

Chapter XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The development of local government in towns in the district covers a period of more than a century. The first step was the constitution of the Municipal Committee at Bhiwani in 1862 as a Class III Committee. It was reconstituted in 1886 under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1884 and its status was raised to Class II.

In the princely areas, local government was introduced in 1937 with the constitution of a class II Municipal Committee at Charkhi Dadri under the Jind State Municipal Act, 1935. Loharu was declared a Notified Area in 1949 and made a Small Town Committee in 1951. During the year 1954, when the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was amended, the Town Committee was reconstituted as a class III Municipal Committee.

The Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was made applicable to Charkhi Dadri in 1959. A Notified Area Committee was constituted at Tosham in September 1970 and at Siwani in August 1971. In June 1973, another Notified Area Committee was constituted at Bawani Khera, headquarters of a newly carved out tahsil. Bhiwani Municipal Committee was raised to the status of a class I committee in June 1971. In 1973, the Municipal Committee, Loharu was reconverted into a Notified Town Area Committee.

With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the Municipal Committees of Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri were superseded in July 1973 and the Government appointed official Administrators to manage their affairs.

Octroi is the main source of income of the committees; the other sources of income include house tax, *tehbazari*, licence fee, building tax, rent of municipal property, sale of compost, etc.

BHIWANI MUNICIPALITY

This was made a Class I Municipal Committee in June 1971. The existing committee was, however, superseded on July 20, 1973 with the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973. Since then the affairs of

the municipality are being looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the Government.

The municipal waterworks were installed in 1933 at a cost of Rs. five lakh. The original plant had small capacity and could hardly cater to the needs of about 38,000 people, the estimated population at that time. The present water works has been expanded and now it can supply water to a population of about 1 lakh at the rate of 120 litres per head per day.¹ There are 656 public stand posts and 5,131 private water connections in the town.

The municipality has provided underground deep sewerage. The first phase has been completed while the second phase is under execution. In the first phase, almost the whole of the town has been covered by the sewer and the people are being encouraged to instal flush latrines in their houses. 1,331 connections have been given. The municipality has provided 11 sets of 8 latrine seats each, 3 sets of 6 latrine seats each, and 2 sets of 4 latrine seats each in different parts of the town.

Prior to the introduction of electric street lighting in the town in 1939, oil lamps were used for street lighting. Besides 1,733 electric bulbs, 390 fluorescent tubes are in use. It is proposed to replace all the bulbs gradually with fluorescent tubes. The number of private connections for domestic consumption in the town was 5,482 in 1973-74. The committee provided 20 electric road indicators at important points.

The municipality had a big park on the Railway Road. The park included the Local Club as well as play grounds for different games. This park has been taken over by the Improvement Trust for further development. Another modern park at an estimated cost of Rs. 69,000 has been built in Krishna Colony at the back of the General Hospital in 1973.

For sanitation purposes, the municipality has employed 2 Sanitary Inspectors, 8 Sanitary Jamadars and 196 Sweepers. To carry refuse to municipal dumps, wheel barrows are used. A Lady Health Centre with a Health Visitor and 2 Dais is operating.

Night-soil is removed by private sweepers in covered baskets to depots. From there, it is removed in four tractors fitted with trolleys and 8 refuse carts and dumped at the municipal compost depot. The manure so prepared is sold.

1. For more details, see Chapter on 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

The municipality has been running a firestation since 1969. The station is equipped with fire fighting arrangements according to the Government model. The staff consists of 10 persons. The station possesses one fire engine with a trailer. It proposes to purchase one more fire engine.

The municipality maintains 3 kilometres of metalled and 9 kilometres of unmetalled roads. The main roads connecting highways, measuring about 13 kilometres have been transferred to the P.W.D. (B&R) for maintenance. The Committee has provided a picturesque round-about on the roads crossing astride Bapaura Gate. Two more round-about have been constructed, one at Hansi Gate with a modern fountain and another at Rohtak Gate with a grass lawn. The one round-about outside Hansi Gate was commissioned on August 15, 1975. Cycle-rickshaw stands and tempo stands have also been provided.

Prior to the provincialisation of schools in 1957, the municipality had been running 14 primary schools. Six schools had their own buildings while eight were housed in rented buildings. After provincialisation, the committee contributed Rs. 74,676 annually towards their maintenance which was, however, stopped in 1962-63. Now the municipality incurs Rs. 25,000 annually for repairs of Government primary schools.

A library with about 8,000 books, earlier run by the municipality has been transferred to the newly constructed Pandit Neki Ram Sharma District Library. Now it runs a reading room located in Bichla Bazaar.

The municipality has framed a number of bye laws (Table XL of Appendix).

The municipality derives income from sources such as octroi, house tax, water tax, water rate and the sullage farm. The income and expenditure of the committee during 1960-61 to 1976-77 given below, show that there is a desire to augment resources and to work on an increased budget :

Year 1	Income 2	Expenditure 3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	6,26,161	6,51,486
1961-62	6,18,144	5,78,452
1962-63	6,59,127	6,94,849
1963-64	6,90,127	6,96,624

1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1964-65	8,05,836	8,00,410
1965-66	8,49,675	8,46,257
1966-67	8,12,196	8,10,815
1967-68	11,39,356	11,21,177
1968-69	12,34,578	12,41,488
1969-70	12,86,677	12,33,295
1970-71	14,15,085	14,26,283
1971-72	16,91,017	17,06,293
1972-73	19,06,994	19,77,826
1973-74	24,98,342	24,58,674
1974-75	28,04,000	27,59,000
1975-76	58,83,551	40,96,788
1976-77	48,71,840	63,43,143

CHARKHI DADRI MUNICIPALITY

The Municipal Committee, Charkhi Dadri was formed on April 1, 1937, but the first elections were held in October 1950 under the Pepsu Municipal Election Rules, 2006 B.K. (A.D. 1948). Elections were held again on January 22, 1961, in 1965 and finally on March 14, 1968. No elections were held thereafter and the committee was superseded on July 20, 1973 with the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973. Since then the affairs of the municipality have been looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the Government. It is a class II municipality.

For providing drinking water, the municipality constructed a waterworks during 1959—62 which gave a limited supply of about 45.3 litres per head.¹ There are three tubewells also. There are 178 public stand posts and 1,268 private water connections (including 55 commercial connections) in the town.

The town is mostly served by surface drains. Underground sewerage has, however, been laid in the outer areas of the town and about Rs. 7.62 lakh has been spent on it. Sixty-seven connections have been given. For the

1. For more details, see the Chapter on 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

present, the municipality has arranged a temporary disposal scheme and the sullage water is used for irrigating agricultural land.

Before the introduction of electricity in the town in 1956-57 by the Punjab State Electricity Board, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. Now about 251 electric bulbs and 423 fluorescent tubes are used. There were 2,474 domestic connections in March 1977.

The municipality has constructed a Rose Park in 7 acres (2.4 hectares) of land on the Dadri-Loharu Road. Triangular parks on the crossings of the Dadri-Delhi and Dadri-Narnaul Roads are also being developed. On the road from the old bus stand, opposite the Gandhi Market, there were a number of stalls which gave a slum like appearance. These stalls have been removed and a fountain has been constructed in May 1975 at a cost of Rs. 41,660.

The conservancy staff consists of 1 Sanitary Inspector, 2 Sanitary Jamar-dars, 1 Vaccinator and 82 Safai Karamcharis. The whole of the rubbish is collected in rubbish depots and from there carried by a tractor in a covered trolley to dumping grounds where compost is prepared. Private sweepers carry night-soil in covered receptacles to the depots constructed by the municipality outside the town.

The municipality maintains 8.58 kilometres of metalled road and 2.20 kilometres of unmetalled roads. No road in this town has been taken over by the Public Works Department (B&R) so far.

Before provincialisation of schools in 1957, the municipality used to maintain one girls primary school.

It is now maintaining one library-cum-reading room with a whole time librarian in the old town near Hira Chowk.

The municipality has framed a number of bye-laws (Table XLI of Appendix).

The chief sources of income of the municipality include octroi, house tax, rent and *tahbazari*, licence fee, show tax, cycle tax, and toll tax.

The income and expenditure of the municipality from 1960-61 to 1976-77 indicate a steady rise in the annual budget and reflect its expanding activities :

Year 1	Income 2	Expenditure 3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	2,05,802	2,63,522

1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1961-62	2,32,939	2,02,843
1962-63	1,69,877	3,44,191
1963-64	1,94,660	2,25,956
1964-65	2,35,745	4,53,730
1965-66	3,15,971	4,62,204
1966-67	3,28,532	3,52,939
1967-68	4,47,367	3,75,497
1968-69	6,88,598	7,64,632
1969-70	7,98,527	7,98,681
1970-71	7,33,677	7,72,554
1971-72	6,08,676	14,49,497
1972-73	6,37,314	8,32,015
1973-74	9,49,334	9,56,768
1974-75	11,09,369	10,58,917
1975-76	16,81,840	19,54,691
1976-77	17,23,942	27,83,385

As revenue earning schemes, the committee had originally constructed 20 shops for displaced persons in 1952. In 1972-73, it constructed 12 shops at the old bus stand site incurring an expenditure of Rs. 50,000. It is also going to establish a market there in which there will be 23 shop-cum-flats, 102 booths and one restaurant. Funds have been placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department (Public Health) and Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) for sewerage and water-supply lines as also roads. It has constructed its own office on the Dadri-Loharu Road at a cost of Rs. 47,000. The office shifted to the new building on May 18, 1973. The Shyamesar tank in the old town, which had been dry for the last so many years, has been filled with water since 1974. A tempo stand has been constructed outside the courts at a cost of Rs. 10,000.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, LOHARU

Loharu was declared a Notified Area in 1949. In 1951, it was constituted into a Small Town Committee. During 1954, when the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was amended, it was re-constituted as a Municipal Committee of Class III. This committee was superseded in 1969 and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhiwani was appointed its Administrator. The committee was reconverted as a single member Notified Area Committee in 1973. The Tahsildar has been working as its nominated President since then.

A piped water-supply scheme is being managed through two open wells fitted with motors. It came into existence in 1962. There are 92 public stand posts and 250 private water connections. Surface drains for waste water have been constructed throughout the town.

The committee has provided 70 fluorescent tubes and 122 electric bulbs in different parts of the town for street lighting.

The sanitation staff consists of one jamadar, one cartman and 8 sweepers. The night-soil and refuse is carried out by a *Jhota* cart and arrangement has been made for the preparation and sale of compost.

Before the provincialisation of schools in 1957, one middle school for girls and one primary school for boys were being maintained by the committee.

The committee maintains a park and a library. It also proposes to construct a playing ground and a rose park; 5 acres (2 hectares) of land is being acquired for this purpose. It also maintains about 4 kilometres of metalled roads.

The committee has framed many bye-laws including those relating to buildings, water-supply, business, flour mills, slaughter houses and country carts and rickshaws.

The main sources of income include octroi, toll tax, house tax, water tax, and rent and *tehbazari*.

The income (including loans and grants) and expenditure of the committee from 1960-61 to 1976-77 were :

Year 1	Income 2	Expenditure 3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	91,536	38,903
1961-62	61,460	66,235
1962-63	73,812	75,020

1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1963-64	1,08,888	80,566
1964-65	84,196	81,332
1965-66	90,178	1,12,646
1966-67	93,125	1,03,212
1967-68	1,01,601	1,01,595
1968-69	89,776	90,499
1969-70	1,05,618	1,03,672
1970-71	2,78,108	1,89,163
1971-72	2,88,478	1,23,216
1972-73	1,73,661	2,96,755
1973-74	1,60,907	1,95,537
1974-75	3,17,887	2,99,870
1975-76	4,32,407	3,03,199
1976-77	2,82,909	3,26,430

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, TOSHAM

The Haryana Government constituted a Notified Area Committee for Tosham in September 1970¹. Prior to that a Panchayat had been working there. The committee has 9 nominated members, one of whom is its Chairman.

For providing drinking water, the committee has completed a supply scheme at a cost of over Rs. 10 lakh with the help of loans from various agencies. It started providing private water connections from April 1974. There are 15 public stand posts and the number of private connections is 250. The town is served by open surface drains.

Electric street lighting was introduced in 1970. There are 60 electric bulbs and 100 fluorescent tubes for street lighting. About 850 private domestic connections have been given.

The committee maintains 0.5 kilometre of metalled roads. It also maintains a library and reading room, housed in the committee's office.

