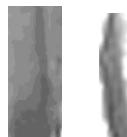


CIVICS



—



Rural Administration

Since there are more than six lakh villages in India, many officers are appointed for maintaining law and order, measuring land for the purpose of collecting land revenue etc.

The Functions and Structure of Police Stations in Villages

- Police perform the important function of maintaining law and order within the country. Many police stations have also been set up in villages.
- In cases of crimes, police enquire, investigate and take action against the accused in the case.
- The police can arrest a person on the basis of a FIR.
- They also help the people in the villages in case of natural calamity or an accident.
- Every police station has an area which comes under its control.
- It is in the police station of their area that villagers can register complaints regarding cases of theft, robbery, injuries, accident, fights etc.
- A police station in a village is headed by a **Station House Officer (S.H.O.)**. He/She is generally an inspector from the police department.
- Under the S.H.O. a team comprising of sub inspectors, head constable and constable works.



Police maintain law and order in their areas.

The Village Patwari and the Tehsildar

The Patwari

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in villages. One of the main tasks before the government is to get the lands measured in order to calculate the land revenue. **Patwari** is an important village official. He is also known as Lekhpal, Kanungo or Karamchari in various states. One patwari may look after number of villages. The functions of a patwari are:

- Measure the land.
- Keep a record of the measured land and also update the land records in the villages.
- Maintain a map of each and every land in the register.
- Provide information to the government about the crops which are grown in the village lands.
- Organise the collection of land revenues from the farmers.



In villages, the patwari measures the land and updates the land records in the village register.

The Tehsildar

The states in India are divided into a number of districts. The District Collector is the head of a district. These districts are further subdivided into tehsils or talukas. The tehsildar looks after the work of his tehsil or taluka. He works under the district collector. The main functions of tehsildars are:

- Supervise the work of the patwaris.
- Ensure that land records are properly maintained and the land revenues are regularly collected.
- Ensure that when required, the farmers are able to obtain a copy of their land records.
- Enable students to collect the caste certificates from the office of the tehsildar.
- Hears various land disputes.



Tehsildars supervise the work of the patwaris.

The Farmers

Farmers at times may require a copy of their land from the office of the tehsildar for the following purposes:

- Purchase a piece of land
- Sell their plot of land
- Avail a loan from the bank for digging a well on their land
- Buy fertilisers for their fields
- Divide their property among his children

The Rights of the Women

Mostly men in the villages have a right over the land. Women are only expected to work in the fields. Since a long time, a Hindu woman generally was not given a share in the family's land. After the death of the father, the family property was divided among his sons. This law was changed recently where the daughters were given the right to inherit the family land. This law has benefited many women. They now no longer depend upon anyone for their survival but on their own share of land to fulfill their needs and requirements.



Generally women are expected to work in agricultural fields but cannot demand a share in the family land.