CHAPTER VIII

Local and Land Revenue Administration

For fiscal and administrative purposes the state of Jaipur was divided into a number of parganas. The pargana was a revenue as well as a territorial unit comprising villages, the number of which varied from 22 to over 1200. Those parganas which comprised about 1500 villages or more were further subdivided into tappas. The number of villages in a tapa varied from 50 to 200. The lowest administrative unit was the village which is referred to as a mauza and a gaon. The size of the villages in a pargana or tapa also varied, ranging from 300 bighas to over 15000 bighas.

The local administration at the pargana as well as at the village level, was geared mainly to facilitate the assessment and collection of revenue and for maintaining law and order. To achieve these goals, the administrative structure of the pargana consisted of two distinct elements. Firstly, there were full-fledged officials of the state who were in overall charge of the pargana with different jurisdictions. They were assisted by subordinate staff. Secondly, there were the permanent local officials who owed their position partly to birth and partly to appointment by the state. These local elements assimilated in such a way that they became an integral part of the local administrative machinery of the state, and helped in its normal functioning at distinct levels, i.e., the pargana as well as the village. The services of the local hereditary officials were not confined to the assessment and collection of revenue; they were also partly responsible for maintaining law and order within
the territories under their jurisdiction. They also had to arbitrate
and adjudicate the disputes concerning the social and economic life
of the rural population.

For the overall supervision of the pargana administration two
different categories of officials were appointed by the state: the
amin, the amil and the tappadar were appointed primarily to look
after the land revenue administration, whereas the faujdar, the
thanadar and the kotwal were to maintain law and order.

The hereditary local officials at the pargana level were the
chaudhuris and the ganungos who were required to assist the state
pargana officials in various ways. In a village the assessment and
collection of the revenue was left to a considerable degree upon the
shoulder of the hereditary village officials. The hereditary village
official who was in overall charge of the village administration was
the patel who was assisted by the patwari. The state officials, the
tappadar, the sahana, the vadhdar and the chokeyat had different
obligations.

Pargana Officials

The Amil

The amil was the head of the revenue administration of the
pargana. He was directly appointed by the Maharaja on the recomman-
dation of the divan hazuri. Depending on the size of the pargana
the number of amils could exceed more than one, even going up to four
in a large pargana. The tenure of the office of an amil was not

1. Chithi to Purohit Jaichand, dt. K.J. Asarh Vadi 2, V.S. 1809/
   1752 A.D.

2. Chithi to Shah Bhim Singh Jait Singh, dt. K.J. Posh Vadi 1, V.S.
   1808/1751 A.D.
It appears from documents relating to the pargana administration that the amils were frequently dismissed on grounds of inefficiency and dishonesty. An amil, it seems, did not hold the office for more than three years.

The amil was not merely in charge of the revenue administration. He was also the head of the local pargana administration and thus combined in him all the executive, judicial and revenue powers. Generally two amils were appointed in a pargana i.e. the amil akhtiyari (or the amil incharge) and the amil syabadi who was required to assist the amil akhtiyari in discharging his obligations. But both of them held joint responsibility for the smooth functioning of the administration. They were assisted by subordinate staff.

The amil had a pivotal position in the pargana administration with multifarious functions. His main duty was the collection of state revenue at the time of harvest and their safe remission to the pargana treasury. He was required to collect the land revenue within a fixed period on the basis of jamabandi prepared by the amin. He was assisted by the tappadar and other local hereditary officials. He had to make inquiries from the chaudharis and the qanungos regarding:


ing outstanding arrears, and to collect the arrears. It was his duty to realize revenue from the zortalab raiyat by the demonstration or actual use of force. He could be assisted by the faujdar in subduing the recalcitrant raiyat and realizing state revenue from them. A suitable contingent was deputed under his charge to assist him.

It was also his duty to ensure the cultivation of all cultivable land and to see that there was no decrease in the area under cultivation. His special duty was to rehabilitate the old, ruined and depopulated villages failing which he could be removed from office.

He played an important role in the colonization of new villages. He could, at his discretion, issue patta to the cultivators stating the land revenue demand and provide wood and other necessary material.


The Amil was instructed to rehabilitate and protect those villages which had been deserted due to the famine and on account of the Maratha incursion. Further he was instructed to improve cultivation in these villages.

Yaddashti Pradakhti Gaon pargana Jalarna, dt. V.S. 1783/1726 A.D.
for the construction of chhappars to the new settlers. He had to send recommendation to the diwan regarding the resettlement of the ruined villages, especially at the time of famine and outside incursions. He suggested to the state the appointment of permanent state revenue officers in the villages such as tappadar, sahna etc. with a view to extending and protecting cultivation.

In order to ensure the cultivation of all arable lands, he could settle pahis and paltis in the village for cultivation on moderate terms. He could request the Maharaja to grant tagai loans to the poor and deserving raiyats. He could also manage such loans from the mahajans and sahukars. All tagai loans advanced by the state were distributed amongst the raiyat through the amil. It was his responsibility to recover these loans at the time of harvest and to deposit them in the pargana treasury. He had the right to grant desolate and unluxurative villages on ijara for increasing their jama and to populate them. He was expected by the state to make


3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Falgun Sudi 10, VS 1814/1757 A.D. Amil informing the diwan that the pargana is depopulated. Further HC is recommending the huzuri to appoint permanent tappadars and sahnas for the rehabilitation (avadan) and management (radakhti) of deserted villages.

4. Chithi to the Amil pargana Udehi, dt. V.S. 1789/1732 A.D. Chithi to the amil pargana Alarne, dt. K.M. Asarh Sudi 7, V.S. 1822/1755. Chithis to the Amil pargana Lalsot, dt. K.M. Savan Sudi 14, V.S. 1811/1754; The amil informed the Diwan that the raiyat of the pargana were very poor and cultivation would improve if they were granted tagai. He was instructed to arrange tagai from the sahukar and distribute it among the raiyat.

5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Bahatri, dt. K.M. Asarh Sudi 15. V.S
agrarian arrangements in such a manner that the *jama* could reach the maximum. At the same time he was expected to protect the interest of the *raiyat*.

He was required to meet the salary claims of all *pargana* officials under him i.e. *tankhwahdar* and *alufdar* out of the amount deposited in the *pargana* treasury. He demanded from the *jagirdars* that they produced their *sanads* from time to time and had to see that no assignee could appropriate the *hasil* from the *jagir* without producing it. The state’s order regarding the various revenue assignments and grants were implemented through the *amils* of *parganas*. He acted as a check on the grantees and assignees so that they could not harass the *raiyat* by realizing revenue in excess to that permitted by customary rates. He could confiscate the revenue assignment of defaulters whenever instructed by the state to do so.

He was also partly responsible for ensuring peace and order in the *pargana*.* It was his duty to see that the *raiyat* did not desert their villages and the *raiyat* belonging to other *parganas* did not settle in the area under his jurisdiction without his permission.