1. Notified Area Committee now stands dissolved vide Haryana Government Notification No. 12748-2C-77/23195, dated July 28, 1977.

The committee has engaged 9 Safai Karamcharis and 2 Cartmen for sanitation. For removal of night-soil, it has provided wheel-barrows and all the rubbish is collected in pits.

The bye-laws framed by the committee include octroi, house tax and stamp duty. Its income includes octroi, *tehbazari*, hill compensation, licence fee, rent of shops and lease money from committee lands. The house tax has been levied since April 1, 1975.

The income (including loans and grants) and expenditure of the committee from 1970-71 to 1976-77 were :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1970-71	38,620	21,780
1971-72	2,49,850	2,42,623
1972-73	3,63,872	3,65,043
1973-74	2,16,525	2,12,727
1974-75	7,50,345	6,68,641
1975-76	3,61,859	3,53,952
1976-77	2,97,024	3,16,773

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, SIWANI

The Notified Area Committee, Siwani was constituted in August 1971¹ with 9 members, all of whom were nominated, including 2 belonging to the Scheduled Castes. From July 3, 1975, the number of Scheduled Castes has been increased from 2 to 3, while the total number of members remains 9.

The committee has installed an electric motor on a well for supply of water. Another water-supply scheme has been sanctioned, but the work has not started due to the precarious financial position. There is also a rural water-supply scheme under which about 16 stand posts have been provided. The com-

1. Notified Area Committee now stands dissolved vide Haryana Government Notification No. 12749-2C-77/23197, dated July 28, 1977.

mittee has also provided one stand post. It has constructed some surface drains in the main streets of the town.

Electricity became available in 1969; 100 electric bulbs have been provided for street lighting. The number of domestic electric connections is 600.

The committee has engaged 10 sweepers for sanitation. They have been provided with covered wheel-barrows to carry night-soil. Private sweepers have also been supplied with covered wheel-barrows.

The committee maintains 1/2 kilometre of metalled and 5 kilometres of unmetalled roads.

The committee has framed bye-laws which include business, house tax, cycle, encroachment, hand cart and *theli*.

Income comes from octroi, *chulha* tax, *tehbazari*, licence fee and rent. House tax has also been levied since April 1, 1975.

The income (including loans and grants) and expenditure figures of the committee from 1971-72 to 1976-77 given below show that expenditure has risen significantly over the period, which indicates increasing activities :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1971-72	37,987	5,979
1972-73	50,550	41,491
1973-74	55,235	78,394
1974-75	1,40,856	82,063
1975-76	1,07,194	1,04,506
1976-77	1,70,422	1,69,375

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, BAWANI KEHRA

The Bawani Khera Notified Area Committee was constituted in June 1973. It had no elected member; 9 members were nominated by the Government and one of them was its chairman. The nominated committee

was dissolved on July 5, 1976 and the Tahsildar, Bawani Khera appointed as Administrator of the committee.

A water-supply scheme has been introduced with an open well fitted with a motor. About 10 taps have been provided for public use. There is a rural water-supply scheme also under which two stand posts have been provided. There are 65 fluorescent tubes and 110 electric bulbs for street lighting. The number of domestic connections in March 1977 was 530.

The committee has constructed some surface drains. Six Sweepers and 2 Cartmen have been engaged for sanitation and provided with wheel barrows to carry night-soil.

The committee has framed Octroi bye-law. Sources of income are octroi, license fee and *tehbazori*. House tax has been levied since October 1, 1975.

The income (including loans and grants) and expenditure of the committee from 1973-74 to 1976-77 were :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1973-74	93,803	83,754
1974-75	1,83,069	1,18,882
1975-76	1,50,550	1,59,499
1976-77	2,05,898	1,44,624

RURAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT—PANCHAYATI RAJ

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with its subsequent amendments and the Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, are the legal base for rural local government, popularly called Panchayati Raj. The structure had three tiers, a Panchayat at the village, a Panchayat Samiti at the block and a Zila Parishad at the district level. These institutions were linked with each other by means of indirect elections. They did not, however, constitute a hierarchy one subordinate to the other. They had defined spheres of activity and independent sources of revenue. The institution of Zila Parishad was abolished on June 13, 1973. The structure of rural local government

now comprises two tiers, i.e. a Panchayat at the village level and a Panchayat Samiti at the block level.

