders for clearing farm roads shown in maps, if encroached were provided in the meeting.

Detailed instructions regarding well defined responsibilities were given and jobs to be undertaken by each of the systems as also the responsibilities of Gram Panchyat Dispute-free Village Committee, Revenue Department, Land Records Department and farmers.

CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTATION

Once the Campaign got underway various works such as informing farmers, collecting public contributions, use of measuring tape on both sides of the road for marking and immediately take up the trenches, spreading soil, murrum and boulders on the road, making roads fit for transport and actually starting the transport became a regular affair. As soon as the situation got realized everyone else felt the need for such road through their lands. The result was the expectations from farmers about the farm roads

Campaign Results...

- A total of 6972 farm roads measuring 11590 kilometers have been created in the Marathwada Revenue Region by the end of March 2012. Thereby an area of 3,58,268 Hectare has been connected to the main roads.
- This campaign in Marathwada Region taken up with public participation saw public contributions from farmers to the tune of Rs. 42 Crores.
- The environment for ancillary agricultural industries such as poultry farming, milk, cattle breeding, agro-processing industries and others were strengthened as the farm roads were cleared from encroachments.

were enhanced. In certain places the encroached roads were cleared using legal means. The positive result was that farm roads got created which were wider than those shown in the maps.

TANDULJA – LATUR TALUKA

An encroached farm road from the Nizam era at Takalgaon was widened to 33 feet. Due to this 13 roads from Tandulja and Takalgaon were freed from encroachments. The roads from villages such as Talni, Barol and Ujed were also freed from encroachments. The farmers were inspired. The message that the farm roads could be created through public participation

was loud and clear to everyone. The Campaign soon got converted to a peoples' movement.

PEOPLES' MOVEMENT

As the campaign got motivated as a peoples' movement at least 6-8 farm roads of a width between 20-25 feet got created... Within a short period 1136 farm roads measuring 1948 kilometers were freed from encroachments.

All these efforts were duly credited by the newspapers as well. This resulted in a further positive response in mental preparedness that if a farm road exists on the map, it has to be left open and free. In fact a social pressure also got created for the same. This encouraged farmers to voice their complaints even against the prestigious personalities from the village. The top officers from the State felicitating the honest, efficient officers and the farmers inspired everyone associated with the campaign. This improved their efficiency and promptness.

Creators of obstacles in freedom of farm roads were left in a lurch as they finally understood that they would never be able to obstruct a farm road shown in the map and would have to leave it anyhow. ■

Maha-e-Seva

Certificates Issued By Maha-e-Seva Centres

- Indira Gandhi Niradhar Old Landless, Destitute Women Farm Labour Scheme
- Issuance and renewal of New Ration Cards, change of address, addition of members, issue of duplicate Ration Cards
- Family Benefit Scheme
- Succession Certificate
- Application for Land Measurement
- Application for Change of Name
- Death Registration Certificate
- Caste Certificates for SC, ST, OBC, VJNT and SBC
- Stamp Duty Refunds
- Affidavit for Certificate of a relative
- Transfer of Electricity Meter
- Water connection
- Loan and Assistance to educated unemployed
- For Bifurcation of Ration Cards
- Concessional Pass for ST travel
- GAP Certificate
- Senior Citizen Identity Card
- Affidavit of non-ownership of land
- Buddhists Caste Certificate
- Marriage Certificate
- About non-possession of Form 'C'
- Affidavit showing Family Tree
- Certificate for Army Recruitment
- Marginal land holder certificate
- 7/12 extract
- Village Form 8-A
- Other Affidavits





O.I.G.S. Presented by The Government of India

MAHARASHTRA AHEAD

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