Contd... \f.n. 5, 1617/1760 A.D. Chithi to the *Amil* *pargana* Lalsot dt. *K.M.* Asoj Sudi 3, V.S. 1826/1769 A.D.; dt. *K.M.* Asarh Sudi 14, V.S. 1815/1758 A.D.


2. Chithi to the *Amils* *pargana* Kot, Khothri, Gaji ka Thana, Nivai, Naraina, Chatsu, Toda Bhim, Pahari, Mauzabad, Shahpura etc. dt. *K.M.* Falgun Sudi 5, V.S. 1814/1757 A.D.


4. Chithi to the *Amil* *pargana* Hindaun, dt. *K.I.* Posh Vadi 2, VS 1796/1739 A.D. *Amil* was instructed to oust the *raiyat* of *pargana* wazirpur, who migrated to *pargana* Hindaun and settled there without his (*amil*) permission.
He had to take surety from the recalcitrant elements of the pargana for their conduct. He had the right to oust the murderers and criminals from the pargana and was required to see that undesirable elements did not enter the pargana to endanger law and order. He could expel the badamals or seditious zamindars from the pargana and send recommendations for the settlement of the deserving and loyal persons in lieu thereof. He had to send detailed reports regarding administrative affairs of the pargana to the Maharaja and could seek states' instructions regarding various problems relating to the pargana administration. The state could take punitive action against recalcitrant zamindars and taluqdars who refused to pay the state dues on the report of the amil. He had to send a report on the recalcitrant elements of the pargana to the Maharaja.

The amil also exercised considerable judicial powers. He was required to decide rural disputes with the help of local officials such as chowdharis, ganungos, patels and patvairis. He could refer

1. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Bhadon Sudi 12, V.S. 1783/1726 A.D.

2. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Chaitra Vadi 5, V.S. 1814/1757 A.D. Chithi to the Amil pargana Kohri, dt. KM Bhadon Vadi 2, VS 1811/1754 A.D. The amil expelling Kilyanot zamindars who were badamals and zortalabs.

3. Chithi from Diwan Kanhi Ram Nand Lal to Rajshri Jhujhar Singh dt. KJ Jeth Vadi 6, VS 1818/1766 A.D. Chithi from Diwan Rai Gursahai Bal Chand to the Amil pargana Lalsot, dt. KJ Falgun Vadi 9, V.S. 1822/1765. Amil deciding a boundary dispute between Chand Singh Rajdhar, the jagirdar of the village of Sri Rampur and the zamindar of the village of Jagn, he decided the dispute with the help of Chaudhary, ganungo and patels of five neighbouring villages.


5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Mauzabad, dt. KJ Jeth Sudi 12, V.S. 1821/1764. Chithi to the Amil pargana Dausa, dt. KJ Jeth Vadi
the agrarian disputes regarding the ownership of land, village boundary, sharing of the produce, property etc. to the village panchayat and other arbitrating bodies.1 However, although the amil was the highest judicial authority in the pargana, the appeal could be made to the Maharaja against his decision in case a party was not satisfied with it.2

He had the right to appoint a number of village revenue officials such as tappadar, sahna, patel, and patwari. However, the state approval was necessary for the confirmation of the officials thus appointed.3 He encouraged patels and patwaris of the khalisa villages, by distributing amongst them the robe of honour given by the state, to make efforts for the extension of cultivation.4 The amil was required to appoint trustworthy and efficient persons as the tappadar and sahna in the village, keeping in view its agricultural conditions and requirements. He was required to keep an eye on these officials and to induce them to discharge their respective duties with utmost

contd... f.n. 5. 11, V.S. 1822/1765. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Asarh Vadi 9, V.S. 1816/1759. Amil lodging complaint against the taalugdars who did not come to pay hasil. He requested the buzzuri to send a contingent to punish them.


care and honesty. He could be held responsible for their default and negligence. He was required to submit a bond for their good conduct.\(^1\) He also forwarded the farobi accounts, submitted by the faujdar, to the darbar.\(^2\)

It was his duty to manage the malba cess which was realized from the raiyat to meet out the common expenses of the village. He was expected to keep close watch over the collection of this particular cess so that the patel, zamindar and jagirdar, did not charge more than what was required; he also supervised the expenditure of the malba cess, so that the amount spent may not be a burden to the raiyat. In order to minimise the expenditure incurred on account of the salary of the state village officials such as sahna and tappadar who were paid rozina out of the malba, he was instructed by the state to curtail the number of posts of these officials in case the burden became too heavy.\(^3\) At the same time he had to act in such a way that the work of the collection of state revenue would not be adversely affected by the retrenchment.\(^4\)

He had to formulate rules and regulations of the market. It was his responsibility to fix the day of hat (weekly market) to be organized at different places in the pargana.\(^5\) He also prepared

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and despatched a number of pargana revenue records such as the arh-
sattas, awarijah, nirkhbazar, yaddashti etc. to the office of the
divan cesh and divan hazuri. He was assisted by local officials in
preparing these revenue records for the perusal of the state.↑

From time to time the amil received from the state certain
instructions relating to the pargana administration in general and
agrarian affairs in particular. He had to implement these instruc-
tions, failing which he could be prosecuted and punished.↑ The state
could appoint an officer to audit the account of the revenue collect-
ted by the amil in case the raiyat and patels lodged a complaint
alleging misappropriation and over-realization. If he was found
 guilty, he was required to reimburse the unauthorized amount collec-
ted by him.↑

Little information is available regarding the remuneration of
the amil. In documents relating to the appointment of the amil, it
is mentioned that the appointee was entitled to the remunerations
according to the rate sanctioned to the outgoing officials.↑ Undoubt-
dedly, he was the highest paid pargana official. He was genera-
lly paid an annual salary ranging from Rs. 400/- to Rs. 1300/- per
annum in addition to the extra allowance for the maintenance of the

1. Chithi to the Amil pargana Fagi, Udehi, Nivai, Chatsu etc. dt.
   K.S. Sawan Sudi 3, V.S. 1811/1754.
2. Chithi to the Amils pargana Swai Jaipur, Khohri, Gaji ka Thane,
   Nivai, Chatsu, Toda Dhim etc. dt. Kl Sawan Sudi 3, VS 1811/1754.
3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Bahatri, dt. Kl Vaishakh Vadi 11,
   V.S. 1807/1750.
   Kl Ushatra Vadi 6, VS 1816/1759; to Shah Bhoj Raj, dt. Kl
   Ushatra Vadi 10, V.S. 1810/1752.
office. In case he discharged his duties efficiently and honestly, his salary was increased. He could be assigned jagir instead of cash salary. He was not entitled to accept gifts from the raiyat, but was entitled to take begar from certain classes of the raiya in accordance with the customs of the pargana.

He also received gifts from bridegroom's party, whenever it came to the village in connection with a marriage.

The Faujdar

The faujdar was the chief executive officer in charge of the pargana. In official hierarchy, he was next to the amil in the pargana administration.

