

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government was introduced in the district with the constitution of Sirsa municipality in 1867. Later in 1906, Dabwali was declared a notified area. Kalanwali was constituted into a small town committee in 1924. Dabwali was converted into a small town committee in 1926, a notified area in 1942 but was declared a municipality in 1952. In 1955, Kalanwali was also converted into a municipality. With the enforcement of Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, Kalanwali municipality was made notified area. In 1974, Rania was declared a notified area but it started functioning in 1976. Later in 1979, Rania and Kalanwali were also converted into municipalities. As such in 1981-82, there were four municipalities. The main sources of income of the local bodies include octroi, house tax, toll tax, water rate, *teh-bazari*, rent on municipal properties, licence fee and sale proceeds of compost.

The detailed account of each local body is given in the following pages :—

SIRSA MUNICIPALITY

A municipality at Sirsa was first constituted in 1867. In 1892, it was a second class municipality. On August 21, 1970, it was declared as class 'A' municipality. As a result of the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected municipal committee was superseded on July 20, 1973, and since then the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the government. It covers an area of 19.3 square kilometers and serves a population of 89,068 persons (as per 1981 census).

The municipal water works were commenced in 1965. Since the population of the town has increased considerably, the existing water supply do not meet the actual requirements. A project to augment the water supplies through construction of inlet channels from Sukhchain distributory to water works and receiving an additional supply of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cusecs was under execution. In 1981, the *per capita* water supply was 70 litres per day and there were 245 public stand posts and 4,660 private connections were provided in the town.

The municipality has provided under-ground sewerage. The first phase has since been completed while the construction of second phase is under consideration. In the first phase, almost the whole of the old town has been covered. In the second phase, the remaining work is proposed to be

completed covering the outer areas of the municipality. The municipality has sanctioned 2,643 sewer connections as on March 31, 1981. Storm water channels have been constructed in various parts of the town for the drainage of rainy water.

Prior to the introduction of electric street lighting in the town in 1939, oil lamps were used for the purpose. In 1981, there were 178 electric bulbs, 1,013 fluorescent tubes and 36 mercury lamps for street lighting in the town. The municipality is contemplating to replace all the electric bulbs gradually with the fluorescent tubes. It has provided 8 sets of blinking lights to check the traffic accidents.

The municipality has provided eight parks in different localities of the town for the recreation of the people. Coloured fountains have also been installed in some parks. Besides, the construction of a stadium is under progress.

The municipality has appointed one chief Sanitary Inspector, 3 Sanitary Inspectors, 4 Jamadars, 4 Tractor Drivers and 159 Sweepers for proper sanitation of the town. The refuse is collected at filth depots by private sweepers. The municipality has provided wheel barrows to its sweepers. Besides, private sweepers have also been provided 100 wheel barrows and 400 covered drums. The refuse of the town is auctioned for compost making.

The municipality has been running a fire station since 1965. There are two motor fire engines equipped with fire fighting instruments. The staff of the fire station comprises 18 personnel.

The municipality is maintaining 6.5 kilometres of metalled roads, 15 kilometres of paved streets and 42 kilometres of Kachcha streets. A coloured fountain has been installed near central octroi post on the crossing of the Sirsa-Hisar road.

The municipality is running a library-cum-reading room which is located in the town hall. It contains about 4,000 books in Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu, and subscribes a few newspapers and journals.

The municipality derives income from various sources, viz., octroi, house tax, toll tax, water rate, rent on municipal property, various licence fees, sale proceeds of sullage water and compost etc. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1960-61 to 1980-81, as detailed below show that there has been a desire to augment resources and to expand

developmental activities :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1960-61	5,56,678	5,30,351
1961-62	7,31,616	7,82,959
1962-63	11,12,561	11,73,619
1963-64	6,70,409	6,82,740
1964-65	6,97,053	6,34,548
1965-66	10,41,891	10,41,874
1966-67	8,12,281	8,54,846
1967-68	9,52,027	9,02,078
1968-69	11,57,178	11,98,511
1969-70	17,18,875	16,67,760
1970-71	16,12,438	16,93,130
1971-72	19,04,918	18,95,858
1972-73	17,09,118	17,09,152
1973-74	20,05,393	19,90,857
1974-75	20,76,226	24,85,713
1975-76	37,02,389	34,27,557
1976-77	30,46,513	29,19,422
1977-78	38,47,167	34,37,278
1978-79	54,79,806	51,96,773
1979-80	54,79,194	56,61,764
1980-81	54,55,452	63,33,992

MANDI DABWALI MUNICIPALITY

A notified area committee was constituted at Mandi Dabwali in 1906 which was converted into a small town committee in 1926. The small town committee was, however, again made a notified area committee in 1942 and was raised to a second class municipality in 1952. The last elected committee

was, superseded in June 1969 and since then the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an official Administrator appointed by the government. It covers an area of 7.11 kilometres and serves a population of 29,071 persons (as per 1981 census).

Prior to the introduction of electric street light in 1954, kerosene oil lamps were used. In 1981, 236 electric bulbs, 116 fluorescent tubes and 125 mercury lamps light up all the parts of the town.

The piped water works was installed in 1959-60. The water works is located in the territory of Punjab State. Another water works to augment the water supply is under execution. In 1981, there were 112 public water stand posts and 3,360 private water connections. The per capita water supply was 18 gallons per day.

An underground sewerage has been provided in a part of the town. The disposal works are located in the territory of Punjab State. In 1981, there were 882 private connections and two sets of flush latrines.

For general sanitation, the municipality has employed 2 Sanitary Inspectors, 2 Jamadars and 90 Sweepers. The municipality has provided covered wheel barrows to its staff to carry the filth to the specified places from where it is removed by means of two tractors to the dumping ground located outside the populated area for preparing compost. The manure so prepared is sold out.

The municipality has been running a fire station since 1971. The station is equipped with fire fighting arrangements. Its staff comprised 12 persons.

The municipality is running a reading room in its office building.

The main sources of income of the municipality are octroi, rent, water rate, sale of compost and sullage water. The following figures of income and expenditure of the municipality from 1960-61 to 1980-81 indicate steady rise in the annual budget and reflect its expanding activities :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	4,33,740	5,48,480
1961-62	3,68,288	3,82,374
1962-63	7,38,982	7,06,466
1963-64	4,83,527	3,90,581

1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1964-65	4,88,618	5,39,198
1965-66	5,74,424	4,38,381
1966-67	5,54,525	4,92,175
1967-68	5,57,270	6,35,021
1968-69	6,13,421	6,36,166
1969-70	9,28,488	8,87,225
1970-71	12,18,068	13,23,885
1971-72	12,39,228	12,56,185
1972-73	13,51,494	13,43,521
1973-74	14,01,911	13,96,128
1974-75	14,42,688	13,40,796
1975-76	15,96,735	16,41,025
1976-77	17,24,616	17,12,885
1977-78	22,30,469	21,70,962
1978-79	36,82,368	37,68,112
1979-80	34,49,610	32,75,281
1980-81	54,01,258	54,95,132

KALANWALI MUNICIPALITY

Constituted as small town committee in 1924, it was converted into a municipality in 1956. In 1973, it was declared a notified area committee and since then the affairs of the committee are being looked after by an official Administrator, appointed by the government. It was converted into a municipality in 1979. It covers an area of 2.59 kilometres and serves a population of 9,643 persons (as per 1981 census).

Electricity was introduced in the town in 1968. Prior to it kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1981, 70 fluorescent tubes and 110 electric bulbs light up various parts of the town. The piped water supply to the town was made in 1962 and in 1981, there were 110 public stand posts and 1,240 private water connections. The per capita water supply was 30 litres per day.

The municipality maintains 1.5 kilometres of metalled and 3 kilometres of un-metalled roads.

Drains have been constructed in almost all the streets of the town. For general sanitation, the municipality has employed 1 Sanitary Inspector, 1 Jamadar and 21 Sweepers who have been provided with necessary equipment including 20 covered wheel barrows. One tractor has been provided for the removal of night-soil. The rubbish and night-soil of the town are sold on yearly contract basis through open public auctions.

The municipality maintains a small library which contains 512 books.

The main sources of income of the municipality include octroi, toll tax, water rate, *teh-bazari* and house tax. The income and expenditure of the municipality from 1960-61 to 1980-81 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1960-61	85,856	78,530
1961-62	88,377	93,442
1962-63	92,883	83,096
1963-64	1,05,395	90,965
1964-65	1,21,892	1,05,469
1965-66	1,31,690	1,55,311
1966-67	1,58,337	1,65,487
1967-68	1,76,196	1,46,854
1968-69	2,07,965	2,24,971
1969-70	1,89,859	1,94,473
1970-71	2,38,385	2,34,878
1971-72	4,62,214	4,20,609
1972-73	4,01,899	3,69,229
1973-74	3,65,819	3,34,825
1974-75	3,60,635	4,66,188
1975-76	6,50,365	6,45,192
1976-77	4,74,699	4,87,284
1977-78	6,11,180	6,05,849
1978-79	9,54,060	7,48,906
1979-80	8,95,064	7,57,671
1980-81	6,54,583	8,24,692

RANIA MUNICIPALITY

Rania was declared a notified area in 1974 and it started functioning in 1976. It was converted into a municipality in 1979. Its affairs are looked after by an Administrator appointed by the government. It covers an area of 2.93 kilometres and serves a population of 16,714 persons (as per 1981 census). Eighty fluorescent tubes light up various parts of the town. There are 13 Sweepers (12 on regular basis and one on daily wages) for maintaining cleanliness of the town. Besides, two animal driven carts and eight hand-driven carts have been provided for the removal of refuse and night soil from the town.¹

The sources of income of the municipality include octroi and house tax. The figures of income and expenditure of the municipality from 1976-77 to 1980-81 are as under :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1976-77	1,09,461	48,937
1977-78	1,76,345	1,58,167
1978-79	2,14,450	2,47,416
1979-80	1,75,010	1,79,385
1980-81	1,71,449	1,74,594

PANCHAYATI RAJ

The panchayats have existed in villages from ancient times, though such panchayats were not established under any law. The heads of various tribes or communities were members of such panchayats. These panchayats played a vital role in the life of the people. With the passage of time, such community panchayats became ineffectual. After Independence, the panchayats were revived.

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with its subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, are the legal basis for the rural local government, popularly called Panchayati Raj. The structure comprises two tiers, a panchayat at the village level and a Panchayat Samiti at the block level. However, these do not constitute a hierarchy but have defined spheres of activity and independent sources of revenue. Previously, there used to be a Zila Parishad at the district level, but the institution was abolished in 1973.

1. The piped water supply was made available in the town in 1984. There were 16 public stand posts and 330 private water connections.

Panchayats

Generally, there is one panchayat for each village, but in few cases of small villages having a population of less than 500 persons, there is a joint panchayat. A panchayat consists of 5 to 9 members called as *panches*. There is at least one Scheduled Caste *panch* and one woman *panch*. In 1980-81, there were 283 panchayats in the district and the total membership of all panchayats was 1965.

Functions.—The main functions of panchayats are rural development with particular reference to increase in the agricultural production. It includes agriculture, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, education, social welfare, village public works, sports and recreation. In fact panchayats are supposed to work in almost all spheres which concern the betterment of village community. The details of public utility work done by the panchayats in the district during 1975-76, 1977-78 and 1980-81 are given in the Table XV of Appendix.

Judicial Powers.—The panchayats are empowered to try certain minor offences like petty thefts, trespasses, encroachments on public property and public nuisance. The panchayats have also been given powers to try cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. They are empowered to impose fines. They are not bound by the provisions of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and as such lawyers are not permitted to appear in the proceedings before a panchayat. The Chief Judicial Magistrate hears appeals against the order of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

The panchayats try civil and revenue suits for recovery of movable property or the value of such property for money or goods due on contract or the price thereof, for compensation for wrongfully taking or injuring movable property and suits mentioned in clause (j), (k), (i) and (n) of sub-section 3 of section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. The panchayats are under the control of District Judge in civil suits and Collector in revenue suits and they are also appellate authorities.

Sources of Income.—The panchayats are authorised to levy taxes, duties and fees. Apart from miscellaneous items, the main sources of income are grants-in-aid from the government, income from *shamlat* land, voluntary contributions, 3 per cent of the land holding tax of the panchayat area, fees and fines. The income and expenditure of panchayats in the district from 1966-67 to 1980-81 are given in the following table :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
1	2	3
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1966-67	11,06,299	10,59,309
1967-68	13,41,316	12,31,636
1968-69	19,14,059	18,61,481
1969-70	16,07,858	15,02,071

1	2	3
1970-71	20,81,529	18,14,844
1971-72	21,88,541	19,78,422
1972-73	22,03,341	20,04,114
1973-74	28,87,651	20,71,547
1974-75	33,74,042	32,03,657
1975-76	33,75,016	39,61,029
1976-77	29,65,630	27,21,632
1977-78	45,85,670	43,47,329
1978-79	74,91,315	55,07,991
1979-80	72,86,250	80,92,457
1980-81	63,11,588	57,45,748

Panchayat Samitis

The district has been divided into 4 blocks each having a Panchayat Samiti. Each Panchayat Samiti has primary, associate, co-opted and *ex-officio* members. Out of primary members, 16 members are elected by *panches* and *sarpanches*, 2 members by members of co-operative societies within the jurisdiction of the Panchayat Samiti and one member by members of market committees in the block. If this membership does not include 2 women and 4 persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, the balance is made up by co-option. Every member of the Haryana Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of which the block forms a part, is an associate member. The Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) having jurisdiction in the block and Block Development and Panchayat Officer are *ex-officio* members. The *ex-officio* and associate members do not have the right to vote. The Block Development and Panchayat Officer of the concerned block is the *ex-officio* executive officer of the Panchayat Samiti. The chairman and vice-chairman are elected by the primary and co-opted members from amongst themselves for a term of three years.

Duties.—The duties of Panchayat Samiti are numerous, being an important agency of the Panchayati Raj. It is the duty of the Panchayat Samiti to provide for and make arrangements for carrying out the requirement of the block in respect of agriculture, animal-husbandry and fisheries, health and rural sanitation, communication, social education, cooperation and miscellaneous development works.

Income.—The income of the Panchayat Samiti is derived from a Samiti fund which comprises ; apportionment made by the government out of the balance of district fund, 7 per cent of the total land holding tax realised within the area of Panchayat Samiti ; taxes, cesses and fees imposed by the Panchayat Samiti ; grants, contributions and funds allotted by the government, local bodies and panchayats as well as rents and proceeds accruing from property vested and managed by the Panchayat Samiti. These are authorised to impose taxes with the prior permission of the government. The government also provides funds whenever any subject is transferred to their control. A portion of the cattle fair income is also transferred to the Samiti. The income and expenditure of the Panchayat Samitis in the district from 1966-67 to 1980-81 are given below :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u> (Rs.)	<u>Expenditure</u> (Rs.)
1966-67	4,91,968	5,00,384
1967-68	6,23,899	4,62,665
1968-69	9,39,506	10,24,762
1969-70	8,38,364	8,91,803
1970-71	10,75,056	9,35,504
1971-72	13,17,707	11,80,049
1972-73	12,99,370	10,97,239
1973-74	16,60,301	10,33,393
1974-75	18,30,188	20,56,110
1975-76	19,41,163	23,75,648
1976-77	12,95,936	12,48,443
1977-78	13,86,922	14,20,860
1978-79	25,12,677	19,46,449
1979-80	26,20,552	29,07,443
1980-81	29,88,673	23,81,945

TOWN PLANNING

The town planning helps to eradicate the evils of haphazard and ugly growth of towns. To coordinate town planning activities in the district, the office of the District Town Planner, Sirsa was established in 1975-76. The overall control of the office and its activities lie with the Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The District Town Planner provides necessary technical guidance to municipal committees, improvement trusts and various government departments.

Controlled areas are declared to check haphazard growth around towns and development plans, showing distinctly the areas under various land uses, are prepared to guide future development of the towns. Area around Sirsa town was declared as controlled area on September 22, 1976, under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963. In 1981, its draft development plan was in progress.¹ The declaration of controlled area in Dabwali was also under process. Various development schemes have been planned for Sirsa and Dabwali towns. Besides, *mandi* township master plans and layout plans have been prepared for all the four towns in the district, viz., Sirsa, Dabwali, Kalanwali and Rania and plots have been sold in most of the areas. A list of works pertaining to *mandi* townships, set up in the towns of the district, is given in table below :

(In acres)

Name of the Town	Residential Area	Commercial Area	Industrial Area	Area Under Other Uses
Sirsa	158.50	25.00	57.30	341.90
Dabwali ..	24.35	24.80	22.30	48.55
Rania ..	11.10	22.51	3.10	11.11
Kalanwali ..	47.73	32.09	12.95	305.23

Mandi townships have been set up at Ellanabad, Ding and Bada Gudha. At Ellanabad, number of plots have already been sold. Master plans (for model villages) of Chutala and Bada Gudha have also been prepared.

Development of Sirsa Town

Sirsa town was planned on grid-iron pattern by Captain Thorsby. However, due to phenomenal growth and mixed land uses, a lot of unplanned construction has come up. To ensure systematic development of the town an out-line interim master plan was prepared in 1973.

Municipal limits were extended so as to include the built-up area within it. This resulted into a lot of unplanned construction. In order to check unregulated and unplanned urban development, it became necessary to review the interim master plan. After the declaration of the controlled

1. The final development plan was published, vide Haryana Govt. notification No. 5040-10DP-83, dated 25th July, 1983.



area around Sirsa town, steps were taken for the preparation of a draft development plan for the town. This work, as stated earlier, was in progress.

Projects completed in the Sirsa town include maternity hospital, parks in various parts of the town, mini secretariat complex, new grain market, new vegetable market and housing board colony comprising 433 houses. A new 100-bed hospital is under construction in an area of about 15 acres in Mandi Township, Sirsa.

Development of Mandi Dabwali Town

A new mandi township has set up in an area of 120 acres comprising grain market, residential area, industrial area, town centre, warehouses, tahsil offices, etc.