

## 6. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

### MOHALLA, VILLAGE, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT

Write your address like this:-

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your mohalla / colony \_\_\_\_\_

The name of your village / town \_\_\_\_\_

The name of your *tehsil* \_\_\_\_\_

The name of your district \_\_\_\_\_

You live in one place, but your address has the names of so many places. Why? Ultimately, where do you live – in the village / town, the *tehsil* or the district?

Let us try to understand this further. You live in your house. Your house is in a *mohalla* or a colony. Your colony or *mohalla* is made up of your house and many other houses. Your colony or *mohalla* is in your village or town. Your village / town is made up of a number of colonies and *mohallas*, including the one in which you live.

Therefore, living in your house, you also live in your colony and in your village / town, too. This is because your house is in your \_\_\_\_\_ and your colony is in your \_\_\_\_\_.

Similarly, your village / town is in your *tehsil*. Your *tehsil* is made up of a number of villages and some towns.

Your *tehsil* is in a district. Your district is made up of your *tehsil*, along with a number of other *tehsils*. Thus, while living in one place you also belong to a number of places.

### YOUR DISTRICT

Ask your teacher to show you the map of your district. Try and locate your *tehsil* in it.

You have seen the map of your *tehsil*. In the map of your district does your *tehsil* still look the same size?

Which are the other *tehsils* in your district ?

How is the boundary of your *tehsil* shown in this map?

How is the district boundary shown in this map?

Make a table of *tehsils* and villages. Write the names of all *tehsils* of your district. Against the name of each *tehsil*, write the names of at least three of its villages.

Choose the right statements from below, and correct the wrong ones:

1. There are many colonies in one house.
2. There are many villages in one *tehsil*.
3. There are many villages in one colony.
4. There are many districts in one *tehsil*.
5. There are many houses in one village.
6. There are many colonies in one village.
7. There are many villages in one district.
8. There are more villages in a district than there are villages in a *tehsil*.

## OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT AND TEHSIL

Do you know what work is done in the *tehsil* and district offices? Come, let's visit the *tehsil* and district headquarters to find out.

- *Where is the headquarters of your tehsil? Where are the headquarters of other tehsils of your district?*
- *Where is the headquarters of your district?*

The district and *tehsil* headquarters have many offices with a large number of employees. In this chapter we will learn about the work of the *Patwari*, *Tehsildar* and District Magistrate or District Collector.

- *You may have heard about these officials. What do you know about them? Write a few sentences.*
- *Who do you think is the most senior official amongst them? Give reasons for your answer.*

These three officials, the *patwari*, the *tehsildar* and the district collector, besides doing other things, are responsible for keeping records of the ownership and use of land and settling land disputes. Let us meet them and find out about their work and the problems they face.

### PATWARI

Measuring farmlands and keeping land records is the *patwari*'s main work.

If there is any dispute over a piece of farmland, the person whose name is entered in the *patwari*'s record would be the one who will ultimately be considered the owner.

A *patwari* collects a lot of information such as: how



Fig. 1. *Patwari* with land maps

much land different people in the village own? How much land has been sold, and by whom? Who has bought this land? How much is the government land there? Has anyone encroached on this land? How much has been sown with *Kharif* crops and how many with *Rabi* crops?

On the basis of the information provided by the *patwari*, the Government collects land revenue from the farmers. Land revenue is a kind of tax, which is fixed on the basis of the quality and amount of farmland owned and the nature of crops sown.

Let us meet the *patwari* of Kaniyakhedi. You have read about Kaniyakhedi earlier. You remember that, don't you?

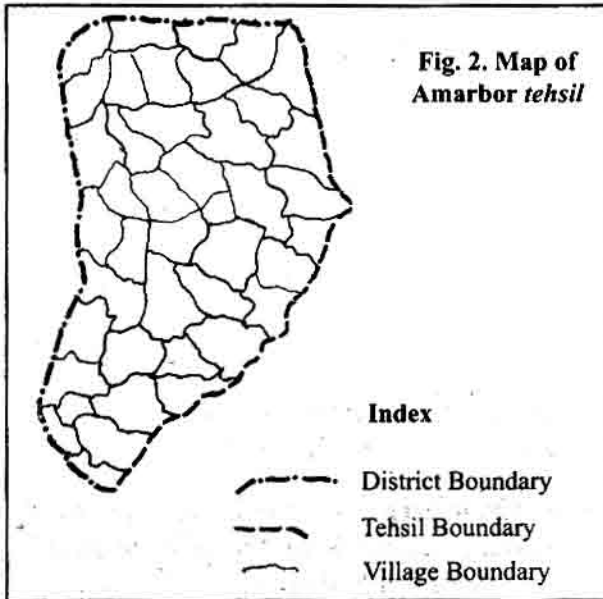
### The *Patwari* of Kaniyakhedi

Village Kaniyakhedi is in Amarbor *tehsil*. Mohan Kumar is the *patwari* of Kaniyakhedi. Apart from Kaniyakhedi, Mohan Kumar is also the *patwari* of three other villages – Paganwa, Noonpur and Manigaon.

*Patwari* Mohan Kumar prepares the accounts for the land revenue of these villages. He gives these accounts to the Patels of different villages. On the basis of these accounts, the Patels collect land revenue from individual farmers.

Mohan Kumar is very busy today. He has to complete the accounts of all the four villages in his region and give them to the Patels. He also has to submit a copy of the accounts at the Amarbor *tehsildar*'s office by tomorrow.

Mohan Kumar arrived at the Kaniyakhedi Patel's house. "Ram-Ram bhai! Here's the form for the land revenue of Kaniyakhedi. I have entered in it the amount of the first installment to be paid by the farmers. You will



- Give the names of the villages of which Mohan Kumar is the patwari.
- In which tehsil are they located?
- If you live in a village, find out from your patwari -
  - what else does your patwari do besides the work described above?
  - how many villages does he cover?

## THE TEHSILDAR OF AMARBOR

Usually for every three or four villages there is one *patwari*. There are a large number of villages in a *tehsil*. The *tehsildar* supervises the work of all the *patwaris* of a *tehsil*.

The *tehsildar* of Amarbor *tehsil* has his office in Amarbor. This is called the *Tehsil Office*. The *tehsildar* of Amarbor is a person called Arif Ansari. Let us meet him and find out about his work.

Today is 10th of February. As soon as Arif Ansari reached his office, he called for the **land revenue recovery records**. He carefully went through them to see how many farmers had not paid the first installment of land revenue that year. He found that about a hundred farmers from 10-12 villages had not paid the first installment. He told the clerk in his office to send a notice to all of them. "Tell them that if they don't pay up in 15 days time, we'll be forced to take action against them."

As he was checking the records, Ansari also found that five or six *patwaris* had not yet submitted their revenue records. He wrote to them asking why their records had not been submitted in time.

The *tehsildar* has to periodically check the land revenue records. If a farmer does not pay his land revenue for a long time, then a case is registered against him in the *tehsildar's* court. It is the *tehsildar's* duty to ensure that farmers in his *tehsil* pay land revenue.

If any *patwari* does not keep records properly or does not submit his records in time, it is the *tehsildar* who has the authority to ask for an explanation.

After scrutinising the land revenue records,

have to collect the land revenue and submit it in time," Mohan Kumar said to the patel. He then gave the land revenue forms to the patel, got on to his cycle and left for Paganwa.

As he was giving the land revenue forms to the patel of Paganwa, a farmer came up to him saying, "I have been looking for you for several days. Its good you are here today." "Why, what did you want," asked Mohan Kumar.

"Don't you know the field with the peepal tree next to my fields? I have bought that. The sale has been registered. Please come and measure it and enter it in my name in your records," he told Mohan Kumar.

"I don't have time today. I'll come here next Tuesday and do your work. Meanwhile, give me an application for measurement of your land," Mohan Kumar replied.