The appointment of a faujdar was directly made by the Maharaja through a sanad, containing the terms and conditions of the appointment. The faujdar received orders directly from the ruler and submitted his petition directly to him. It appears from the name of faujdars that they were usually Rajputs and were given the title of Rajshri. But Shahs or mahajans were also sometimes appointed as faujdars.


2. Chithi to Shah Idkhmi Ram, the amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Jeth Sudi 2, V.S. 1823/1766; Divan informing the amil that a sum of Rs. 2000/- as an extra allowance per annum in addition to his salary has been sanctioned to him by the huzuri due to his efficient management of the revenue affairs of the pargana.


The tenure of the office of the faujdar does not seem to have been fixed. He could be dismissed if found guilty of negligence of duty. The offices of faujdar and kotwali could be jointly conferred on the same person.\(^1\)

The territorial jurisdiction under the faujdar was the pargana. It might comprise an entire pargana, or a few tappas in case the number of faujdars was more than one in a pargana. In certain cases the territorial jurisdiction of a faujdar could exceed one pargana and a person could be given faujdar of two adjacent parganas.\(^2\) The range of the faujdar's functions was very wide. His authority extended over military, police, judicial and revenue affairs of the pargana. His primary function was to maintain law and order and to take punitive action against those who defied the authority of the state.\(^3\) It was his responsibility to prevent thefts and robberies and other crimes within/jurisdiction. He had to recover the stolen articles and capture the culprits within a given period, failing which he had to compensate the victims himself, or else the amount was deducted from his emoluments.\(^4\) Actually he was more of an executive officer than a military commander, as the state emphasised the civil aspect.

It was the faujdar's responsibility to subdue the recalcitrant raiyat.

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and zamindars by the demonstration or actual use of force. 1

The faujdar was also associated with the work of land revenue administration. He was directly responsible for the collection of land revenue from the zortalab zamindars and the raiyat. He was required to render necessary assistance to amil in the collection of revenue in the khelisa land on a request from the latter. 2 He was required to send talab to the recalcitrant zamindars on the report of the amil. He was authorised to oust disloyal and recalcitrant zamindars from the state. 3 He was assisted by the subordinate staff in performing his duties. His subordinates were khojis (detectors), yadhars, savars, naqib savars and pajisdas. 4 An armed contingent of between 200 to 500 savars was kept at his disposal (according to the condition of the pargana) to assist him in the task of maintaining law and order and subduing the recalcitrant zamindars and seditious castes such as Meenas and Gujars.

The faujdar also had judicial power in criminal cases. Sometimes he was required to decide these cases in consultation with the

4. Chithi from Diwan Kanhi Ram Nand Lal to Sanghi Moti Ram Shah Jai Chand, dt. K.M Jeth Vadi, V.S. 1815/1758. The following staff was deputed under Anand Singh Khangarot, the Faujdar of Qasba Swai Jaipur: Dalla etc. Khojis 4 at the rate of Rs. 1/- per khoji rozina, Savar 27, Rs. 166 monthly. Naqib Savar 3, Rs. 0.50 per savar rozina, Pyada 270, 2 taka rozina per pyada, Vadh 30, 2 pajisda one, 20 Rs. per month (dar maha) and Navisda one, Rs. per month.
He had the power to imprison or impose fine on the culprits according to the nature and seriousness of the crime. Usually cash fines were imposed in cases such as those of faujdar, theft, gharecha (irregular marriage) and adulteration (chamchori). The faujdar imposed fine on the entire raiyat of the village in which the crime was committed and it could be waived only when the culprit was surrendered by the village patel, jagirdar or udiki. The fine collected by the faujdar from defaulters was termed as hasil farohi and it formed the bulk of the revenue collected under the head of siwai jamabandi. He was also required to implement the decisions taken by the amil, nyaya sabha and panchayat concerning various disputes. During this period emerged the practice of granting the office of faujdar to a person who entered into a contract to pay a fixed amount as hasil farohi and vani to the state. If he failed to collect the contracted amount he could be dismissed from office. Thus the offices were of kotwal and faujdar of pargana Bahatri/in 1759 A.D. entrusted to Shah Chain Ram Kanhi Ram who undertook to pay Rs. 15,000/- to the state.

2. Arhsattas pargana Swai Jaipur, Chatsu, Bahatri etc. Fines imposed by the faujdar on defaulters are entered in the arhsattas under the head of Siwai jamabandi.
3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Bhadon Sudi 12, V.S. 1783/1726 A.D.
4. Arhsattas pargana Chatsu, Malarna etc.
as farohi and vandi dastur for the period of one year. At the same time the faujdars were instructed by the state not to realize any amount of farohi on false pretext and to realize the amount only on the basis of customary rates. There are numerous instances of the raiyat being harassed by the faujdars on the false pretext of chamchori. Sometimes he also harassed the raiyat by taking unauthorised begar. Thus the harassment of the raiyat by such faujdar ijaradars is quite evident.

In the case of removal from office in the middle of the year he was required to submit tentative account of the amount realized as taksirana to the state.

In lieu of his services, the Faujdar was generally granted an annual salary. The amount of which varied from pargana to pargana but seems to have been within the range of Rs. 300/- to 800/-. He

4. Chithi dt. KJ Magishri Vadi 3, V.S. 1812/1755. The document reads as follows:

"--- परगना तालुक का अमृत के लिये आवे जो रैयति ले फैजवार की अवाघ धक्कात खावा ती दरी रैयत वाल जोत कर सकेना नहीं ---"

could be assigned a jagir instead of cash salary. Apart from this he was also entitled to a cess realized from the raiyat termed as gastur faujdari on the basis of customary rates.  

The Amin

The amin was appointed by the ruler on the recommendation of the diwan. It seems that the position of the amin in the pargana revenue administration was not very important. The revenue records and other documents do not make many references to the amin. Usually the offices of the amil and the amin were combined and entrusted to one person. The number of amins in a pargana could be more than one. The tenure of his office rested on the discretion of the ruler. In the case of inefficiency he could be removed at any time.

His primary function was to assess the revenue for the entire pargana. He was assisted by a number of officers such as the tp-padar, chaudhary, ganungo, etc. He had to locate all the land under cultivation and to assess it. After the completion of the assessment he prepared the jamabandi which bore the signatures of the chaudhary and the ganungo. Then he forwarded the papers to the diwan's

2. Arhsattas pargana Chatsu, Lalsot, Malarna, Swai Jaipur, Bahatri and Dausa.
office. He was also required to send detailed reports to the darbar about rainfall and general condition of cultivation in the pargana. He could also suggest ways and means to the diwan for increasing the jama of the pargana. We find them recommending to the state not to grant ijara of villages where the state of cultivation was satisfactory.

