



SAWANEH-I-DECCAN: A Politico Administrative Account of the Mughal Deccan

*Miss. Lucky Khan

* Research Scholar, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

ABSTRACT

The present source *sawaneh-i-deccan* is a statistical account of the deccan suba under *nizam-ul-mulk asaf jah i*. It was compiled in the last quarter of the 18th century and gives very minute details relating to the administrative division of the suba and the revenues yielded. The statistics given in the source are identical to that of the *deh-ba-dehi*, another statistical account of the early 18th century by an anonymous author. It seems that *nizam-ul-mulk*, the subedar of the deccan 1719-1748 based the *jambandi* (revenue fixation) on the accounts given in the *deh-ba-dehi* but with due considerations for the changed condition of the suba from the time it was compiled.

Keywords :

The present study is based on the Persian source *Sawaneh-i-Deccan* the word *Sawaneh* literally means the records. Thus the title *Sawaneh-i-Deccan* refers to the records of the Deccan. In the *Ain*, Abul Fazl mentions about the provincial division of the Empire into 12, and further writes that 3 more *subas* were added after Akbar's victory over Ahmadnagar, Berar and Khandesh, in the Deccan. By the time the present work had been written the number reached to six *subas* in the Deccan.

The work *Sawaneh-i-Deccan* is yet unpublished and untranslated. The two manuscript copies of the work are preserved, one is in *Oriental Manuscript Library and Research Institute Hyderabad* and the other is in *Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad*. I have consulted the copy preserved in OMLRI Hyderabad. The work runs into more than 150 folios. More than half of the pages are devoted to statistical details of the *Subas* of Deccan.

Munim Khan Aurangabadi is the author of this Persian work '*Sawaneh-i-Deccan*'. The date of the compilation of this work is 1782 A.D. The author himself was in the service of *Nizam Ali Khan Asaf Jah II* (1761-1803). This is the history of the Nizams of Deccan from *Asaf Jah I* to *Nizam Ali Khan II*.¹

The source contains an account of the six *subas* of the Deccan, their *subas*, *parganas* and *revenues*. It also includes biographical particulars of the prominent *Amirs* who played an important role in the history of the Deccan, during this period.²

At the end of the work *Munim Khan* has given an account of himself. He was descendent from *Khwaja Yusuf Hamdani*, a great divine of Medieval India. The family was settled in Kabul for a long time. It migrated first to Delhi in 1713 A.D. during the Reign of *Farrukh Siyar*, and then to Deccan with *Hussain Ali Khan* who had been appointed as the viceroy of the Deccan in 1715. *Munim Khan's* family was connected by manages with that of *Mubariz Khan*, who died fighting against *Nizam-ul-Mulk* in 1729.³

Munim Khan's father *Khwaja Abdul Ghani Khan* was for long settled in Hyderabad. In 1752 he joined *Ghasiuddin* the eldest son of *Nizam-ul-Mulk*, when arrived in Deccan to claim the governorship of the province. After the death of *Ghaziuddin* in October 1752, *Abdul Ghani Khan* seems to have gone into retirement. He died in Hyderabad in 1768 A.D. *Munim Khan*

received a mansab of five hundred from the Nizam, *Nizam Ali Khan*. He worked as the *Faujdar* of Gulbarga (Ahsanabad) for sometime. He then received a mansab of 1000, the title of Bahadur and the time when he was writing this work, he had passed his forty seventh years. He was at that time working as the governor of the fort of *Bidar* and the *Mahals* attached to the fort.⁴

Munim Khan, it appears had full access to the record office of the Nizams. He has first dealt with the six provinces into which the Deccan was divided namely.

1. Khujista Bunyad Aurangabad
2. Muhammadabad Bidar
3. Khandesh
4. Berar
5. Darul Zafar Bijapur
6. Farkhunda Bunyad Hyderabad.

He has then taken up each province with its total revenue. The sarkars or districts of each province have been described along with their revenues. The districts have been divided into Mahals or parganas. Lastly the number of villages under each Mahal has been recorded along with the revenues of that Mahal.

