

CHAPTER - IVREVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Land revenue, which formed the backbone of the State economy could not be appropriated without application of a regularised, administrative machinery. This object was achieved by the Mughals and ^{er} ~~thas~~ land revenue administration worked efficiently till the advent of new political forces in India. With reference to Gujarat the Marathas and later the British started their administration on the relics built by the Mughals. However, the new political authorities encountered with a number of problems, some of which have been highlighted in the preceding chapters. These had their bearings on the revenue administration as prevailed under the Marathas and the early phase of British rule.

In the following papers an attempt has been made to understand the machinery for the district revenue administration as it existed under the sway of the Marathas and the British in Gujarat till 1850 A.D. The revenue administrative mechanism consisted of the local revenue officials on one hand and the state officials on the other. The local revenue officials at the district level included the Desais, Amins and Mazumdars. The State officials will be discussed in Chapter V.

The office of Desai seems to have originated during the time of Emperor Akbar.⁽¹⁾ It has been argued that the Desais at first kept no accounts but as it was considered that these were necessary the office of Majumdar was established.⁽²⁾ How far this statement is true remains to be examined. For it appears that though the names of Desai and Majumdar were perhaps innovated under the Mughals, yet the duties that were to be performed by them were not new. They had earlier been performed by the Chaudharis and Qanungoes, these two existing in the other subas of the Mughal Empire with the exception of Gujarat.⁽³⁾ We have a farman of 1663 A.D. which identifies the office of Chaudhari with that of Desai and the office of Qanungo with that of a Majumdar.⁽⁴⁾ It appears

1. Mirat-i-Ahmadi. Supp P.220; List No. 11, Kaira Vol. 32, P.A.; Ibid., General Volume 1. P.A.
2. List No.11, General Volume 7, P.A.
3. The duties performed by the Chaudharies and Qanungo as stated in Irfan Habib Op.cit., P.291-294, 288 and N.A. Siddiqui Op.cit. 88-91 are strikingly similar to those performed by the Desais and Majumdars in Gujarat.
4. Mirat ^{- i - Ahmadi} ~~(Pro)~~ 223-243; R.D.D. 1808, No.59, P.350-364. Thus the opinion expressed by B.R. Grover in his article, 'The position of Desai in the Pargana Administration of Suba Gujarat under the Mughal', (Proceedings Indian History Congress, Delhi session 1961, P.150-155) that the Gujarat Desai could not be equated with the other native officials like Mugadam Chaudhari and others is not correct. The inference drawn by Irfan Habib identifying the Desai with Chaudhari is seemingly true. For ref. see Op.cit., P.291.

that during the reign of Aurangzeb a petition was made to the Mughal Emperor against the malpractices that had crept up in the offices of the Chaudhari and Qanungo in the different subahs of the Empire. He therefore issued a mandate that in all the subahs from among the existing Chaudharies, two persons and from among the Majumdars, 2 persons who were ²jealous, active and fully qualified were to be appointed to perform the duties of their respective offices. It was then stated that the names of Chaudharies and Qanungoes were not known in the Subah of Ahmedabad but the persons who performed their duties were known as Desais and Majumdars respectively.⁽⁵⁾

In the above farman the duties of the Desai were clearly marked out.⁽⁶⁾ He was to "attend at the commencement of every season to the timely preparation of the ground for cultivation, the sowing of popular seed and to have the most useful grains cultivated." He was to encourage agriculture in such a way that not a single beegha of arable land remained uncultivated. He was to superintend the working of the Patels and see that they did not oppress the ryots nor conceal or mislay revenue accounts. He was enjoined to augment the government revenue on one hand as well secure the security and happiness of the people on the other.

5. R.D.D. 1808, No.59, PP. 350-364.

6. Ibid., PP. 352, 362-363.

The above farman also clearly laid down that the office of the Desai was hereditary.⁽⁷⁾ After the death of a Desai, one of his sons who was considered capable was to succeed. In the event of the progeny of a Desai being found unfit to conduct the duties of the office any of his other relatives who were considered capable could be appointed. The farman also laid down the commission of the Desai which was to be $2\frac{1}{2}$ of his revenue collections. Apart from this commission also known as Lowajum the Desai was to be remunerated with certain land (called Passaita), Jeewuck (provision in money for subsistence) and other hugs.⁽⁸⁾

With the decline of the Mughal Empire in the first half of the 18th century and the ascendancy of the Marathas in the second half, political uncertainty and confusion prevailed to such an extent in Gujarat that the Desais and other hereditary officers appeared to have done just as they liked. Most of the Desais began to manage the different parganas as ijaradars and to perform all duties connected with the due realisation of government revenue. In cases where the pargana was leased to a Kamavisdar, whole or portions of it were sublet to the Desais. The latter then made what arrangements they liked with the

7. Ibid., P.354.

8. List No.11, Kaira Vol. 31, P.A.

Patels of villages. Thus in either case, they came to wield considerable influence in their different areas of jurisdiction.

We may cite two instances wherein the parganas were managed by the Desais themselves - one in Kapadvanj pargana which was managed by one Rajaram Desai in the years 1813-14 and 1824-15 and also in 1794-95.⁽⁹⁾ That this Desai wielded considerable influence as far as revenue matters were concerned is evident from the fact that in the years 1813 and 1814 when he was the ijaradar, for the Kapadvanj pargana, he, taking advantage of the high price of grain changed the mode of collection of land revenue into kind in lieu of cash.⁽¹⁰⁾ The second instance is that of pargana Nadiad which was managed by Bapuji Desai in the year 1789-90 A.D. The influence of the Desais was particularly marked in Nadiad.⁽¹¹⁾ Besides acting as farmers-cum-managers the Desais at times farmed out the revenues of the different Parganas under the surveillance

9. R.D.D. 1817, No.112, P.671.

10. Ibid., P.606.

11. List No.11, Kaira Vol. 31, P.A. The office of Desai of Nadiad had been originally conferred on a Bania of Qasba Nadiad. It was subsequently transferred to a Lewa Kunbi family headed by one Samuldar (the exact date of this is unknown).

of the Kamavisdar.⁽¹²⁾

The emoluments of the Desais seem to have been derived from two principal sources - land and money. The land which they received as a remuneration of their services was termed Passaita.⁽¹³⁾ Unfortunately we do not have sufficient information to form an accurate idea of the Passaita lands held by the Desais.

Figures of some Parganas are available which are given as under :

	<u>Names of Parganas</u>	<u>Land in beegha</u>	<u>Value of land</u>
1.	Kapadvanj	1259.2.0	Rs. -
2.	Petlad	2782.1.0	Rs. 4855
3.	Antroli	197	Rs. 17.1.50
4.	Mahemdabad	330.2.0	Rs. 482
5.	Alina	578.2.0	Rs. 674.2.0
6.	Thasra	815	Rs. 1030.3.0
7.	Matar	3200	Rs. -

From the data cited above it could safely said that quite a large portion of cultivable land was held by the Desais as Passaita.

12. For instance in Petlad pargana the revenues were formed to two or three Desais from 1772-72 to 1788-89 A.D. ^{January} Section 83, Rupal 12, 13, 14. P.A. These Desais were known as Tahoodars. For more details see Chapter V.