Whenever an appeal against the amil was made by the raiyat, the amin was entrusted by the state to look into the matter. Purohit Anoop Ram and Tilok Chand amins were instructed to conduct an inquiry against the amil of pargana Bahatri against whom the patel raiyat of the pargana lodged complaint about over-realization of revenue. The amin was instructed to adjudicate the dispute and to return the amount realized in excess. He also assessed the loss whenever cultivation suffered a setback.  

The Chaudhary

The office of the chaudhary was hereditary and in due course of time acquired the character of private property which could be bought, sold or mortgaged, even though the state could dismiss a chaudhary on grounds of gross negligence and confer the office on another person. He was expected to pay a fixed amount of peshkash

in instalments before confirmation in office. The number of chaudhars in a pargana varied. His jurisdiction could extend over a full pargana or a group of villages in a pargana.

The duties of the chaudhary covered important socio-economic matters and were to an extent identical with those of the ganungo. Primarily, he was associated with the work of the assessment and collection of land revenue. He was required to assist the amin and tappadar in the assessment work. He signed the jamabandi along with the ganungo and certified that the land revenue demand had been assessed in consultation with him and the ganungo on the basis of customary rates. The khasra papers prepared by the patel and the patwari were also certified by the chaudhary. He assisted the amin and tappadar in the actual work of revenue collection.

The chaudhary also acted as an arbitrator in case of disputes relating to the village boundary, ownership of land, field, well, rate of land revenue and other cesses, property, adoption, wedding etc., which were referred to him either for arbitration or consultation. He acted either alone or helped the higher revenue

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He was the custodian of detailed records, relating to various landed interests, which enabled the higher state revenue officials to decide the agrarian disputes in consultation with him.  

He was required to maintain, prepare and furnish some important revenue records - such as dastur-ul amal, muwaznai dahsala, taksim dahsala and details of awarijah etc. He was also required to prepare list of the villages granted in udik, inam, jagir and was also responsible for keeping record of the transfer of the villages.

He had to keep the list of agriculturists (asamians) with him. He was required to send to the Maharaja a report about the recalcitrants, furnishing details regarding their name, caste, clan and place of residence.

In consideration for his service, the chaudhary was granted rent free land known as nankar. He was also entitled to the dastur i.e. customary charge from the raiyat at the rate of 3½ of the revenue of the villages. Apart from this, his gharuhala land was assessed on concessional rate.

5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Malarna, dt. KI Bhadon Vadi 4, V.S. 1810/1753.
The Qanungo

The qanungo was closely associated with the pargana revenue administration. The number of qanungos in pargana could exceed one. In a pargana where the number of qanungos exceeded one, several villages forming a group would be placed under one qanungo. His office was hereditary in nature with full rights of purchase, sale and mortgage. However, the state reserved its right to resume the office in khalisa at any time. The state could also confer the office of qanungohi to an original settler of a village along with the pateli and zamindari rights.

The most important function of the qanungo was to keep and preserve various records. He was required to know the local practices and customs. He was supposed to maintain a complete record of various interests in land, revenue receipts, value, tenure, extent and transfer of the lands, the customary practices and regulations respecting revenue rates on various crops and modes of assessments. He was required to record any change and alteration in the agrarian condition of the pargana on account of the sale and mortgage of land and transfer of villages.

The documents prepared by the qanungos were taksim dahsala, dastur-ul amal, awariyah and fehrist udik inam. He was required to forward the jamabandi of the village prepared by the patel and the


The ganungo was also required to assist the amin in preparing the jamabandi of the pargana and to attest the jamabandi prepared by the amin. The ganungos were required to prepare the list of the recalcitrants (zortalabs) with full particulars regarding their name, caste/class and the pace of their residence for the perusal of the diwan's office.

The ganungo also played an important role as an arbitrator in deciding a variety of disputes. He along with the chaudhary was required to conduct enquiries into disputes relating to village boundary, the ownership of land and property etc. One document records that a dispute between two jagirdars regarding the village boundary was decided by the ganungos of five villages. The ganungos were also required to assist the higher revenue officials in deciding various disputes. A dispute regarding the rate of land revenue and other cesses could be decided by the amil in consultation with the ganungos. Disputes regarding the pateli and zamindari rights were


decided by the state after conducting enquiries from the ganungos.¹
The ganungo was required to assist the amil in deciding boundary
disputes between two neighbouring villages.² He also helped the
amil in deciding agrarian disputes such as ownership of land, well
and payment of the revenue etc.³ The amins also consulted the
ganungos regarding the damage done to the crop due to famine, draught
or army incursion.⁴ Disputes regarding the amount of peshkash were
also decided by the amil with the help of the ganungos.

The property of a deceased person could be divided amongst his
legal heirs in the presence of the ganungos. Any dispute arising
thereafter was to be reported to the higher authorities with the
attestation of the ganungos.⁵ The cases of suspected deaths were
also reported to the higher authorities along with the ganungo's
evidence in the matter.⁶

Whenever the accounts were settled between the parties, the
account sheets were attested by the ganungos.⁷

1. Chithi to the Amil pargana Dausa, dt. K.M. Jeth Vadi 11, V.S.
   1822/1765. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Jagishri
   Sudi 9, V.S. 1815/1758.
2. Chithi to the Amil and faujdar pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Savan
   Sudi 8, V.S. 1795/1738.
3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Naraina, dt. K.M. Jeth Sudi 1, V.S.
   1803/1746.
4. Amber Records, Chithi from Kirpa Ram to Diwan Bal Chand, dt.
   K.M. Vaisakh Sudi 1, V.S. 1824/1767.
5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Chaitra Sudi 13,
   V.S. 1814/1757.
6. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Jagh Sudi 5, V.S.
   1796/1738.
7. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindaun, dt. K.M. Savan Sudi 7, V.S.
   1819/1762.
In lieu of their services the ganungos were remunerated with a commission of 3% from the total revenue collected. This commission was known as rasum or dastur gamungo. They were entitled to realize this dastur from all the villages both in khalisa and jagir, except the villages granted in punya udik. However there are instances of disputes between the ganungo and the raiyat regarding the dastur to be paid on the basis of the assessed valuation (tan) or upsja (actual revenue) of the village.

The ganungos could be granted a rent free land grant nankar by the state instead of being paid cash. Apart from the customary remunerations and perquisites the land under the personal cultivation (Gharuhala) of the ganungo was assessed on concessional rates because he enjoyed the status of a privileged class (riyayati) in the agrarian society.

The Kotwal

The kotwal was the head of the local administration of the gasba. He was appointed by the Maharaja on the recommendation of the diwan. He was placed under the control of the faujdar who acted as

his supervisor. The offices of the kotwal and faujdar could however be conferred on a single person.

The primary duty of the kotwal was to keep watch over the gasba and to preserve security and order within it. He was held responsible by the state for theft, robberies and any other untoward happening in the gasba. In case he failed to spot the culprits within a given time he was to make good the loss.2

The office of the kotwal was loosely termed as chabutra kotwali, where criminals were brought and kept under custody.3

Little information is available regarding his remuneration. However it is clear from the documents that he was given a yearly cash salary (salana alufa) or in lieu thereof a jagir.4 A few cases are on record where he realised cesses from the raiyat for the maintenance of his office - hasil chabutra kotwali and ichh kotwali ki.

