

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The first step towards the introduction of local government in the Ambala district was the constitution of a municipality at Ambala in 1862, when the headquarters of all districts were formed into regular municipalities.¹ In 1867, municipalities were constituted at Jagadhri and Buria under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1867 the earliest Act in the Punjab dealing with municipal administration. The municipality at Sadhaura was created in 1885 under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1884. Chhachhrauli, the capital of erstwhile princely State of Kalsia was formed into a municipality in 1896-97 under the control of the State authorities. The control of Chhachhrauli municipality was transferred to a municipal committee in 1919 when the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was enforced in the erstwhile Kalsia State. A cantonment board was constituted for cantonment area of Ambala in 1925 under the Cantonments Act, 1924. In 1936, Ambala Sadar municipality was formed by excluding Sadar Bazaar area from the cantonment board, but the same was again merged in to the cantonment board in 1941. Kalka was declared into a notified area under the amended Punjab Municipal Act passed in 1891 and was converted into a municipality in 1936. Abdullapur (later known as Yamunanagar) was declared a notified area in 1942 and was converted into a municipality in 1954. Narayangarh and Maheshnagar, Ambala were declared notified areas in 1966 and 1972 respectively.

Buria municipality was converted into a notified area in 1968 and Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony was also declared a notified area in 1967. With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the municipalities of Sadhaura and Chhachhrauli were also converted into notified areas. The HMT, Pinjore was declared a notified area in 1974.² In February, 1977 Sadar Bazaar area of Ambala Cantonment Board was constituted into a notified area but later in December, 1977 the Ambala Sadar municipality was formed by merging notified areas of Maheshnagar and Sadar Bazaar. In 1977-78, there were 5 municipalities, 6 notified areas and one cantonment board in the district.

The main sources of income of the local bodies include house tax, octroi,

1. *Imperial Gazetteer of India, Provincial Series, Punjab, Vol. I, 1908, p. 124; Ambala District Gazetteer, 1883-84, p. 67.*

2. HMT, Pinjore was converted into a municipality in 1979.

toll tax, cycle tax, cinema tax, rent of municipal property, sale of compost, etc. The detailed account in the following pages would show that the local bodies are quite alive to provide better civic and other amenities to the residents. The underground sewerage was there only in HMT and Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony before 1970 but in 1977-78, besides the above-mentioned colonies, the facility was available or was in advanced stages of progress in Ambala City, Ambala cantonment, Jagadhri and Kalka. Such a scheme had also been sanctioned for Ambala Sadar, Sadhaura and Yamunanagar towns. Many local bodies provided wheel-barrow to its scavenging staff for carrying the night-soil and the evil practice of carriage of night-soil as head load was on the wane. A skeleton water supply was available in Ambala City, Ambala Cantonment, Ambala Sadar, Yamunanagar, Jagadhri, Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony, HMT, Pinjore and Kalka in 1966. By 1977-78, the per capita water-supply was raised in these towns and 4 more towns viz., Sadhaura, Buria, Chhachhrauli and Narayangarh were provided with water supply.

Ambala City Municipality

The municipality at Ambala was first constituted in 1862 under the executive authority of the government. With the enactment of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1884, Ambala was declared a Class II municipality. It was converted into Class I municipality during 1950-51. The last elected municipal committee of Ambala functioned up to 1967 when it was superseded. Since then, the municipality is looked after by an administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 8.70 square kilometres and serves a population of 83,633 as per 1971 Census.

The water-supply to the town was obtained from wells, but all wells, except a few situated in close proximity to four large tanks in the south of the town, dried up due to diversion of the Tangri stream which formerly ran through the town.¹ Consequently, the water-supply became deficient. In 1896, a water-supply scheme was commissioned at Handesra, about 16 kilometres from Ambala. The water is pumped from wells there and piped to a reservoir in the town. In 1977-78, the per capita water supply in the town was 63 litres a day and there were 5,600 private water connections and 1,200 public stand posts.

The town is provided with surface drains. The construction of underground sewerage was undertaken in 1970 and was in progress in 1977-78.

The streets are narrow but well paved. The municipality maintains 13.52 kilometres of metalled and 3.36 kilometres of unmetalled roads.

Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting before 1938 when electricity was introduced. In 1977-78, 795 electric bulbs and 1201 fluorescent tubes were installed in the town for street lighting.

1. *Ambala District Gazetteer, 1892-93, p. 132.*

The municipality maintains a public park near the bus stand. This was developed in 1968 by transforming a stagnating water tank into a lake and constructing a park around it. A light house and coloured fountains beautify the park. There are boating arrangements on the lake. Small parks were also developed in other localities like Prem Nagar, Model Town, Baldev Nagar, Preet Nagar, Inder Nagar, Mathura Nagri and even on small traffic islands. There is a municipal club in the Model Town. It is intended to provide community halls in Model Town and Prem Nagar.

The conservancy and public health are under the supervision of a part-time municipal medical officer of health. For sanitation, the municipality had employed 3 sanitary inspectors, 3 vaccinators, 8 naib-darogas, 7 *jamadars* and 266 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by sweepers and carried to the municipal compost depot near Dhulkot railway station in 5 tractors, 22 trolleys and 250 wheel barrows for this purpose. A small workshop is also maintained for the repair of vehicles, tractors and trollies, etc.

The municipality runs two child and maternity centres, one in the town hall and the other in Prem Nagar. It has also constructed a lepers colony.

The municipality maintains a fire-fighting unit comprising four motor fire engines, one fire engine fitted on jeep, two trailer pumps and one portable pump. The staff consists of a fire officer, an assistant fire officer, 4 leading firemen, 5 driver operators and 22 firemen.

The municipality maintains 2 libraries, one at railway road and the other in Baldev Nagar.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, house tax, rent, *teh bazari*, water tax, license fee, show tax, cycle tax and proceeds from the sale of compost manure.

The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1967-68 to 1977-78, as given below, shows that the municipality is making an effort to augment its resources to provide better civic amenities to the residents:—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1967-68	23,99,351	20,94,273
1968-69	31,27,148	34,34,238
1969-70	37,09,852	37,14,589
1970-71	41,28,208	42,07,489
1971-72	45,25,117	45,47,398
1972-73	39,95,600	40,31,106
1973-74	41,55,636	42,17,071
1974-75	56,66,337	55,36,750
1975-76	52,75,338	51,11,709
1976-77	56,83,370	55,69,170
1977-78	50,68,336	54,64,517

Ambala Sadar Municipality

The municipality at Ambala Sadar was formed in 1977 with the merger of Mahesh Nagar and Ambala Sadar notified areas. Ambala Sadar had been a notified area since February, 1977 when it was carved out of the Ambala Cantonment Board area. Mahesh Nagar had been notified area since 1972. The municipality is looked after by an Administrator appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 6.3 square kilometres.

The water-supply is obtained from tubewells, 11 tubewells in Sadar and one in Mahesh Nagar. In 1977-78, there were 3,676 private water connections and 1,328 public stand posts. The per capita water-supply was 76.5 litres per day.

The streets are well paved and provided with open surface drains. A sewerage scheme had been sanctioned and was proposed to be undertaken shortly. There are 32 kilometres of metalled and one kilometre of unmetalled roads maintained by the municipality. Before 1935, the streets were lighted with kerosene oil lamps but in 1977-78, 432 electric bulbs and 350 fluorescent tubes were there for street lighting.

The municipality maintains a well-lighted Lady's Park on Jagadhri road which has been provided with playing equipment for children and also maintains a library.

The public health is looked after by a municipal medical officer of health, a sanitary superintendent, 4 sanitary inspectors, 10 sanitary mates, a dog shooter, 6 drivers, 9 anti-malaria coolies, 6 *bhishtis* and 268 sweepers. One truck, 8 trolleys, 3 tractors, 100 wheel barrows, and 16 carts are used to remove the refuse to the compost depot by sweepers. The night-soil is removed with the help of 8 filth carts.

The municipality has a fire brigade with a part-time fire officer, 8 firemen and 4 drivers. The fire station is provided with 1 fire brigade engine and 4 trailer pumps.

The main source of income are house tax, development charges, octroi, toll tax, show tax, licence fee, dog fee, hand-cart, rickshaw and tonga fee, rent of shops, *teh bazari*, sale-proceeds of manure, and water tax. The income and expenditure of the municipality for 1977-78 was Rs. 58,80,000 and Rs. 52,49,000, respectively.

Jagadhri Municipality

The municipality at Jagadhri was first constituted in 1867 under the Punjab Municipal Act passed in 1867. It is a class II municipality. The elected municipal committee was superseded in 1966, reconstituted in 1968 and again superseded in 1973 with the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal

Act, 1973. Since then, the municipality is looked after by an Administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 10.83 square kilometres and serves a population of 35,098 as per 1971 Census.

The piped water-supply in the town was commissioned in 1956. In 1977-78, about half the town was covered by the water-supply scheme and the per capita water-supply was 182 litres a day. There were 2,327 private water connections besides 100 public stand posts.

The town is provided with surface drains. The underground sewerage scheme was commissioned in 1962 and by March, 1978, 125 sewerage connections were given.

Streets are well paved and the municipality maintains 10.5 kilometres of metalled and 1.75 kilometres of unmetalled roads.

Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1936, there were 58 kerosene oil lamps installed at various points in the town. With the provision of electricity, kerosene lamps were replaced by electric points. In 1977-78, there were 443 electric bulbs and 290 fluorescent tubes for street lighting.

The conservancy and public sanitation is supervised by a sanitary inspector who is assisted by four sanitary *jamadars*, 79 whole-time *safai mazdoors*, 18 part-time *safai mazdoors*, 15 gangmen and a vaccinator. The refuse of the town is removed to the compost depot by carts and there were 30 cartmen engaged for the purpose.

The municipality maintains a library-cum-reading room. It has adopted three Harijan colonies in the town, one of which has been provided with street lights and water-supply and its streets have been paved. A set of 6 ever-clean type latrines have been provided. Similar facilities are proposed to be provided in other two colonies.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, house-tax, rent, *tehbazari*, water tax, licence fee and bicycle tax. The income and expenditure of the municipality during the year 1967-68 to 1977-78 is given below:

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1967-68 ..	6,37,834	6,55,828
1968-69 ..	7,39,875	7,17,144
1969-70 ..	8,18,905	7,52,914
1970-71 ..	11,03,194	11,22,714
1971-72 ..	9,34,837	9,69,370
1972-73 ..	10,84,095	11,59,495
1973-74 ..	12,67,425	12,66,341
1974-75 ..	14,59,016	16,16,120
1975-76 ..	20,81,816	20,84,431
1976-77 ..	24,63,379	21,51,290
1977-78 ..	28,20,520	26,36,907

Yamunanagar Municipality

Yamunanagar formerly known as Abdullapur, was first declared as notified area in 1942. It was converted into class II municipality in 1954 and was upgraded as class I municipality in 1967. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in 1969 and since then the municipality is looked after by an Administrator appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 23.31 square kilometres and serves a population of 72,683 as per 1971 Census.

There are sixteen tube-wells which maintain water-supply for the town. The parts of town not covered by piped water-supply are provided with hand-pumps. In 1972-73, a water-supply scheme to cover the entire town was launched, but very little progress could be made upto 1977-78, when the per capita water supply in the town was 35 litres a day. There were 4,600 private water connections and 200 public stand posts. Besides four water coolers to provide cold drinking water for general public were installed at the main roads.

The town is provided with surface drains. The construction of underground sewerage was sanctioned in 1972-73, but it could not make much progress up to 1977-78. The streets are well paved and the municipality maintains 72 kilometres of metalled and 20 kilometres of unmetalled roads. There are 15 parks and green belts in the town. These parks and green belts are properly lighted and provided with fountains and playing equipment for children.

Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1946, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1977-78, there were 28 electric bulbs and 1,710 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting.

The municipality undertook a prestigious project of developing a city centre on an area of 30 acres (12.14 hectares) with an artificial lake, lawns, parks, a stadium, a swimming pool, a public library, a club and a restaurant. By March, 1978, the artificial lake and pathways had been completed by spending more than Rs. 18 lakh on the project.

The conservancy and public health are looked after by two chief sanitary inspectors, one sanitary inspector, two vaccinators, 10 sanitary *jamadars* and 325 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by pressing into service six tractors with trollies and 300 wheel barrows and is collected at the municipal compost depot located near village Munda Majra. The manure so prepared is auctioned annually.

The municipality is equipped with fire-fighting unit with a main fire station at Radaur road and a sub-station in Hamida near Lakkar Mandi. In 1978, there were 5 fire tankers, 4 fire engines, one trailer pump and one jeep. The staff consisted of one assistant divisional fire officer, 2 sub-fire officers, five leading firemen, 31 firemen and 9 driver operators.

Besides, a health centre, an ayurvedic dispensary and a creche are run by the municipality. Traffic signals and blinkers have been provided at vital points to regulate the flow of traffic.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, house tax, water rate, show tax, rent and licence fees. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1967-68 to 1977-78, given below shows a six fold increase in income during a decade which made the provision of the above-mentioned facilities possible :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1967-68 ..	15,30,989	15,30,276
1968-69 ..	20,82,828	20,83,212
1969-70 ..	22,44,116	23,04,357
1970-71 ..	33,20,532	32,80,304
1971-72 ..	40,67,747	35,76,120
1972-73 ..	39,86,640	44,97,196
1973-74 ..	48,69,264	48,27,738
1974-75 ..	61,54,205	59,61,704
1975-76 ..	75,55,035	76,49,945
1976-77 ..	90,30,369	91,25,484
1977-78 ..	1,06,98,237	90,57,933

Kalka Municipality

Kalka was first declared as a notified area under the amended Punjab Municipal Act passed in 1891 and was converted into class II municipality in 1936. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in July, 1973. Since then, the municipality is looked after by an Administrator appointed by the government. The town covers an area of 2.85 square kilometres and serves a population of 17,711 according to 1971 Census.

The town is provided with piped water-supply. To augment the water-supply, a new reservoir with a capacity of 4.55 lakh litres was constructed in 1974-75. The railway authorities had their own water-supply in the railway colony. The per capita water-supply in the town comes to 50 litres a day. There were 954 private water connections and 135 public stand posts in 1977-78.

The town is served with surface drains. The sewerage scheme, started in 1970-71, was still in progress. The streets are well paved and the municipality maintains 2 kilometres of metalled and 1 kilometre of unmetalled roads. Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting but with the introduction of electricity in 1953, electric points were provided throughout the town. In 1977-78, there were 71 electric bulbs and 164 fluorescent tubes for street lighting.

The municipality maintains two small parks, Nehru Park constructed in 1957-58 and a park outside the civil rest house constructed in 1973-74. It is also running a library and reading room and a veterinary hospital.

The conservancy and public health is under the supervision of a municipal medical officer. He is assisted by one sanitary inspector, 2 sanitary *jamadars*, 1 sanitary supervisor, 1 vaccinator and 38 sweepers. The night-soil, removed by a tractor and 6 sullage carts, is dumped at a municipal compost depot on Kalka-Ambala road outside the town. The manure so prepared is sold to the farmers.

The main sources of income of the municipality are octroi, house tax, rents, *teh bazari*, water rate, licence fees and show tax. The income and expenditure from 1967-68 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1967-68	3,06,613	3,14,698
1968-69	3,25,397	3,13,199
1969-70	3,86,217	3,46,509
1970-71	4,14,345	4,62,691
1971-72	4,54,026	4,71,934
1972-73	5,28,526	5,09,288
1973-74	7,01,729	7,97,276
1974-75	10,02,167	7,57,122
1975-76	6,66,034	8,65,149
1976-77	7,59,581	5,57,537
1977-78	9,08,771	10,18,084

Buria Notified Area

A municipality was constituted at Buria in 1867. In 1968, it was converted into a notified area. The Tahsildar, Jagadhri as the president of the

committee looks after the affairs of the notified area. The town covers an area of 1.94 square kilometres and its population was 4,645 persons according to 1971 Census.

The town is served with piped water-supply. In 1977-78, there were 12 public stand posts and 300 private water connections. The streets are paved, and provided with surface drains. There were 74 electric bulbs for street lighting.

The committee maintains 0.25 kilometre of metalled and 0.50 kilometre of unmetalled roads.

The conservancy and public health staff consists of one vaccinator, one *jamadar* and 10 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by sweepers to the fields outside the town from where it is sold to the farmers.

The main sources of income are octroi, house tax, licence fees and cycle tax. The following figures show the income and expenditure from 1967-68 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1967-68	22,942	26,456
1968-69	27,950	31,962
1969-70	29,751	30,804
1970-71	32,239	30,654
1971-72	63,330	63,697
1972-73	1,65,244	1,43,768
1973-74	1,08,467	1,31,196
1974-75	56,636	46,762
1975-76	81,213	67,131
1976-77	53,205	69,108
1977-78	69,788	71,141

Chhachhrauli Notified Area

Chhachhrauli was formed into a municipality in 1896-97 under the control of the erstwhile princely State of Kalsia. Later in 1919, the control of the municipality was transferred to a municipal committee when the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was enforced in the State. It functioned as class I municipality till 1952 when it was converted into class II municipality. It

was declared a small town in 1953 but in 1955, it was again converted into class III municipality. In 1973, it was declared as a notified area under the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973. An administrator, appointed by the government, looks after the notified area. According to 1971 Census, the town covered an area of 1.29 sq. kilometres and its population was 5,382.

The piped water-supply, inaugurated in 1973, covers the town partially. In 1977-78, there were 398 private water connections and 14 public stand posts. The per capita water-supply was 49.5 litres per day.

The streets are well paved and provided with open surface drains. There are one kilometre of metalled and 3 kilometres of un-metalled roads. Kerosene oil lamps were provided for street lighting but in 1958, these lamps were replaced by electric points. In 1977-78, there were 106 electric bulbs and 24 fluorescent tubes for street lighting. The sanitation and public health of the town is looked after by a sanitary inspector, a vaccinator and 10 sweepers.

The main sources of income are octroi, toll tax, cycle tax, rents, *teh bazari*, water rate and licence fee. The income and expenditure during the period 1967-68 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1967-68	60,079	73,643
1968-69	79,449	63,218
1969-70	78,456	83,367
1970-71	1,10,206	1,19,030
1971-72	2,39,008	2,33,900
1972-73	2,05,387	1,99,907
1973-74	5,17,209	1,40,239
1974-75	1,23,528	4,86,495
1975-76	2,01,647	1,84,862
1976-77	2,21,925	1,78,953
1977-78	2,25,211	1,88,870

Sadhaura Notified Area

A class III municipality was first constituted at Sadhaura in 1885. It was declared a small town committee in 1953 and was again made a class

III municipality in 1955. With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected municipal committee was superseded and the town was declared as a notified area in July, 1973. It covers an area of 11.66 square kilometres and serves a population of 8,971 according to 1971 Census.

The water-supply to the town was from wells and hand-pumps but the piped water-supply was started in 1971-72. In 1977-78, the water-supply covered the town partially and there were 341 private water connections and 30 public stand-posts. The per capita water-supply was 55 litres a day.

The streets are paved and provided with open surface drains. An underground sewerage scheme has been sanctioned. The committee maintains 1/2 kilometre of metalled and 1.77 kilometres of unmetalled roads.

Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting prior to the introduction of electricity in 1955. In 1977-78, there were 172 bulbs and 52 fluorescent tubes in different parts of the town for street lighting.

The notified area maintains a small park located near the bus-stand. It also maintains a library and a reading room. The sanitation and public health are looked after by a sanitary inspector and 21 sweepers. The sweepers have been provided with 2 bullock carts and 27 wheel barrows for the removal of night-soil.

The main sources of income included octroi, toll tax, house tax, cycle tax, licence fee, rent, etc.

The income and expenditure from 1967-68 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1967-68	96,314	80,950
1968-69	1,45,798	1,56,719
1969-70	1,72,338	1,55,607
1970-71	3,89,174	2,62,355
1971-72	1,79,674	2,92,447
1972-73	2,14,713	1,95,182
1973-74	3,07,762	3,23,253
1974-75	2,84,848	3,75,823
1975-76	3,18,015	3,38,639
1976-77	3,73,078	3,42,874
1977-78	3,31,980	3,02,644

HMT, Pinjore Notified Area¹

HMT, Pinjore was declared a notified area in 1974. The boundaries of notified area correspond to the boundary limits of the HMT Estate, Pinjore and measure 3.4 square kilometres approximately.

The notified area was declared on the undertaking of the HMT Pinjore that it would bear all the recurring expenditure. The Company has provided the civic amenities like piped water-supply, underground sewerage, street lighting, metalled roads, children's parks, play-grounds and a mini shopping centre. The maintenance of all these facilities is done by the Company as a part of its liability. The expenditure roughly is to the tune of Rs. 40 lakh annually. However, the meagre sources of income of the notified area administration are registration fee, licence fee and dog registration fee. The income from these sources is given as under :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u> (Rs.)
1973-74	231.00
1974-75	269.00
1975-76	260.51
1976-77	1,058.40
1977-78	1,160.39

Narayangarh Notified Area

Narayangarh was declared a notified area in 1966. It covers an area of 5.18 square kilometres and serves a population of 6,880 according to 1971 Census. The notified area is looked after by the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) Narayangarh.

The piped water-supply was started in 1972-73 and in 1977-78, the town was partially covered. There were 496 private water connections and 25 public stand posts. The town is served with surface drains. There were 45 electric bulbs and 75 fluorescent tubes for street lighting.

The sanitation and public health of the town are looked after by one part-time vaccinator and 14 sweepers. The sweepers have been provided with 14 wheel barrows for removal of the night-soil.

1. It was converted into a municipality in 1979.

The main sources of income include octroi, house tax, toll tax, rents, *tehbazari*, licence fee and water tax. The following figures show the income and expenditure from 1967-68 to 1977-78 :—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1967-68	5,904	7,039
1968-69	9,081	8,883
1969-70	14,693	13,140
1970-71	2,42,567	1,38,259
1971-72	99,582	2,01,819
1972-73	2,63,912	2,65,688
1973-74	4,06,800	4,05,891
1974-75	3,78,531	3,10,315
1975-76	2,57,942	2,01,116
1976-77	3,96,247	3,63,048
1977-78	4,52,876	5,24,652

Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony Notified Area

The Jagadhri Workshop Railway Colony was declared as a notified area in 1967. It covers an area of 8.91 square kilometres and serves a population of 7,332 according to 1971 Census. The railway authorities bear all expenses and look after the civic amenities in the colony. They also maintain a hospital, a library-cum-reading room and a club.

Ambala Cantonment Board

The Ambala Cantonment Board was set up in 1925 under the Cantonments Act, 1924. Prior to this, the cantonment was administered by a cantonment magistrate. In 1936, Ambala Sadar municipality was formed by excluding some portions from the cantonment area but it was merged in the cantonment board in 1941. The Ambala Cantonment Board has enjoyed the status of a Class I board from the very beginning. In February, 1977, Ambala Sadar was excluded from the Ambala Cantonment Board and was declared a notified area. Consequently, the Ambala Cantonment Board now covers an area of about 30.20 square kilometres and serves a population of 37,024 persons.

There is only one tube-well and the rest of the water-supply is obtained from water works run by the Military Engineering Service. The town is provided with surface drains. The underground sewerage is limited to a part of the town. The board maintains 6 kilometres of metalled and 1 kilometre of unmetalled roads. The board has provided 85 electric bulbs and 250 fluorescent tubes. It maintains 3 public parks.

The conservancy and public health are under the supervision of an assistant health officer and a sanitary superintendent. For sanitation, the board has employed two sanitary inspectors, 12 *jamadars* and 245 sweepers. The night-soil and rubbish are removed by sweepers and carried to the compost depot located on Grand Trunk road. In 1977-78 there were 4 trucks, 7 carts and 25 wheel barrows.

The main sources of income are house tax, water tax, show tax, cycle tax, dog tax, *teh bazari* and octroi.

The income and expenditure of the board during 1967-68 to 1977-78 are given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1967-68	31,53,690	29,80,158
1968-69	28,70,750	29,25,047
1969-70	35,51,535	33,66,101
1970-71	36,62,638	37,31,473
1971-72	41,05,822	41,62,243
1972-73	49,82,577	42,98,073
1973-74	45,70,059	47,98,105
1974-75	64,67,473	57,67,498
1975-76	58,81,802	60,65,837
1976-77	55,57,541	65,04,764
1977-78	31,14,086	30,66,171

TOWN PLANNING

The danger of unplanned and haphazard growth of towns was foreseen and the areas around Yamunanagar, Ambala City and Ambala Cantonment were notified as controlled areas under the Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963 and building

activities were regulated through development plans. Further, to curb the mushroom growth of unplanned colonies, the government regulated and governed the sale of plots by private colonizers under the Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Haryana) Act, 1975.

In order to cater to the needs of commercial and residential plots, the government have established urban estates at Panchkula and Ambala City. The Panchkula urban estate has been planned for a population of 1.25 lakh and is spread over an area of about 2,440 hectares. The urban estate is divided into 20 sectors, 15 for residential use, 2 for industrial use and one each for city centre, major institutions and regional recreation. The Ambala urban estate is spread over an area of about 35 hectares. These urban estates have been provided with all the modern amenities. Besides, two industrial estates at Ambala cantonment and Yamunanagar have also been established to meet the requirement of industries. New grain markets have been set up at Ambala City and Narayangarh. The development of the potential areas for residential and commercial purposes has been done in Ambala City, Yamunanagar and Jagadhri for which improvement trusts were established but later these improvement trusts were dissolved. The development schemes are now looked after by the respective municipalities. These schemes envisage the removal of congestion within the towns and improvement of junctions and blind corners. Besides, numerous regulative schemes under the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 have been undertaken by various municipalities.

The Department of Town and Country Planning has prepared interim master plans for Ambala City for a projected population of 1.25 lakh and for Yamunanagar-Jagadhri for a projected population of 1.75 lakh. The plans provide adequate areas for different purposes based on the needs of the projected population.

The town planning in Ambala district is looked after by the District Town Planner, Ambala. The town planning of Panchkula township is looked after by a Senior Town Planner, Panchkula. The District Town Planner is under the administrative control of the Senior Town Planner, Panchkula.

The Rural Development Board, Haryana constituted in 1971, promotes the development and provision of public amenities in villages. Accordingly, village Mandhaur is being developed as a model village in the district.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

The panchayats have existed in the rural areas in one or other form from ancient times, though such panchayats were not established under any law. The heads of various tribes or communities happened to be the members of such panchayats. These panchayats played a vital role in the life of the people. With the passage of time and changed circumstances, such community

panchayats became ineffectual. After Independence, the need for the revival of panchayats was strongly felt and the institution of panchayat was made one of the Directive Principles of State policy in the Constitution of India.

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with the subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, are the legal base 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. They 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 of Zila Parishad was abolished on June 13, 1973.

Panchayats

Generally, there is one panchayat for each village, but in a few cases of small villages, there is a joint panchayat. Every panchayat has a minimum of five and a maximum of nine members called the *panches*. There is at least one Scheduled Caste *panch* and one woman *panch*. In 1977-78, there were 663 panchayats in the district and the total membership of panchayats was 3,693 including 725 Scheduled Castes and 661 women *panches* and *sarpanches*.

Functions.—The main functions of the panchayats are rural development, with particular reference to increase in agricultural production. It includes agriculture, animal husbandry, health and sanitation, forests, industries, education and social education, social welfare, village public works, sports and recreation. In fact, panchayats are to work in almost all spheres which concern the betterment of the village. The details of public utility work done by the panchayats are given in Table XXXIII 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 orders of the panchayats. He is empowered to transfer cases from one panchayat to another.

The panchayats try civil and revenue suits for recovery of moveable 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 moveable property, and some suits under the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887. The panchayats are under the control of the district Judge in civil suits and the Collector

in revenue suits. The District Judge and the Collector are also appellate authorities, respectively.

The Judicial work done by the panchayats during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given in Table XXXIV of Appendix.

Sources 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, fee and fines. The income and expenditure figures of panchayats of the district are given in table XXXV of Appendix.

Panchayat Samitis

The district has been divided into 8 blocks viz., Ambala, Pinjore, Narayanagarh, Jagadhri, Raipur Rani, Bilaspur, Barara and Chhachhrauli, each having a Panchayat Samiti. Each Panchayat Samiti has primary, associate, co-opted and *ex-officio* members. 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 the market committees in the block. If this membership does not include 2 women and four persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, 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 Officer are *ex-officio* members. The *ex-officio* and associate members do not have the right to vote. The Block Development Officer of the block is the *ex-officio* executive officer of the Panchayat Samiti. 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 three years.

Duties of the Panchayat Samiti.—It is a most important agency of the Panchayati Raj. It is the duty of the Panchayat Samiti to provide for and make arrangements for carrying out the requirements 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 consists of a *Samiti* fund which comprises apportionment made by the government out of the balance district fund, seven per cent of the total annual land holding tax realised within the area of the Panchayat Samiti, taxes, cesses and fees imposed by the Panchayat Samiti, grants, contributions and funds allotted by the government, local bodies and panchayats, and rents and proceeds accruing from the property

vested in and managed by the Panchayat Samiti. The Panchayat Samitis 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 Panchayat Samiti. The income and expenditure of the Panchayat Samitis in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	19,56,999	19,16,730
1976-77	18,79,884	18,47,351
1977-78	26,54,943	21,75,351

Zila Parishad

No Zila Parishad functions in the district as it was abolished in 1973 and the duties of Zila Paishad were entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner.