

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

So far all the general elections to the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha including the mid-term Vidhan Sabha elections held in 1968 have been conducted smoothly in the areas now forming the Mahendragarh district.

A brief account of each general election to the union and state legislature held in the district since 1952 is given below :

LOK SABHA

Before the formation of Haryana in 1966, there were three general elections in which the present Mahendragarh district formed part of two parliamentary constituencies, viz. Mahendragarh and Jhajjar-Rewari. The areas of Kanina, Mahendragarh, Ateli, Narnaul and Nangal Chaudhry assembly constituencies formed part of Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency and Rewari assembly constituency formed part of Jhajjar-Rewari parliamentary constituency. In the First General Elections, 1952, Congress candidates were returned from both the parliamentary constituencies. During the Second General Elections, 1957, a Congress candidate was returned from Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency whereas the Communist Party of India bagged Jhajjar-Rewari parliamentary seat. In the Third General Elections, 1962, Jan Sangh candidate won the Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency and the Haryana Lok Samiti candidate captured the Jhajjar-Rewari parliamentary constituency.

Fourth General Elections, 1967—After the formation of Haryana, the district formed part of the Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency. A Congress candidate captured this seat defeating 11 candidates. The number of contestants, the seat won, percentage and valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat Won	Valid Votes Polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1	1	93,903	29.93
Socialist	1	—	19,695	06.27
Republican	1	—	19,142	06.09
Jan Sangh	1	—	47,165	15.01
Independents	8	—	1,34,093	42.70
Total :	12	1	3,13,998	100.00

Fifth General Elections, 1971.—There was no change in the limits of Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency and the areas of Mahendragarh district remained part of this constituency. A candidate of the newly created Vishal Haryana Party was returned from this seat. The number of contestants, the seat won, valid votes with their percentage polled by each party were as follows :

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Vishal Haryana Party	1	1	1,59,125	46.80
Indian National Congress	1	—	1,57,226	46.25
Proutist Block of India	1	—	3,108	00.90
Independents	3	—	20,572	06.05
Total :	6	1	3,40,031	100.00

Sixth General Elections, 1977.—As a result of delimitation of assembly constituencies in 1974, the Mahendragarh district was covered by the Mahendragarh parliamentary constituency comprising assembly segments, namely, Bawal, Rewari, Jatusana, Mahendragarh, Ateli and Narnaul. Besides this, 3 segments of Gurgaon district, namely, Sohna, Gurgaon and Pataudi also formed part of Mahendragarh Parliamentary constituency. A candidate of the newly created Janata Party captured this seat. The number of contestants and the number and percentage of valid votes polled by each party were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Janata Party	1	1	2,55,881	55.28
Vishal Haryana Party	1	—	1,92,867	41.67
Forward block	1	—	2,444	00.53
Socialist Unity Centre of India	1	—	1,353	00.29
Independents	3	—	10,336	02.23
Total :	7	1	4,62,881	100.00

VIDHAN SABHA

During the First General Elections, 1952, the area comprising the present Mahendragarh district had 6 assembly seats namely, Rewari, Kanina, Ateli, Mahendragarh, Narnaul and Nangal Chaudhry. Rewari was double member constituency whereas remaining five were single member constituencies. Out of these 7 seats, four seats were won by the Congress candidates, two by Jan Sangh candidates while remaining one seat was won by an independent. The party-wise position of the contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	7	4	75,021	42.80
Jan Sangh	4	2	12,691	07.25
Socialist Party	3	—	10,386	05.92
Zamindara Party	1	—	26,312	15.01
Independents	25	1	50,851	29.02
Total :	40	7	1,75,261	100.00

Second General Elections, 1957.—During the Second General Elections, 1957, the number of constituencies was reduced from 6 to 4 and these constituencies were Rewari, Jatusana, Narnaul and Mahendragarh. All these were single member constituencies. The Rewari constituency returned the Congress candidate uncontested. The constituencies of Jatusana and Mahendragarh were also captured by the Congress candidates whereas a Jan Sangh candidate captured the Narnaul seat. The party-wise position of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	4	3	42,380	47.59
Jan Sangh	1	1	13,168	14.79
Praja Socialist Party	1	—	3,057	3.43
Communist Party of India	1	—	1,680	1.89
Independents	5	—	28,765	32.30
Total :	12	4	89,050	100.00

Third General Elections, 1962.—During the Third General Elections, 1962, system of double member constituency was abolished. Instead, the system of reserved constituency was introduced. Consequently, the number of assembly constituencies was increased from 4 to 5, viz. Rewari, Jatusana, Kanina, Narnaul and Mahendragarh. The assembly constituencies of Narnaul, Mahendragarh and Rewari were captured by Indian National Congress, that of Kanina (Reserved) by a Jan Sangh candidate and the remaining seat of Jatusana was bagged by an independent. The number of contestants, the seats won and the percentage of valid votes polled by each party are shown below :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	5	3	83,702	41.31
Jan Sangh	4	1	29,895	14.76
Socialist	2	—	1,417	00.70
Swatantra	2	—	10,331	05.09
Independents	12	1	77,287	38.14
Total :	25	5	2,02,632	100.00

Fourth General Elections, 1967.—After the formation of Haryana as a separate state, the Fourth General Elections were held in 1967 to the Haryana Vidhan Sabha. The number of constituencies was increased from five to seven, viz., Rewari, Bawal (Reserved), Jatusana, Ateli, Narnaul, Mahendragarh and Kanina. Out of these seven constituencies, the constituencies of Rewari and Ateli were captured by the Congress candidates, the constituency of Narnaul was captured by Jan Sangh candidate and the remaining constituencies of Bawal, Jatusana, Kanina and Mahendragarh returned independent candidates. The partywise position of contestants, seats won, valid votes polled and their percentage were as follows :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	7	2	90,621	39.20
Jan Sangh	4	1	28,473	12.31
Communist Party of India	1	—	1,009	00.43
Samyukta Socialist Party	2	—	6,080	2.63
Independents	21	4	1,04,966	45.43
Total :	35	7	2,31,149	100.00

Mid-term Elections, 1968.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was dissolved and President's rule was enforced in November, 1967. The mid-term elections were held during May, 1968. No change was made in the limits and number of constituencies in the district. Out of the seven seats, the Congress candidate was returned from Narnaul constituency whereas all the other 6 seats were bagged by the newly created Vishal Haryana Party. The number of contestants, seats won and valid votes polled with their percentage are shown below :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seat won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Vishal Haryana Party	7	6	1,06,373	46.10
Indian National Congress	7	1	82,087	36.85
Jan Sangh	3	—	7,156	03.56
Republican	1	—	655	00.30
Swatantra	1	—	4,176	2.16
Independents	8	—	20,837	11.03
Total :	26	7	2,21,284	100.00

Fifth General Elections, 1972.—Haryana Vidhan Sabha was again dissolved in January, 1972 and the elections were held in March, 1972. No change was made in the limits and the number of constituencies in the district. Out of the seven seats, five seats, namely; Rewari, Jatusana, Bawal, Mahendragarh and Narnaul were captured by the Congress (R) candidates while two seats of Ateli and Kanina were captured by Vishal Haryana Party candidates. The following were the number of contestants, seats won and valid votes polled by each party :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Congress(R)	7	5	1,44,465	51.05
Vishal Haryana Party	7	2	1,21,311	43.67
Independents	9	—	15,880	5.28
Total :	23	7	2,81,656	100.00

Sixth General Elections, 1977.—As a result of delimitation of assembly constituencies in 1974, the number of assembly constituencies of the district decreased from 7 to 6, viz. Rewari, Jatusana, Bawal, Mahendragarh, Ateli and Narnaul. Out of these 6 constituencies, 3 seats of Narnaul, Bawal and Rewari were captured by candidates of newly created Janata Party while the remaining three seats were won by Vishal Haryana Party. The following table gives the number of contestants, seats won, valid votes and their percentage polled by each party :—

Party/Independents	Contestants	Seats won	Valid Votes polled	Percentage
Vishal Haryana Party	6	3	1,20,422	41.69
Janata Party	6	3	1,15,470	39.97
Indian National Congress	6	—	24,612	8.52
Socialist Unity Centre of India	1	—	523	00.18
Independents	32	—	27,837	09.64
Total :	51	6	2,88,864	100.00

POLITICAL PARTIES

There was only one local political party of some significance in the district. It was Vishal Haryana Party which was formed during mid-term elections of Vidhan Sabha in 1968 but was merged with the Congress (I) after 1977. The major parties are units of all India parties. The Indian National Congress has been fielding their candidates since 1952. Though it is widely known to the masses, yet it has tasted both victory and defeat during the elections.

