

## CHAPTER XV.

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

#### FIRST GENERAL ELECTION OF 1952.

After the attainment of independence the First General Election was held in 1952. This election was a unique feature as it was for the first time, that election was held on the basis of adult franchise.

Previously franchise for the local bodies, Provincial Assembly or Council was based on the restrictions of property, tax, educational qualifications or communal representation, etc., and all this accounted for a low percentage of voters. Adult franchise, the great feature of 1952 election provided equal opportunities for men and women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward classes to exercise their right of votes. It has been a great experiment.

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

In the General Election of 1952, 11,16,953 persons or about 40.8 per cent of the population of Bhagalpur district was eligible for exercising their right to franchise. There were 18 constituencies for *Bihar Vidhan Sabha* (Bihar Legislative Assembly) out of which four were plural and 14 were single constituencies. The political parties that participated in the election for the 22 seats were of all-India character. 32 Independent candidates contested the 16 Assembly seats with no result. The results of the 1952 General Election with regard to the Assembly seats are given in the four tables at the end of the Chapter.

#### *Parliamentary Seats.*

In the General Election of 1952 the following were the two Parliamentary constituencies in the district of Bhagalpur:—

(1) Bhagalpur Central.

(2) Bhagalpur South.

For the purpose of *Lok Sabha* or the Indian Parliament a few constituencies of Darbhanga and Purnea were joined to Bhagalpur-cum-Darbhanga and Bhagalpur-cum-Purnea constituency.

Bhagalpur-cum-Purnea was a double member constituency for which four candidates, belonging to Congress and Socialist Party contested. One seat was captured by Congress and another seat by Socialist Party.

In Bhagalpur-cum-Darbhanga Parliamentary constituency there was a direct fight between candidates for the Congress and Socialist Party. The seat went to the member of the Congress Party.

Bhagalpur Central was a single member constituency for which only five candidates, two of Congress, two of Socialist and one of Jan Sangh contested and Congress occupied this seat also.

Lastly, Bhagalpur South was also a single member constituency for which four candidates, one of Congress, one of Socialist, one each of Independent and one of Kisan Majdoor Praja Party contested and the Congress got this seat also. A list of the details of this election may be seen at Table 2 of this Chapter at the close.

#### 1957 GENERAL ELECTION.

The Second General Election was held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls made in 1952 subject to modification made therein in course of five years that elapsed since then. There is one election office at the district headquarters with its subordinate subdivisional election offices at the subdivisional headquarters whose duty is to keep up-to-date electoral rolls of their respective jurisdictions. On the basis of this electoral roll the Second General Election was held during 1957.

The total number of electors in 1957 in Bhagalpur was 7,99,758 as against 11,16,953 in 1952. In the year 1952 Bhagalpur district had four subdivisions, viz., Sadar, Banka, Madhepura and Supaul but with the creation of Saharsa district Supaul and Madhepura subdivisions are vested in Saharsa district. The present Bhagalpur comprises of two subdivisions only, viz., Sadar and Banka. The number of the Parliamentary seats had been decreased which came down to 2 as against 4 in 1952 because of the creation of Saharsa district. There had also been a decrease in the Assembly seats which came down to 10 as against 18 in 1952.

#### 1957 Assembly Election

As indicated there were 10 Assembly constituencies, out of which two were plural and 8 were single member constituencies. This time the contest was for 12 seats and as before the candidates of the Indian National Congress, Praja Socialist Party and Independents were the main contestants. Candidates of the Janata, Jharkhand, Communist and Jan Sangh Parties were contestants in a few seats. In all 27 Independents contested for twelve seats with no result. Out of these 12 seats, 10 seats were captured by Congress and 2 by Communist candidates. There was a bye-election in Katoria constituency in the month of May, 1961 for a seat of State Legislature due to the death of the M.L.A. of that area. This time the Congress and Jharkhand Party contested and the

seat was captured by the Congress candidate. The details of this election have been furnished in a tabular form in Table 3.

