

CHAPTER X.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

HISTORY.

In 1900 the provisions of the Local Self-Government Act III (B.C.) of 1855 were extended to this district and the Hazaribagh District Board was established. The Board then consisted of 17 members of whom 6 were *ex officio* members, by virtue of their office, 8 were non-officials appointed by the Government and only 3 were elected by the members of the Giridih Local Board. The Deputy Commissioner of the district was the *ex officio* Chairman and the Vice-Chairman was elected by the members. The duration of the office of the Board was for a period of three years only. A second stage of progress was reached when the Chairman was made *ex officio* and members were elected or nominated.

Election for the office of the Chairman was introduced in 1939. Since 1939 a number of changes were introduced. The number of the members comprising the Board was raised to 40 out of which 28 were elected by the electors of the different constituencies who pay Chaukidari tax, 9 were nominated by the State Government and 3 were representatives of Mining Associations (two from the Coal Mining Association and one from the Mica Mining Association). Now both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are elected from amongst these members.

LOCAL BOARD.

The District Board has two Local Boards, one at Giridih and the other at Chatra. The Local Boards look after the local administration and are under the administrative control of the District Board. The Giridih Local Board was created in the year 1906 and the Chatra Local Board was created in the year 1944. The Giridih Local Board was previously composed of 9 members and the Sub-divisional Officer of Giridih Subdivision was the *ex officio* Chairman. The rest of the members were nominated non-officials. Since 1947 the Giridih Local Board has 14 members, out of which 11 are elected and the rest are co-opted by the District Board. The Chatra Local Board consists of 8 members, of which 6 are elected and 2 are co-opted by the District Board. Full powers in respect of Education, Veterinary and Civil Works have been delegated to the Local Boards with necessary funds by the District Board. The Local Boards prepare their own budget which are incorporated in the main budget estimates of the District Board.

UNION BOARDS.

There are six Union Boards under the direct control of the District Board. They are situated at the following places:—

- (1) Ichak.
- (2) Mirzaganj.
- (3) Gola.
- (4) Dhanwar.
- (5) Sariya.
- (6) Chitterpur.

The Union Boards are mainly for sanitation. They receive a block grant of Rs. 11,170 from the District Board and they are empowered to raise further funds up to a certain limit through taxation. Their budget estimates are controlled and passed by the District Board. The members of the Union Board are elected. The Union Boards are now being replaced by the Gram Panchayat.

MINES BOARD.

With the creation of the Mines Board in 1939, the mining area of approximately 160.24 square miles with a population of 1,50,000 has passed from the jurisdiction of the District Board to the Mines Board. The Mines Board consists of 11 members two of whom are representatives of the District Board, two are nominated by the Railway Board, two are elected by the Indian Mining Association, four are nominated by the State Government and one person in the service of the Government to be nominated by the State Government (at present the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh as the Chairman of the Board). The Deputy Commissioner is the *ex officio* Chairman. The duties of the Mines Board are more or less the same as those of the District Board.

JURISDICTION AND DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

With the exception of the area of 160.24 square miles under the Mines Board the jurisdiction of the District Board extends to the rest of the district.

The duties of the District Board consist mainly of looking after the means of communication (construction and maintenance of the public roads, construction of new roads, bridges, maintenance and buildings of rest houses), promotion and supervision of education, sanitation, medical relief to human beings, veterinary aid for the livestock and water supply of the district. Ferries and cattle pounds are also under the control and direct management of the Board.

INCOME.

The main source of income is the cess on land, cess on mines and forests. On the average of four years, that is 1950-51 to 1953-54, the cess receipts under these heads may be said to be Rs. 5,39,586 annually. Due to abolition of zamindari the cess income of the Board has fallen in arrears to some extent. Collection of cess is made by the State and the amount is credited to the District Board's account after the deduction of collection charges. Government contributions amount to about Rs. 2,00,000. Income from pounds, ferries and other miscellaneous receipts approximate to Rs. 7,500, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 50,000, respectively. In addition to this special grants are also received from Government for specific purposes. Such grants for 1951-52 to 1953-54 were as follows :—