Then another farmer came over. "I want to get a well dug on my land. I need a loan for the well. Could you give me a certificate saying that I own only three acres of land and that I am from a scheduled caste? I need this certificate for a **subsidy** in the loan," he said. Mohan Kumar looked up his records, found the farmer's name and gave him the required certificate. The *patwari* then gathered his papers and left for Manigaon.

- Locate four sentences, which tell you about the *patwari's* work, and write them in your notebook.
- What work does the patel do?

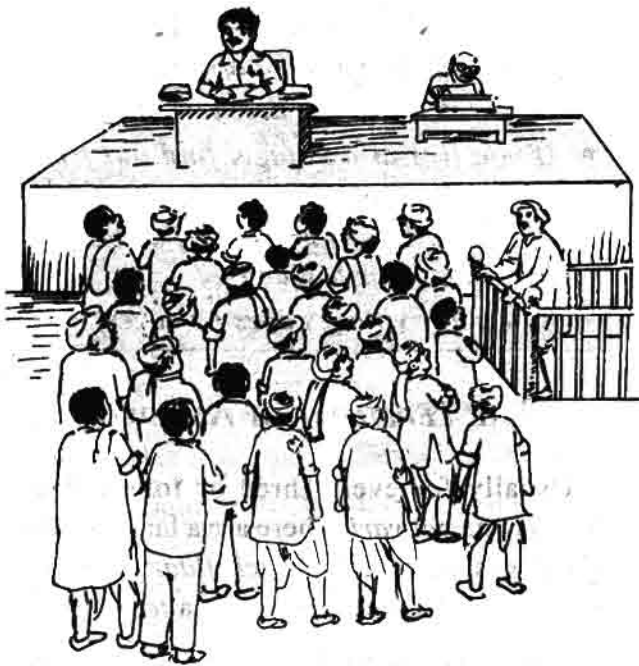


Fig 3: Tehsildar's court

Ansari had to hear some cases. The hearing of land disputes also takes place first in the **tehsildar's court**. A farmer had complained that another farmer had encroached upon his farmland. Ansari heard the evidence on both sides. He then ordered the patwari of that village to measure the disputed fields and produce the map in the next **hearing**. He also gave the date for the next hearing. There were two or three more cases relating to land disputes to be heard that day. Ansari closed his court after hearing them.

Several people were waiting outside for him. A person had come to get his caste certificate signed by the tehsildar. He needed this certificate for his daughter's student stipend. Seeing the name of the village from where the person had come, the tehsildar said, "This village is not in this tehsil. You will have to go to Piploda and get it certified by the tehsildar there." In this way Ansari's day ended.

The next day Ansari had to go to Chahatpani. The patwari there had complained that someone had grabbed two acres of government land.

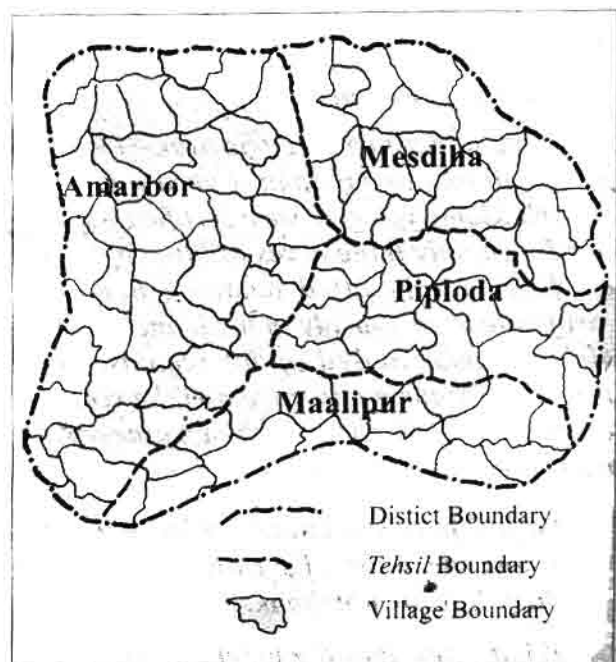
When Ansari reached Chahatpani, the patwari showed him the encroached land. The tehsildar compared this with the map and found the patwari to be correct. He learnt that a person named Lakhiram was responsible for

the encroachment, i.e., extending his farmland onto some portion of the government land. Lakhiram did not stay in Chahatpani, but in the town. Ansari registered a case of encroachment against him. After the trip to Chahatpani, the tehsildar returned to Amarbor.

