

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The main functions of some of the important Departments in the district have been dealt with in some of the former and later chapters of this volume. In this chapter, brief account of various other Departments of the State Government is given. The general activities of some of these Departments and also their activities and achievements have received attention in other relevant chapters. In this chapter, only their brief administrative set up and functions have been described.

Public Works Department

The three wings of the Public Works Department (PWD) located in the district are public Health (now renamed as Water Supply & Sanitation Branch), Building & Roads and Irrigation.

Water Supply and Sanitation Branch

The work of water supply, sewerage and sanitary installations in Kurukshetra district are under the charge of Superintending Engineer, Water Supply and Sanitation Circle, Karnal. In Kurukshetra district, there is only one Division under his administrative control, namely, PWD Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Kurukshetra which is mainly concerned with the work relating to the maintenance and original works of Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes of Kurukshetra, Ladwa, Pehowa, Shahabad as also the Rural Water Supply Scheme in the whole district. The Executive Engineer incharge of this Division is assisted by five Sub Divisional Engineers. Whereas Sub Divisions No. 1, 2 and 3 are located at Kurukshetra, the remaining two are at Sahabad and Pehowa.

Building and Roads

The work of building & roads (except National Highway) in the district is being handled by two Divisions located at Kurukshetra. Both these Divisions are under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, Ambala Circle.

Provincial Division No. 1, PWD B & R, Kurukshetra.- Headed by an Executive Engineer, this Division is functioning since July, 1964. It has three Sub Divisions-two at Kurukshetra and one at Pehowa. Pehowa Sub Division maintains buildings and roads in Pehowa area. This Division is engaged on the activity of maintenance of Government buildings (both office and residential) in Kurukshetra district. It also looks after the construction of buildings and roads of Kurukshetra Development Board, ITI, Jail and Ch. Devi Lal Library etc.

Provincial Division No. II, PWD B & R, Kurukshetra.- This Division is functioning since June, 1977. Barring Pehowa area, this Division is responsible for construction and maintenance of roads in Kurukshetra district. Its three Sub Divisions are located at Shahabad, Pipli and Ladwa.

Irrigation

Water Services Division, Kurukshetra.-This Division is under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, SYL Circle, Ambala and is primarily responsible for regulating canal water supplies in Kurukshetra and its adjoining areas. It has two Sub Divisions – one at Jyotisar and the other at Pehowa.

Construction Division No. XIV, Kurukshetra/ Construction Division, Kurukshetra.- Both these Divisions are under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, Hathni Kund Barrage Circle, Jagadhri and are engaged on the construction of Dadupur-Nalvi Canal Project. Previously, only Division No. XIV was engaged on this project but, keeping in view the existing workload and to further speed up the progress, the Construction Division has been shifted from Sirsa to Kurukshetra.

Haryana Irrigation Management and Research Institute (HIRMI), Kurukshetra.- This Institute was earlier known as HIRTI and was under the administrative control of a Director (in the rank of Superintending Engineer). Under the covenants of Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project of the World Bank, it was converted into an independent Body w.e.f. May 1, 1998 and was registered under the Societies Registration Act. It is now headed by a Principal (in the rank of Chief Engineer). It imparts training to the in-service Engineers and has various Research Farms and Testing Laboratories.

Electricity Corporations/Nigams

Electricity Board of the composite State of Punjab was bifurcated on formation of Haryana as a separate State w.e.f. November 1, 1966. Haryana State Electricity Board thereafter Started functioning w.e.f. May 2, 1967. In order to avail institutional loans for increasing power generation and to make the power sector viable, the business of Haryana State Electricity Board was transferred to four different Companies. Consequently, the business of power generation and power transmission was transferred to Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL) and Haryana Vidyut Parsharan Nigam Limited (HVPN) w.e.f. 14th August, 1998. The business of power distribution to industrial, commercial and domestic sectors, however, was transferred to Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) and Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) about an year later i.e. vide Government Notification dated July 1, 1999.

Operation Division, UHBVN, Kurukshetra.-This Division is under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Kurukshetra and looks after the work of supply and maintenance of electricity to urban and rural areas of the district and provides new industrial, agricultural and domestic connections apart from carrying out billing and recovery of dues for supply of power. It also attends to public complaints with regard to power shut down, erratic and low voltage supply, power theft and fault repairs. It has four Divisions - two at Kurukshetra, one at Ladwa and the other at Pipli.

M&P Division, UHBVN, Kurukshetra.- This Division is under the administrative control of Superintending Engineer, M and P Circle, Delhi and looks after the work of metering and protection of 66,132 and 220 KV sub stations. These meters are periodically tested with regard to their accuracy and efficient functioning. New 33 KV sub stations are tested by this Division before their commissioning. These are also checked by this Division after every six months besides fault repairing as and when occurred. The XEN incharge of this Division is assisted by three Assistant Executive Engineers.

Construction Division, HVPN, Kurukshetra.- This Division is under the control of an Executive Engineer who is assisted by two Sub Divisional Officers both headquartered at Kurukshetra. This Division

is responsible for construction of power houses, erection of 11 KV HT lines and laying of new transmission lines for new connections for tubewells in the district.

