CHAPTER - IV

PROFILE OF THE STUDY REGION

Bellary is eleventh largest district in the state Karnataka, with a population of 18.93 lakh persons as per 1991 census.

Bellary district is divided into eight taluks. For administrative convenience, the district is bifurcated into two revenue sub-divisions, Bellary and Hospet. The taluks of Bellary, Sandur and Siruguppa are under the jurisdiction of Bellary sub-division while Hospet, Hagaribommannahalli, Kudligi, Harapanahalli and Hadagali are under Hospet sub-division.

Location and Topography

The district is situated between 40° - 30’ and 15° - 50’ North latitude and 75° - 40’ and 77° - 11’ East longitude. It extends from South West to North East and is situated on the Eastern side, almost in the centre (North to South) of Karnataka State. It is surrounded by hill ranges on the West between Sandur and Hospet. The hill tracts comprising richest ores of iron and manganese
stretch from South-West towards North-East. Besides clusters of granite hillocks are also found all through the district.

The district is bounded on the North by Raichur district, in the west by the Dharwad district. On the South by the Chitradurga district and in the East by the Anantapur and Kurnool districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Rainfall: The rainfall in the district is often scanty and uncertain. The average rainfall in the district is 574.9 mm. It is mostly confined to the period from May to November. Nearly 60 percent of the annual rainfall is received during the period from June to September and about 24 per cent during October and November.

Climate: The climate of the district is characterized by dryness in the major part of the year and a hot summer. The period from December to February is dry and comparatively cool. The maximum and minimum temperatures are $29.7^\circ$ and $16^\circ - 7^\circ$ cum respectively for this period.

The summer season extends from March to May. In April and May the temperature reaches its peak and the heat is often oppressive. For this period the maximum temperature is $40^\circ - 2^\circ$ c and the maximum temperature is $25^\circ - 2^\circ$ c.
**Rivers**

Tungabhadra river is the major river in the district. The whole district lies on the right bank of the river. The two tributaries are Hagari and Chikka Hagari. The former flows across Bellary and Siruguppa talukas and the latter across Harapanahalli, Kudligi and Hagaribommanahalli talukas before joining Tungabhadra river. The Tungabhadra falls into the Krishna river few miles below Kurnool town in Andhra Pradesh.

**Soil**

Black and red varieties of soils found mostly in the district. The black soil is best suited for rained crops like staples cotton, groundnut, jowar and Bajra. Red-loomy and black loomy soils are found in the talukas of Hospet, Hadagali, Kudligi and Sandur.

**Natural Resources**

The district is endowed with rich mineral deposits, especially iron ore and manganese. The region between the twin ranges of the Sandur hills is exceedingly rich in iron and manganese, with an average annual output of three million tonnes. The total ore reserves in the district are estimated between 1000 and 1250 million tones.

**Mineral Resources**

The district form the home of economic minerals such as haematitic iron ore and red oxide of iron, manganese ore, white clay,
The other mineral deposits occur in the district are gold, copper ore, galena, gypsum, magnesite, calcite, quartz, corundum, garnets, ochres, kankar, sand, plastic clays and decorative building stones.

Numerous bands of banded haematitic iron ore of high grade occur cresting the synclinal folds of the district specially the ‘Sandur synclines’. These beds of haematitic ore contain very rich Fe. content and are considered among the world’s richest iron ores. They occur extensively in several parallel and disconnected bands for a length of nearly 30 miles in north-west-south-east strike direction.

The following are some of the important localities where the haematitic iron ore occurs:

1. Half-a-mile south-west of Kummamatharuvu village, forming the Kumaraswamy plateau in Sandur taluk;
2. On the crest and eastern flanks of Devadarigudda, two miles South of Sandur town.
3. The Donimalai range, about five miles south-east of Sandur town;
4. The Ettinahatti-Ubbalagundi range, parallel to and east of Donimalai range;
5. The Ramandurga range north-west of Sandur town;
6. Timmappanagudda-Karadikolla range, i.e., north and north-eastern branches of Sandur synclines;
7. Halakundi-Belagal range, six miles west of Bellary town; and

The annual production of iron ore in the district has averaged three million tones. Ancient iron smelting centres exist in several places, namely, near Kanivehalli, Kudligi, Kamalapura, Kallahalli and other places in the district; the softer iron ores quarried from the mines near Sri.Kumaraswamy Temple near Deogiri on the Ramandurga plateau and near Jambunātha ridge were smelted by primitive processes to cater to the needs of the agriculturist.

Manganese ore is being exploited on a large scale from the well-known Sandur mines since about five decades and most of the workings are confined to the excarpment side of the western-most limb of the Sandur synclinal. The total production manganese ore in the district averages to 2.5 lakh tones and the grade of ore ranges from 32 to 40 percent manganese content.
Area and Population: The district has an area of 9895.9 square kilometers. According to the 1991 census, Bellary district has a total population of 18.93 lakh persons. This was 4.22 percent of the total population of the state. Bellary ranks 13th in the state in terms of population. Decadal variation in population between 1981 and 1991 was 27.09 per cent of the total population. Male population was 9.26 lakhs. Sex raito was 957 males for 1000 females. Density of population was 191 persons per square kilometer as compared to 234 persons per square kilometer for the state the state as a whole.

