

II. The learned professions.

Civil Services

It was not always so easy to gain entry into the administrative services. Literacy rate was low. Drop-outs were many. Moreover a good number among the educated, found outlets of employment in the vast French empire. The more spirited among the lot opted for military service and proved their mettle in many theatres of war. From the position of 'soldats' quite a few rose to the rank of 'Lieutenants' purely on merit. Some of those who qualified as teachers, engineers, doctors, etc. of French India gained admission into what was known as 'Cadre Métropolitain' and worked in the various French colonies. The attractive emoluments attached to this cadre was incentive enough for the talented to seek entry into this 'cadre'. They were entitled to enhanced children's allowance and pension. This state of affairs continued till about the time the French left.

After merger the administrative set up of the Territory underwent a quick metamorphosis. Secretariat and Non-Secretariat Departments came into being. Alongwith the staff taken over from the French Administration, the services of a large number of deputationists were obtained mostly from Tamil Nadu to man the services. Fresh recruitments were also conducted to fill up the many newly created posts. With the extension of planning to the Territory, it became necessary to employ new hands to implement the several schemes included in the Plan. These development schemes increased the employment opportunities of the people.

The growth in the number of Government employees (Union Territory, Central Government and Municipalities) between 1961 and 1976 will be evident from the following statement :

Year (31 March)			Union Territory employees	Percentage increase	Central Govt. employees	Percentage increase	Municipal employees
(1)			(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1961	..	..	6,552	—	1		
1962	..	..	7,118	+8.6%	1,083	—	—
1963	..	..	7,070	— 0.7%	1,184	+9.3%	—
1964	..	..	8,029	+13.6%	1,274	+7.6%	—

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1965	8,721	+8.6%	1,412	+10.8%	—
1966	9,057	+3.9%	1,397	—1.0%	—
1967	9,597	+6.0%	1,909	+36.6%	1,374
1968	9,814	+2.3%	2,002	+4.9%	1,304
1969	10,67	+8.7%	2,037	+1.7%	1,304
1970	11,219	+5.1%	2,264	+11.1%	1,412
1971	11,969	+6.7%	2,409	+6.4%	—
1972	12,484	+4.3%	2,561	+6.3%	—
1973	13,058	+4.6%	2,698	+5.3%	—
1974	13,765	+5.4%	2,634	+2.4%	—
1975	14,452	+5.0%	2,761	+3.3%	—
1976	14,993	+3.7%	2,792	+2.6%	1,316

The total number of employees of Pondicherry Administration as on 31 March 1961 was 6,552 of whom 5,118 were regular and 1,434 non-regular employees. It would be seen from the above statement that the total number of employees of Pondicherry Administration increased by 128.83 per cent between 1961 and 1976.

The number of employees of this Administration and the Central Government had more than doubled whereas the position remained the same for Municipalities.

The total number of Central Government employees in the Union Territory of Pondicherry as on 31 March 1962 was 1,083 of whom 1,050 were regular and only 33 were non-regular employees. According to the Census of Government employees published by the Bureau of Statistics for the year 1970 the total number of Central Government employees as on 31 March 1970 was 2,264 of whom 2,130 were regular and 134 non-regular employees. It would be seen from the above data that the volume of employment in the

Central Government Departments increased by 109.04 per cent between 1962 and 1970 and as much as 157.34 per cent between 1962 and 1976. There was a sharp increase during 1966-67 which was due to the establishment of a Hospital attached to the Medical College (Jipmer). As regards the distribution of Central Government employees (inclusive of non-regular staff), it is observed that the maximum number of employees were in the Medical College (Jipmer) numbering 1607 out of the total 2,592. The Posts and Telegraphs Department including Telephones came second with 604 employees. The Railways with 138 employees and Customs and Central Excise Department with 103 employees ranked third and fourth respectively.

The total number of employees in the Municipalities as on 31 March 1970, was 1,412 of which 774 were regular employees and 638 non-regular. Of the 774 regular employees 322 or 41.6 per cent were permanent and the remaining 452 or 58.4 per cent temporary employees.

Teacher :

As on 1 January 1943 the total number of teachers in government schools and colleges was 360 out of 1939 Government employee. There were 15 Professors, 8 Assistant Professors, 41 English Teachers, 139 French Teachers, 143 Tamil Teachers and 14 Sewing Mistresses constituting 18 per cent of the total number of Government employees in 1943. According to the 'Abstract of Statistics 1960' the total number of teachers during 1958-59 was 1,453 of whom 928 were employed by the Government and 525 by private managements. It is seen that during the year 1970-71, the total number of teachers was 3,583 registering an increase of about 146 per cent. This also reflects the significant progress of the educational sector since merger. Another noteworthy feature observed was that out of 3,583 teachers in 1970-71 as many as 1,256 teachers were women.

Medical profession :

In 1943 the Medical corps consisted of 19 doctors, 9 health officers and 133 para medical staff, besides 5 doctors attached to the Colonial troops. After merger public health schemes received high priority in the Five Year Plans resulting in greater demand for medical and para medical workers.

According to the 1961 census, there were 123 physicians and surgeons (Allopathic), 91 ayurvedic physicians, 27 homeopathic physicians, five dentists and 58 other physicians in the Territory. In 1971 this group was classified as 'Physicians and Surgeons (Allopathic) Dental and Veterinary Surgeons' who numbered 1,265 in all. The total number of nurses, pharماسists and other medical and health technicians was 545 according to the 1961 census. By 1971 the number of persons engaged in this occupation increased to 1,176. Among the learned professions, next to education, medical service provide job opportunities for many people.

Legal profession:

The starting of a Law College at Pondicherry in 1876 and prospects of a lucrative practice in the courts at Pondicherry gave encouragement to some of the young graduates to study law and become lawyers. Senior and efficient lawyers were also appointed as Registrars, Judges and Présidents of the Subordinate and Appellate Courts. Other personnel employed in the courts were translators, clerks, and 'Huissiers'. During 1938-39 there were 12 Senior Advocates and five Junior Advocates who could put in their appearance in the courts while undergoing training. After *de facto* transfer the Law College was closed down.

Following the extension of the Central Acts since 1963 and the reorganisation of the judiciary, the Madras High Court was conferred with appellate jurisdiction in respect of suits filed against the decisions of Pondicherry Courts. The advocates of Tamil Nadu were allowed to practise in Pondicherry Courts alongside the local French knowing advocates. A number of advocates from the neighbouring states came and settled in Pondicherry. Moreover, many Pondicherry students after completing the degree course went to Madras to study law. The starting of a Law College in 1971 provided further encouragement to the legal profession.

According to the 1961 census there were 15 judges and magistrates, 33 legal practitioners and advisers, two legal assistants and 24 other persons having connection with legal professions. In 1971, all those engaged in this profession were brought under the group of 'Jurists' and there were as many as 147 of them in the Territory. As in the rest of the country lawyers here too play some part in the public affairs of the Territory although they have not made much dent in the political field.