Sir Jadunath Sarkar in his work the "India of Aurangzeb: Topography, Statistics and Roads" has dealt with two Persian works "The *Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh*" and "*Chahan Gulshan*" written between 1695 and 1759 A.D. While these two works described a number of provinces of the Mughal Empire, *Munim Khan's* work with the province of the Deccan. Hence the treatment of the subject is fuller and more detailed.⁵

That portion of the kingdom of the Deccan which came into the possession of *Chaghata*⁶ emperors was marked out into six *subas* each with a certain number of *sarkar*⁷ (districts). The Deccan is a very spacious country on three sides⁸ bordering on the Ocean. Many *poligars*⁹ live here when these provinces were included in the protected Empire (of Delhi). They were divided into several Mahals and further into *Deh*.¹⁰

Muhammad Shafi the *Diwan* of Hyderabad (1689-90) arrived at a settlement of the land revenue and other taxes.¹¹ He fixed the *Jama-i-Kamil*¹² for entire Mughal Deccan. These figures for each and every *pargana* (aggregate of village) and *Sarkar* (districts) of all the six *subas* (provinces) of the Deccan were

compiled in 18th century (1705-1707), in the *Deh-Be-Dehi*.¹³

The *Jama-i-Kamil* figures of *Deh-Be-Dehi* are identical with those given in the documents of Aurangzeb's thirty second Regnal year. The *Jama-i-Kamil* listed in the *Deh-Be-Dehi* formed the basis of Nizam-ul-Mulk's revenue administration in the Deccan.¹⁴ Moreover the figures of *Deh-Be-Dehi* almost identical with those given in the *Sawaneh-i-Deccan* compiled during 18th century.¹⁵

The source gives information of the administrative divisions that existed from the times of Aurangzeb to that of Nizam-ul-Mulk. These administrative divisions formed the basis of Nizam-ul-Mulk's administration.¹⁶

S.No.	Suba	Sarkars	Mahals
1.	Khujista Bunyad Aurangabad	12	147
2.	Muhammadabad Bidar	06	76
3.	Khandesh	06	136
4.	Berar (Balaghat and Paiynghat)	11	252
5.	Darul-Zafar Bijapur	17	252
6.	Farkhunda Bunyad Hyderabad	42	405
	Total	92	1268

List of the Sarkars of Aurangabad Suba A – Suba Aurangabad¹⁷

S.No.	Sarkars – 12	Mahals – 147
1.	Daulatabad	27
2.	Ahmadnagar	10
3.	Pathan	3
4.	Parenda	19
5.	Beed	01
6.	Jalna	10
7.	Sangamner	11
8.	Sholapur	03
9.	Fatehabad Dharur	11
10.	Junner	23
11.	Talkonkam	16
12.	Jawahar	13

List of the Sarkars of Suba Bidar B – Suba Bidar:¹⁸

S.No.	Sarkars – 06	Mahals – 76
1.	Bidar	30
2.	Akkalkot	07
3.	Kalyani	02
4.	Nanded	02
5.	Yadgir	14
6.	Malkhed	14

List of the Sarkars of Khandesh C – Suba Khandesh:¹⁹

S.No.	Sarkars – 06	Mahals – 126
1.	Asir	31
2.	Baglana	30
3.	Galna	07
4.	Nandurbar	06
5.	Bijagarh	35
6.	Handia	17

List of the Sarkars of Suba Berar D – Suba Berar:²⁰

S.No.	Sarkars – 12	Mahals – 252
1.	Pathri	11
2.	Basim	09
3.	Betalwadi	09
4.	Mahur	20
5.	Mehkar	12
6.	Gawail	46
7.	Kallam	24
8.	Narnala	37
9.	Paunar	04
10.	Devgarh	49
11.	Chanda	01
12.	Khedla	
13.	Sirpur	

List of the Sarkars of Bijapur E – Suba Bijapur:²¹

S.No.	Sarkars – 17	Mahals – 252
1.	Bijapur	56
2.	Akluj	12
3.	Raibag	12
4.	Naldurg	08
5.	Dabhol, Mustafabad	08
6.	Miraj	06
7.	Pankala	09
8.	Azamnagar	15
9.	Adhoni, Imtiazgarh	06
10.	Gulbarga	01
11.	Bankapur	16
12.	Torgal	16
13.	Ghazipur	23
14.	Raichur, Feroznagar	08
15.	Mudgal	13
16.	Nusratabad	05
17.	Muhammadnagar alias ikkeri	07