13. There were other types of Passaita too which have been discussed in Chapter II.

How far all these Passaita lands were bonafide and obtained as a remuneration for their services is difficult to determine. We do not have any original deeds to prove this. It does appear however that amidst the uncertainty that prevailed in the latter half of the 18th Century the Desais, Majumdars and Amins might have increased their original Passaita lands through clandestine additions. Enjoying a position of great influence they would, perhaps, have had Passaita grants conferred on them on occasions both of grief and rejoice; for instance, on the occurrence of marriage in their families, or birth of children, on their accession to offices, etc.⁽¹⁴⁾ These grants were usually made by the Patels and Patidars from the government lands under their charge. Once conferred, the Passaita lands came to be regarded as hereditary property. It is incorrect to say that these were resumable or transferrable by government at pleasure.⁽¹⁵⁾ As the office of Desai was hereditary so were the Passaita lands. The enjoyment of these lands gave the holders an esteemed position in society. It was not only their coat of arms showing their title to gentility but preserved to them and their descendants the best right to active employment in local administration.⁽¹⁶⁾

14. R.D.D. 1822, No.4/28, P.8.

15. Vaze's Manual, Section II, Part III B, P.A. P.1808.

16. List No. 11, General Volume 7, P.A.

The Passaita lands were generally rent free. In some cases the lands were cultivated by the Desais themselves, in others they were leased out to cultivators in which latter case they collected the revenue themselves.⁽¹⁷⁾ These lands were sometimes sold and mortgaged too.

Besides land, the Desais received money allowances too. First, mention may be made of Nazarana which was but a small sum. For instance in the Pargana of Petlad it amounted to Rs.74.2.0 annually.⁽¹⁸⁾ It was also hereditary and gave a feeling of adulation to the person enjoying it.

Second, was the subsistence allowance termed as Jeewuck, the existence of which in the Muslim period too is verified.⁽¹⁹⁾ It appears to have been originally a portion of the Watan assigned for the subsistence of the members of the Desais family who were not expected to perform any duty.⁽²⁰⁾ It was regarded as hereditary private property and was subject to sub-divisions amongst the several co-sharers. Thus to all intents and purposes the Jeewuck was a hereditary pension for past services and as

17. R.D.V. 1821-22, No.21/45, P.721.

18. List No.11, Kaira Volume 31, P.A.

19. Ibid. In a petition of the year 1856 A.D., it was noted that the Desais of Mahudha claimed to have obtained from emperor Akbar the Watan of Desai of Mahudha Pargana with certain land, Jeewuck and Lowajum.

20. List No 11 General Volume 7.

such was enjoyed by numerous members of the Desai families without rendering any services to the state. The Jeewuck allowances were quite small in amount. The figures of Jeewuck allowances for some of the Parganas are available as follows.

Kapadvanj	- Rs. 297.2.0 ⁽²¹⁾
Antroli	- Rs. 259.2.0 ⁽²²⁾
Alina	- Rs. 1849.1.0 ⁽²³⁾

The Jeewuck allowances appear to have been generally collected by the Desais themselves.⁽²⁴⁾ It may be mentioned here that these allowances were derived either from land or money.

Third, in contrast to the above non-service and hereditary allowance, there was the sukdi or Amin sukdi which was decidedly to be a remuneration for services actually performed.⁽²⁵⁾ Generally, it was collected as a separate item of the revenue of government and thus was included in the Jamabandi. There were no fixed rules regarding it

21. R.D.D. 1817, No.112, P.668.

22. List No.11, Kaira Vol. 31, P.A.

23. Ibid.

24. R.D.V. 1821-22, No.21/45, P.721.

25. 'Sukdi' is a Gujarati word which means a fee, perquisite, a house or reward, a bribe.

and it could be conferred on different categories of persons employed in revenue administration, such as Kamavisdar, Amins, Desais and Thanedars.

At what exact period it originated it is difficult to say. We have a petition dated 1837 A.D. which states that Amin Sukdi had existed during the days of the Mughal Empire.⁽²⁶⁾ Owing to the division of the original grants on inheritance, it became necessary to additionally remunerate the share of the officiating members. Also when it became a general practice to farm out the revenues to Desais and Amins, they were allowed to enjoy a small sum as sukdi in addition to their other allowances. The Amin sukdi was a small sum derived from different villages (at what rate is not known; the amount however was not fixed) and paid to the Desais in return for their public services. It did not occasion any increased demand from the ryot and was part of the government revenue. Thus it was different from the Amin sukdi of Broach collectorate which was an 'unauthorised exaction' taken in addition to the fixed revenue.⁽²⁷⁾ The Amin sukdi in the Kheda collectorate was not an exaction but a deduction from the Jama. ~~It~~ It was given to the Desais actually employed by government

26. R.D.V. 1838, No.39/899, P.1.

27. Ibid. 1835, No.23/645, P.58.

and consequently it differed from ordinary dustorees in not being the personal right of any particular individual.⁽²⁸⁾

In some cases, sukdi was viewed in the light of a perquisite or present given to those who had settled the Jamabandi with the government.⁽²⁹⁾ This practice was followed in the neighbouring Gaekwad territory and also in the Cambay state wherein Amin sukdi was granted to the person who had formed the revenues.⁽³⁰⁾

Thus it appears that sukdi originated partly as an additional remuneration paid by government to those who actually performed the services of a Desai and partly as perquisite or presents given to those who settled with government for its revenue.

It was not a fixed sum, nor was it paid very regularly. In the year 1794-95 Rs.1727/- were collected as Amin sukdi from pargana Nadiad⁽³¹⁾ while in 1795-96 Rs.1115 were collected from the same pargana.⁽³²⁾ It was

28. Ibid. 1826, No.16/148.

29. There is a petition of 1810 which states that Sukdi was to be given to the person who had formed the revenue. For ref. see List No.11 Kaira Vol. 39, P.A.

30. Ibid.

31. Daftar No. 289, Padka No. 15, CROB.

32. Ibid.

levied in certain proportions from different villages and ranged from Rs.25 to Rs.251 annually. At times it formed a levy on the saver collections as well, apart from land revenue. Col. Walker in his report dated 1804 does mention its name but does not states the amount. In Petlad it was about Rs.9356.2.0, Mahemdabad Rs.590.3.50 and Thasrah Rs.3265.1.25. (33)

Besides Amin Sukdi, the officiating members of the Desai family were further remunerated by allowances termed Inam and Siropao. It may be mentioned that both were distinct and given separately. Siropao was a sort of present includes turbans, shawls, sellas or money. During the Maratha rule it was generally given to the revenue farmer at the time of settling the Jamabandi. It was regarded as an honour conferred by the State, the total cost of which varied from Rs.25 to Rs.432. (34)

Besides Siropao, those Desais who had farmed the revenues were compensated by Inam allowances. These ranged from Rs.216 to Rs.3000 and generally formed an item of Khurch on the Kherij Mushaira. (35) Their percentage on the revenue was about 1.46 per cent or a little less

33. List No. 11, Kaira Volume 31, P.A.

34. Daftar No. 289, Pudka No. 7 and Daftar No. 290, Pudka No. 17. C.R.O.B.; Section 83, Rumal 12 and 13, P.A.

35. Ibid.

than that. They were not hereditary and were granted for the appreciation of the work of the officials.