The Thanadar

The thanadar had under his jurisdiction several /military or police stations called thanas. He was subordinate to the faujdar

2. Ibid.
5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Dausa, dt. K.I Asoj Sudi 3, V.S. 1817/1760. The rate of ichh kotwali was 0.25 paisa per bigha, see Chithi dt. K.I Asoj Sudi 3, V.S. 1817/1760.
of the pargana. Normally, a thana was situated in the centre of a few villages, the number of villages thus grouped together varying from ten to twenty. In special cases where the raiyat was turbulent the thanadar could be appointed even for a single village. ¹

The primary obligation of the thanadar was to preserve law and order. He was required to subdue and suppress the turbulent raiyats, to arrest the miscreants and to send them to the Maharaja's court (huzuri). ² He had to take appropriate steps to prevent theft and robberies in his territory. For all this he had to give security to the state. He had to despatch periodical details about the arrested criminals and the nature and seriousness of their crimes. ³ He took punitive action against the arrested culprits whenever instructed by the Maharaja to do so. ⁴

In lieu of his services the thanadar was granted yearly salary in cash the amount of which is not however specified in any document. Sometimes he was assigned a jagir in lieu of cash. At times he was entrusted with the special responsibility of rehabilitating the depopulated villages. He was not expected to take begar from the raiyat.

3. Ibid.
The Tappadar

The tappadar was associated with the work of land revenue administration at the tappah and the village level. The appointment of a tappadar was made on the recommendation of the amil of the pargana and he was under the direct control and supervision of the amil. The appointment of tappadars was guided by the agricultural condition of the villages. Two types of tappadars were appointed, muqarari (permanent) and rozindar i.e. those who were generally appointed for the assessment of revenue at the time of harvest or for the collection of revenue. Muqarari tappadar was required to assist the amin and the amil akhtiyari in the overall work of assessment and collection. The rozindar tappadar was required to assist the amil sayavadi at the time of harvest when the latter visited villages for the purpose of collection of revenue. The tappadars were assisted by the subordinate staff in the work of jamabandī. He was also required to assist the amil in the task of resettlement of the depopulated villages. A tappadar could be paid remuneration on the basis of daily wages at a fixed rate. The muqarari tappadar was usually granted monthly salary.

3. Chithi from Diwan Rai Gur Sahai Bal Chand to the Amil pargana Lalsot, dt. KI Falgun Vadi 9, VS 1822/1765. The tappadar was assisted by the doria and the tiniya in the work of field to field measurement.
5. Chithi from Diwan Rai Gur Sahai Bal Chand to the Amil pargana Lalsot, dt. KI Falgun, Vadi 9, V.S. 1822/1765.
His territorial jurisdiction extended from ten to fifty villages.¹ The primary function of a tappadar was to assist the pargana revenue officials at the time of assessment and collection of the revenue. He was required to visit each village under his jurisdiction to perform the work of lata and dori (assessment according to latal system and measurement of land). He was required to measure the area under each crop and ascertain the state’s revenue demand.² But in special cases, a tappadar could be appointed for a single big or well cultivated village.³ Sometimes he was specially entrusted with the development of villages which showed decline in cultivation or were desolate.⁴

It was also his special responsibility to measure a particular tract of land which was to be detached from a village and incorporated into another. The respective shares of the various assignees, grantees and hereditary village officials were marked by the tappadar in case the number of holders were more than one.⁵ In a sarikat village (a village which was partly assigned and partly held in khali) it was his duty to demarcate clearly the respective shares

5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. KI Falgun Vadi 12, V.S. 1812/1755.
of the assignees and the khalisa. He was required to conduct inquiries into the actual loss suffered by the raiyat, ijaradars, etc. in case of crop failure due to a natural calamity and incursion of the army.

The amils were instructed by the state to appoint a responsible, efficient and trustworthy person to the office of a tappadar, who became a link between the raiyat and the pargana revenue officials.

The importance of the office of tappadar in revenue administration can be visualized from the fact that in a number of cases it was reported by the amils of various parganas to the state that those villages where a mugarari (permanent) tappadar was not appointed the revenue affairs were in disorder and the villages tended to become depopulated. They recommended that mugarari tappadars should be appointed for such villages so as to prevent any further loss of the revenue to the state.

In lieu of his services the mugarari tappadar received a fixed monthly salary from the state, the yearly amount of which ranged between Rs. 100/- and Rs. 200/-. The rozindar tappadar was paid daily

wages at the time of work of assessment and collection of the revenue. 1 The expenses of the tappadar at the time of assessment and collection were met by the raiyat out of the amount collected as malba. 2 The tappadar was instructed neither to accept gift nor to demand any thing from the raiyat. A tax was also levied on the raiyat known as hasil tappadar by the state to meet out his expenses. 3

The Village Officials

The Patel

The office of the Patel was essential part of the local and land revenue administration at the village level. The documents describe him as the chief village official besides the patwari. 4

In the majority of cases, the holders of the office tried to make it hereditary. 5 Gradually the Patel rights began to be treated as 'property' which could easily be bought, sold or mortgaged. 6 This

1. The rate of rozina paid to the tappadar varied from pargana to pargana. In pargana Lalsot the amount of rozina paid to the tappadar was 0.75 paisa.
concept of the office of the patel being a property was implicitly recognized by the state.\(^1\)

The patels generally descended from the first line of the colonizers of the village and were the initial proprietors (malik) of village land. The pateli rights could also be acquired through purchase.\(^2\) It could also be conferred by the state.

The law of inheritance and the nature of proprietary rights governing the pateli led to the fragmentation of the pateli jurisdiction held by a family. Apart from the law of inheritance, the frequent sale and purchase of the pateli rights, either in part or in full, further accelerated the process of division and subdivisions of the pateli jurisdiction. Thus the number of patels in a village could be more than one at a time.\(^3\) There are instances when a village had as many as seven patels at a time. Where the number of patels exceeded one, their respective jurisdictions were clearly stated and termed as pattis. Their shares were expressed in biswas.\(^4\)

Though hereditary rights to the office of the patel were entertained, the state reserved the right to appoint a patel or remove

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him from the office at its discretion. The state also exercised its right of appointing patel for villages which were newly colonized or were due to be settled as also for those villages where the office fell vacant due to the absence of natural heirs or the dismissal of the patels by the revenue officials. There are instances of the village community ousting the patels from the office as well as from the village.

The patel was not merely a state servant. He was normally a peasant himself and in many cases, a zamindar. In most cases they were rich cultivators, holding substantial land and performing gharuhala cultivation.