List of the Sarkars of Suba Farkhunda Bunyad Hyderabad F – Suba Hyderabad:²²

S.No.	Sarkars – 42	Mahals – 405
1.	Muhammadnagar (Golconda)	12
2.	Kolas	05
3.	Khammamet	11
4.	Koilkonda	13
5.	Kanlore	08
6.	Devarkonda	13
7.	Nalgonda	06
8.	Bhongir	11
9.	Pangal	02
10.	Merak	12
11.	Malangur	03
12.	Mustafanagar	05
13.	Ellore	12
14.	Rajmundry	24
15.	Elgandal	21
16.	Warrangal	16
17.	Machlipattan	08
18.	Nizam Pattan	01
19.	Shikakol	02
20.	Murtazanagar	--

G – Karnataka Region, Suba Hyderabad (Balaghat wa Paiynghat):

S.No.	---	---
1.	Sidhout	08
2.	Kanjikota	15
3.	Koti	13
4.	Karamkonda	12
5.	Khammam	18
6.	Udgir	06
7.	Sorwapalli	12
8.	Kandri	15
9.	Chingalpet	03
10.	Chandragiri	10
11.	Narsapur	10
12.	Dandasi	03
13.	Palmakot	
14.	Tarnamal	
15.	Nusratgarh	
16.	Wardawan	
17.	Trichnapally	
18.	Tanjawar	

The number of villages in every pargana has also been mentioned in the manuscript. The Jama/hasil figures given for every pargana includes the collection from *Pethas*,²³ *Bazars*,²⁴ *Baghats*,²⁵ *Tambaku*,²⁶ *Barg-e-Tambol*,²⁷ *Shura-wa-Nanak*²⁸ etc. The total amount yielded from Bijapur was Rs.7, 84, 40143, 12²⁹ out of which Rs.515368, p-3 war from *Mahalat*.³⁰

The Suba of Bijapur was divided into two sub-divisions Bijapur and Bijapur Karnataka, likewise. The *Suba* of Hyderabad was also divided into two regions namely Farkhurda Bunyad Hyderabad and the Karnataka Hyderabad, the latter was further divided into *Balaghat* and *Painghat* region. In the Hyderabad two *Sarkars* of Tanjawar and Trichnapally were under *Zamindars*.³¹

The other salient feature is that the *Sarkar* Daulatabad in *Suba* Aurangabad had the two *Havelis*,³² *Khujista* Bunyad (Aurangabad) and Daulatabad. The *Haveli* *Khujista* Bunyad was the capital of not only the *Suba* of *Khujistabunyad* but of the whole of Deccan, comprising the six *Subas*, while the *haveli* Daulatabad was the administrative centre (capital) of the *Sarkar* of Daulatabad alone. Likewise there were two *Havelis* in Burhanpur, *Haveli* Asir and *Haveli* Galna, there were two *Havelis* of Muhammadnagar and Hyderabad under the *Sarkar* of Muhammadnagar.³³

Jama-i-Kamil Statistics of the Sarkar of Rajmundry (1707-1750 A.D.)Suba Hyderabad:³⁴

S.No.	Mahals	Rs./An/P (6,85,529/10/6)
1.	Haveli Rajmundry	50,311/6/6
2.	Agrahar and Sarwar	59,153/7/-
3.	Tarikah	36,070/3/3

4.	Korkonda	39,664/7/3
5.	Bankri	1,723/11/-
6.	Kolrad	5,955/-/-
7.	Kodalwari Konda	14,730/-/-
8.	Chirlapalli	5,130/-/-
9.	Lorlodi	32,600/14/6
10.	Trikob	36,451/6/3
11.	Kalibard (ZM)	-
12.	Karmur	-
13.	Binalur (Balhapur)	56,738/11/8
14.	Halkalbar	17,321/4/-
15.	Antkal Ankota	53,750/-/-
16.	Anmal Kotah	2,545/8/-

Jama-i-Kamil Statistics of the Sarkar Elgandal Suba Hyderabad:**Mahals – 21**

S.No.	Mahals	Rs./An/P (12,27,036/8/9)
1.	P.H. ³⁵ Elgandal	1,23,557/12/-
2.	Anantgir	52,204/13/3
3.	Kohna	44,486/15/9
4.	Tinkor	-
5.	Gondmalla	-
6.	Kormalla	61,028/4/-
7.	Harankonda	65,846/5/6
8.	Divikonda	84,205/-/-
9.	Neemli Konda	23,584/1/6
10.	Palepalli	18,818/7/-
11.	Nandgir	69,947/9/-
12.	kolas	-
13.	Pachgiri	79,881/9/6
14.	Manjwel Konda	49,670/11/-
15.	Racharla	1,40,350/10/-
16.	Vanapalli	70,375/-/-
17.	Waildepel Palli	17,966/12/-
18.	Velluru	43,500/-/-
19.	Sankran	82,279/11/-
20.	Seshedrikonda	51,002/2/6
21.	Wechal	8,058/8/-

The source is very rich and provides the statistical information of the six Subas of the Deccan. Apart from giving the administrative information, the source also gives the biographical account of eminent persons like Nizam-ul-Mulk, Nasir Jung Bahadur, Ghaziuddin Khan, Salabat Jung, Mubariz-ul-Mulk, Mushir-ul-Mulk, Sohrab Jang, Raja Madho Rao and Raghujji Bhonsle. The manuscript preserved in the oriental Manuscript Library and Research Institute is in good condition and can be used for constructing both administrative and political history of the period. Thus the present work is very useful for the scholars working on the history of Deccan.³⁶

REFERENCES

- Sawaneh-i-Deccan, Munim Khan (MS-604), OMLRI, Hyderabad, P.M. Seto, Eighteenth Century Deccan, Bombay, 1963, p.1. | *Ibid.*, Z.U., Malik, The Reign of Muhammad Shah (1719-1748), Bombay, 1925, p.403. | Sawaneh-i-Deccan, MS, OMLRI, Hyderabad, PM, p.1. | *Ibid.*, PM Rao, p.2. | As Babur had traced his lineage from both Taimur and Changez Khan. | Chahar Gulshan, Rai Chatar Man Kayasth (MS), f.84a. | *Ibid.*, f.84b. | They were fief holders subordinate to Nayabs. | Village in the sense of a definite area of agricultural holdings with houses on it. | Document I.J. No.1/32/0-25 to 125f, National Archives (New Delhi), Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS). | An estimated income figure or Revenue. | Deh-Be-Dehi (MS), Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad. | I.J. 1/32/0-95 to 125 (NA) Delhi, Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS). | M.A. Nayeem, 'Some Aspects of Land Revenue Administration in the Deccan', p.190. | Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS), OMLRI. | All the 12 sarkars are now in Maharashtra. | Bidar, Kalyan, Yadgir and Malkhed of suba Bidar are now in Mysore. | Bijagarh and Hamdia Sarkars of Khandesh are now in Madhya Pradesh. | In Suba Berar, Kheda and Sirpur are now in M.P. and Andhra Pradesh. | History of Bijapur (1686-1885), Abdul Gani Abdul Khader, Hyderabad, 2006, p.166. | Suba Hyderabad had the highest number of Sarkars and Mahals reaching to 42 Sarkars and 405 Mahals. Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS). | Small Sub-Urban Marhats. | Main Marhats. | Baghat literally means gardens, it also implied for land or fields irrigated by water supplied from the wells and adapted to the cultivation of various useful and edible vegetables and fruits. Wilson's Glossary, Ganguly and Basu, Calcutta 1940, p.70. | Tobacco. | Betel leaf. | Salt. | Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS), History of Bijapur, p.201. | Mahalat term is used for the revenue divisions including Pehas, Bazars etc. | Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS) OMLRI, Hyderabad. | The headquarter of the Suba. | Sawaneh-i-Deccan (MS), OMLRI. | *Ibid.* | *Ibid.* | Pargana Haveli, Haveli is used for headquarter or capital. |