Besides, the Desais enjoyed a number of haqs or perquisites whether in money or kind and in various forms. In the first case they derived an annual income, though small, from the transit duties levied in different Parganas. Then, there were other haqs which were exacted by the hereditary district officers in general and the Desais in particular directly from the people. The hereditary officers usually made their own private arrangements with regard to the levy of such haqs with little interference from government. There do not appear to have been any strict rules regarding the exaction of such haqs and thus we find that some tradesmen paid while others were exempt from their levy although residing in the same village.

Briefly speaking the classes of people from whom these haqs were levied included potters, dyers, choorgur, chunaras, chamars, dthers, dalals, brickmakers, ganchas, katchias, suthars, pancholi, soorya, who supplied their articles of trade or manufacture free or at a concessional rate to the hereditary officers. (35.a) Others like the Dhobi, tailor, Kotwal, barber, lohar, sonnee, golas ghorees were required to perform their duties on payment in kind

35.a List No.14, File No. 318, P.A.

or even without any remuneration.

Like the District hereditary officers of the Kheda Collectorate, those of the Broach Collectorate also levied the hags direct from the ryots. However such was not the case in the Collectorates of Ahmedabad and Surat. (36)

Thus from the above discussion it is clear that the Desais had indeed acquired a position of considerable influence during the Maratha sway in Gujarat. Some of them contracted for the revenue of their parganas and through them the whole of its affairs were managed. Those who did not have a part of the contract were occasionally employed as agents by the others in everything connected with the realisation of revenues. With such close involvement in revenue administration, they soon acquired a significant position. Here mention may be made of the Desais of Nadiad who became so wealthy that in the late 1790s they habilitated two waste villages in Mahudha. (37) In the Mahudha pargana, Amin Bhai Bhagwandas Desai and Anand Ram Sewakram and Bhaichand Jalalchand Desais of Matar Pargana had emerged as bankers and had their houses of agency and correspondents in the principal

36. Ibid.

37. Selections of Bombay Government No. CXIV, Opcit. P.10.

towns of Gujarat and Malwa. Besides lending money and granting bills of exchange, these Desais also were active traders. They imported cloths and opium from Malwa and sold them to retailers in the villages. They also bought tobacco, saffron, turmeric, bajra and rice and exported to Nadiad, Baroda and other large towns. Thus they had emerged as wealthy men, shroffs and traders. (38)

The Desais generally belonged to the caste of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vantias and other upper classes of society. (39) The exact number of Desais in the latter half of the eighteenth century in the Kheda collectorate is not fully known. When the British arrived in Gujarat in 1803, there were three principal and nine inferior Desais in Nadiad Parganas, one principal and several inferior in Matar Pargana and two in Mahudha. (40)

In conjunction with the above, mention may be made of another category of hereditary district officers viz. the Amins. It is difficult to say for certain when the Amins were first appointed. That they existed during

38. List No.11, Kaira Rumal, P.A.

39. List No.11, Kaira Volume 32, P.A.

40. Col. Walker, Op.cit. P. 5,7, 8.

the time of the Mughals too, can hardly be doubted.⁽⁴¹⁾

At times the Amins were appointed in supersession of the original Desais,⁽⁴²⁾ or to perform their duties where they did not exist or to act as a kind of assistant to the Desais.⁽⁴³⁾

The Amins were usually Patels or Patidars and well acquainted with classification of soil, value of land and agriculture.⁽⁴⁴⁾

The Amin had to undertake constant tours of the villages under his charge, to encourage cultivation, to adjust boundary disputes or if that could not be done to enquire into the claims of the parties and to report the result to the Kamavisdar for the information of the Collector, to distribute tagavi (loans) and to see that

41. Here we can take the example of one Narseedas Madhavdas whose grandfather had been appointed by Farukhsagar as Amin. R.D.V. 1832, No.37/441 P.143. It may be mentioned here that these Amins appear to be different from the pargana Amins of the Mughals as they latter formed a distinct category of officials. On the other hand, the Amins under discussion were generally a substitute for the Desais.

42. In 1745 A.D. when the Desais of Dascroi pargana absented themselves from Ahmedabad at the time of settlement of revenue, the Subedar of Gujarat employed Amins for the realisation of revenue. Since that period the Desais ceased to be employed. R.D.V. 1825, No.21/131, P.147.

43. With reference to above, the Amins who were later employed in supercession of the Desais, had earlier from the year 1733 A.D. acted as assistants to the Desais. Ibid. P.146.

44. List No. 11, General Volume 7, P.A.

it was properly appropriated, to examine the crops and was in fact entrusted with a general superintendence and control over the Talatis and village officers.⁽⁴⁵⁾

Thus they were employed for a variety of duties which could not have been performed by one person in the capacity of a Desai or in fact by any other than this particular description of people who from their habits and occupations were better qualified to judge the values of land.⁽⁴⁶⁾

It was observed that in cases where they had been appointed in place of the Desais, they were considered as better substitutes than the original⁽⁴⁷⁾ (Desais).

This office, like that of the Desais was considered hereditary but it appears that the government was at liberty to select qualified persons from among the different members of the family to perform the duties which were exceedingly laborious and involved considerable responsibility.⁽⁴⁸⁾

Gradually the officers of the Desais and Amins though constitutionally different came to be confounded as one.

45. R.D.V. 1825, No.21/131, P.150.

46. Ibid., 1839, No.40/1003, P.76.

47. Ibid. P.77.

48. Ibid., 1825, No.21/131, P.149.

The duties of both came to be regarded as similar. In fact the words Desai and Amin came to be used conjointly. For instance in a petition of the year 1837, the petitioner is referred as a Wattandar Desai Amin.⁽⁴⁹⁾ At the introduction of the British rule a few of the Amins, like the Desais had emerged as farmers of different parganas and thus came to acquire considerable wealth.

It may also be stated here that the officers of Amins and Amin Patels also appear to be similar. Col. Walker in his report of 1804 states that there were five Amins Patels in Matar Pargana, four in Mahudha, and three in Nadiad.⁽⁵⁰⁾

The salary enjoyed by the Amins was similar in nature to that of the Desais. We do not have the exact figures for all the parganas. In Pargana Matar the Amin Patel enjoyed 400 beeghas of Passaita and Rs.500 in eash.⁽⁵¹⁾

Like the Desais, the Amins had come to enjoy a position of vantage during the period when the country was under the ascendancy of the Marathas. Pandurang Gopal, on his report on the Matar and Mahudha parganas in 1803 states that in the above parganas, the Amins were eating

49. Ibid., 1837, No. 95/853, P.105.

50. Col. Walker, Op.cit., P. 2, 5 and 7.

51. Ibid., P.7.

up the best produce of land as every Amin exercised the right of serving himself from the villages to what he wanted, besides exacting a small sum from every village as his pay or perquisite and accepting Sukdis at the end of the year. (52)

Majumdar - The hereditary district accountants were termed as Majumdars in Gujarat and Deshpandes in Khandesh, Konkan and the Southern Maratha country. Probably throughout the country their duties were originally similar but gradually differences arose due to the different modes of revenue administration which made their agency more requisite in some quarters than in others. (53)

Information regarding the origin of the office of Majumdars has already been given above. During the Mughal rule they seem to have held their offices distinctly under sanads.