*Parliamentary Election of 1957.*

In the Parliamentary constituencies for two seats, 8 candidates contested for the seats. There was no double member constituency. Both the seats were captured by the Congress candidates. Further details of these elections have been given at the close of this Chapter in Table 4.

**TABLE I.**  
**1952 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.**

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.		No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Party affiliations. Col. 7 to Col. 6.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.	
		Total.	Contest- ing.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Nirmali .. .. .	1	4	4	45,441	45,441	19,949	43.9	..	13,773.	69.5
									4,586	22.9
									1,109	5.5
									484	2.1
									16,427	67.7
2. Pratsaganj .. .. .	1	3	3	47,374	47,374	24,242	46.8	..	6,893	28.3
									912	4
3. Supaul .. .. .	1	2	2	51,018	51,018	25,502	49.7	..	16,676	65.2
									6,826	34.8
4. Tribeniganj-cum-Madhi-pura. . . . .	2	5	5	1,18,015	1,18,015	38,659	32.4	..	17,838	23.2
									17,683	22.8
									7,172	22.4
									7,114	22.2
									7,510	19.4
5. Dharbaha .. .. .	1	4	4	52,260	52,260	24,266	46.4	..	10,884	44.8
									10,415	44.7
									1,600	6.2
									1,367	4.3
6. Saver Bazar-cum-Sonbarsa. . . . .	2	8	8	89,168	89,168	32,971	39.7	..	14,692	22.1
									14,109	21.4
									11,116	16.4
									10,848	16.3
									6,312	8.3
									4,890	7.6
									3,037	4.7
									2,057	3.2

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7. Muriganj ..	1	3	3	54,868	54,868	20,484	48.2	Congress ..	14,636	55.8
								Socialist ..	9,872	37.3
								Independent ..	1,976	6.9
8. Kishanganj ..	1	4	4	39,618	39,618	17,985	47.9	Congress ..	8,160	45.3
								Socialist ..	4,407	24.4
								Independent ..	3,658	20.4
								Independent ..	1,760	9.9
9. Alamnagar ..	1	5	5	54,622	54,622	23,943	43.8	Socialist ..	8,549	35.7
								Congress ..	8,153	35.2
								Independent ..	3,276	13.7
								Independent ..	2,004	9.8
								Independent ..	1,961	7.6
10. Nauvachhia- <i>own</i> -Bhagalpur	1	6	6	52,306	52,306	27,133	51.7	Congress ..	9,691	34.3
								Independent ..	4,845	21
								Independent ..	1,652	5.5
								Praja ..	7,136	25.3
								Communist ..	3,345	11.3
								Socialist ..	764	2.5
11. Colgong ..	1	5	5	57,191	57,191	29,521	51.6	Independent ..	16,944	56.5
								Congress ..	5,093	18.4
								Socialist ..	4,739	16.1
								Communist ..	1,441	4.9
								Praja ..	1,304	4.1
								Independent ..	10,461	45.7
12. Bhagalpur town	1	7	7	50,797	50,797	22,490	44.3	Congress ..	3,015	13.2
								Jan Sangh ..	2,724	12.9
								Socialist ..	2,695	11.5
								Independent ..	2,114	9.3
								Praja ..	1,060	4.6
								Independent ..	421	1.8
13. Bhagalpur Mufessal	1	6	6	51,608	51,608	24,523	45.6	Congress ..	10,640	46.4
								Praja ..	5,742	21.3
								Socialist ..	3,805	17.5
								Independent ..	2,776	11.3
								Independent ..	884	3.7
								Jan Sangh ..	676	2.8
14. Sultanganj ..	1	4	4	51,991	51,991	29,140	57.4	Congress ..	12,485	42.7
								Socialist ..	9,416	32.3
								Independent ..	5,732	19.4
								Praja ..	1,507	6.6

TABLE I—*concl.*  
1952 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.		No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
		Total.	Contesting.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15. Dhuraiya-cum-Amarpur..	2	7	7	1,01,010	1,01,010	41,919	41.4	Congress ..	20,608	24.4
								Congress ..	18,101	21.7
								Socialist ..	10,974	13.2
								Socialist ..	10,818	12.9
								Independent ..	7,170	8.4
								Independent ..	5,854	6.9
								Praja ..	5,346	6.3
16. Banka .. ..	1	8	8	41,606	41,606	22,579	54.3	Jan Sangh ..	4,967	6.2
								Congress ..	11,619	51.3
								Independent ..	3,555	15.6
								Socialist ..	3,398	14.8
								Independent ..	1,344	5.4
								F.B. ..	1,063	4.8
								U.K. Sabha ..	690	3.6
17. Belhar-cum-Katoria ..	2	7	7	1,06,560	1,06,560	87,750	82.7	Independent ..	470	2.7
								Jana Sangh ..	459	1.8
								Congress ..	18,277	20.9
								Congress ..	17,615	20.1
								Socialist ..	16,206	18.6
								Independent ..	12,440	14.5
								Jharkhand ..	10,931	12.7
18. Firpainty .. ..	1	5	5	51,500	51,500	27,218	47.4	Independent ..	10,148	12.3
								Independent ..	2,133	1.1
								Congress ..	11,854	43.4
								Socialist ..	6,019	22.2
								Independent ..	4,905	17.3
								Independent ..	3,354	12.7
								Praja ..	1,086	4.4

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TABLE II.  
1952 PARLIAMENTARY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.																																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																						
No. of electors.	No. of valid votes.	Total no. of valid votes.	Percentage of Party affiliation.	No. of votes of Col. 10 polled by candidates.																														
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																				
1. Bhagalpur Central .. .. .	1	5	5	3,06,142	3,06,142	1,45,939	47.6	Congress	67,322	46.3	Socialist	39,942	27.2	K.M.P.P.	20,030	12.5	Independent	13,655	9.7	Jan Sangh	10,980	4.3	Congress	71,979	49.2	Socialist	45,255	39.7	Independent	18,187	12.8	K.M.P.P.	9,265	6.3
2. Bhagalpur South .. .. .	1	4	4	3,01,167	3,01,167	1,44,686	48.4	Congress	71,979	49.2	Socialist	45,255	39.7	Independent	18,187	12.8	K.M.P.P.	9,265	6.3															
3. Bhagalpur-cum-Purnea	2	4	4	6,49,994	6,49,994	2,56,383	39.8	Congress	1,59,358	31.2	Socialist	1,29,144	25.1	Congress	1,24,589	24.6	Socialist	99,674	19.1															
4. Bhagalpur-cum-Darbhanga	1	2	2	3,31,476	3,31,476	1,46,291	44.7	Congress	94,414	63.8	Socialist	51,877	36.2																					

TABLE III.  
1967 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of Total. Contest- ing.	No. of Total no. of voters.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Party affiliation.	No. of votes of Col. 10 polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.																								
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11													
1. Pirpainti .. ..	1	9	64,877	64,877	49.7	7,738	23.9	4.8	1,469	Independent ..	3.7	1,199	Independent ..	31.6	11,222	Congress ..	6.6	2,046	Janata ..	2.7	840	Independent ..	4.8	1,578	Independent ..	3.8	1,258	Independent ..	18.1	4,948	P.S.P. ..
2. Coigong .. ..	2	7	1,43,064	1,43,064	40.05	30,761	26.7	24.4	6,692	Independent ..	4.7	30,032	Congress ..	26.7	30,761	Congress ..	8.6	10,253	P.S.P. ..	8.6	10,253	P.S.P. ..	9.7	11,036	Janata ..	8.8	10,023	P.S.P. ..	18.1	13,207	Communist ..
3. Bhagalpur .. ..	1	6	55,846	55,846	40.04	9,820	43.6	26.6	5,734	Jan Sangh ..	3.6	739	Independent ..	43.6	9,820	Congress ..	3.5	739	Independent ..	2.4	658	Independent ..	6.2	1,442	Communist ..	18.7	4,219	Independent ..			

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4. Gopalpur .. ..	1	6	6	68,577	68,577	34,248	49.7	Independent ..	5,868	17.1
								P.S.P. ..	1,219	3.7
								Congress ..	10,195	29.6
								Jan Sangh ..	3,587	10.4
								Independent ..	670	1.9
Communist ..	12,709	37.3								
5. Bihpur .. ..	1	5	5	72,793	72,793	38,699	53.2	Congress ..	14,609	37.5
								Independent ..	2,033	5.2
								Jan Sangh ..	6,009	15.3
								Communist ..	15,295	40.1
								Independent ..	753	1.9
6. Sultanganj .. ..	1	4	4	75,462	75,462	38,162	50.04	Independent ..	3,782	9.7
								Congress ..	18,042	47.4
								P. S. P. ..	14,401	37.6
								Independent ..	1,937	5.3
7. Amarpur .. ..	1	7	7	56,390	56,390	24,571	43.7	Independent ..	770	3.4
								Independent ..	3,577	14.7
								Independent ..	1,175	4.8
								Congress ..	11,785	47.5
								Independent ..	2,121	8.6
								Independent ..	3,780	15.4
P. S. P. ..	1,393	5.6								
8. Dhoraiya .. ..	1	7	7	66,619	66,619	29,255	43.9	Independent ..	958	3.3
								Congress ..	10,538	36.3
								Jharkhand ..	4,933	17.7
								Jharkhand ..	1,354	4.4
								P. S. P. ..	6,974	24.7
								Independent ..	3,050	13.6
Independent ..	1,448	4.9								
9. Banka .. ..	1	6	6	61,833	61,833	28,801	46.6	Jharkhand ..	2,055	7.4
								Congress ..	9,922	34.6
								Independent ..	4,290	14.8
								P. S. P. ..	2,171	7.7
								Independent ..	8,124	27.6
								Independent ..	2,239	7.9

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TABLE III—*concl.*

## 1957 ASSEMBLY GENERAL ELECTION.

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.		No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
		Total.	Contesting.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10. Katoria .. ..	2	6	6	1,34,297	1,34,297	52,801	31.9	Independent ..	10,167	7.7
								Congress ..	25,947	24.6
								Jharkhand ..	14,144	13.3
								P. S. P. ..	10,253	18.2
								Janata ..	9,737	9.3
								Congress ..	26,354	26.9
Bye-election held in the month of May, 1961.	1	2	2	1,42,391	1,42,391	16,105	11.3	Congress ..	11,393	70.6
								Jharkhand ..	4,712	29.4

**TABLE IV.**  
**1957 PARLIAMENT ELECTION.**

Names of constituencies.	No. of seats.	No. of candidate.		No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 6.	Party affiliations.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of Col. 10 to Col. 7.
		Total.	Contesting.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Banka .. ..	1	5	5	3,89,909	3,89,909	1,54,139	39.9	Jharkhand ..	24,229	15.7
								P. S. P. ..	20,015	12.8
								Congress ..	78,904	51.4
								Independent ..	15,233	9.9
								Independent ..	15,758	10.2
2. Bhagalpur .. ..	1	3	3	4,05,868	4,05,868	1,80,911	44.8	Congress ..	99,366	54.8
								Communist ..	43,904	24.7
								P. S. P. ..	43,411	21.5

From the preceding tables it is apparent that as a single party the Indian National Congress fared much better than any other party in the district. But the combined votes of the opposite parties were 2,55,969 as against 2,43,217 secured by the Congress in 1957. This was partially due to the votes polled by the Independents who did not belong to any particular party.

It is also apparent that the political parties like Jan Sangh, Jharkhand, Janata and the P. S. P. had practically no hold in the district of Bhagalpur. In the post-election report it is mentioned that in strength and organisation the Congress Party had great hold in the district. Being the oldest and most popular as a single party in the country it has its workers in every *thana* and village. It is this ramified organisation which is very helpful to the Congress. It is also a fact that the Congress Party forming the Government in the previous election was a helpful factor. But the larger number of votes received by the other parties will indicate that the voters would not vote only because the candidate belonged to the Congress Party. The other parties were new and had not as many workers and volunteers as the Congress Party. Their basic organisation was weak. The Independents and Communists were in a better position than the other parties. Being local men of influence the Communist Party bagged two seats. The Independents were expected to win at many places but a high incidence of rivalry among themselves as is obvious from the large number of contestants marred their prospects.

The people are realising the importance of party system in the democratic form of Government. They also indicate that an active and strong party machinery to fight the elections has a better advantage than Independents working on their own.

As regards election of 1957 both for State Legislature and Parliament it may be mentioned that the election was fair in this district. The Independents, however, were able to capture some votes due to their local popularity and influence but due to rivalry among themselves they could not do so. Women took greater interest in the election. It is significant that two ladies were successful in getting Assembly seats.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

No daily newspapers are published in the district. In Bhagalpur two Hindi Weekly and one fortnightly periodicals are published. They are (1) *Lokmat*, (2) *Jagran*, (3) *Bhagalpur Samachar*. These periodicals are published from Bhagalpur.

(1) *Lokmat*.—It is a weekly periodical. It is a sort of political bulletin and also has articles. It has a circulation of about 1,000.

(2) *Jagran*.—It is a weekly party periodical. It is published by *Rastriya Swyamsewak Sangh*. It has a circulation of about 1,000.

(3) *Bhagalpur Samachar*.—It is a fortnightly periodical and its circulation figure is 1,000. The majority of the columns are covered by local news.

Apart from the periodicals there are many Hindi Magazines called "Bagwan", "Upaj", "Parag", "Mandar", "Prachya Bharati" and "Sammelan Sandesh" published from Bhagalpur. "Sammelan Sandesh" is a monthly magazine published by Marwari Association and mostly deals with the affairs of the Marwaris. The circulation of "Bagwan" is 1,500, "Upaj" 1,000, "Parag" 900, "Mandar" 1,000, "Prachya Bharati" 1,000. There is one English monthly magazine called "The Rising Sun" which has a circulation of about 700. It publishes short stories and matters of local interest in English.

The daily English newspapers in common circulation published outside the district but within the State are the *Indian Nation* and the *Searchlight* of Patna. The Calcutta papers that are in common circulation are the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Statesman*, the *Hindusthan Standard* and the *Times of India* of Bombay. Among the English weeklies and periodicals that have some circulation mention may be made of the *Blitz* of Bombay, the *illustrated Weekly of India* of Bombay and the *Shankar's Weekly* of Delhi. The *Modern Review* and *Careers and Courses* have some circulation. No authentic circulation figures are available but it was gathered that about two and half thousand copies have a sale throughout the district. Considering the number of English educated people this figure is poor as it is the sale figure of all the papers mentioned.

Among the Hindi daily newspapers *Aryavarta*, *Pradeep*, *Vishwamitra* of Patna have a good circulation. Among the weekly Hindi periodicals *Dharmyug* (Bombay), *Navshakti* and *Yogi* of Patna have also a good circulation. The two Bengali dailies of Calcutta *Ananda Bazar* and *Yugantar* have a good circulation.

Among the Urdu dailies *Seyasat-e-Jadid* of Kanpur, *Pratap* of Delhi and *Sade-e-Am* of Patna are popular.

Correct figures of circulation of the language papers are not available. For this purpose it may be taken that each paper that is sold is read by about four persons on the average. The newspapers in the libraries are read on the average by 50 to 100 persons everyday. The language papers are making a better headway.

#### VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

The Voluntary Social Service Organisations of local importance are a branch of Bharat Sewak Samaj, a branch of Bharat Scouts

and Guide, Yateem Khana, Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya, Bhoodan Movement, Rama Krishna Mission Ashram, Bhagalpur Football and Athletic Association, Harijan Sewak Sangh, Depressed Class League, Bihar Mushar Seva Sangh, Bhagalpur Kala Kendra, Banka Kala Kendra, Bhagalpur Sangeet Samaj, Marwari Sudhar Samiti, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad and Arya Samaj.

*Bharat Sewak Samaj.*—The Bharat Sewak Samaj was evolved on an all-India basis to enlist public co-operation in translating into reality the concept of the Welfare State. A branch of the organisation was formed in Bhagalpur district in 1957. There are several committees consisting of officials and non-officials to implement the various items in the programme of the organisation. Some of the official members are the representatives of the District Magistrate, District Agricultural Officer, District Animal Husbandry Officer, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and District Welfare Officer. These officers help the organisation by issuing instructions to their subordinates to help the Bharat Sewak Samaj in implementing its scheme.

The programme of the Samaj is to function within its branches at all the blocks, *anchals*, *thanas*, subdivisions and even in villages. It has an office at Bhagalpur and operates through its following wings:—

- (1) Information centre, (2) Anti-corruption centre, (3) Māhila section and (4) Youth and Camp section.

They also undertake village uplift work consisting of sanitation and public works. Public works schemes cover construction and maintenance of village paths, wells, pynes, etc., with the voluntary labour of its members. In the urban areas the Samaj has taken up sanitation, public health, cultural education, children welfare, youth welfare and co-operative works. The impact of the Samaj is not known.

*Bharat Scouts and Guide.*—This is an all-India organisation with headquarters at Patna. Bhagalpur has a branch. This branch trains its members, both boys and girls in voluntary service. The services of the Scouts are taken on occasions like public functions and *melas*, etc.

*Yateem Khana.*—This is an orphanage for Muslims at Champagnagar, Bhagalpur. This institution was established in 1944 for the maintenance of the Muslim orphan boys up to the age of 18 years and they were to be trained in some craft. This orphanage at present maintains 70 boys. This is an unregistered institution and four teachers have been appointed to impart training to boys. It has its managing committee with 21 members. It receives a grant of a sum of Rs. 2,000 from D. P. I. and Rs. 240 per annum from Bhagalpur Municipality and also some contributions

from public. It also runs a library which contains about five hundred books in Hindi, Urdu, English and Persian languages. Medical aid is also given to orphan boys.

*Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya.*—There is one orphanage at Champanagar, Bhagalpur for Hindu boys and girls known as "Ramanandi Devi Hindu Anathalaya". This institution was established in 1925, for the maintenance of Hindu orphan boys and girls up to 18 years. This orphanage is a registered one and receives grants from Social Welfare Board, D. P. I. and Collector. It receives about Rs. 5,000 annually from D. P. I., it maintains at present 45 boys and seven girls. One teacher and one *dai* have been appointed permanently. This institution has a managing committee with eleven members. Each member of the committee has to pay Rs. 3 annually as contribution. There are also contributions from the public. Each student receives grant of a sum of Rs. 10 from Education Department. A Higher Secondary School called Gurukul Higher Secondary School is also attached to it where about 480 students have been admitted. The orphan boys are granted full free-studentship. The students are also trained in some craft. This institution also runs a library which contains about 150 books. On every Sunday the students collect rice (Mushti Bhiksha) from door to door with a view to help themselves.

*Bhoodan Movement.*—Bhoodan Movement was started in the district of Bhagalpur in the year 1954 when the founder of the movement, Sant Vinoba Bhave came to this district and spent about one and half months. His mission is to get lands from the landowners and to distribute them to the landless.

In this district there were 7,843 donors from 1,405 villages. They have donated an area of 18,861 acres to the organisation. Of the total donated land, 6,697 acres have already been distributed amongst 4,049 landless people of the district. Of the total donors, 907 are *Harijans*, 273 are aboriginals and 2,873 are "others". Some partial or full *gramdan* or gifts of the village have also been made in the district. Such villages are Chatmadih and Bagha.

Apart from the collection and donation of lands, the district organisation of Bhoodan Movement in this district has several other organisations to look after. They are *Ambar Vidyalaya* at Bhagalpur, *Sarvodaya Mandal* at Bhagalpur and *Vinobagram* at Katoria. The *Ambar Vidyalaya* imparts training in *Ambar Charkha*, a particular type of *Charkha* easy to manipulate and quick in execution.

The organisation at Bhagalpur also looks after the management of the *Gramdan* villages in the district as well as the *Khadi* work. It is reported that there are about 60,000 spinners in the district

and about 3 lakhs of people are connected with the *Khadi* work and are benefited from it.

*Rama Krishna Mission Ashram.*—The Rama Krishna Mission Ashram was organised in April, 1959 and was affiliated in 1960. From the very beginning the Rama Krishna Ashram has gradually developed into a big institution with various philanthropic, educational and cultural activities. The Ashram runs a charitable outdoor dispensary with Homoeopathic treatment, a Junior High School, a music school, a children's welfare centre and occasional relief work, etc. It receives grant from local bodies of Bhagalpur. Besides, it also gets help from the people of Bhagalpur by means of donations and contributions.

The Homoeopathic department is conducted by a qualified doctor and a compounder. Free medical aid and medicines are given to patients irrespective of caste, creed and colour. So far the Ashram has rendered free medical treatment to about 1,425 patients. Moreover, six poor students and eight destitute families are getting regular help from the Ashram.

As regards Junior High School it may be mentioned the Rama Krishna Vidyalaya was started in 1959 mainly for the displaced persons but now it is not so. About 53 boys and 27 girls read in this school.

It also runs a Sangeet Vidyalaya. So long the Rama Krishna Sangeet Vidyalaya, one of the wings of the Ashram, had been holding its classes regularly at the Mokshada Girls' High School with a total strength of 34 girl students. The Ashram being situated at the remotest corner of the town, it was not possible to hold its classes in the Ashram premises considering the difficulties of girls coming from different parts of the town.

The primary school and the wing has now a strength of 27 students on the roll. It is progressing well. The library is utilised by students. It has a total collection of good books over 250 in number.

So far *Bhartiya Sharir Siksha Kendra* is concerned, 24 students were physically trained in 1960.

The birthday of Swami Vivekananda, Shri-Shri Ma are observed by "Nagar Sankritan", music and sports competition. On this occasion prizes are awarded to students taking part in it. On that evening a cultural show is also exhibited to general public.

*Bhagalpur Football and Athletic Association.*—This Association was organised in 1911 and is affiliated to the Bihar State Sports Association. It has a working committee with 17 members where



the District Magistrate, Bhagalpur, is the Chairman. It receives some Government aid from youth welfare fund and also from the discretionary fund of the Commissioner, Bhagalpur Division. The main work of this Association is to give affiliation to sports, clubs and teams of the district. Besides, it runs five tournaments in Football and Hockey. It has its own enclosure. The Association has done good work in the field of physical education. Soccer is popular here.

*Harijan Sewak Sangh.*—For welfare of *Harijans* the following institutions have been started but all are unregistered institutions. They are Harijan Sewak Sangh and the Bhagalpur District *Dalit Varg Sangh* at Bhagalpur. They are exclusively associated with the work of ameliorating the condition of the *Harijans*. An attempt is made to give them a better start in life and to introduce handicrafts for improving the economic condition. All these institutions receive help from the State.

*Depressed Class League.*—This organisation was established for the propagation of national ideas among the *Harijans*. During the Round Table Conference in 1932-33 this League was an independent organisation although it has affiliation with the Indian National Congress. This has not a very active branch in Bhagalpur district. It is closely associated with social reforms among the *Harijans*. It is now essentially a body for bringing in social reforms and removal of untouchability.

*Bihar Mushar Seva Sangh.*—This association was established in 1958 and is a registered association. It was established for the uplift of the Mushar community and is an association of its own caste. It has a working committee with fifteen members. It runs a night school and a primary school for boys and girls. It has also a committee which looks after the public health and sanitation of the villages of its own caste.

*Bhagalpur Kala Kendra.*—To provide for new openings for students and for turning out trained teachers, Kala Kendra, Bhagalpur was started on 21st August 1954. It is affiliated to the Lalit Kala Academy of the Central Government, New Delhi. This institution is a registered one and has 80 students including boys and girls. It has been recognised by the University of Bihar from 1958 to prepare students for Diploma course in *Shilpa, Sangeet* and *Nritya Kala*. It has got a managing committee with Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Principal and twenty members. It receives a non-recurring grant from the State Government of Bihar. Besides, some small grants from the discretionary fund of the distinguished visitors and local officers are also occasionally obtained. This institution provides for studying research and development in fine arts and crafts, music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture,

make-ups, etc. It also organises periodical exhibitions and demonstrations and other competitions and prizes are awarded to the winners.

*Banka Kala Kendra.*—This institution was established in 1957 for the cultural uplift of the people of Banka area. It is an unregistered one. It organises periodical exhibitions and demonstrations and prizes are given to the winners. It organises cultural programmes quarterly and the public are benefited from this institution. It has a managing committee with fifteen members.

*Bhagalpur Sangeet Samaj.*—This association was established in 1901. This is an old association but a private one. It has a managing committee with its President, Secretary and twelve members. It runs classes in the evening where about twenty students including girls come and learn music. It helps Bhagalpur Kala Kendra in performing cultural programmes.

*Marwari Sudhar Samiti.*—This association was established in 1923 for the uplift of the Marwari community of Bhagalpur district. It has a managing committee with President, Secretary, Treasurer and fifteen members. Each member of the committee has to pay Rs. 3 annually as contribution. Besides, it receives grant of a sum of Rs. 1,000 annually from State and Central Government. This organisation has purchased Barari ghat for selling wood for the purpose of cremation and the association makes money out of it. The branch trains its volunteers for volunteer service. The services of the boys are taken on occasions like public functions and *melas*. It has got a charity fund and the poor students of Marwari community are benefited from it. It also runs a *Vyayaam Shala* for the physical advancement of the people.

*Bangiya Sahitya Parishad.*—This institution was established in 1912. It is an unregistered institution. It has a building of its own. It has a managing committee with Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and fourteen members. It is a branch of Calcutta Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. It has the arrangement for a library, religious functions, indoor games and physical culture. The library with 3,000 books of Bengali, Hindi and English languages serve as a centre of knowledge and exchange of thoughts. About the social functions of the institution special mention may be made of their performance of Buddha and Rabindra Jayanti. The institution helps the poor families of the town in times of emergency. On the occasion of Puja Vacation it exhibits cultural shows. The members also create a sense of unity among the people and take part in the funeral procession. It receives municipal grant of a sum of Rs. 150 per annum. Besides, it is run by means of public donations and contributions.

*Arya Samaj.*—It would not be out of place to mention here that the value of the social institutions has been emphasised by religious creeds. The *Arya Samaj* is an institution which was

founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati. The *Arya Samaj Mandir* was established in Bhagalpur in 1916 and later its followers spread throughout the district. It has a managing committee with President, Vice-President, Secretary and twenty-one members. It is run by means of public donations and contributions. It has a library with 2,500 books in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. It has helped the society to fight the idea of untouchability. It encourages the public for widow and inter-caste marriages and up till now seven hundred widow and one hundred inter-caste marriages have been performed. The Samaj runs a Homoeopathic charitable dispensary. This dispensary is conducted by two qualified doctors and one compounder. Free medical aid and medicines are given to patients.