Agriculture: The total geographical area of the district is 0.956 million hectares of which 0.51 million hectares (61.84 per cent) is under cultivation, 0.177 million hectares (12.28 per cent) is under forests and the rest of the area falls under the category of fallow land and uncultivable land. Further, it is only 23 percent of the cultivable land is covered under irrigation. The district is predominantly based on agriculture with 75 percent to the advent of assured irrigation of Tungabhadra project, the district was susceptible for frequent droughts and famines. The commissioning of Tungabhadra project has come as a boon to the people. Besides the high level and low level canals of Tungabhadra project, the Siruguppa channel, Deshanur channel, Gadignur tank, Mallapur tank provide irrigation facilities. The major food crops grown in the district are Jawar,
Paddy, Ragi, Millet, Bajra and Maize. Cotton, ground nut, sugarcane, sunflower and tobacco are the notable commercial crops that are grown in the district.

For the development of agriculture, improved appliances like tractors, buildosers, power tillers and power sprayers are being used by the farmers. The use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides is gradually increasing. High yielding and hybrid varieties are replacing the local varieties. In recognition of the potentialities in agricultural development, since 1970 several schemes such as high yielding variety programme, package programme, intensive agricultural area programme, Cotton Development scheme were launched in the district. In the field of agriculture Bellary is thus one of the most prosperous district in the state.

*Transport and Communication of Infrastructure* :-

The Bellary district enjoyed a Central location in south India and enjoyed a historical past of good road communication. As per the data of 1990-91 the total length of the road account to 4848 kms. Constituting 85 kms, 471 kms of state high way, 790 kms major district roads, 205 kms other district roads and 3298 kms village and municipal roads.¹

All most all villages are connected to the district roads

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accessible through out the year. Majority of the population of the district depends on the road transport.

As far as railway line concerned the district has a metreguage line of 216 kms. And a broadguage line of 115 kms. Passing through Hospet and Bellary. It is also connected to Chennai, Bangalore, Vijayawada, Mumbai, secunderabad and Delhi via Guntakal junction. The administration of Railway line falls into Hubli division of the South Central Railway Zone. The district is having sufficient post offices and telephone exchanges to meet the communication requirements of trading and commercial centres. The district at present has 456 post offices and 134 telegraph offices. STC (Subscriber Trunk Dialing) facilities are available from Bellary to various places.

**Banking facilities:**

The district is having adequate banking facilities. At present 17 commercial banks are operating in the district, in addition to the District Cooperative and the District Land Development Bank, a Regional rural Bank is also functioning. There are in all 203 bank branches comprising 164 commercial, 30 co-operative and 9 primary Land development Banks (PLDB). Syndicate Bank is
the lead bank in the district guiding and supervising the operations of the above branches. The per branch population in the district comes to the 9,236 as against national average of 17,000 per branch. However per capita deposit is only Rs. 384 as against nations average of Rs. 406.

**Industrial Finance :-**

The Karnataka state Finance corporation (K.S.F.C.) was established in 1959 as a statutory organisation for the promotion of industrial entrepreneurship in the state of karnataka by providing financial assistance, specially for tiny and small scale sector.

A branch of Karnataka State finance Corporation was open at Bellary in December, 1983, prior to that loans were sanctioned from Bangalore Head Office. The Regional office is located at Gulbarga which sanctions term loans. Bellary branch has sanctioned in advance of Rs. 23.69 crores to entrepreneurs by March 1992.

**Markets :** Trading and commercial activities are of considerable importance in the district. Bellary city is a reknowned marketing centre from
early times. It enjoys central location with reference to several other trading centres such as Davanagere, Hubli, Raichur, Gulbarga in Karnataka, Adoni, Anantapur and Guntakal in Andhra Pradesh. Many important items of consumers and producers goods coming from agricultural and industrial sectors such as cotton, cotton seeds, ground nut, ground - nut oil, sunflower oil, maize, jawar, paddy, sugar and ready made garments. Besides that the district well known for its production of rich quality iron Manganese ores. The processed iron and manganese ore is utilised by the domestic industries and also exported to other countries through Chennai, Goa, Mangalore and Mumbai harbours.

**Brief Profile of the Selected Villages :-**

**Jambunath halli :-**

It is a village coming under Hospet taluk with the total area of 1673.49 hectares with a population of 384. Comprising 202 males and 182 females. Near about 80% of the total population depended on mining work for their livelihood. The total mining operational area is 844 acres. The number of households are 93. The rate of literacy is very low. This poverty stickeen village consisting mining labourers can be identified as socially and economically backward.
Kariganur: It is a village of Hospet taluk. It is 8kms away from head quarter, falling in the range of Ramanmalai hills well known for its mining activity. The extent of the village is 1945.08 hectares with a population of 4215. Of which 2153 are males and 2062 are females. The occupational distribution shows that 48% of the total population engaged in mining activities. 25% of the male and 8% of the female are literates. The total number of households in the Village accounts for about 808. Being a village located on the main road of Hospet - Bellary with a railway station is always a busy centre of economic activity. Compare to Jambunath halli it represents a better socio-economic condition.

References:

1. Industrial development potentialities of Bellary district issued by small industries service institute, Bangalore, 1992.

2. Ibid.


4. Ibid.

5. District Credit Plan, 1990-92 issued by Lead Bank, Bellary.