Except in the collection of revenues when their united services were required the duties of the Desais and Majumdars were perfectly distinct though the Desais were considered the superior. (54) The Majumdar was the

52. List No.11, Kaira Rumal, P.A.

53. R.D.V. 1844, No.56/1613, P.57.

54. Ibid., 1830, No.5/285, P.114.

principal accountant and it was his duty to write all public documents and to preserve the records and accounts of the parganas. The statements submitted to government were in the hand writing of the Majumdar while signed by the Desai. Thus a check was exercised by the one over the other and this tended to preserve the purity of their offices as the interests of government.⁽⁵⁵⁾ The Desai promulgated his orders in the villages under his control through the Patels, and the Majumdars through the Talatis. The Majumdar also kept a check on the Kamavisdar by recording all his transactions.⁽⁵⁶⁾

That the office of the Majumdar was to be held in heridity is beyond doubt. There is a farman of the third year of the reign of Jahangir which states that the office of the Majumdar and all the fees and perquisites attached ot it were to be held as hereditary by one Gujarat Brahmin by the name of 'Vekunt' in the pargana of Kapadvanj.⁽⁵⁷⁾

In the Modi documents we have the evidence of the family of one Ganesh Wishwanath enjoying the office of the Majumdar from 1772-73 to 1785-86.⁽⁵⁸⁾

55. Ibid.

56. G.W.Forrest, Op.cit., P.499.

57. List No.11, Kaira Volume, 31, P.A.

58. Jamav Section 83, Rumal 14, P.A.

Complete details regarding the salary and perquisites that the Majumdars enjoyed under the Mughals and the Marathas are not available. They derived their income from two sources - one, in form of allowances both in land and money, and the other in the form of fees direct from the treasury of the government. The pargana wise break up of their fees is as follows : (59)

Kapadvanj	Rs.175 to 300 accounting for about 0.5 per cent of the total <u>Jama</u> .
Thamna	Rs.100 to Rs.150 accounting for about 0.4 per cent of the total <u>Jama</u> .
Mahemdabad	Rs.100 accounting for 0.7 per cent of Petlad. Rs.170 to 400 account for 0.7 percent.

Thus generally speaking the total per cent on the revenues of the Majumdar's salary was about 0.6 per cent.

Besides this, they enjoyed allowances in land and money. In the pargana of Nadiad, at the introduction of the British rule, we find that there was one Majumdar who enjoyed 20 beeghas of Passaita land and Rs.175 as his dustoorree from different villages. (60) The Majumdar of *Natar* enjoyed 25 beeghas of Passaita land and Rs.300 from diffe-

59. Daftar Number 291, Pudka Numbers 10 and 11; CROB; Prant Ajmas Gujarat Rumals 24, 41 and 43, P.A.; Tamaw Section 83, Rumals 12 and 13, P.A.

60. Col. Walker Op.cit., P.5.

rent villages.⁽⁶¹⁾ There were four Majumdars in the Mahudha pargana (their land and money allowances not given.)⁽⁶²⁾ In the Petlad pargana the Majumdars enjoyed 832 beeghas of Passaita land valued at Rs.1268.3.0 and cash allowances from villages amounting to Rs.523.3.0; if we take the fee from government as Rs.350, the total of the Majumdars salary in Petlad would be Rs.2142.2.0.⁽⁶³⁾ In the Mahemdabad pargana the Majumdars enjoyed 126 beeghas of Passaita land valued at Rs.147.1.0 and fees from villages amounting to Rs.328.0.0. This would give us a total of Rs.475.1.0.⁽⁶⁴⁾ Though these data do not give the amount of the salary they received from the government but from other sources we know that this amounted to Rs.150.⁽⁶⁵⁾ therefore the total value of the Majumdaree office in Mahemdabad pargana would be Rs.625.1.0. annually. In the Alina Pargana there were 21 beeghas of Passaita land valued at Rs.31.1.0 and Rs.153.0.0 received from different villages thus the total of the Majumdars fees would be Rs.192.1.0.⁽⁶⁶⁾ In the Kapadvanj Pargana the Majumdar during the third year of Jahangir's reign had been given 40 beeghas of land

61. Ibid., P.7.

62. Ibid., P.8.

63. List No.11, Kaira Vol. 31, P.A.

64. Ibid.

65. See reference 6059

66. See Note 64.

(10 cultivated and 30 fallow) and Rs.81 as fees from 42 villages ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to Rs.7.⁽⁶⁷⁾ We do not have the exact figures but under the Marathas the ancestor of this Majumdar, it may be presumed had nearly doubled his Watan.

The Passaita land was generally given for the subsistence of the Majumdar and his family⁽⁶⁸⁾ and was to be continued in heridity. It was totally free from all levies.

Besides, like the Desais, the Majumdars enjoyed a number of hags on the land customs as well as from different villages. The Nadiad Majumdar enjoyed Rs.2.0.0 on the land customs annually, the Mahudha Majumdars Rs.5.0.0 and the Alina Majumdar Rs.6.3.2 annually.⁽⁶⁹⁾ The Majumdars also enjoyed diverse perquisite as follows.⁽⁷⁰⁾

In Kapadvanj the Majumdar took a sum total of Rs.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ from three villages as presents on Diwali and also Rs.1 from the purchaser of house or land in lieu thereof of which the Majumdar wrote out the deed of sale. In

67. List No.11, Kaira Volume 31, P.A.

68. Ibid.

69. Ibid., Statement and Papers, Kaira Volume 8, P.A.

70. R.D.V. 1836, No.7/694, P.92.

Mahemdabad the Majumdar took from the dyers, half a piece of cloth yearly and from the owners of salt brought for sale, 5 seers of salt upon each gharee.

It also sometimes occurred that Desais were under the Marathas entrusted the duties of Majumdars too. (71)

Another significant change brought in by the Marathas of which we have only a passing reference is that in place of hereditary Majumdars, the Durrukdars were brought in from Pune to keep the general accounts in different Parganas. (72) These Marathas, naturally, were ignorant of the customs and circumstances of the country and were often superseded in their offices so that their appointments generally had served no purpose than to interrupt the records and accounts of the hereditary Majumdars of the district.

Changes under British :

Visible changes were affected in the position and emoluments of the district hereditary officers after the introduction of the British rule in Gujarat in 1803 A.D. Agreeably to the Maratha practice, circumstances necessitated the British Government in their early years to farm

71. For instance, the duties of the Thasra Majumdar were given to the Desais when the former absconded. R.D.V. 1839, No. 40/1003 P.1 & 2.

72. R.D.D. 1819, No. 142, P. 2441.

out the different Parganas to the Desais and Amins. This method was considered the best for ensuring the influence of these officers who being the natural channel of communication between the subjects and the government were much respected and regarded by all classes of people.⁽⁷³⁾ They possessed a general knowledge of the conditions of the different villages to which they belonged and thus when engaged on the side of government were considered as the most material checks to the frequent, false and unsubstantiated assertions and clamours of disaffected Patels.⁽⁷⁴⁾

The Desais and Amins, at the onset of the reaping season, entered into Tahoods (contract) with the government for the amount of the revenue which was to be collected for the year from the different parganas. The period of these Tahoods was but for one year and it remained with the collector to renew them or not in the next. It was generally considered that unrestrained by these engagements, the Amins and Desais would have formed an understanding with the Patels much to the disadvantage the Ryot. These Tahoods also did not entirely preclude such understandings but at least they served to check, the disposition to form them to some extent.