	Rs.
1951-52	7,22,132
1952-53	5,77,099
1953-54	7,34,011

Previously, the income from coal mines was a source of income to the District Board. But due to the creation of the Mines Board the revenue of the District Board has been affected adversely. The distribution of coal cess between the Mines Board and the District Board is on a 50 : 50 basis but up to a limit of Rs. 3,00,000. If the revenue exceeds this amount, the excess is distributed at 75 : 25 basis, 75 per cent going to the District Board and 25 per cent being allotted to the Mines Board. The amount of cess receipt by the District Board is as follows :—

Year.	Coal cess.	Mica cess.	Forest cess.	Land cess.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51	2,07,954	38,434	63,293	1,06,254	4,15,936
1951-52	2,81,928	64,360	5,799	70,335	4,10,816
1952-53	3,84,538	1,45,827	53,422	56,349	6,40,138
1953-54	4,88,212	45,525	14,519	17,199	6,91,456

EXPENDITURE.

The main items of expenditure are Education, Medical Services and Public Health, Veterinary Services, and Civil Works.

Education.

The District Board directly manages 39 middle schools, 113 upper primary schools and 637 lower primary schools. The Board gives aid to four middle schools. In 1952-53 the District Board had employed 1,474 teachers and a sum of Rs. 6,94,260 was spent on their remuneration and allowances. An inspecting staff is maintained by the State Government and the staff advises the Board in the management and running of schools. There is an Education Committee consisting of 8 members out of whom 4 are members of the Board and 4 are co-opted by the Board. The Committee deals with all matters connected with education and forwards its proceedings and suggestions to the Board for confirmation. The Education Committee is formed every year.

Medical Services and Public Health.

The Board maintains 29 Allopathic dispensaries, 6 Ayurvedic dispensaries and aids or subsidises 29 dispensaries. The 29 Allopathic dispensaries are provided with two beds each for emergency cases. The total expenditure incurred on Medical Relief during the year 1952-53 amounted to Rs. 1,61,491.

The staff appointed to look after the Public Health consists of one District Health Officer, three Assistant Health Inspectors, 33 Health Inspectors, 56 Vaccinators, 66 Disinfectors and 17 Sanitary Inspectors. A sum of Rs. 1,67,442 was spent on this department in 1952-53. There are 693 wells excavated by the District Board. The Board has appointed a Sanitation Committee consisting of 11 members of whom 5 are co-opted and the rest are members of the Board. Like the Education Committee this Committee is formed every year.

Veterinary Services.

Nine Veterinary Assistants are employed at the joint expense of the Board and the Government, while one touring Veterinary Assistant Surgeon at Sariya is maintained entirely at the cost of the Board. Of these Veterinary Assistants two are attached to Hospitals, one at Hazaribagh and the other at Giridih, while the rest tour the interior.

Approximately a sum of Rs. 33,000 is spent annually on this department.

Civil Works.

The Board has a Public Works Committee and all matters concerning Civil Works are sent to the Board through this Committee. The Committee consists of 7 members of whom 3 are co-opted and is constituted every year. It attends to the construction and maintenance of the roads, bridges, culverts, buildings, Dak and Inspection Bungalows. The Board has a total length of 871 miles of roads, 7 Dak Bungalows, 10 Inspection Bungalows and 189 school buildings, apart from its office buildings at Hazaribagh, Giridih and Chatra. On account of heavy repayment of loan every year and on account of the division of income between the District Board and the Mines Board, the Board is forced to reduce its expenditure on repairs to roads by nearly 50 per cent. The Board spends approximately Rs. 40,000 every year on this department.

Pounds and Ferries.

The Board is managing 80 pounds and 12 ferries. The receipt from pounds and ferries approximate to Rs. 10,000 every year.

Rest Bungalows.

The District Board maintains 23 Inspection and Dak Bungalows at the following places :—

Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Gola, Peterbar, Manjhidih, Barkagaon, Tandwa, Sariya, Kodarma, Markacha, Chatra, Pitiz, Huntergunj, Giridih, Jamua, Dharwar, Gawan, Satgawan, Barkatta, Gomia, Dudhimati, Khejoori and Semaria.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Hazaribagh Municipality.—The Municipality at Hazaribagh was established on the 1st April, 1869, later covered by the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884. The area included within the municipal limits according to the Census Report of 1951 is 7.1 square miles. The present population is 33,812 and the number of rate-payers is 4,231 or 12.2 per cent of the population. The municipal area is divided into 10 wards and the number of Commissioners to be elected is 21 and the number of those to be nominated is 5. Previously the Deputy Commissioner used to be the *ex officio* Chairman but since 1922 the Chairman is also elected from amongst the members.