PANCHAYATS

When the district was formed there were 413 panchayats for its 471 villages. Generally, there is one panchayat for each village, but in a few cases of small villages there is a joint panchayat for more than one. Every panchayat has a minimum of five members and maximum of nine. There is at least one Scheduled Caste Panch and one Mahila Panch. The total membership of the panchayats was 2,688 which included 444 Harijan Panches and 362 women Panches and Sarpanches. The total number of panchayats rose to 418 in 1976-77. The total membership of panchayats during 1976-77 was 3,239 which included 497 Harijan Panches and 417 women Panches and Sarpanches.

Panchayat and development.—The main emphasis of panchayat responsibility has been on general rural development, with particular reference to increase in agricultural production. The sphere of work of the panchayats in development has been comprehensively laid out in the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and its amendments. It includes Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Health and Sanitation, Forests, Industries, Education and Social Education, Social Welfare, Village Public Works and Sports and Recreation. The panchayat thus has full authority to work in almost all spheres which concern the betterment of the village.

The details of the public utility work done by the panchayats in the district are given in Table XLII of Appendix.

The panchayat of village Bhageshwari in the Dadri tahsil has provided a television set for the villagers.

The *shamlat* (village common) lands vesting in the panchayats of the district are 77,878 acres (31,526.12 hectares) in area, of which 9,828 acres (3,977.25 hectares) culturable land is leased out. The income from such lands from 1972-73 to 1976-77 was :

Year	Income (Rs.)
1972-73	6,08,823
1973-74	8,89,024
1974-75	10,91,303
1975-76	10,19,504
1976-77	10,56,521

The panchayats are unable to make suitable arrangements for the utilization of waste *shamlat* lands with them. Hence a scheme has been chalked out to utilise such lands for pasture/forest purposes through the Forest Department.

During 1973-74 Rs. 12,600 was advanced to Panchayats Paluwas and Dhigawa Jattan as an interest free loan under the Revenue Earning Scheme for installation of a tube-well on *shamlat* land and the construction of shops respectively. During 1975-76, a sum of Rs. 10,000 each was advanced to Panchayats Badhara, Dudhwa, Mitathal and Dulheri for installation of pumping sets and construction of staff quarters and shops. In 1976-77, Rs. 10,000 was advanced to Panchayat Jhoju kalan for installation of wells/pumping sets.

Criminal judicial powers.—The criminal judicial powers of the panchayats have been confined to cases such as minor thefts, trespasses, encroachments on public property, public nuisance, causing hurt, singing obscene songs, and mischief by damages to property of value not exceeding Rs. 250. The panchayats have also been empowered to try cases under various sections of the I.P.C. They may impose fines. They are not bound by the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and as such lawyers are not permitted in the proceedings before them. The Chief Judicial Magistrate hears appeals against the orders of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

Civil and revenue judicial work.—Jurisdiction of panchayat to try civil and revenue cases is :

- (a) Suits for the recovery of moveable property or the value of such property.
- (b) Suits for money or goods due on contracts or the price thereof.
- (c) Suits for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring moveable property.
- (d) Suits mentioned in clauses (j) (k) (i) and (n) of sub-section 3 of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887.

The judicial work done by the panchayats is given in Table XLIII of Appendix.

In respect of revenue and civil cases, the panchayats are under the control of the District Judge and the Collector respectively who are the appellate

authorities. The pecuniary limits in such cases are :

	Panchayat with ordinary powers	Panchayat with enhanced powers
Criminal cases	Rs. 100	Rs. 200
Civil & Revenue cases	Rs. 200 in respect of suits falling under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and Rs. 100 in respect of suits falling under clause (d)	Rs. 500 in respect of suits falling under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and Rs. 200 in respect of suits falling under clause (d)

Technical guidance and financial assistance from Panchayat Samitis and their officers.—Under the Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961, it has been made incumbent on Panchayat Samitis to render such technical and financial assistance as may be required by the panchayats for implementing development schemes which are beyond their power. The panchayat are also entitled to technical help and guidance from extension officers of the blocks.

Source of income.—The panchayats are authorised to levy taxes, duties and fees. Apart from miscellaneous items, the main sources of income are : grants from government, house tax, income from *shamlat* land, voluntary contributions, three per cent of the land holding tax of the panchayat area, fees and fines. The income and expenditure figures of the panchayats of district are given in Table XLIV of Appendix.