Operation Division, UHBVN, Pehowa.-This Division is headed by an Executive Engineer and it has two Sub Divisions-one at Guhla-Cheeka and the other at Pehowa. This Division is responsible for supply of power, raising of bills and recovery of dues, fault repair with regard to high/low voltage, erratic supply, power thefts and misc. breakdowns.

Operation Division, UHBVN, Shahabad.- This Division also carries the same functions as are being handled by other Operation Divisions in the district. It is headed by an Executive Engineer and has its Sub Divisions at Ismailabad, Ladwa, Babain and Shahabad.

For efficient functioning of the system, all electrical items and material required for construction, operation and maintenance are supplied to the indenting Divisions/ Sub Divisions in the district by the Central Stores of the respective Nigams. For this purpose, they have Stores Sub Divisions at Pipli, Shahabad and Pehowa.

Co-Operation Department

The Co-operation Department in the district is headed by Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Kurukshetra who functions under the overall administrative control of Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Haryana.

The Co-operative Movement in the State has gathered momentum and in district Kurukshetra, this movement has grown over the years and it now embraces a number of activities like agriculture, industries, marketing, consumer stores, labour and construction, drip and sprinkler irrigation, house-building, farming, transport and banking. The Department arranges credit requirement for these sectors and caters to the other needs of the Co-operative Societies which number 570 with a total membership of 2,36,257 during the year 2003-04 in Kurukshetra district.

For carrying out the above-stated activities, the Deputy Registrar is further assisted by an Assistant Registrar who has a team of 8 Inspectors and 24 sub Inspectors. This team is responsible for the healthy growth of Co-operative Movement in the district.

Finance Department

The District Treasury of Kurukshetra is headed by a Treasury Officer who is assisted by 4 Assistant Treasury Officers who are incharge of the Sub Treasuries at Pehowa, Ismailabad, Ladwa and Shahabad. These Treasuries receive Central and State revenues including sales of stamps and disburse the State and Central payments and maintain their accounts. The cash transaction of the District Treasury and Sub Treasuries are conducted through the branches of the State Bank of India at Kurukshetra, Shahabad and Ladwa, through the Punjab National Bank at Ismailabad and by State Bank of Patiala at Pehowa.

Planning Department

The Planning Department in the district is headed by a District Statistical Officer who functions under the administrative control of the Economic and Statistical Adviser to Government Haryana, Planning Department, Chandigarh. The District Statistical Officer (DSO) coordinates the statistical activities of the different Departments at the district level. He collects, compiles, analyses and maintains statistical data relating to various socio- economic aspects of the district. He also scrutinizes periodical progress reports received from the BDPOs. The reports of other District Officers are also checked and scrutinized by the DSO besides publishing various Annual and Monthly issues of District Statistical Abstract, Municipal Year Book, District Socio-economic Review, Progress Report on 20-points Programme, Market Arrival Prices of Agricultural Produce and whole sales / Retail prices of various household commodities. The District Statistical Officer also conducts various socio-economic surveys, maintains records about arrival of essential commodities, checks seasonal crop reports and conducts annual census of Government employees. He also maintains registers relating to agricultural holdings and family budgets in the rural areas of the district.

Food and Supplies Department

This Department is headed by the District Food & Supplies Controller who is assisted by a District Food and Supplies Officer, 8 Assistant Food and Supplies Officer, 28 Inspectors and 25 Sub Inspectors. The DFSC functions under the administrative control of Director, Food and Supplies, Haryana. He is responsible for the

procurement of foodgrains and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities through Fair Price Shops. These activities are regulated through various Control/Licensing Orders issued by the Food and Supplies Department, mainly under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Orders issued thereunder.

In May, 2004, there were 334 Fair Price Shops (67 urban and 267 rural) in the district. These shops distribute sugar, wheat, wheat flour, rice, kerosene oil to the consumers against Distribution Cards at the rates fixed by the Government.

Public Relations Department

This Department is headed by the District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) who is assisted by one Assistant Public Relations Officer posted at Pehowa. Three field Publicity Assistants (including one Lady Field Publicity Assistant), two Cinema Operators and four *Bhajan* Parties at Kurukshetra, Pehowa, Shahabad and Ladwa and five Block Publicity workers at Kurukshetra, Thanesar, Pehowa Shahabad and Ladwa. There are two Information Centres one each at Kurukshetra and Pehowa. The administrative control of this office at State level is with the Director, Public Relations, Haryana, Chandigarh.

The DPRO maintains constant liaison with the Press and the public in general for putting across the Government's point of view. He undertakes publicity drives through meetings, cinema shows, video shows, drama performances and personal contacts with a view to inform and educate the people about various programmes and Policies formulated by the Government and the development made in different fields. He 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 the community listening scheme under which TV sets and VCD/ DVD sets have been allotted to Panchayats and Schools.

In addition to the above, offices of District Managers of various Boards/ Corporations/ Federations of the Central and State Government are also located in the district e.g. HAFED, CONFED, HLRDC, BC, SC, EWS Kalyan Nigams, HSAMB, Khadi & Village Industries Board, HFC, Warehousing Corpn., FCI, IFFCO, NFL, BBMB, LIC etc., besides Branch offices of some of the leading Nationalised, Private and Co-operative Banks.