73. R.D.D. 1820, No.157, P. 3977-3978.

74. Ibid.

However this system did not last for long. The Desais and Amins were gradually shown of their diverse powers and responsibilities and reduced from the masters of the districts to mere ministerial officers and the extent of their duties were greatly limited.⁽⁷⁵⁾ They came to be employed as Ajmaisdars or examiners of village books and as such the duties allotted to them were to go in company with the village officers into the field to make an estimate of their crops, to examine the Ryots estimate to inspect the village accounts, to act as Panchayats for fixing beeghoti assessment, to enquire into any matters referred by the Kamavisdar or Collector and various other revenue duties.⁽⁷⁶⁾ They were also employed in setting boundary disputes and in short making local enquiries of every kind. Moreover, the Desais in particular were still not without their use as checks on the Kamavisdar whom they always looked on as an intruder^u and against whom they were usually ready to bring forward or investigate information.⁽⁷⁷⁾ The Desai was also to be answerable for thefts committed within his limits as was

75. G.W. Forrest, Mountstuart Elphinstone, P.480.
K.A. Balthatchettin Social Policy and Social change in Western India 1817-1830. (Oxford 1957) speaks on the run and decline of the Desais, P.155-156.

76. R.D.V. 1851, No.102, P.20.

77. G.W. Forrest, Mounstuart Elphinstone, P.480.

the case in Benaras and the ceded northern provinces.⁽⁷⁸⁾

Thus, when the British felt that the power and influence which had been acquired by the Desais and Amins was applied more to the support rather than the prevention of abuses in revenue management, they undertook steps to reduce their position. A circular was issued by the government in 1821 to the effect that whatever might have been the efficiency of the Desai in former times the general opinion attached little importance to the continuation as a responsible agent under the British government.⁽⁷⁹⁾ However, as we have seen earlier, they continued to take part in revenue matters though their earlier position of managing the pargana as farmers was no more.

Such a change was not accepted by the Desais readily. In 1814 Ajoobhai Purbhoodas and Rughabhai Wallabhai both Desais of Nadiad (belonging to two rival branches of the family) together with Ajoobhai Kishandas, one of the Amins of Mahudha headed a large combination of Patels formed to resist the introduction of the Talati Regulation. The Desais had long possessed a leading influence and valuable interests which they thought and sensibly felt would be overthrown by the Regulation. Many Patels and others

78. R.D.D. 1807, No.56, P.744.

79. List No. 11, General Volume, 7, P.A.

were also involved in the combination but only the above mentioned Desais and Amins were selected for punishment on account of their higher position and influence. They were tried before a special court at Kheda, convicted and sentenced each to 5 years imprisonment, commutable to a further imprisonment of 3 years and also fined Rs.10,000. They were further prohibited from being employed in the public service.

Raghubhai Wallabhai, one of the above Desais escaped from jail in 1817 whilst the remaining two Ajoo-bhai Purbhoodas and Ajoobhai Kishandas were pardoned by government in 1818 and released from Jail. The latter was restored to office the same year.⁽⁸⁰⁾ Raghubhai Wallabhai surrendered himself in 1818.

The Desais of Nadiad petitioned to be re-employed in the service of government and on a recommendation of the Mr. Williamson (Collector of Kaira) they were ordered by government to be restored (23 September 1826) to their office. Rs.3000 per annum out of the Amin Sukdi collections (of Rs.6500) were sanctioned to be assigned in equal shares of Rs.1500 yearly to the principal Desai in each of the two rival family branches; that out of the sum of Rs.1500 sanctioned to the principal Desai of the said two

80. Ibid., Kaira Volume 39, P.A.

branches, an assistant was to be employed on a yearly pay of Rs.300, the principal enjoying Rs.1200. In making these arrangements, the government expressly directed the collector to give preference to seniority and left to his discretion to select assistants from among the unemployed members of the Desais family or not as he thought fit.

Ajoobhai Purbhoodas was employed as a principal on Rs.1200 from 2 January 1827 by Mr. Williamson and received his share of the Sukdi allowance from that date. The arrangements were completed in 1829 by Mr. Mills who employed a member of the family Jorabhai Dwarkadas as an assistant on Rs.300 a year to Ajoobhai Purbhoodas. Samuldas Desabhai, a cousin and senior to Ajoobhai had a prior claim to the office but during this period he was absent from Nadiad on a pilgrimage to Benares and thus his claim was overlooked by Mr. Williamson and Mr. Mills. In the other branch of the family Desai Raghubhai Wallabhai having died in 1826 his son Ranchodbhai was allowed Rs.1200 as a principal Desai and his son Gulabbhai was appointed as his assistant on a yearly pay of Rs.300.

The aforesaid Samaldas Desabhai on his return to Nadiad preferred his claim as a senior of the family to the office of Principal Desai and its emoluments. Having failed to obtain recognition of his claim from the local authorities and the Bombay Government he proceeded to England

and obtained for himself from the court of Directors and annual allowance of Rs.1500 inclusive of Rs.300 as a contingent charge with all arrears.

Agreeably to the orders of the Honourable Court Samaldas, in addition to the others 2 principal Desais was placed on the same footing. He appointed a Bania named Purbhoodas Jewere as his assistant to perform the public duties and paid him privately.

Besides the Desais of Nadiad, the Desais of some other parganas too had to face disciplinary action of the British government which had no hesitation in punishing the errant desais for delinquency. Here mention may be made of two such instances. In 1837 Gokalbhai Vithal Desai of Kapadvanj pargana was suspended for four years from office and his share of emoluments were credited to government, pending his suspension, on grounds of misconduct and disobedience.⁽⁸¹⁾ In the second instance one of the Desais of Mahemdabad Panachand Bapujee in conjunction with the Talati and Patel of the village of Parantej under Matar on 4 February 1839 made false entries in the village accounts and combined to defraud the government of Rs.313.14.0 out of the revenues of the revenues of the village of Parantej for the year 1838-39.⁽⁸²⁾

81. R.D.V. 1837, No.62/820, P.120.

82. Ibid., 1839, No.68/1031, P. 77-95.

In consequence the Governor-in-Council sanctioned the dismissal of the Desai from service on 2nd August, 1839.⁽⁸³⁾

Alterations were also made by the British in the emoluments of the Desais and Amins. As had been stated earlier the emoluments of the Desais consisted of Passaita land, Nuzerana, Jeewuck, Amin Sukdi and cash from government. A sort of a settlement was made, by the collectors, of these allowances but on no fixed principles.⁽⁸⁴⁾ In some instances the emoluments of one Watan were deducted to make up a deficiency of them in another. In some cases the government sanctioned an increase of their allowances by additional cash payments. It appears however that for the most part a certain sum was fixed in cash as being the official emoluments of the officiating member and payable to him alone.

