

## COLLECTION OF LAND REVENUE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

Under the erstwhile French administration, the system of collection of land taxes was quite different from that in other parts of India. The tax assessment work and collection work were entrusted to different offices viz Chef du Service des Contributions and Tresorier Payeur.

For the purpose of assessment and administration, the territory was divided into Controles (comparable to Taluks). Each Controle was placed in charge of a Controlem (equivalent to Tahsildar). These Controles were divided into areas with number of revenue village, which were placed in the charge of Surveillant du Domaine.

The demand rolls were prepared by the Controleurs, revende village wise annually for calendar year sent to Chief du Contributions for approval. The same was sent for Governor's concurrence and after his concurrence, the rolls were sent to Tresorier Payeur. Percepteurs assisted the Tresorier Payeur for collection and accounting.

In the year 1955, the office of the Tresorier Payeur (Treasury office) was merged with the Contribution Department and resultanty the Chief du Contributions was placed in charge of both assessment and collection. However, in the year 1968 the Treasury Offices were transferred to the control of pay and Accounts Office.

In the post Independence period, for the purpose of Revenue Administration the Department was reorganized with effect from 09-04-1967 and the Union Territory was declared as a revenue district with Secretary dealing with Revenue as Collector. The four regions constituted a revenue division each. The Deputy Collector was made in charge of each division and the Administrators of outlying regions were vested with the powers of the Deputy Collector Each Division was divided into Taluks or sub-Taluks with a Tahsildar or a Deputy Tahsildar for each such division. These Taluks / Sub-Taluks were further divided into Firkas and Revenue villages. Revenue Inspectors were placed in charge of a Firka each comprising of a group of revenue villages. The Karnams (presently VAO) were in charge of a village who were responsible for assessment and collection work in their respective villages. The Revenue Inspectors and the Karnams (VAO) assist the Tahsildar / Deputy Tahsildar in the day-to-day affairs in revenue administration.

In the year 2003, the Revenue Administration was further reorganized. The Pondicherry Division was divided into two and each division (Pondicherry – North and South) was placed under the charge of a Deputy Collector each. The sub-Taluks of Villianur and Bahour were upgraded as Taluks and the same were placed in the charge of Tahsildars. A new Taluk was created in Pondicherry North Division as Oulgaret Taluk.

Similarly, Thirunallar Taluk was created in Karaikal region with Thirunallar and Nedungadu Firkas.

The Additional Secretary (Revenue) whose Headquarters is at Pondicherry is the Head of the Department of Revenue Department. Additional Secretary (Revenue) is also the District Collector for Pondicherry as well as the District Magistrate. He is also the Excise Commissioner under the Pondicherry Excise Act and Rules. Pondicherry District comprises of four subdivisions namely Pondicherry North, Pondicherry South, Mahe and Yanam. The Pondicherry North sub-division consists of two Taluks namely Pondicherry and Oulgaret. The Pondicherry south sub-division consist of two Taluks namely Villianur and Bahour. Mahe sub-division consists of Mahe sub-Taluk and similarly Yanam sub-division consists of Yanam sub-Taluk. The Karaikal district consists of Karaikal sub-division with Karaikal and Thirunallar Taluks. The Deputy Collectors in charge of a division is also the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in respect of their division. A Revenue Officer each who are declared as Drawing and Disbursing Officer in respect of their Office and also declared as Executive Magistrate assists the Deputy collector of North and South sub-divisions of Pondicherry.

Apart from the above, Directorate of Survey and Land Records, Registration Department. Excise Department and Department for Hindu Religious Institutions come under the control of the Additional Secretary (Revenue) as Head of the Department.

In the outlying regions the Deputy Collectors are also in charge of Survey and Excise. The Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars of all the Taluks and Sub-Taluks are declared as Executive Magistrate.

In view of the increased role of the Revenue Department in the disaster management, the name of the department was changed as DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT in the year 2005.

The Additional Secretary (Revenue) is assisted by a Special Officer and a Revenue Officer and other Section Heads in the day-to-day affairs of the department at the head quarters of Department of Revenue and Disaster Management.