The Bhartiya Jan Sangh (now Bhartiya Janata Party) had much influence in the urban areas. The Communist Party of India also won the seat of Jhajjar-Rewari Parliamentary constituency during the General Elections of 1957. Since then it lost its popularity among the masses; as no candidate won even during the assembly elections. The Janata Party won the Lok Sabha elections in 1977 with landslide victory. The popularity of a political party is mainly judged from its success in the elections. The position of different political parties represented in the legislative bodies can be seen

at a glance from the table given below :—

Year	Name of political party	Number of members elected	Number of valid votes polled by all contestants	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5
Lok Sabha				
1952	Indian National Congress	1	57,290	31.07
	Indian National Congress	1	1,02,435	41.6
1957	Indian National Congress	1	82,930	34.72
	Communist Party of India	1	1,48,979	55.10
1962	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	1,05,027	38.14
	Haryana Lok Samiti	1	1,18,667	34.2
1967	Indian National Congress	1	93,903	29.93
1971	Vishal Haryana Party	1	1,59,125	46.80
1977	Janata Party	1	2,55,881	55.28
Vidhan Sabha				
1952	Indian National Congress	4	75,021	42.80
	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	2	12,691	7.25
	Independents	1	50,851 ¹	29.02
1957	Indian National Congress	3	42,380	47.59
	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	13,168	14.79
1962	Indian National Congress	3	83,702	41.31
	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	29,895	14.76
	Independents	1	77,287	38.14
1967	Indian National Congress	2	90,621	39.20
	Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	28,473	12.31
	Independents	4	1,04,966	45.43

1. The total number of valid votes secured by all the Independents.

1	2	3	4	5
1968	Vishal Haryana Party	6	1,06,373	46.10
	Indian National Congress	1	82,087	36.85
1972	Indian National Congress (R)	5	1,44,465	51.05
	Vishal Haryana Party	2	1,21,311	43.67
1977	Vishal Haryana Party	3	1,20,422	41.69
	Janata Party	3	1,15,470	39.97

The Independents have been contesting the elections since 1952 without manifestoes. Those who win the election are lured by other political parties to support them. After their victory, they generally join one or the other party.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The voluntary social service organisations are self governing bodies of people working together for the betterment of the society and the community life as a whole. Voluntary social service organized by concerned public effort is thus a recent phenomenon closely associated with the democratic form of government promising equal status and opportunities to all sections of society. The welfare of the handicapped, economically weaker sections of society, women, children, the illiterate, the diseased, the disabled and the backward strata of society has been engaging the attention of the state and the social service organisations in recent times. Though the number of such organisations in this district is not so large, yet they play an important role in the community. The important of these are described below :

District Red Cross Society, Narnaul.—This organisation, being a branch of the Indian Red Cross Society, was started in 1961. Its executive committee consists of 17 members (14 official and 3 non-official) with the Deputy Commissioner as its President.

The important activities of the society are : hospital welfare, community health and sanitation, relief to the sick, suffering and wounded persons, relief to the defence personnel, maternity and child welfare including family planning, emergency relief of all kinds and economic relief to the sister charitable organisations.

With regard to the maternity and child welfare work, the society runs two health centres at Gokal Garh and Dahina. It also maintains six *dai* centres at Dahina, Moondi, Bhudpur, Rampura, Khorl and Balana Kalan.

Relief is provided in the form of clothes, medicines, baby milk powder and vitamin tablets to the poor and needy persons. It also renders assistance to the needy during calamities like floods, fire and epidemics. Seven first-aid posts have also been established at Rewari, Narnaul, Musepur, Dahina, Kanwali, Mahendragarh and Nangal Chaudhry.

The sources of income include membership subscription, contribution and donations. The following table shows the income and expenditure from 1966 to 1978 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1966	99,505	57,122
1967	72,336	30,629
1968	46,298	8,305
1969	48,652	38,769
1970	39,458	21,544
1971	64,282	50,851
1972	61,192	37,483
1973	96,113	43,183
1974	1,17,723	82,480
1975	21,651	2,12,496
1976	4,50,913	4,05,578
1977	1,81,209	96,904
1978	1,23,598	1,58,860

Hospital Welfare Society, Narnaul .—It was established in 1963. Its membership is open to men and women. During 1977-78, there were 41 members. It is mainly associated with hospital welfare work. The members of the society visit hospitals from time to time and render necessary help to the indoor patients. They always try to solve the difficulties and problems of the patients with the cooperation of the hospital staff. They also check the quality of diet being made available to the patients and supervise and ensure general cleanliness of the hospital premises.

The society also looks after the orphans and abandoned babies. Up to 1975, 4 abandoned babies were admitted to the Civil Hospital, Narnaul.

Its sources of income are membership fee, assistance from the District Red Cross Society, income from variety shows, *bal melas*, etc. The following figures show the income and expenditure of the society from 1970 to 1978 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1970-71	24,442	6,709
1971-72	1,117	987
1972-73	945	15,612
1973-74	—	30
1974-75	1,971	737
1975-76	11,637	6,753
1976-77	1,350	1,584
1977-78	655	1,914

St. John Ambulance Association, Narnaul.—This association was established in April, 1975. It is a branch of the All India St. John Ambulance Association, Delhi. It provides training in first-aid, home nursing and child welfare. During the period from 1975 to 1978, 3,125 persons received first-aid training. These included school boys, teachers, drivers, conductors and workers.

The sources of income are the fee from first-aid classes and financial assistance received from the District Red Cross Society. The details of income and expenditure from 1975 to 1978 are given below :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1975	4,285	3,456
1976	68,043	67,524
1977	2,191	—
1978	6,561	5,583

District Olympic Association, Narnaul.—It was established at Narnaul in 1968 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner. It is affiliated to Haryana Olympic Association. It organises, promotes and controls sports in the district and coordinates the activities of various district sports associations. It also provides financial help to the other sports associations.

A badminton hall was constructed by the association in 1976-77 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 lakh. It bears the expenditure of teams selected for participation at state level sports meet.

The sources of income of the association include subscriptions/membership fee, grant from the state government, income from *dungles*, etc. The following figures show the income and expenditure of the association from 1970-71 to 1977-78 :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1970-71	6,168	11,648
1971-72	6,620	3,372
1972-73	15,421	15,854
1973-74	2,821	2,741
1974-75	4,678	3,530
1975-76	1,05,548	52,336
1976-77	1,65,865	1,93,795
1977-78	31,142	45,741

Zila Sainik Board, Narnaul.—The Board previously known as District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Board was established at Narnaul in 1953. The Deputy Commissioner, Mahendragarh, is its ex-officio President.

The main activities of the board is to look after the welfare of the soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families. It also suggests for the improvement of the service conditions of the soldiers.

The expenditure on the establishment of the board is shared by the Central and State Governments. The details of the income and expenditure during 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1975-76	58,480	56,850
1976-77	58,410	58,064
1977-78	63,170	62,061

District Child Welfare Council, Narnaul.—The council is affiliated to the Haryana State Council for Child Welfare. The main objectives of the council is to promote the welfare of the children and educate the public on child welfare work.

The council runs 10 *balwadis* at Mahendragarh, Dahina, Jainabad, Siha, Mondi, Balawas Ahir, Bhudpur, Gurawada, Khori and Narnaul and 7 creches at Jonawas, Hansara, Bikaner, Khori, Narnaul, Bachhod and Nangal Chaudhry. Besides, it maintains 6 supervised home work classes-cum-play centres and 2 special nutrition centres. The council celebrates *bal melas*, Independence Day and Republic Day.

The sources of income which include membership fee, subscription, donations, fee from *balwadis* and grant from Haryana State Council for Child Welfare. The income and expenditure of the council during 1975-76 to 1977-78 are given below :—

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1975-76	1,03,118	92,528
1976-77	1,49,457	1,37,681
1977-78	1,12,522	1,22,009

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

There was only one weekly market bulletin, namely, *Aggarwal Metal Samachar* which was started in 1953. In 1960, a Hindi daily *Haryana Times* was started at Narnaul but it was shifted to Gurgaon after a short period. Other publications, viz. *Press Mazdoor* weekly in Hindi started in 1970 and *Khetihar Hiteshi* a Hindi tri-weekly started in 1971, dealt with news and current affairs. The *Mohindergarh Education Journal*, a half-yearly published in English, Hindi and Punjabi was started in 1966. Many of these publications have been discontinued. However, the details of Newspapers/periodicals published from Mahendragarh District as on 31-3-1978 are given below :

Name of the Newspaper/Journal	Language	Periodicity	Place of Publication	Regularity
1. Jyotish Samachar	Hindi	Monthly	Rewari	Regular
2. Aggarwal Metal Samachar	Hindi	Weekly	Rewari	Regular
3. Modern Educator	Hindi, English, Punjabi	Annual	Rewari	Regular
4. Pheonix	Hindi, English	Annual	Rewari	Regular
5. Rewari Times	Hindi	Weekly	Rewari	Regular
6. Tridhara	Hindi, English	Bi-annual	Narnaul	Regular

The literate persons and other educated classes generally subscribe to the newspapers and periodicals published outside the district.