Amarbor is just an imaginary *tehsil*. But the work that Ansari has been shown doing is what all the *tehsildars* actually do.

- *If a farmer does not pay land revenue, what can a tehsildar do?*
- *If a patwari does not submit proper land revenue records to the village patel, what will a tehsildar do?*
- *What are the differences between a patwari's and a tehsildar's work? Point out at least 4 differences.*
- *Who is the higher authority - a patwari or a tehsildar? Explain the reasons for your answer.*
- *Who is the tehsildar of your tehsil? Have you ever met him? If yes, for what purpose?*
- *Name any five villages whose land records are seen by your tehsildar.*

Fig. 4. Map of Chandanpur district



## COLLECTOR OR DISTRICT MAGISTRATE

The above section was about the *tehsildar* of Amarbor. *Tehsil* Amarbor is in Chandanpur district. Apart from *tehsil* Amarbor, there are other *tehsils* in Chandanpur district. These are *tehsil* Mesdiha, *tehsil* Piploda, and *tehsil* Maalipur.

• *Locate these tehsils in the map of district Chandanpur.*

You must have heard the term **collector**. The district collector is also called the district magistrate. The collector supervises the work not only of a *tehsil*, but also of the whole district. He or she supervises not only the work of land revenue collection, but also all the other government departments of the district.

There are various **departments** of the state government in the district — Police Department, Education Department, Health Department, Agriculture Department, Forest Department, Panchayat Department, etc. Each of these departments have their own officers. However, if any department faces a problem which its officials cannot solve, then the collector has to attend to the problem. In a way, the collector is responsible for the whole district.

### The District Magistrate of Chandanpur

*The office of the district magistrate of Chandanpur is in Chandanpur town. The district magistrate reaches her office at 10:30 every morning.*

*At 11:30 today there is a meeting of the officers of all the departments in the office of the collector. The heads of all the departments have come for the meeting. The collector, Manisha Nagle, asked the head of each department about the progress of the work done during the previous month. She also asked them about the problems they were facing in their work. The meeting continued till about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.*

*After the meeting, Nagle went through files. There was a stack of files. Each file dealt with a different subject. She would read them and*

*write her comments or orders on them.*

*One of the files held a complaint against the sarpanch of Mankapur panchayat. Nagle read the file and called her assistant on the phone, "Let me speak to the district panchayat officer."*

*The district panchayat officer told her that the **Panchayat Inspector** had inquired into the matter. "Oh, has he? I haven't received his report yet," said Nagle. "Just send over the report so that I can take action." They discussed a couple of other matters and then Nagle put the phone down.*

*It was already 3 P.M. by the time Manisha Nagle finished looking at the files. From 3 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. every day, she meets the people of the district. People from all the *tehsils* of Chandanpur come to meet her with their problems.*

*A small farmer from Mesdiha *tehsil* has come to her with a complaint that another farmer had encroached on his land. He had given an application to the *tehsildar* for registering a case in the *tehsildar's* court. He had met the *tehsildar* many times, but there had been no hearing of his case. Nagle took a copy of his application and said that she would herself talk to the *tehsildar* about it.*

*Some farmers had come from *tehsil* Piploda. There was no irrigation in their village. It was also very difficult to dig wells there. The canals from the dam built at Manakpur had reached nearby villages but did not extend to their village. The farmers wanted the canals to be brought to their village so that they, too, could reap its benefits.*

*Manisha Nagle told them that she could not do anything in this matter. Their village did not come under the irrigation plan of the Manakpur dam. The state government makes these plans. If they wanted to get canal irrigation in their village they would have to ask their M.L.A. to get it approved in the irrigation plan of the state government.*

The collector, the *tehsildar* and the *patwari* implement the laws and policies made by the state government. They follow the orders of the state government. They cannot change any rule or law or policy.

At 5 A.M. the next morning, Manisha Nagle received a phone call from Amarbor. The cotton stored at the ginning mill in Amarbor had caught fire that night. Burning tufts of cotton were flying in the air and landing in the nearby area. People were still trying to put out the fire. Nagle decided that she would leave for Amarbor immediately. She rang up the superintendent of police and the civil surgeon and asked them to come along.

Manisha Nagle reached Amarbor around 8 A.M. and went straight to the cotton ginning mill. A lot of the cotton had been destroyed but the fire was now under control. The municipality chairperson and the tehsildar were also there. The collector asked them how much damage had been done. The chairperson told her that two labourers in the mill had suffered severe burns and had been admitted to the hospital. A few houses had also been burnt down.

Nagle announced a compensation of ten thousand rupees each to the owners of the houses, which had been burnt and promised to inquire into the causes of the fire.

Nagle visited the two injured labourers at the hospital. She also announced a relief payment of twenty thousand rupees each to the two labourers.

On her way back to Chandanpur Nagle stopped at a couple of villages and talked to the farmers and panchs about their problems. After passing through tehsil Amarbor she stopped at Mankapur and enquired about the complaint against the sarpanch there. She returned to Chandanpur only after it was dark.

Chandanpur is an imaginary district. But what you saw the collector of Chandanpur doing, is the work done by every district collector.

- On the basis of what you have read in this chapter, describe the work of the collector.
- Can the collector make any new law?
- List three differences between a tehsildar and a collector. Who is the higher official among them? Give reasons for your answer.
- Who is the collector of your district?



Fig. 5. District collector at the mill

## MADHYA PRADESH AND ITS DISTRICTS

Your district is in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Apart from your district, there are many other districts in Madhya Pradesh. Each district has a collector, who like Manisha Nagle supervises all government work in the district.

- Look at the map of Madhya Pradesh given on the next page. How many types of lines can you see in this map?
- How are the boundaries of each district shown in this map?
- How is the boundary of Madhya Pradesh shown in this map?
- Locate your district in this map and colour it.
- The problems of which of the following places will the collector of your district solve – Hoshangabad, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Bastar, Dewas, Rewa, Gwalior? Colour these districts also.
- How many district collectors are there in Madhya Pradesh?

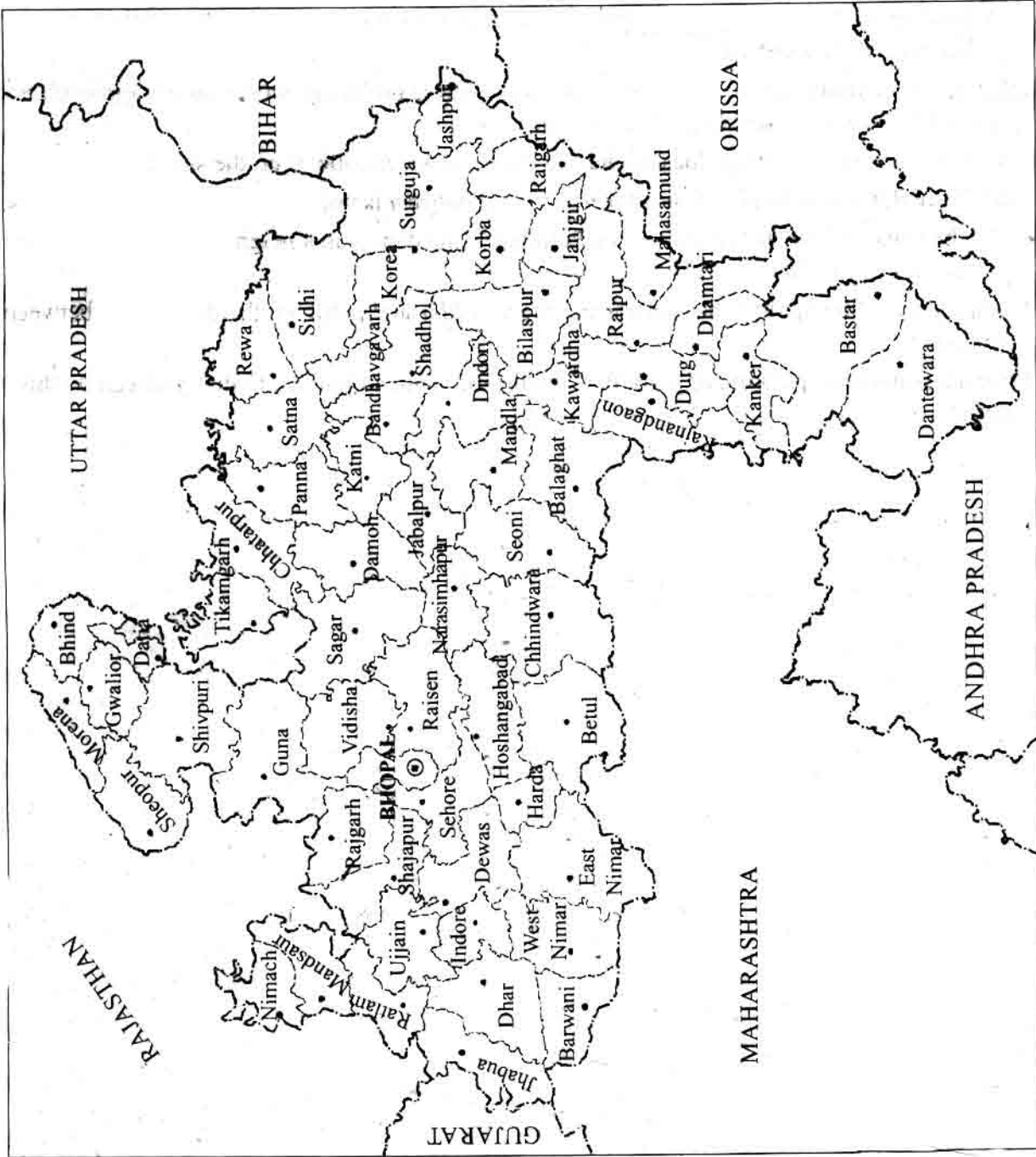
There are 61 districts in Madhya Pradesh. This entire state has one state government which governs it. We shall learn more about them in higher classes

**MAP: DISTRICTS OF  
MADHYA PRADESH**

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**Scale 1 cm = 65 km**



## EXERCISES

### 1. Correct the false statements

- (a) The whole of Madhya Pradesh has more tehsils than the tehsils in Hoshangabad district.
- (b) Dewas district has more villages than Bagli tehsil.
- (c) District Betul is in Madhya Pradesh state.
- (d) The District Collector of Indore attends to the problems of Dewas.

### 2. Choose the correct option and fill in the blanks –

- (a) The \_\_\_\_\_ (*tehsildar* / *patwari* / MLA / collector) measures agricultural land.
- (b) If you want to complain about the *panchayat*, you will have to complain to the \_\_\_\_\_ (*patwari* / *tehsildar* / collector).
- (c) It is the work of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*patel* / *tehsildar* / MLA) to supervise the timely record keeping of the *patwari*.

### 3. Here are some problems of our place– For each of these problems, whom do we approach first? (*tehsildar* / *patwari* / *sarpanch* / Mayor/ Collector)

- (a) Your lane in the village does not have a drain, so water collects on the street.
- (b) Ramlal has bought land from Bheeru, but the *patwari* is not entering the land in his name.
- (c) The canals of the dam made on the Putli river (the dam is in a neighbouring *tehsil*) have not reached our village.

### 4. Compare the Municipality chairperson and the *tehsildar* and point out the differences between the two.

### 5. Give an example of the kind of work that a collector is not authorised to do. Who can do this work?