PANCHAYAT SAMITIS

The entire district has been divided into 7 blocks. Each of these has a Panchayat Samitis. Every Panchayat Samiti normally has (i) 16 members elected out of Panches and Sarpanches (ii) two from cooperative societies; and (iii) one from the producer members of the Market Committees of the area. If this membership does not include four persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two women the balance is made up by co-option. Besides, all the M.L.A.s of the area are associate members. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) and the Executive Officer of the Panchayat Samiti (Block Development and Panchayat Officer of the block) are ex-officio members. These two have no right to vote though they can take part in discussions.

The details of the various categories of members in the seven Panchayat

Samitis as on March 31,1977, are given below :

Name of Panchayat Samiti	Primary members	Co-opted members	Associate members	Ex-fficio members
Bhiwani	19	5	1	2
Badhara	21	8	1	2
Bawani Khera	—	—	—	—
Dadri-I	18	6	1	2
Dadri-II	18	6	1	2
Loharu	18	6	1	2
Tosham	19	6	1	2
Total :	113	37	6	12

Chairman and Vice-Chairman.—The Chairman and Vice- Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti are elected by the primary and co-opted members from amongst themselves for a term of 3 years. The Chairman presides over the meetings of the Panchayat Samiti and Standing Committee No. 1, namely, the Committee for Finance and Taxation. He is regarded as the leader of the team and area. He ensures that all the decision of the Samiti are implemented. Previously the Samiti could delegate any of its functions to the Chairman but this power has been withdrawn.

Meetings of Panchayat Samiti.—Panchayat Samitis meet generally once in two months. In these meetings, grants are sanctioned to the Panchayats and other business is transacted. All the decisions of the Samitis are made by majority vote and in the form of resolutions. The proceedings are recorded and a copy sent to the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner has the power to suspend any resolution of the Samiti.

Standing Committees.—There are three standing committees for each Samiti: (1) for Finance and Taxation, (2) for Agriculture and Communications, and (3) for Health and Rural Sanitation, Education, Social Education and Industries. The meetings of standing committee are held once a month.

Duties of the Panchayat Samitis.—Subject to such exceptions and conditions as the Government may, by general or special order, impose, it is the duty of a Panchayat Samiti to provide for and make arrangements for carrying out the requirements of the area under its jurisdiction. Thus inter-village

roads, fairs, ferris, cooperatives, distribution of fertilizers and other common service items figure prominently on their duty chart.

Finances—The Government assigns to a Panchayat Samiti every year a portion of the land-holding tax realized within the area of the Panchayat Samiti. In addition, the Panchayat Samitis have been authorized to impose taxes with prior permission of the Government. The Government also provides funds to the Panchayat Samitis whenever they transfer any subject to their control. A portion out of the cattle fair income is also transferred to Panchayat Samitis for the promotion of health and improvement of breeds.

The taxes levied by the Samitis are: cycle token tax, oil engine fee, cart fee, tonga tax and rickshaw tax. The income and expenditure figures of the Panchayat Samitis are given in Table XLV of Appendix.

Execution of work.—The Panchayat Samitis generally work through the panchayats under the supervision of the Executive Officer and its staff.

In the district administration, Panchayat Samitis have become a significant factor. The Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti is a member of all the important advisory committees, e.g. District Agricultural Production and Development Committee and District Coordination and Grievances Committee. He is consulted in all important matters connected with welfare. The resolutions of the Panchayat Samitis are duly considered and accepted as guidelines. The Deputy Commissioner is inclined to work through Panchayat Samitis in matters like relief measures, distribution of grants and the like.

The formation of the Panchayat Samitis has resulted in the emergence of a second line of leadership. Members are interested more in development activities than in politics. They have to win the confidence of at least two to three panchayats in order to get elected to the Samiti. Thus they have to be sensitive to the needs of almost every village and for this purpose a fair share of development grants is given to every panchayat. But there are inevitably party and group loyalties. Sometimes grants are distributed not according to need but on these basis.

ZILA PARISHAD

No Zila Parishad functioned in the district as this institution was abolished on June 13, 1973, and the duties of the Parishad entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner.