

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The departments not mentioned in other chapters are described here briefly.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The three wings of *Public Works Department (PWD)* located in the district are Buildings and Roads, Public Health and Irrigation.

Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads).—The department looks after the construction and maintenance of buildings and roads in the district. The work has been divided into two divisions, i.e., Provincial Division, Hisar and Construction Division, Fatehabad. Each of these divisions is headed by an Executive Engineer who is assisted by various Sub Divisional Officers. These Divisions are under the overall supervision of the Superintending Engineer, Hisar Circle, Hisar. The Provincial Division looks after the construction and maintenance of buildings and roads in most parts of Hansi and Hisar tahsil and a small part of Fatehabad tahsil. Actually, 202 villages of the district fall in the jurisdiction of the Provincial Division. The Construction Division, Fatehabad looks after the works in Tohana tahsil and Fatehabad tahsil and the remaining parts of Hansi and Hisar tahsils, and 284 villages fall under its jurisdiction.

Besides, the Delhi-Hisar-Sulemanki national highway is looked after by the Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Hisar. There are three sub-divisions one each at Hisar, Fatehabad and Hansi which look after the maintenance of the national highway. The Division is under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, National Highways Circle, Hisar.

The operation, maintenance and repair of the machinery belonging to the P.W.D. (B&R) in the district is looked after by the Mechanical Division, Hisar having sub-divisions at Hisar, Fatehabad and Tosham (Bhiwani District). The electrical installations and maintenance in the district are carried out by the Electrical Sub-division, Hisar of Electrical Division, Rohtak.

There is also a Survey Sub-Division for survey works of roads, and a research laboratory for research work pertaining to buildings and roads, both located at Hisar.

Public Health.—The public health works in the district is looked after by the Public Works Department (Public Health). The work has been divided into three divisions represented by the Public Health Division No. I, Hisar, Public Health Division No. II, Hisar and Public Health Division, Sirsa each headed by an Executive Engineer. Four sub-divisions located at Hisar assist Division No. I; and 4 sub-divisions, 2 located at Hisar and one each at Tohana and Hansi assist Division No. II. The Division No. I is mainly concerned with the works relating to sewerage and water-supply in Hisar town whereas Division No. II looks after public health works in Hansi, Tohana and Hisar tahsils. The Public Health Sub-Division, Fatehabad of Public Health Division, Sirsa looks after the work in Fatehabad tahsil. The overall supervision of the public health works in the district is under the Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department, Public Health Circle, Bhiwani.

Irrigation.—The main source of canal irrigation in the district are Bhakra Main Line canal and Sirsa branch, Hansi branch and Sunder sub-branch of the Western Yamuna (Jumna) canal. The canal irrigation in the district is looked after by 3 divisions, i.e. Fatehabad Division, Hisar; Tohana Division, Tohana; and Hisar Division, Hisar; each headed by an Executive Engineer. Each of the division is assisted by various sub-divisions. These divisions are under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, Hisar Bhakra Canal Circle, Hisar. The Fatehabad division looks after channels taking off from Sirsa branch and Kishangarh sub-branch of the Fatehabad branch. The division extends irrigation right up to Rajasthan border and is also concerned with irrigation in a part of Bhiwani and Jind districts. The Tohana Division is entrusted with the regulation of water from the Bhakra Main Line Canal, which tails off at Balyala in five different channels; Bhakra Main branch, Pirthala distributary, Samani distributary, Fatehabad branch and Fatehabad distributary and also looks after irrigation from these channels which also extends to Sirsa district. The Hisar Division looks after the maintenance of irrigation works and development of canal irrigation relating to Masudpur distributary, Hisar Major distributary, Narnaund distributary, Petwar distributary of the Hansi branch and Sunder sub-branch extending irrigation in a small part of Bhiwani district. It also looks after irrigation in a small part of Bhiwani district. The irrigation in the district is controlled through these divisions but as the canal divisions do not conform to the civil jurisdiction of the district and follow different channels, the jurisdiction of these divisions go beyond the civil jurisdiction of the district and similarly the irrigation in a part of the district is also managed by the Sirsa Division located at Sirsa through its Fatehabad Sub-Division, Fatehabad;

HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

The operation and the distribution of the electric supply in the district is under the supervision of Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Hisar. Three operation divisions at Hisar, Hansi and Fatehabad look after the work in different parts of the district. Each of these divisions are under the Executive Engineer who is assisted by Sub Divisional Officers. These operation divisions also deal with the construction, energisation of new high tension and low tension transmission lines, pole-mounting sub-stations and energisation of different categories of electrical connections, viz. domestic, commercial, industrial, tubewells, etc.