The hereditary nature of the Passaita lands was recognised by the British and consequently allowed to be continued. It was true that the holders of such lands had no sanads to prove that they were bonafide acquisitions. Moreover the lands in many cases had increased from clandestine additions but this abuse was not greater than that in other districts. Those parganas which were under the

83. Ibid. The Patel was to pay a fine of Rs.50 commutable to 6 months imprisonment. The Talati was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs.100.

84. List No.11, General Volume 7, P.A.

Gaekwad's jurisdiction also enjoyed these lands in hereditary. Owing to these considerations it was decided to continue these allowances except some later and authorised acquisitions which were resumed. From the Hindu Law of inheritance the lands had been divided and subdivided through successive generations that their extent had become quite in considerable. The rent from these divisions of lands was thus considered more as pensions from the government to the numerous representatives of the first Desai.

Nazarana was stated as but a small sum and as it was considered as a proof of the parties enjoying it being descendants of the Desais and thus eligible to employment; it was decided to be continued.⁽⁸⁵⁾ Similar was the case with the Jeewuck allowances.⁽⁸⁶⁾

The amount of Amin Sukdi to be enjoyed by the officiating members of the Desai and Amins was said to have been fixed by Maj. Walker in 1803-04. The Sukdi in the Mahudha pargana amounting to Rs.4000 was divided equally amongst five persons, two of whom were Desais and three Amins, so that each share amounted to Rs.800.⁽⁸⁷⁾

85. Ibid.

86. Ibid.

87. R.D.V. 1839, No. 27/290, P.149.

Thereafter in 1810-11 Mr. Rawles the collector of ^{Kheda} ~~Kaira~~ curtailed Rs.100 from each of the five shares and with Rs.500 thus obtained the Majumdar's allowances were increased.

In 1818-19 Maj. Robertson allowed the Sukdi allowance to the Desais of Mahemdabad amounting to Rs.590.3.50 to be continued without any modification while those of Petlad (of Rs.9356.2.0) and Thasra (of Rs.3265.1.25) were reduced to Rs.3000 and 2000 respectively.⁽⁸⁸⁾ Besides, the cash paid from government was to cease. Under this modification a saving accrued of Rs.10618.325, Rs.4240 was to be appropriated for the better remuneration of the district accountants. These modifications were revised by Mr. Moore in 1821-22 and Mr. Williamson in 1826-27 though no record of the principles which regulated the amount fixed is forthcoming.⁽⁸⁹⁾

Maj. Robertson, while modifying the Sukdi allowances had made it perfectly clear that it was the pleasure of the government to give this allowance to whosoever it liked and nobody had a permanent claim to it. For instance mention may be made of those fixed for the Nadiad Desai and which have already been discussed. It may

88. List No.11, Kaira Volume 39, P.A.

89. List No.14, File No. 227, P.A.

also be mentioned here that on the death of the officiating member the Amin Sukdi was withdrawn while Jeewuck continued to be given to the deceased's widow. In 1836, some of the Desais of Kapadvanj petitioned to government that their share of Jeewuck was very small and they enjoyed no Amin-Sukdi whatever. The government, then fixed the minimum allowances as Rs.150 per annum and this sum was made up by deductions from the Gaon Khurch.

In 1821 it was ordered that the extent and nature of the Desais emoluments having been ascertained sanads were to be issued and further exactions prohibited.⁽⁹⁰⁾ These sanads were however never given, the Collector reporting two years later that the Desais did not wish to receive them as they thought that these would weaken their prescriptive rights under which these allowances were being enjoyed.

When the transit duties were abolished in 1838 A.D. it was decided to give due compensation to those desais and amins who had derived income from them.

It was therefore settled that the hereditary district officers were to receive a bond for five times the amount of 10 per cent of their net income redeemable at the pleasure and convenience of government without notice.

90. List No.11, Kaira Volume 32, P.A.

The sums to the Desais of the Kheda collectorate sanctioned by government in 1840, were as follows : (91)

<u>Names of Desais</u> <u>Pargana-wise</u>	Amount of allowance from land customs annually	Amount of bond at 10 per cent for five times the annual net income	Interest on the amount of bond at 10 per cent
ALINA PARGANA			
1. Desai Poonja- bhai Dulla- bhai	6.3.2	30.15.10	3.1.7
2. Desai Mooljee Munsukram	6.3.2	30.15.10	3.1.7
3. Desai Khushal- rai Nurseedas	12.6.5	62.0.1	6.3.2
THASRA PARGANA			
1. Desai Bhogilal Runsordas and others	425.0.0	2125.0.0	212.8.0
MAHEMDABAD PARGANA			
1. Desai Kappor- chand Tarachand and Dooluram	1.10.0	5.0.0	212.8.0

Apart from these, the Desais, Amins and other hereditary officers had enjoyed Parbhara Hags which were levied in money or kind directly on the people. It was suggested not to disturb these, as it was thought that

these hags being very small and no complaints of over exaction of any kind over having been made to the authorities, it was decided to continue them.⁽⁹²⁾

The hereditary nature of the office and emoluments was fully recognised by the British government. It was accepted that on the death of a hereditary officer, his eldest son according to the custom of the country was to be appointed and in the event of his dying without male issue, it fell to his wife who provided according to Section XI of Act XI of 1843 a substitute and at her death it reverted to the second brother or his son as the case might be.⁽⁹³⁾

It was also customary (and this practice was continued by the British) to divide the emoluments of the Desaiship among all the persons to whom it might have descended and if one of them was appointed by the consent of the whole party to carry on the business of the Desaiship, he was paid additionally in consideration of his services⁽⁹⁴⁾ (in the form of Amin Sukdi). For instance on the death of one Khusalbai Motichand, the Desai of Thasra, the names of his three sons: Girdharbai, Lalbai

92. List No. 14, File No. 318, P.A.

93. R.D.V. 1850, No.80, P.50.

94. Ibid., 1846, No.70. P.176-177.

and jeebhai were registered in public record.⁽⁹⁵⁾ The Watans originally granted to one family were subdivided to ultimately form separate ones. As for instance the case of Desaibhai and Motibhai Kalidas of Mahudha where a Watan, which was formerly one, was subsequently divided into four, three of the original family, the fourth being usurped by a Gomasta.⁽⁹⁶⁾

However it may be pointed out that Amin Sukdi was never considered as part of the Watan and therefore was not hereditary.⁽⁹⁷⁾ For instance the petition of one Shivrul Bhoogelal of Mahudha to enjoy the Amin Sukdi allowance of his father with his brother was turned down by the Collector.⁽⁹⁸⁾ And later after his brother's death when he filed a suit against the Collector to establish his claim to a moiety of the Amin Sukdi enjoyed by his deceased brother, his claim was disallowed by the judge of Ahmedabad.⁽⁹⁹⁾

Tables 1 and 2 (Ch. IV/No. 1 and 2) show us the real position and emoluments of the Desais and Amins of the

95. Ibid., P.178.

96. List No. 11, Gen. Vol. 7, P.A.

97. R.D.V. 1846, No.70, P.80.

98. List No. 14, File No. 227, P.A.

99. Ibid.

Kheda Collectorate as they stood around the year 1855 A.D.⁽¹⁰⁰⁾ From these it is clear that out of the total number of Desais and Amins only about 7% (Desais) and 13% (Amins) were the officiating members, the remaining were also known as Desais and Amins, but held no official position. The value of produce which they derived from their Passaita lands was quite substantial amounting for about half of their total emoluments. Nearly half of the total emoluments were enjoyed by the officiating members.

In contrast to the office of Desai which was not considered as very useful by the British, the Majumdars were considered as the only dependants of former governments from whom any assistance could be obtained.⁽¹⁰¹⁾ When the question of the expediency of employing them and the duties on which they should be employed underwent full discussion it was determined that they should be made efficient in Gujarat while he dispersed with in other provinces of the Bombay Presidency.⁽¹⁰²⁾ (1821 A.D.).

In carrying out these views the duties of these officers were briefly laid down as follows - to keep an account of all revenue payments, to report on the nature

100. Ibid.

101. R.D.D. 1820, No.164, P.6689.

102. R.D.V. No.56/1613, P.57.

of alienated tenures, to superintend the ^{cc} amount of the Talatis, to report on the number of Patels, Talatis and all public servants in each village stating the value of their emoluments, to keep a record of the population of each village, the amount of village expenses, and the nature of soil and crops cultivated. (103)

The office of Majumdar was further restored to efficiently by an addition to its emoluments where they were considered deficient. In 1818 when Thasra and Antroli (along with other Parganas) were ceded to the British, it was found that they had no Majumdars, and their duties were performed by the Desais concurrently with the functions of that office. As this was calculated to render the check of the Majumdar's office ineffectual it was decided to appoint Majumdars in both these parganas, one in Antroli with a salary of Rs.500 and two in Thasra with Rs.600 per year. Besides this the Alina Majmudar was to be given an increased salary of Rs.800 a year, out of which he was to maintain a deputy at Rs.200 a year. The Mahemdabad Majumdar was to receive Rs.600 a year and another one was to be appointed in the Dascroi pargana with the same salary. The Petlad Pargana had four Majumdars whose salary was fixed at Rs.750 each including deputies at Rs. 10 per month. (104)

103. List No.11, Gen. Vol. 7, P.A. This gives a detailed account of the duties to be performed by the Majumdar.

104. It may be mentioned here that these modifications were effected from a ^{ser}ving which had accrued of Rs.10618.3.25 by a reduction in the Amin Sukdi allowances and cash paid by government to the Desais and Amins, as has been discussed earlier.

Besides the above, changes were made in the emoluments of the Nadiad and Mahemdabad Majumdars. The Original Watan of the Nadiad Majumdar consisted only of land and dustoree valued at Rs.259.4.4 during the first years of British rule.⁽¹⁰⁵⁾ On the petition of the Nadiad Majumdar, he was to be remunerated additionally by a sum of Rs.500 out of which he was to pay a Mehta on Rs.150 by order of government (1821). A further increase of Rs.61 was recommended by the Collector Mr. More in 1823 and sanctioned by government in 1826,⁽¹⁰⁶⁾ though it was clearly stated that the continuation of this allowance depended on the will of the government. The Mahemdabad Majumdar was also given an increase of Rs.91.0.10 in 1826 A.D.⁽¹⁰⁷⁾

For the proper guidance for determining the allowances to be enjoyed by the Majumdars, rules were transmitted to the different collectors on 18 September 1826.⁽¹⁰⁸⁾ These rules briefly laid down that the officiating Majumdar was to receive an additional ^{sum} ~~sum~~ and though all the emoluments were to be held in hereditary, they could not be sold or mortgaged.

105. List No. 11, Kaira Vol. 39, P.A.

106. Ibid.

107. Ibid.

108. Ibid., General Volume 7, P.A.

As has been stated earlier, the Majumdars of Thasra and Antroli were newly appointed at the introduction of the British rule in 1818-19. Accordingly at Thasra Khusal Motichand with Bapuji Jaitram, and Govind Kalhar (a Deccan Brahmin and not a native of Thasra of Gujarat) with a Mehta were appointed. In June 1819 Govind Malhar was transferred to Antroli and one Jeewanlal Kishanlal was appointed in his place at Thasra. In the collector's orders it was clearly stated that they were not to imagine themselves as Watani Majumdars and the government would keep them in service as long as it liked. Khusal Motichand died in 1835 A.D., and when his son and Karkum both petitioned the Collector for his place, his Karkun namely Bapuji Jantram was appointed in his place. And, in Bapuji's place a Talati was appointed as Mehta and not his son. Thus we find that in both Thasra and Antroli, the Majumdars were considered as purely stipendiary officers created under the British government.⁽¹⁰⁹⁾ Persons were appointed without any reference whatever to any particular families or castes. Apparently, the newly appointed Majumdars had no local base.

However in the other parganas the hereditary nature of the Majumdar's office was fully maintained, though it was clearly laid down that the selection of the fittest

109. Ibid., Kaira Volume 39, P.A.

Majumdar was to rest with the Collector. If it so happened that none of the family were capable of performing the duties, a deputy was to be appointed to conduct them till an efficient member appeared.

In 1825 it was reported to government that the office of Majumdar stood on a respectable and efficient footing in Kheda Collectorate and the situation was generally considered as next in kin to the Kamavisdar. In point of utility and responsibility it held a similar place and was properly appreciated by the inhabitants.

Like the Purbhara Hags of the Desais, those of the Majumdars were also left undisturbed. Those which they enjoyed on the transit customs, were compensated in 1840 as follows. (110)

Name of Majumdar	Amount of allowance from land customs annually	Amount of bond at 10 percent for five times the annual net income	Interest on the amount of bond at 10 percent
NADIDAD PARGANA			
1. Makanroy Govindroy	2.0.0	10.0.0	1.0.0
MAHUDHA PARGANA			
1. Girdharlal, Sukhlal and two others	5.0.0	25.0.0	2.8.0
ALINA PARGANA			
1. Tirbhovan Harachand	6.3.0	30.15.0	3.1.7

110. Ibid., Statement and Papers, Kaira Vol.8, P.A.

Thus we find that visible changes were made in the position and ~~em~~ⁱⁿfolments of the Majumdars under the British. The duties that they performed in 1846 were clearly laid out as follows : (111)

Daily Duty -

1. The Majumdar's examined and signed the Rozmail of treasury Day book and kept a copy of the same as a voucher for the Mamlutdar's Duftnar.

2. The Majumdar's drewout receipts for the payments made from the Mamlutdar's treasury on account of the pay of the establishments, Desai Dustoree, Amin Sukdi, Inams to Patels, etc.

Weekly Duty -

Signing the weekly cash balance reports.

Monthly Duty -

Framed the statement of collections and balances of villages and made a copy of the same to be forwarded to the Hazoor Treasury.

Annual Duty -

Framed the statements of revenues of demands, collections and balances up to 30th April, contrasted

111. R.D.V. 1846, No.69, P. 131-133.

statement of increases and decreases of revenue with explanations of the variations. Also the general statement of lands exhibiting their appropriation and description as arable cultivated, uncultivated, jungles, rocks etc. They also signed the Talatis books as follows and presented them to the Collector of the revenue settlement.

Talatis statement of land paying revenue to government and of that exempt wholly or partially from revenue, the purposes to which it was appropriated and the names of the holders.

