

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

A brief account of organizational set up, functions and activities of the departments, which have not been mentioned elsewhere in this Gazetteer, is presented below:-

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (PWD)

Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads) is a premier agency of the State Government for construction, up-gradation and maintenance of roads, buildings and bridges in the State. The department also acts as the technical advisor to the State Government in all aspects of construction activity. Panipat district comes under the Superintending Engineer, Karnal Circle of PWD. The Provincial Division, Panipat is headed by an Executive Engineer. It has three Sub-divisions, namely Panipat-I, Panipat II and Panipat III. Of these, Panipat II is situated at Samalkha, and the other two are at district headquarter. These Sub-divisions are headed by respective Sub-Divisional Engineers.

The functions and activities of this department in the district include construction and maintenance of new roads and bridges; design, construction and maintenance of government buildings; undertaking deposit contribution works relating to different departments of government as well as of other local bodies; development of parks and gardens in the vicinity of important public buildings and landscaping of grounds; maintenance and operation of government rest house located near the bus stand; evacuation of the encroachments coming along the road sides; and grant of permission for construction of approaches on both sides of roads to private individuals, institutions, factories, petrol pumps etc. The operations, maintenance and repair of the machinery belonging to the PWD (B & R) in the district are looked after by its Mechanical Division at Karnal.

CO - OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Co-operative Department is represented in the district by the Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies. The post of Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies at Panipat was created in 1970. The Assistant Registrar

functions under the administrative control of Registrar Co-operative Societies, Haryana, through Deputy Registrar Co-operative Societies, Karnal. The Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Panipat is assisted by 5 General Line Inspectors and two Special Line Inspectors (Industrial and Handloom). The department is responsible for the promotion and growth of co-operative movement in the district. The co-operative movement has grown over the years and it now undertakes a number of activities like industries, marketing, consumer stores, agriculture, irrigation, house building, poultry, milk supply, transport, banking, labour and construction etc.

The co-operative department arranges agriculture requisites, marketing consumer goods, and credit to meet the requirement of co-operative societies. The department also arranges the supply of chemical fertilizers improved seeds and pesticides through Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies, Marketing Co-operatives and Primary Agricultural and Rural Development Bank. The produce is routed through the marketing co-operatives for the benefit of the agriculturists. These societies provide loans to the agriculturists for non-agricultural purpose also. The needy persons take loan from the Co-operative Societies for various purposes like piggery, poultry, house building etc. The house building / group housing co-operative societies provide plots and flats to their respective members for residential purpose. The main function of the labour co-operatives is to provide work to the labourers, workers and to improve their economic conditions. The co-operative sugar mill crushes sugar cane for making sugar and supplies sugar cane seed to the farmers. Arrangement for procurement of raw material and sale of finished goods is one of the important functions of the Industrial Inspector in industrial co-operative societies.

FOOD AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The department is represented by the District Food and Supplies Controller who is assisted by a District Food and Supplies Officer, 4 Assistant Food Supplies Officers, 11 Food Supplies Inspectors, 12 Assistant Inspectors, and other subordinate staff.

The department is responsible primarily for procuring the food grains and other essential commodities, the proper storage of the procured stocks and the distribution of such procurements through its fair price shops. The activities of the department are regulated under the provisions of the Essential

Commodities Act, 1955. These fair price shops distribute food grains and other essential commodities like wheat, wheat-flour, sugar, kerosene oil etc. to the Below Poverty Line (BPL), *Antyodaya Ann Yojana* (AAY) and Above Poverty Line (APL) category ration card holders at subsidized rates and as per quantity fixed by the Central and State Governments from time to time under various schemes.

In 2011, there are 467 fair price shops, out of these 327 are in the rural and 140 are in the urban areas.

INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

This department is headed by the District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO), who is assisted by Assistant Information and Public Relations Officers and other subordinate staff. An office of the Assistant Information and Public Relation Officer is situated at Samalkha. Besides a television technician, there is one cinema operator-cum-video technician and three *bhajan* parties at Panipat headquarter. There are four publicity workers and one information centre assistant to maintain the information centre at Panipat. The administrative control of the department at the State level lies with the Directorate of Information, Public Relations and Cultural Affairs, Haryana.

The DIPRO maintains constant liaison with the press and the public in general for putting across the government point of view. He undertakes publicity campaigns through meetings, personal contacts, cinema shows, drama performances etc., with a view to inform and educate people of the district about various programmes and policies formulated by the government and the development made in different fields. He keeps the government informed of public reactions regarding its plans and policies and conveys public grievances to the authorities at district and state level. In addition the programmes are also organized by the department to highlight the cultural heritage of the Country and the State. It is also the duty of the DIPRO to give adequate publicity to new policies and schemes of the government for the benefit of the general public.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

The public health engineering department in the district is responsible for the work of public health and sanitation and it comes under its

Karnal circle. The department has two divisions in the district, namely PHED-I and PHED-II. The work of the department is looked after by three Executive Engineers with the assistance of six Sub-Divisional Engineers and subordinate staff.

The function of the department in the district is primarily to provide the piped drinking water in towns and villages, besides sewerage facilities in towns for which it provides water supply and sanitation connections. The department is also entrusted with storm water disposal in towns, construction of sewage treatment plants and for providing sanitary installations and amenities in government buildings in the district.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Planning Department is represented by two offices at district level, namely the office of District Statistical Officer and the office of Planning Officer. The District Statistical Officer is engaged with statistical activities of the various departments at the district level. He collects, compiles, analysis and maintains statistics concerning to various socio-economic aspects of the district. He checks and scrutinizes the periodical progress reports prepared by the Block Development and Panchayat Officers and other district level officers. He is assisted in his work by an Assistant District Statistical Officer, an Inspector, and other subordinate staff.

The Planning Officer formulates district development plans, on basis of financial resources available/received from the State Government, under the guidance and direction of the District Planning Advisory Board. He is also entrusted with the duties to draw up schemes of local importance; to collect basic data and prepare a status report about the position with regard to various development parameters; and to identify problems of different areas and steps required for tackling such problems keeping in view the potential for development at the local level. He is assisted in his work by a Research Assistant and subordinate staff.

The District Statistical Officer and the Planning Officer report to the Director, Economic and Statistical Analysis Department, Haryana, Panchkula.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

There is a district treasury at Panipat and four sub-treasuries at Samalkha, Bapoli, Israna and Madlauda. The sub-treasuries are manned by

the respective Assistant Treasury Officer and the overall control of all treasuries in the district vests with the District Treasury Officer who is also Incharge of district treasury.

The Sub-treasury at Panipat was upgraded as District Treasury after the carving out of Panipat as separate district from Karnal. Sub-treasuries at Samalkha and Bapoli came into existence in 1988, whereas at Israna and Madlauda were established in 1993. The government business is undertaken by State Bank of India at Panipat and Bapoli treasuries. State Bank of Patiala, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Central Bank of India are authorized to conduct government transactions in the treasuries at Samalkha, Israna and Madlauda, respectively.

The District Treasury and the Sub-treasuries are functioning under the control of Finance Department at State headquarter level. These are fully computerized and connected through internet with each other and rest of the treasuries in the State. The main functions of the Treasury Officer are accounting of receipts of revenue of Central and State Government, and checking and disbursement of bills of pay and allowance of the State Government employees. The other functions include sale of stamp papers; payments of the bills pertaining to salaries, travelling expenses, office expenses, petrol, medical, ex-gratia, grants-in-aid, pension, retirement benefits etc., presented by various Drawing and Disbursing Officers; payment of refund vouchers of Courts, Stamp Papers, etc.; transfer of fresh pension papers of the retired government employees to the public sector banks; all kinds of correspondence with the office of Accountant General (A&E), Haryana regarding pensioners and with the concerned banks where the pensioner/family pensioner is drawing his/her pension; and accounting of receipts like those of Excise Duty, Sale Tax, Transport Tax etc., of the Haryana government.

WELFARE OF SCs AND BCs DEPARTMENT

The Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is represented at the district level by the District Welfare Officer (DWO), who is assisted by Tehsil Welfare Officers. The DWO functions under the administrative control of the Director, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Haryana. The main functions of the DWO are to create opinion against untouchability and to adopt measures for the welfare and uplift

of members of scheduled castes, *vimukat jatis* and backward classes. He implements the schemes formulated by the Government for their welfare and looks after the interest of these people against victimization, exploitation, ejection etc. He also provides guidance for getting employment in industrial establishment and also the legal assistance to the members of scheduled castes, *vimukt jatis* and backward classes.

The department runs *balwadis* and community centres for the welfare of children and women of scheduled castes and backward classes. The women oriented training programmes of sewing, cutting, embroidery etc. are held in the community centres. The lady social workers hold classes in the *balwadis* and impart social awareness about the schemes undertaken by the welfare of children and women in the community centres. They pay visit to the slums and colonies to deliver lectures to women regarding care of babies, general cleanliness etc., and create public opinion among residents that they should observe no distinction with other castes and even among themselves.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Department of Women and Child Development works with the threefold vision for economic and social empowerment of women; making women partner in social development in an environment free from violence and discrimination; and provision of opportunities to children and adolescent girls for growth and development to the fullest in safe and protected environment.

The department at the district level is represented by the Programme Officer (ICDS) who works under the overall control of the Director, Women and Child Development Department, Haryana. The Programme Officer is assisted by a *mukhya sevika*, and at block level by 6 Child Development Project Officers (CDPO).

The department undertakes various projects and schemes for the welfare of children and women in the district which include special cells for women and children, ladli scheme, gender sensitization programme, scheme for the construction of *anganwadi* centres building, scheme for improving infant and young child feeding, specific scheme to curb anemia and other nutrition and sanitation based ailments. The department also grants awards for rural adolescent girls, best mother award, nutrition award, state level awards for improvement in sex ratio, and besides undertaking the new

initiatives like sports meet for women, conversion of mahila-mandals into self-help groups, etc.

FIRE BRIGADE

The Fire Brigade service in Panipat was started, by establishing a fire sub-station in the industrial area, in 1966 when it was a tehsil of Karnal. After Panipat became an independent district, it was upgraded as Fire-Station. Later two new substations were established one in Urban Estate, Panipat and another in Samalkha. The Fire Brigade works under the aegis of the Panipat Municipal Corporation. In the fire units at district headquarter town, there are 12 fire tenders, and 2 fire tenders are stationed at Samalkha. The district has a total strength of 131 firemen including the fire-officers. As on 31st March, 2011, the number of firemen posted at district headquarters and in Samalkha fire substation is 117 and 14, respectively.

The statutory duty of the fire-brigade is to save lives and property in case of fire/disaster and the main purpose is to help those in distress. Nevertheless, in the interest of public welfare, special services, which involve lifesaving or rescue operations, humanitarian services, and services urgently necessary in the public interest are rendered in collaboration with the police department. These services cover a wide range of incidents such as collapsing of house/industrial shed, train and motor accidents, drowning accidents, tree collapses, earth quake, oil, acid and chemical spillages etc.

In addition to offices of above mentioned departments, offices of various boards, corporations, federations and co-operatives of the Central and of the State Government are also located in the district, for example Haryana State Agriculture and Marketing Board, Zila Sainik Board, Khadi and Village Industries Board, HAFED, CONFED, Haryana Financial Corporation, Warehousing Corporation, Uttar Haryana Bijali Vitarn Nigam, Panipat Oil Refinery, Thermal Power Plant, IFFCO, etc.