A Maintenance and Protection Division and a Carrier and Communication Division have been set up at Satrod (Hisar) to look after the maintenance of grid sub-stations and carrier connection in Hisar, Bhiwani and Sirsa districts. Both these divisions are under the control of Maintenance and Protection Circle, Chandigarh.

COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Cooperative Department is represented in the district by the Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies (General Line) and Industrial Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies both stationed at Hisar. These officers work under the supervision of the Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Hisar. The department is responsible for the promotion and growth of cooperative movement in the district. The cooperative movement has grown over the years and it now embraces a number of activities like, agriculture, industries, marketing, consumer stores, labour and construction, irrigation, house building, poultry, milk supply, transport and banking. The department arranges credit requirement, agriculture requisites, marketing, consumer goods and other needs of the societies. The Assistant Registrars are further assisted by various inspectors for different fields.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES

The department is responsible for the procurement of foodgrains and the distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities through fair price shops. The activities are regulated through control/licensing orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The department is represented by a District Food and Supplies Controller who is assisted by a District Food and Supplies Officer, 5 Assistant Food and Supplies Officers and 27 inspectors and 33 Sub-inspectors. In 1978, there were 80 fair price shops in urban areas and 378 in the rural

areas. These fair price shops also distributed levy sugar to consumers against distribution cards.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The district treasury is under the control of a Treasury Officer assisted by Assistant Treasury Officers (one each for the sub-treasuries at Hansi, Fatehabad and Tohana).

The treasuries receive central and state revenues including sale of stamps and disburse the state and central payments and maintain account pertaining to these receipts and payments. The cash transaction of these treasuries is conducted through State Bank branches at these places.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The department is represented by the District Public Relations Officer who is assisted by *one* Assistant Public Relations Officer, posted at Fatehabad and other subordinate staff including publicity assistants, cinema operators, drama and *bhajan* parties and radio mechanics.

The department maintains liaison with press and the public and undertakes publicity drives through meetings, cinema shows, drama performances and public contact with a view to inform and educate people about various programmes and policies of the government. The District Public Relations Officer also keeps the government informed of public reactions to its plans and policies and conveys public grievances to the district and state authorities. He is incharge of community listening scheme under which radio sets have been allotted to panchayats, cooperatives and schools.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Economic and Statistical Organisation under the administrative control of Planning Department, Haryana is represented in the district by the District Statistical Officer. The District Statistical Officer collects, compiles, analyses, and maintains statistics relating to various socio-economic aspects of the district, checks and scrutinises periodical progress reports prepared by the Block Development and Panchayat Officers and various other district officers. He prepares district statistical abstract and municipal year book. He conducts various socio economic surveys maintains record about the arrival of essential commodities, checks season and crop reports and conducts annual census of government employees. He coordinates the statistical activities of various department in the district and renders them technical guidance regarding the collection and compilation of statistics.

The District Statistical Officer has been given additional charge of the District Planning Officer for formulation of district development plans under the overall guidance of the Deputy Commissioner.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

After the transfer of the Hisar district alongwith Delhi territory to the Punjab from North-Western Provinces in 1858, the municipal administration in some form was introduced in the towns of Hisar, Hansi, Fatehabad, Ratia and Tohana. A municipal fund was raised in these towns by cesses or duties for watch and ward purposes.¹ The surplus of the fund was administered by a committee of townsmen. As the system lacked the essentials of local government, a more regular form of local government under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1867 was introduced in the district with the constitution of Hisar and Hansi municipalities in 1867. In 1873, a new enactment was passed under which municipalities of Fatehabad, Tohana and Ratia were constituted in 1874-75. The municipalities of Ratia and Tohana were abolished in 1886-87.² In 1891, an amended Act was passed which declared those towns, for which it was inexpedient to constitute regular municipalities, as Notified Areas. Accordingly, Tohana was declared as a Notified Area in 1898 and Fatehabad was converted into a Notified Area in 1899. Later in 1917, Jakhhal Mandi was also declared as Notified Area. The Notified Area of Tohana and Jakhhal Mandi were converted into Small Towns in 1924 and that of Fatehabad in 1952. Uklana Mandi was also constituted into a Small Town in 1953. In 1954, Tohana and Uklana Mandi and in 1955 Fatehabad and Jakhhal Mandi were converted into class III municipalities. In 1973, the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 was enforced and municipalities of Jakhhal Mandi, Uklana Mandi and Tohana were converted into Notified Areas. Narnaund and Ratia were declared as Notified Areas in 1974 and 1976 respectively. Again in 1978, Barwala was declared into a Notified Area and Narnaund ceased to be a Notified Area. As such, in 1978, there were 3 municipalities and 5 Notified Areas.³ The main sources of income of the local bodies include octroi,

1. Ameen Chand, *Settlement Report and History of the Hissar District*, 1866, (Urdu) part II, p. 59.

2. Nothing certain about the date or even the year of the constitution of these municipalities can be said but the tables showing municipal income from 1870-71 to 1890-91 appended in *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1883-84, and *Hissar District Gazetteer*, 1892, include the income of Fatehabad, Tohana and Ratia (all class III municipalities) from 1874-75 onward. It can thus be inferred that these municipalities were constituted in 1874-75. The income statement is absent after 1886-87 in the case of Ratia and Tohana thus indicating their abolition.

3. All the Noified Areas were converted into Class III municipalities in 1979.

toll tax, cycle tax, cinema show tax, water rate, *tehbazari*, licence fee, building tax, rent on municipal property, sale of compost, etc. A detailed account of each local body is given in the following pages and would show that the local bodies are quite alive to provide better civic amenities to the residents.

Hisar Municipality

The municipality of Hisar was first constituted in 1867 as a class II municipality. It was made class I municipality in April, 1957. The last municipal committee of Hisar functioned upto 1968 when it was superseded. Since then, the affairs of the municipality are being looked after by an administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 31.34 sq. kms. and serves a population of 89,437 persons (as per 1971 Census).

The drinking water was a problem before the Independence and for some time even after the Independence. The people used to draw water from 60 feet deep wells with ropes and buckets which was inconvenient and expensive. A moderate start was made by the municipality in 1950 with the construction of a tubewell in Katra Ram Leela and it added few more tubewells in subsequent years. The water was supplied through public stand posts fixed in different parts of the town. In 1969, waterworks were installed at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Later, the water supply was augmented and in 1977-78, the per capita supply was 91 litres per day and there were 370 public stand posts and 7,050 private water connections in the town.

The underground sewerage has been commissioned in a part of the town and the rest of the town is provided with surface drains. The residents are encouraged to have underground sewerage connection. By 1977-78, there were 1,654 private connections and 4 sets of public lavatories.

Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting till 1936 when electricity was introduced in the town. In 1977-78, there were 1,770 electric bulbs and 69 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. Besides, 6 illuminated road indicators have been installed at important points. The roads are metalled and streets are well-paved. In 1977-78, the total length of metalled roads was 30 kms. There are 21 parks in the town, Patel park, Lajpat Rai park and Madhuban park are quite important. There is a swimming pool, children's library and Kala Kendra in the Madhuban park.

The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Chief Sanitary Inspector. For sanitation, he is assisted by one sanitary inspector, 12 jamadars and 238 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by private sweepers in covered baskets and wheel barrows to the municipal dumps, from where it is removed to the compost depots in tractors, tempos and carts. There are 5 tractors fitted with trollies, 2 tempos and 36 refuse carts. The manure prepared in compost depots is sold out. The municipality maintains a fire fighting unit comprising three fire engines. The staff consists of a fire officer, one assistant fire officer, 3 leading firemen, 6 driver operators and 21 firemen.

The municipality is running a library containing 9,880 books and two reading rooms, one in Patel Nagar and the other in Model Town.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, rent, *tehbazari*, water tax, licence fee, show tax, cycle tax and proceeds from sale of compost manure. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1975-76 to 1977-78 as given below, show that the municipality is making every possible effort to augment its resources to provide better civic amenities to the residents.

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1975-76	47,28,113	45,25,965
1976-77	47,22,980	49,65,194
1977-78	55,86,525	52,68,652

Hansi Municipality

The municipality at Hansi was first constituted in 1867 as a class II municipality under the Punjab Municipal Act passed in 1867. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in January, 1969. Since then, the municipality is looked after by an administrator, appointed by the government. The municipality covers an area of 9.07 sq. kilometres and serves a population of 41,108 (as per 1971 Census).

Prior to 1962 when piped water supply was commissioned, the source of water supply was handpumps and a few sweet water wells. In 1977-78, there were 2,447 private water connections and 167 public stand posts. The water supply per capita per day was 72.80 litres in this town.

The town is provided with surface drains. The construction of underground sewerage was undertaken in 1971 at the cost of Rs. 42,08,000 and is still under execution. The streets are wide and well paved. The municipality maintains 20.48 kilometres of metalled roads. Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting prior to the introduction of electricity in 1936. In 1978, there were 575 electric bulbs and 418 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. The municipality maintains 3 small parks in the town. The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Senior Sanitary Inspector. For sanitation, he is assisted by a sanitary supervisor, 3 sanitary jamadars and 115 sweepers. The night-soil is removed by the sweepers and carried to the municipal compost depot in tractor trollies or wheel barrows. The manure prepared in the compost depot is sold to farmers. The municipality maintains a fire fighting unit comprising 2 fire engines. It also maintains a library-cum-reading room.

The main sources of municipal income are octroi, rent, *tehbazari*, water tax, licence fee, show tax, cycle tax and sale proceeds of manure. The income and expenditure of the municipality during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs)	(Rs)
1975-76	47,96,120	48,25,382
1976-77	22,29,209	21,78,549
1977-78	22,60,920	22,96,181

Fatehabad Municipality

The municipality of Fatehabad was first constituted in 1874-75 under the enactment passed in 1873. It was converted into a Notified Area in January, 1899 and class III municipality in 1955. In 1971, it was upgraded to class II municipality. With the enforcement of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected committee was superseded and thereafter the affairs of the municipality are looked after by an official administrator. The municipality covers an area of 10.36 sq. kms. and serves a population of 22,630 persons as per 1971 Census.

In 1978, the town was partly covered by piped water supply and there were 186 public stand posts and 806 private connections. Besides, there were 2 tubewells.

The town is served with surface drains. The underground sewerage schemes was started in 1962 and by 1977-78, it could cover a part the town and was still under execution. There were 64 private connections and 9 public lavatories.

Kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting prior to the introduction of electricity in the town in 1957. There were 165 electric bulbs and 318 fluorescent tubes in this town for the street lighting in 1977-78. The municipality maintains six small parks in the town. It is also running a library-cum-reading room.

The conservancy and public health services are under the supervision of a Senior Sanitary Inspector who is assisted by one sanitary inspector, 2 sanitary jamadars and 65 sweepers and one vaccinator. The night-soil is removed through tractors and sullage carts to the municipal compost depot. Covered wheel-barrowes have also been provided. The manure so prepared is sold to the farmers. The municipality has a small fire fighting unit comprising a fire engine with one leading fireman, six firemen and 2 drivers.

The main sources of income of the municipality is octroi, toll tax, water rate, rent and *tehbazari*. The income and expenditure from 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1975-76	14,39,243	14,03,833
1976-77	12,06,366	13,12,951
1977-78	13,36,520	12,14,231

Notified Area, Tohana¹

Tohana was first constituted as a municipality in 1874-75 under the enactment passed in 1873. It was, however, abolished in 1886-87 under the amended Act of 1891. Tohana was declared a Notified Area in 1898. It was converted into a small town in 1924 and a class III municipality in 1954. With the passage of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, the elected municipal committee was superseded and it was converted into a Notified Area. An administrator appointed by the government looks after the affairs of the Notified Area. It covers an area of 4.53 sq. kms. and serves a population of 16,789 (as per 1971 Census).

The town is provided with piped water supply which was installed in 1973. In 1978, the per capita water supply was 60 litres per day and there were 95 public stand posts and 1,056 private water connections. The streets are paved and provided with surface drains. An underground sewerage was under execution in 1978, however, 2 sets of public flush latrines have been provided. Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1957, kerosene

1. It was converted into a class II municipality in 1979.

oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1978, there were 108 electric bulbs and 214 fluorescent tubes for street lighting in the town. For sanitation, the Notified Area has employed 1 sanitary *daroga*, 2 sanitary jamadars, and 35 sweepers. The night-soil is removed in wheel barrows and dumped in the compost depot. It runs a library and two reading rooms. The Notified Area derives its income mainly from octroi, water rate, *tehbazari*, licence fee, building tax, rents and sale of compost. The income and expenditure of the committee during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1975-76	6,43,322	8,35,005
1976-77	8,96,173	8,26,207
1977-78	10,74,681	10,82,211

Notified Area, Jakhal Mandi¹

Jakhal Mandi was declared as a Notified Area in 1917. It was later converted into a Small Town in 1924. Again in 1955, it was converted into a class III municipality. The last elected municipal committee was superseded in 1973 with the passage of the Haryana Municipal Act, 1973 and the town was declared a Notified Area. It covers an area of 0.13 sq. kilometre and serves a population of 3,919 persons according to 1971 Census.

The piped water supply was provided to the town in 1967. In 1977-78, the per capita water supply was 80 litres per day and there were 222 private water connections and 22 public stand posts. The streets are well paved and provided with open surface drains. The underground sewerage was provided in 1965 and in 1978, there were 19 private connections. Prior to the introduction of electricity in May, 1958, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1977-78, there were 94 electric bulbs for street lighting. For sanitation, the Notified Area has employed 14 sweepers to remove night-soil and refuse to compost depot located outside the town. The manure so prepared is sold to the farmers. It maintains a park and a library-cum-reading room. The main sources of income are octroi, water rate, *tehabazari*, rent and licence fee. The income and expenditure of the Notified Area during 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1975-76	2,60,995	3,86,949
1976-77	2,97,730	3,75,060
1977-78	4,64,883	4,82,797

1. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1979.

Notified Area, Uklana Mandi¹

Uklana Mandi was formed into a Small Town in 1953. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1954 ; With the passage of Haryana Municipal Act, 1973, it was declared as a Notified Area in 1973. It covers an area of 0.75 sq. kilometre and serves 5,981 persons (as per 1971 Census).

The piped water supply was provided to the town in 1966-67. In 1978, the per capita water supply was 80 litres per day and there were 556 private water connections and 19 public stand posts. The streets were well paved and provided with surface drains. The underground sewerage, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,31,000, was under execution. Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1957, kerosene oil lamps were used for street lighting. In 1978, there were 51 electric bulbs and 80 fluorescent tubes in the town for street lighting. For sanitation, the Notified Area had employed, 12 sweepers. The night-soil and refuse is removed to compost depots in wheel barrows. The main sources of income are octroi, water rate, *tehbazari*, and show tax. The following table shows the income and expenditure during 1975-76 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1975-76	3,45,253	3,53,566
1976-77	4,22,554	3,39,055
1977-78	6,14,681	4,89,454

Notified Area , Ratia²

Ratia was constituted into a municipality in 1874-75 but was abolished in 1886-87. Again in 1976, Ratia was declared as a Notified Area. It covers an area of 4.0 sq. kilometres and serves a population of 7,740 persons (as per 1971 Census).

In 1978, the street lighting was provided to the town and there were 19 bulbs and 6 fluorescent tubes fixed at different places. For sanitation, there were 7 sweepers.

The main sources of income are rent, octroi and *tehbazari* and its income and expenditure during 1977-78 was Rs. 3,36,204 and Rs. 2,23,167 respectively.

Notified Area, Barwala³

Barwala was declared a Notified Area in 1978. It serves a population of 16,917 (1971 Census).

1. It was converted into a class III municipality in 1979.
2. It was converted into class III municipality in 1979.
3. It was converted into class III municipality in 1979 and later abolished in 1982.

The town was partly provided with piped water supply and in 1978, the per capita water supply was 10 litres per day and there were 245 private water connections. The pavement of streets, drainage and street lighting were taken up by the local body in 1978. The income, mainly derived from octroi and water rate, and expenditure of the Notified Area during 1978-79 was Rs. 2,08,440 and Rs. 1,35,582 respectively.

TOWN PLANNING

The town planning in the Hisar district is looked after by a Divisional Town Planner, Hisar who is assisted by an Assistant Town Planner. The Department of Town Planning provides technical assistance to local bodies for improving of road junctions, road widening and for planning of their residential areas. In Hisar town, a potential area around the town was notified to check unplanned and haphazard growth in and around the town. A planned scheme was framed for the town to accommodate a projected population of 2.5 lakh by 2001 A.D. Two residential urban estates, one behind the Pushpa theatre known as urban estate No. 2 and the other as defence colony have been established in the town on an area of 331.36 acres and 43.454 acres, respectively. Besides, a commercial urban estate on an area of 36.34 acres has also been established and 451 commercial plots have been earmarked.

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 Panjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952, with its subsequent amendments, and the Punjab Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, are the legal bases 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.

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 1977-78, there were 433 panchayats in the district and the total membership of all panchayats was 4,298.

Functions .—The main functions of panchayats are rural development with particular reference to increase 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 panchayats in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

Particulars	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
1. Wells constructed	167	198	235
2. Buildings constructed for veterinary dispensaries and first-aid-posts	—	1	2
3. Dispensaries constructed	2	1	1
4. Land cleared from harmful weeds (Hectares)	13,200	15,000	15,332
5. School buildings constructed	29	51	76

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 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 clauses (j), (k), (f) 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.

Source 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 holdings tax of the panchayat area, fees and fines. The income and expenditure of panchayats in the district from 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :

	Income	Expenditure
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
6-76	57,70,868	55,04,135
6-77	46,81,452	36,71,511
1977-78	57,71,081	59,69,718

Panchayat Samitis

The district has been divided into 10 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 cooperative 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 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, co-operation 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 holdings 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 1975-76 to 1977-78 is given below :

Year	Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1975-76	22,90,757	22,64,130
1976-77	29,89,570	23,63,562
1977-78	46,69,081	29,04,880