The income of the Municipality is largely derived from the holding tax which is $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the annual value of the holdings. The latrine tax which is $7\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the holding tax and fees on dangerous trades, and taxes, fees on vehicles other than motor cars, trucks and buses. Vehicles that are taxed are carts, *sagars*, cycles, *tamtams*, hand-carts and rickshaws. The total income of Hazaribagh Municipality in 1952-53 was Rs. 8,21,563 out of which Rs. 6,099 is received from registration of license and vehicle tax, Rs. 84,362 from holding and latrine taxes, Rs. 1,445 from license fees on dangerous trades, Rs. 19,946 from municipal properties, Rs. 1,620 from miscellaneous sources, Rs. 3,89,928 from grants from Government, and Rs. 3,18,163 from extraordinary and debt.

The per capita ensue of total income is Rs. 2-8-0 and the incidence of income from taxes per capita is Rs. 13-7-0. The main items of expenditure are administration, lighting, interest on loan, water supply, conservancy, medical relief and public health, civil works and education. In the year 1952-53 the total expenditure of the Municipality amounted to Rs. 7,54,032 out of which Rs. 14,500 was spent on general administration, Rs. 12,892 on public safety, Rs. 7,801 on epidemics, Rs. 8,171 on drainage, sewerage, etc., Rs. 722 on water supply, Rs. 84,262 on conservancy, Rs. 20,788 on miscellaneous items, Rs. 2,351 on medical, Rs. 27,442 on public works and public convenience, Rs. 49,722 on public instruction, Rs. 5,11,649 on interest on loans and other items such as loan charges, printing charges, etc., and Rs. 13,732 on extraordinary items.

Since 1949 when primary education was made free for all, the Government increased its education grant from about Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 27,000. In the year 1952-53 the Government granted Rs. 34,726 for education, Rs. 812 for civil works and Rs. 1,400 for public health. Since the year 1951 electric lights have replaced kerosene lamps on the streets and by constructing an earthen dam over river Chharwa, four miles away from the town, water pipes have been brought to Hazaribagh. For this work, since 1951 to 1953, the Government granted Rs. 6,23,524 to the Hazaribagh Municipality. The scheme has been executed and water supply is now given through pipes since the 29th of May, 1954.

The Municipality maintains 14.62 mileage of roads out of which 2.17 miles are metalled, 5.28 miles are coal-tarred, 3.5 miles are gravelled and 3.67 miles are *kutcha*. The Municipality maintains 18 schools, namely, one middle school, 5 upper primary schools and 12 primary schools.

Chatra Municipality.—Chatra Municipality was created in 1869. The area covered by Chatra Municipality is 3.78 square miles. The number of tax-payers is 1,940 as against 9,943 which is the population according to 1951 Census.

The Municipality maintains 10 upper primary and lower primary schools. It maintains 9.13 miles of roads out of which 1.03 is metalled.

The income and expenditure of Chatra Municipality under the different heads for the year 1952-53 are as follows :—

Income.		Expenditure.	
	Rs.		Rs.
1 Holding, latrine, water, lighting, drainage, etc., taxes.	8,785	1 General Administration and collection charges.	3,703
2 Municipal registration license and other fees such as Cart, Cycle, Vehicle registration fees.	1,072	2 Public safety ..	566
3 License fees on dangerous and offensive trades.	643	3 Epidemic including special establishment charges.	324
4 Other items, i.e., income from cattle pounds.	1,126	4 Drainage and sewerage works including vaccination.	842
5 Registrations under Special Acts	10	5 Water supply and water works.	491
6 Revenue derived from municipal properties and powers apart from taxation.	4,584	6 Conservancy ..	5,822
7 Grants and contributions from Government.	12,963	7 Miscellaneous, i.e., markets and slaughter houses and other miscellaneous items.	533
8 Miscellaneous ..	75	8 Medical ..	953