When the patel was conferred on a person, he was required to pay a lump sum as peshkash, generally payable in two annual install-


3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Jeth Sudi 12, V.S. 1821/1754. Daula, the patel of the village of Lohara who had killed Shobha mahajan was expelled by the raiyat from the village as well as from the office. Chaina, the patel of village Lala ka Nangal was ousted by the panchas of the village from the office. Chithi to Singhi Lala Ram Shah Salig Ram, dt. K.M. Kati Vadi 14, V.S. 1826/1769.


He was confirmed only when the sum due from him had been fully paid. In newly settled villages the pateli was usually entrusted to the pioneer colonizer of the settlement or was given to a person who could settle ruined villages by his personal efforts. There are instances when an original settler of the village combined in himself the offices of the pateti, patwati and parindar. Thus the offices of the pateli, patwati and parindar were simultaneously conferred upon Harbhagat Bheem, who was the pioneer colonizer of the village of Harbhagatpure in pargana Chatsu. There are also instances where outsiders tried to acquire vacant office by offering a large amount of pagarch to the state.

The pateli who may have abandoned his village for a variety of reasons could claim back his pateli rights. In case he was a victim of harassments by bhorias and so on he was induced to resume the office and given an assurance that he would not be harassed in future. However, if he desired to resume his rights, he had to pay the arrears outstanding against him. In such cases he was asked to pay certain


3. Chithi to the Amti pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Asad Sudi 5, V.S. 1819/1762.


amount of technique to furnish a guarantee as an assurance for his future behaviour. In many cases we find the patel undertaking to attract new plocughs and to construct new chappas in the village in a bid to regain their lost position. For repeated recalcitrance and evasion of the payment of state due, a patel could be ousted from his office and his pateli rights could be conferred on another person.

The patel was closely associated with the land revenue administration of the village. Though the revenue was assessed by the state officials, the responsibility for the collection of land from the village rested with the patel. The rajya of the village normally paid the revenue through the patel who was required to deposit it in the pargana tehsil or had to entrust it to the jagirdar in an assigned village. It, therefore, became the responsibility of the patel to collect the revenue share from each individual peasant. His performance thus was considered an official service to the state.

In addition the patel undertook to collect the legal censuses from the rajya. From many references it appears that the weaker peasants

2. Chital to the Atul pargana Fosli, dt. KI Acc J Sudi 2, VS 1792/1793. The patel of the village of Banarsad suggested in his petition to the state that if he is restored to the office once again he would bring 25 new plocughs to the village. He also undertook to get cultivated entire cultivable land (jilk jargar) of the village.
3. Chital to the Atul pargana Chasrit, dt. KI Jeth Veda 26, VS 1917/1918.
were exploited and harassed by the patel under the pretext of realizing jadn or other cesses. He was also closely associated with the assessment of the revenue of the village. He was at times required to prepare the jenabandi and kisanji papers of the village with the help of the patward. The record thus prepared served as a basis (to the state revenue officials) for the preparation of jenabandi for the entire village. He was required also to assist the topper; whenever the latter visited the village for the purpose of assessment of the state revenue.

The patel also assessed the jadna cess in the kusala villages, but in assigned villages he had to do it in presence of the jagirdar. The amount collected under the head of jadna remained with the patel who could use it to meet out common requirements of the village community, such as the maintenance and repair of wells and ponds and entertainment/guests and state revenue officials whenever they visited the village. The jagirdars were instructed by the state to realize

2. Chitthi to the Amil pargana Chateu, dt. K.i, Chottra Vedi 10, V.S. 1823/1766.
their legal dues in the presence of the patels of their respective villages.

The patel had a crucial role in the growth of village economy. In fact, he was the chief instrument in the colonization of new villages and was expected to play an important role in attracting new asamias to the newly colonized villages. He also made arrangement for the rehabilitation of old, ruined and deserted villages. It was his duty to perform the custom of chhapparbandi whenever an outside peasant came to settle in the village. The patel also performed an important role in bringing cultivable waste land under plough. He had full power in the choice of new cultivators and could bestow the land on whomever he liked. His authority in this respect was recognized by the state. However, the state officials could interfere in those cases where the patel allotted more land to the riyayati gharuhas than the paltis. He was expected to get more land cultivated by the paltis and paltis than by the riyayatis.


"- - राजादेव गाँव रानपरसाड़ी का कमाऊ आगोष्टर दस बीत पालिता का घर गाँव राजा देव की तार दे - - "


4. Ibid.

In villages where the number of patels was more than one, the patels divided the land under their jurisdiction in proportion of their shares and tried to attract the patels and the patels to settle in their patels by offering them better terms. 2 The patel, however, could not interfere with the land already occupied by the cultivators.

Moreover, a patel also induced the cultivators already settled in the village to extend their holdings by cultivating fallow lands. 2 He provided the needy patels with ploughs, bullocks etc. and also requested the state to advance them legal loans. 3 He also stood surety for the repayment of the loans distributed through him. Further, it was his duty to acquaint the revenue officials with the condition of the patels, their agricultural fields and the agricultural implements available with each peasant. 4 He could suggest ways and means for improving the conditions of cultivators. 5

The patel was also required to see that there was no decrease in the area under cultivation. If cultivation suffered due to his neglect:


They were required to prepare Yeddashti of Hal and Bail (ploughs and bullocks) available with each peasant. They were expected to keep full record of the hal bail stock (old hal and bail) in the village and of the new hal and bail (new ploughs etc.) brought to the village. See Yeddashti Hal Bail pargana Chatsu 1868 1.5.

gence he had to pay basti to the state even on fallow lands.

The patel was expected to till his shaharaha land either personally or in sarahi, with the help of patli.² Sometimes the patel settled his vasidar to cultivate his personal lands.³ In case the patel neglected the cultivation of his shaharaha land he forfeited the right to such land. It could be reallocated by the state revenue officials.⁴

The patel's jurisdiction over the village was not only financial; he was also partly responsible for maintaining its law and order. He was required to inform the higher authorities of serious disturbances in the village and to investigate the criminal cases, of theft, fights, murder etc. within the village boundary. In this matter he could seek help from the higher authorities.⁵ It was his responsibility to look after the village boundary markings and represent the interest of the village in the case of any boundary disputes.⁶ It was his duty


4. Chithi to the Aml paraga Chatsu, dt. K.L. Jeth Sud 15, V.S. 1822/1765. The patel of village Vilajpura who was not cultivating land in his village and was residing in village Amajpura was deprived of his land.


to encourage the continuance of the village customs and report any violation of such customs to the state officials and the panchay of the village.

The raiyaats presented their demands and expressed their grievances to the state through the patel. In the case of unjust assessments, and unauthorized collections by the pargana revenue officials, the raiyaats could approach the state authorities through him. He could lodge complaints against any oppressive pargana official, zamindar as well as jagirdar, on behalf of the raiyaat. To find patels lodging complaints against the amil of pargana Bahatri, who had exacted unauthorized amount from khalise and jagir villages of the above mentioned pargana. The patel of the village of Kundawari in pargana Malarna lodged a complaint against Fateh Singh Harch, the jagirdar of the village, who was grabbing the lands of farmers and the cultivators and also against his highhandedness in many other matters. We also find the patel of Khurana village in pargana Nausabad lodging a complaint against Raj Singh Bhaizon Singh Mangoret, the bhonia of

the village who was harassing the pichiyat and the karmis in many ways. 2
Thus the pateel had a dual authority; first, as a traditional repre-
sentative of the village society, and secondly, as the official head-
man of the village.

The pateel acted as an arbitrator and adjudicator in agrarian
disputes concerning the ownership of land, the sharing of the produce
and the demarcation of boundaries. We find a panchayat consisting
of the pateels of four neighbouring villages, arbitrating in a dispute
between the jagirdar and the patwari of the village of Kiratpura in
pargana Chatsu regarding the ownership of a cultivated field. 2 In
another case we find higher authorities instructing the amil to set-
tle a dispute regarding the proprietary rights in a field and a well
in consultation with the pateel of five villages. 3 A land dispute
between the zamindar of the village of Jagnir and the jagirdar of the
village of Sr1 Raipur in pargana Bahadur was decided by the pateels of
five neighbouring villages. 4 A boundary dispute between the two
neighbouring zamindars i.e. the zamindars of the villages of Kherli
and Ram Singh Pura Khurd was settled by a panchayat consisting of
the pateels of ten neighbouring villages. 5 Yet another dispute between

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1. Chithi to the Amil pargana Bouzabad, dt. K.M. Sevan Vadi 12,
V.S. 1811/1756.
2. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. Megishri Vadi 1, V.S.
1822/1765.
3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Bahadur, dt. Megishri Vadi 10, V.S.
1890/1763.
4. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatsu, dt. K.M. Kati Vadi 8, V.S.
1808/1751.
5. Chithi to the Amil pargana Kalsot, dt. K.M. Kati Sudi 8, V.S.
1848/1788.
6. Chithi to the Amil pargana Bahadur, dt. K.M. Bhadon Vadi 12,
V.S. 1812/1752.
two jagirdars concerning the share of produce was decided by the patels, chaudharis and ganungco of five villages.  

However, disputes regarding the possession of the pateli right and its jurisdictions were decided by the amil with the help of chaudharis and ganungco, or they could be directly referred to the ruler. Sometimes these disputes were decided by the raja gaddha. In the majority of cases the disputes arose out of sale and mortgage transactions of the pateli rights and occasionally they related to the division of shares among the heirs.

Apart from the usual obligations, the patels were at times required to perform some functions concerning the rural social life. He used to perform a number of customary ceremonies on various occasions such as at the time of birth and marriage. He was required to beat the drum at the time of the arrival of a marriage procession as well as its departure. The marriage party could not depart from the village till the ceremony had been performed by the dholi of the patel. He was also required to give muchalka in the case of suspicious matrimonial contracts.

3. Chithi to Senghi Lala Ram Shah Salig Ram, the Amils pargana Srai Jaipur, dt. K.M. Kat Vadi 14, V.S. 1826/1769.
In lieu of his services, the patel was entitled to a number of customary privileges. In fact the right to the patel, even though hereditary, was conditional upon service to the state. Though he was not directly paid from the state exchequer, he was entitled to receive magadham,^2 out of the hasil of the village at the rate of 2%, bisondeh^2 (5% of the total revenue reckoned as the share of the raiyat) degli, a customary dress which the patel used to get from the state every year and gypress. Apart from these usual perquisites he was entitled to charge a share from the malba, which was known as pateli ka malba. He also received petty customary cesses such as tavro, farka, pateli ka kheda ka dhol etc., on the occasion of marriage in the village.

However, the remunerations and customary exactions of the patel varied in magnitude from pargana to pargana, according to the customary practices. In the case of exceptionally meritorious services, the state could besides bestow upon him perquisites which were not sanctioned by custom. This can be seen by an instance of 1783 when


According to Nastur-ul Amal pargana Gijgarh the patel was entitled to receive a sum of Rs. 34.50 yearly as gypress from the state. Nastur-ul Amal pargana Gijgarh dt. v.s. 1791/1736.

the patel of village Sita Rampur, who had colonized the said village by incorporating fallow lands of three neighbouring villages and taken considerable pain in bringing new ploughs and constructing chhappars was sanctioned the right to collect bisondh which previously was not customary in pargana Fagi.

In consideration of the fact that the patels were either pioneer colonizers or were their descendants the state conferred upon them the status of riyayati gharuhales. From economic considerations this was the most important privilege granted to the patel. The vital importance of this concession can be further visualized if we compute the patel's principal customary remuneration i.e. bisondh and mgaddmi in relation to the basil of the villages. Sometimes another source of the patel's income was the grant of Khalisa manza on ajara on nominal amount. However, it would appear that on the whole his share in the surplus was not substantial unless he had a wide jurisdiction. It could be negligible in case the pateli was divided among many incumbants, reducing the jurisdiction and share of the co-sharers.

The Patwari

The post of another village official, the patwari, was hereditary. The state could confer the office of patwari along with pateli and zamindari rights on a person who was the pioneer colonizer of a

1. Chithi from Diwan Narain Das Kirpa Ram to the Amil pargana Fagi dt. K.M. Posh Sudh 11, V.S. 1783/1726.
2. See Chapter VII.
village. The rajyat and patel of a village could also appoint a new patwari by removing an incompetent one. However, such an appointment had to be confirmed by the state. Like Pateli and samindari, the office of the patwari could also be bought, sold or mortgaged. The patwari was required to pay a fixed amount as peshkash to the state in instalments. In cases where the office of the patwari fell vacant due to the absence of a natural heir the state could confer it on any person considered fit.

The importance of the patwari for the pargana officials at the time of harvest can be visualized from an instance of V.S. 1815/1758. The amil requested the divan to cancel the talab sent to Bhubhar patwari regarding arrears outstanding against him. He further informed his correspondent that the patwari had left the village on this account and his presence was urgently required at the time of the assessment of revenue.

2. Chithi to the Amil pargana Hindanu, dt. K.M. Asoj Sudi 15, V.S. 1783/1726. The patel and the rajyat of village Chora ousted the patwari from the office and appointed another patwari.
The primary function of a patwari was to maintain the record of the revenue paid by the agriculturists as also of the outstanding arrears. He maintained a full record of the revenue collected by the amil from the village in the local language. He entered into his register the name of each cultivator, the area under each holding and the crops sown by each cultivator. He was required to assist the patel in preparing the khasra documents of the village. He had to undertake surety along with the patel that there would be no decrease in the revenue assessed by the state revenue officials.

The patwari was required to regulate the expenses incurred on account not of the malba and to see that it was a burden on the raiyat. He had to give a muchalke to the state thereby undertaking not to increase the expenses under the head of malba. He was also required to maintain the full account of malba collected from the raiyat and expenditures made out of it. There are instances to show that the patwari sometimes misused the office and misappropriated the amount collected from the raiyat. Megha Karma Gujar, the patwari of Qasba Chatou, was accused by the patel raiyat of the Qasba of embezzling the amount of malba. The enquiries conducted by the amil revealed


that the patwari had misappropriated Rs. 1400/-. He was ousted from office. In another case in 1819/1752 it was found by the amil, that the patwari of Osba Lalsot and the village of Chandensi had been misappropriating the fund collected as malba since V.S. 1807/1750. The amount was estimated at Rs. 11,864.22 and taka 1930.75 which he showed in his accounts as arrears outstanding against the raiyat. The amil was instructed to remove him from office and to recover the amount. 

The patwari had to help both the raiyat and the revenue officials in the measurement of fields. He played an important role in the arbitration of a number of agrarian disputes such as those relating to zamindari rights. He had to furnish details on the basis of which higher authorities decided or arbitrated in disputes regarding the ownership of land and wells etc. He also assisted the assignees at the time of the assessment and collection of the land revenue. He could also make suggestions to the higher revenue officials for the improvement of cultivation in a village. In lieu of his services rendered to the state and the raiyat, he was remunerated by both. His expenses were met by the raiyat out of the malba. The state

allowed him to realize 1\% of the revenue collected as his dastur. He was also occasionally granted the robe of honour (paharvani) by the state. A tax mal patwara was charged from the raiyat by the state to remunerate the patwari.

The Sahna

Sahna was an integral part of the state's land revenue administrative machinery at the village level. He was appointed only for a khalisa village by the amil. Like tappadars, the sahnas also performed multifarious duties. They were generally of two types: the mugarari sahna (those who lived permanently in the village) and the rozindar i.e. those who visited the village at the time of the collection of revenue. The rozindar sahna appointed for the kharif season was relieved from duty during the Dussehra, while the one appointed for rebi season was relieved during Shivratri. The tenure


of sahna (sahna appointed at the time of harvest) varied
according to the size and agricultural condition of the village.
Usually in a big village the tenure was for 3 months, in a small
village for two months and in very small villages for one month only. 2

The number of mugarari sahnas in a village could be more than
one or only one sahna could be appointed for two or three villages.
In fact, the number of sahnas in a village depended on its size and
agricultural conditions. 2 In a big and well-cultivated village the
number of sahnas could be five at a time although the number could
fluctuate. It could decrease at the time of scarcity or the ruina-
tion of a village. 3

The sahna was deputed in the villages to keep an eye on the
standing crops in order to prevent any cultivator from pilfering.
In case a pilferage took place, he immediately informed the amil
and the foujdar of the pargana. 4 Sometimes he was given the respon-
sibility to collect the state revenue from the village and to deposit
it in the pargana treasury. 5 As sahna was a responsible office,
The amils were instructed by the state to appoint trustworthy, re-

1. Chithi from Divan Rai Gur Sahai Bal Chand to the Amil pargana
   Laisot, dt. K.M. Falgun Vadi 9, V.S. 1822/1765.

2. Ibid.

3. Chithi to the Amil pargana Dausa, dt. K.M. Apoj Sudi 3, V.S.
   1817/1760. Chithi to the Amil pargana Chatau, dt. K.M. Savan
   Sudi 2, V.S. 1815/1758. Chithi to Shah Jai Chand Shah Gulab
   Chand, Amils pargana Swed Jaipur, dt. K.M. Falgun Sudi 12, V.S.
   1819/1762.

4. Amber Records, Chithi from Jeevan Ram to Divan Radha Kishan,
   dt. K.M. Vaisakh Sudi 9, V.S. 1811/1754.

5. Chithi from Divan Rai Gur Sahai Bal Chand to the Amil pargana
   Laisot, dt. K.M. Falgun Vadi 9, V.S. 1822/1765.
possible and deserving persons to this office because the dishonesty and evil-mindedness of a sahna could lead to the misappropriation and loss of the revenue.

The remunerations of a sahna varied from pargana to pargana and were based on customary rates. The mugarari sahnas were given salary ranging from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 70/- per annum. In those villages where the revenue was collected in kind the sahna was paid rozina instead of dar maha. Apart from the cash emoluments, he was also entitled to ghughary or a fixed quantity of grain from the raiyat depending on the customary rate of the pargana. The expenses of a sahna were met by the raiyat out of the malba. A cess known as hasil sahna was also charged from the raiyat to meet the expenses incurred on account of the rozina paid to the sahna.


2. In pargana Lalsot the sahna was paid a monthly salary (darmaha) of Rs. 6/-. See Chithi from Diwan Rai Gur Sahai Bal Chand to the Amir pargana Lalsot; dt. K.M. Falgun Vadi 9, V.S. 1822/1765. In pargana Swai Jaipur the sahna's monthly salary was Rs. 5/-. See Chithi to Shah Hari Har Shah Gulab Chand dt. K.M. Posh Vadi 13, V.S. 1825/1766. In pargana Chatsu, the sahna's salary was Rs. 40/- per annum. See Chithi to the Amir pargana Chatsu, dt. Chaitra Sudi 7, V.S. 1811/1754.

3. Chithi to Shah Hari Har Shah Gulab Chand, dt. K.M. Posh Vadi 13, V.S. 1825/1766. The rate of ghughari sahna in pargana Malarna was half seer jins per md. or two seer jins per bigha. See Arhsatta pargana Malarna, dt. V.S. 1808/1751.


5. Arhsatta pargana Chatsu, Dausa etc.
The Varhedar

The varhedar was a state official appointed for each khalisa village on the recommendation of the faujdar. The varhedar was required to pay a fixed amount as peshkash to the state in seasonal instalments. He was required to retain with him a fixed number of bargandajis to help him. His primary function was to guard and watch the village boundary and to keep an eye on thieves, robbers and miscreants in the village and to prevent any suspect from entering the village. He could be removed from the office any time by the state on grounds of negligence.

In lieu of his services he was granted vadhor rent free land generally from the banjar land of the village. He also had the right to cultivate the fallow lands of the village in addition to his vadhor land. The former type of land was assessed on moderate rates.

The Chowkayat

The chowkayats were appointed in the police posts established in the village. The number of chowkayats could be more than one in a chowki established in a big village. The appointment of the chowkayats were made through the thanadars and faujdars. They were

under the direct control and supervision of the thanadar.\(^1\)

The chowkayat was required to keep an eye on thieves, robbers, miscreants and suspects of the village. He was required to report immediately any act of misdeed committed by any person in the village to the thanadar and the faujdar. He had also to send periodical reports regarding the law and order situation of the village to the thanadar. He had to assist the thanadar in searching out criminals and effecting their arrest.\(^2\) Sometimes chowkayats harassed the raiyat on false pretexts.\(^3\)

In lieu of his services, the chowkayat was generally granted rent free land by the state.\(^4\)

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List of the pargana officials (Amil & Amin)

**Pargana Srai Jeipur**

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