The Talatis ledger showing the balance of revenue due from each cultivator.

Statement of lands, extent, boundaries, etc. The same duties were performed, more or less, by the Majumdars of Broach and Ahmedabad.

Table No. 3 (Chap.IV/No.3) shows us the real position and emoluments of the Majumdars around the year 1855 A.D. in the Kheda Collectorate. From these data, it is clear that about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of Majumdars were officially employed, like the Desais and Amins, the Majumdars resided at the gasba headquarters of their respective parganas. The value of their Passaita lands was quite less (about 27%) in comparison to that enjoyed by the Desais and Amins from the same. About three quarters of the total emoluments were enjoyed by the officiating Majumdars.

Inspite of the wishes of the British government position of the district hereditary officers could not be reduced to the extent that was desired. Mr. Gray, the collector of Kheda reporting in the year as late as 1859 A.D. clearly stated that the ordinary duties of these officers were both onerous and responsible. (112) The visible and clerical work performed by the Majumdar was at least as great as that done by an equal number of stipendiary Karkuns. The state of the Duftars in the district Kuthcherries was so bad that the Mamlatdar and his Karkuns would have been unable to find papers without the help of the Majumdar.

In the same way the Desais and Amins continued to perform important duties connected with revenue administration. Besides making enquiries necessary in the preparation of genealogical tables they tested the regular inspection of all fields, crops and boundaries; made out cultivation returns, took measurements of land, enquired into claims to remissions, examined ryots receipt books, superintended sales of produce of government trees, wood etc. assisted in recovering government demands and performed a variety of outdoor work. (113)

112. List No. 11, Kaira Vol. 32, P.A.

113. Ibid.

Thus the district hereditary officers from their local knowledge and general respectability were regarded as the most valuable public servants.⁽¹¹⁴⁾ It was generally presumed that the collector would have found it extremely difficult to carry on properly the management of his districts without their assistance. Through their aid the revenue collections were more easily and earlier made than if entrusted to the stipendiary servants of government alone. Of course, these hereditary officers had lost much of their influence, which they had formerly attained under the Marathas, yet from their knowledge and experience they were still considered useful.⁽¹¹⁵⁾

Thus in the late 1840s when the question regarding the expediency of requiring service from these officers was raised, it was clearly pointed out by the Collector of Kheda that in case of the removal of these officers the duties could not be performed by the ordinary government establishment.⁽¹¹⁶⁾ Their usefulness in a similar way was pointed out by the Broach and Surat Collectors also.⁽¹¹⁷⁾

114. R.D.V. 1840, No.59/1143, P.88.

115. Ibid., 1851, No. 102, P.21-22 .

116. Ibid.

117. R.D.V. 1851, No.102, P.26-27, P.34-35.

Further, in cases even where the value of the Watan was very small, the avidity with which the different co-sharers tried to be nominated to perform the duties was a sufficient proof of producing general dissatisfaction in case their services were dispensed with entirely. Moreover it was pointed out that the places of Desais could have been easily filled up in time but those of the Majumdars with considerable difficulty. (118)

Inspite of the strict control of the government the hereditary officers continued to commit, assist or connive at fraud. (119) For instance, as has been pointed out earlier, they were perfectly acquainted with everything in the district, from what sources illicit gains could be expected and in what manner government could be robbed of its revenue. When a new Mamlutdar arrived in the district, if he was determined to do his work honestly and protect the government interests the first persons with whom he had to clash were these hereditary officers. If the Mamlutdar let them do as they liked, shared their profits and winked or connived at their frauds, they would give him all assistance. If however, contrary was the case and the Mamlutdar made them work and exposed their fraudulent practices the fight began and they rendered him as little assistance as possible.

118. List No. 11, General Vol. 7, P.A.

119. Ibid.

Again some of the Desais continued to carry on money transactions with the ryots. True, they went to a village to inspect fields, sell grass and fruits by auction and did other government works,. But at the same time, they seemed to have transacted their own business. They lent money, wrote out new bonds threatened those whom they had already lent money and whose bonds they held with the civil court and thus kept persons in check who might have been otherwise willing to expose their frauds. Thus, not all the vices of these hereditary officers could be removed by the British and in 1857 it was pointed out that remedial measures for the removal of these were absolutely necessary. (120)

120. Ibid.

Chapter IV / Table No. 2*

Position and Emoluments of Amins in 1855 A.D.

Names of parganas	Nos. of Sha-res	Nos. of Officiating members	Residence of the officiating members	Value of Entire Watan			Total	Value of Officiating Member's		
				Inland B.W.W.	Produce from lands	Cash payment		Inland	Value of produce from lands	Cash payments
Matar	12	1	qasba matar	80.15.0	160.2.0	1091.10.6	1251.12.6	4.0.0	6.0.0	1080.11.8
Mahundha	6	2	qasba Mahundha	68.10.0	188.0.6	1332.1.5	1520.1.11	36½.0.0	97.0.6	1320.0.5
Borsad	25	2	qasba Borsad	193.½.0	486.15.0	1237.6.5	1724.6.3	66.10.0	125.15.10	1187.5.12
Napad	7	1	qasba Napad	9.0.0	15.9.0	514.7.2	530.0.2	-	-	74,13,5
Thasra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kapadvanj	9	3	qasba Kapadvanj	-	-	123.13.4	123.13.4	-	-	123.13.4
Nadiad	9	-	-	111=0.0	286.6.0	9.1.18	-	-	-	-
	68	9		470.5½.0	1137.1.4	4407.14.6	5150.2.2	106½.19.0	229.0.4	3786.12.10

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Chapter - IV / Table No. 2*

Position and Emoluments of Majumdars in 1855 A.D.

Names of parganas	Nos. of sha-res	Nos. of Offi-ciat-ing mem-bers	Residence of the officia-ting members	Value of Entire Watan			Total	In Land	Value of Officiating Members	
				In Land	Produce from Lands	Cash Payments			In Land	Value of produce from lands
Matar	20	5	4 at qasba Matar and Mehemdabad, 1 at qasba Dholka	188.0.0	315.8.0	1539.6.8	1854.14.8	146.0.0	260.4.0	1457.4.2
Mahundha	15	10	6 at qasba Mahundha, 4 at qasba Alina	291.17.8	819.3.10	1670.12.11	2490.0.9	281.0.17	798.7.2	1658.0.11
Borsad	16	2	2 at qasba Borsad	287.0.0	656.15.5	1036.9.0	1693.9.3	90.0.0	166.10.2	858.10.0
Napad	18	2	2 at qasba Napad	95.10.0	234.6.11	891.13.10	1126.4.9	17.0.0	51.0.0	736.10.0
Thasra	2	2	2 at qasba Thasra	131.14.15	279.15.7	1109.15.0	1389.14.7	131.14.15	279.15.7	1109.15.0
Kapadvanj	-	-	qasba Antroli	-	-	455.4.0	455.4.0	-	-	455.4.0
Nadiad	10	1	1 at qasba	64.9.0	134.3.4	765.11.10	899.15.2	14.0.0	44.0.0	646.7.3
81	22			1057.12.3	2440.5.1	7469.8.5	9909.13.6	679.15.12	1600.4.11	6922.3.4

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