Income.		Expenditure.	
	Rs.		Rs.
9 Extraordinary and debt.	2,361	9 Public works and public convenience.	1,611
		10 Public Instructions ..	7,331
		11 Interest on loans and other items such as law charges, printing charges, etc.	6,791
		12 Extraordinary and debt payment, advances and deposits.	2,666
Total ..	<u>31,439</u>	Total ..	<u>31,683</u>

Giridih Municipality.—The Municipality of Giridih was established in 1902. The municipal area then comprised of Barmania, Makatpur, Baraganda and Giridih towns. In 1919, village Baro was included in the municipal area. The area has since increased to 3.06 square miles from 1.35 square miles. The number of holdings is 4,348. The number of tax-payers is 4,114 as against 29,469, the population according to 1951 Census. There are 20 Municipal Commissioners out of whom 16 are elected and 4 are nominated by the Government. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are elected by the Municipal Commissioners while the Municipal Commissioners are elected from the different wards. There are one middle and seven primary schools managed by the Municipality. The figure of primary schools also includes such primary schools which receive only grants-in-aid. The Municipality gives grant-in-aid to two Homeopathic dispensaries.

The receipts and expenditure for 1952-53 for Giridih Municipality are as follows :—

<i>Receipts.</i>		Rs.
(A) Municipal Taxes	...	38,614
(B) Municipal registration, license and other fees	...	19,910
(C) Realisation under special Acts	...	1

		Rs.
	(D) Revenue derived from municipal property and power apart from taxation ...	4,147
Rs.	(E) Grant and contribution for general and special purposes ...	47,617
1,611	(F) Miscellaneous ...	2,486
7,331	(G) Extraordinary and debts ...	17,141
3,791		<hr/>
	Total Receipts ...	1,79,916
	Opening Balance ...	51,403
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	Grand Total ...	2,31,319
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	<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		Rs.
	(A) General Administration and collection charges	11,639
	(B) Public safety ...	5,578
683	(C) Public Health ...	11,154
	(D) Medical ...	626
	(E) Public Convenience ...	16,307
	(F) Public Instruction ...	30,889
	(G) Miscellaneous ...	7,129
	(H) Extraordinary and debt ...	9,870
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	Total Expenditure ...	93,192
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Notified Area Committee, Jhumri Tilaiya.—This Notified Area Committee was constituted in the year 1952. This replaced the Union Committee that was here prior to 1952. Its jurisdiction is over an area of 17.16 square miles divided into 8 wards.

The Committee consists of 15 nominated members; the Sub-divisional Officer of Sadar is the *ex officio* Chairman, the Inspector of Mica Accounts, Assistant Electrical Engineer, and Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department are *ex officio* members. The other 11 members are non-officials. To start work the Government granted an interest-free loan of Rs. 10,000. Holding tax at 10 per cent, latrine tax at 2½ per cent and light tax at ½ per cent on the annual rental value of the holdings are levied. In addition to this license fees and registration fees are also realised.

The income including the initial Government loan of Rs. 10,000 was Rs. 46,174 in the year 1952-53 and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 26,991 for the same year.

The Committee maintained only one primary school in the beginning and now it maintains four primary schools excluding one night school within its area. It also maintains one mile of pucca road, 66 yards of brick-paved road, 885 yards of gravelled road and 13 miles of *kutchha* road approximately. The population is about 30,000 and the number of rate-payers is 1,465 at present.

RAMGARH CANTONMENT.

A regular cantonment under the Cantonments Act of 1924 was constituted at Ramgarh with effect from the 15th March, 1941. The prisoners of war camp during the Second World War and the training camp for Chinese troops were situated here throughout the continuance of the hostilities and the historic session of the Indian National Congress of 1940 was also held here under the Presidency of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The Cantonment occupies an area of 13.9 square miles and has a road mileage of 26 miles. Out of this area the Government have acquired and own one-sixth of the lands while the rest is private property and has been included in the Cantonment to secure control over the neighbouring civilian population in the interest of the health and welfare of the troops. In this respect, Ramgarh differs from all other cantonments in India, where invariably almost all lands included in the Cantonment are owned by the Government. The civilian population of the Ramgarh Cantonment according to the Census of 1951 is 14,775. The administration of the Cantonment was, originally, in the hands of a Board consisting of the Commanding Officer, one nominated military officer and one civilian nominated member. Since 1948, a full-fledged Cantonment Board consisting of 15 members with 7 elected and 8 official members is functioning.

The chief sources of income are grant from Central Government, house tax, dog tax, bullock-cart tax and cycle and rickshaw tax. In the year 1953-54 the total income was Rs. 1,88,759-12-0 while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,80,613. The Board maintains one dispensary, one upper primary girls' school, a library and a reading room. Schemes are under consideration for establishing one in-patient ward in the Cantonment dispensary and for the expansion of primary education.

The Gandhi Memorial High School is situated within the Cantonment and caters to the needs of the residents of the Cantonment and surrounding areas.

GRAM PANCHAYAT.

The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act of 1947 is being implemented in this district from the 17th November, 1948. The Act aims at establishment and development of Local Self-Government in the village communities and to organise and improve their social and economic life.

The 6,129 villages of Hazaribagh district have a rural population of 18 lakhs and 50 thousands. The area of these villages approximates to 7,016 square miles. At present there are 401 Gram Panchayats working which means that on average a Gram Panchayat looks after 17 villages of about 17 square miles in total and approximates 4,613 persons. Out of these 401 Panchayats, 104 are, at present, notified and the rest, i.e., 297, are probationary Gram Panchayats.

The Gram Panchayats function through three separate bodies, namely,—

- (1) Mukhia and his executive committee.
- (2) Gram Cutcherry consisting of 15 panches headed by a Sarpanch.
- (3) The village volunteer force headed by a Chief Officer called Dalpati.

The Mukhia and the 15 panches are elected on the basis of adult franchise. The executive consists of not less than 7 and not more than 14 members; this number includes the Mukhia as well. These members are nominated by the Mukhia.

He also appoints the Chief Officer to organise and control the village volunteer force. Every adult who is not convicted, who is not insolvent or charged with moral turpitude can be a member of the Gram Panchayat. Usually there are two general meetings, to pass the budget and to consider accounts.

A Gram Panchayat has to look after (a) sanitation and conservancy, (b) medical relief and first aid, (c) supply and storage of water and its disinfection, (d) maintenance of crop, animal and vital statistics, (e) control and prevention of epidemics and infectious diseases, and (f) maintenance and construction of village roads and paths. Apart from these compulsory duties, it is also charged with a set of optional duties, such as (a) primary education and (b) improving the breed of livestock.

The Gram Panchayat can assess, impose, levy and collect taxes like labour tax and property tax to carry out its duties.

It is also provided with an elective judiciary in the shape of Gram Cutcherry to discharge its limited judicial functions. It is empowered to try petty offences and to adjudicate civil suits up to the valuation of one hundred rupees. It functions both as original and appellate courts, the original bench consisting of the sarpanch and two panches nominated

by the parties to the dispute and the appellate bench consists of its entire panel of 15 panches of which 8 form the quorum. It mainly works as a court of conciliation and tries to bring about an amicable settlement of disputes.

The village volunteer force consists of all able-bodied males of the village between the ages of 18 and 30 for general watch and ward duties and to meet the cases of emergency like fire, the bursting of an embankment or dam, outbreak of epidemic and occurrence of burglary and dacoity within the limits of the Gram Panchayat.

During 1951-52, 1,341 cases and 205 suits were filed before the different notified Gram Panchayats of Hazaribagh, 967 cases and 108 suits were compromised, 266 cases and 46 suits were pending. In 6 cases and in one suit appeals were made to the Subdivisional Officer, and, to the Munsif against the decision of panches, but all decisions barring one were either upheld or modified.

The statistics show that in village reconstruction more effort and money were spent on irrigation. Within the year 1951-52, 10 canals, 664 wells, 42 tanks, 259 *ahars* and 87 *pynes* were constructed whereas only two miles of road and 91 *kutchas* bridges and culverts were constructed. The total of the units of labour tax utilised on improvement of communications were for the same year Rs. 43,899.