

## CHAPTER XIII.

### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Patna has a tradition of Local Self-Government from very ancient times. Referring to the early Mauryan regime, Megasthenese describes the municipal administration of this city as being in charge of six boards, each consisting of five members. The first board superintended industries and artisans. The second was concerned with foreign visitors. They found lodging for foreigners who arrived in the city, procured medical attendance for them if they fell sick, buried them if they should die, and forwarded their property to their relatives; and if the foreigner survived, the board provided an escort for his further journey. The third board was concerned with the registration of births and deaths, not only for revenue purposes, but also that Government might be kept informed of fluctuations of population. The fourth board superintended trade and commerce; they had charge of weights and measures; and it was their duty to see that trade was done in public. The fifth board specially supervised the sale of manufactured articles which also must be done in public. Each trader had to pay for a licence for each kind of commodity in which he dealt. A tenth of the price of articles sold was also exacted, the collection of which was the business of the sixth board. The whole body of thirty councillors was in charge of public buildings and temples, markets and wharves and the regulation of price\*.

According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, the city of Pataliputra was divided into four quarters, each in turn subdivided into wards consisting of 10 to 40 houses. It had an Executive Officer, known as *Nagaraka* or City Mayor who was appointed by the King. He was assisted by *Sthanikas*, each in charge of a quarter and the *Gopas* in charge of wards†. The *Nagaraka* was required personally to inspect daily the water reservoirs, wells and tanks in the city. It was also his duty to see that streets were clean; roads were well protected; and persons throwing dirt and creating nuisance on them were punished. The *Gopa* was to keep a register of the inhabitants in the part of the city under his charge, their profession, caste, property etc. He was also to keep an account of strangers visiting the city‡.

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\* Strabo XV.1.

† समाहृतं वन्यागरको नगरं चिन्तयेत् । दशकुली गोपो, विश्व तिकुली चत्वारिंशत्कुली वा ।  
एवं दुर्गचतुर्भागं स्थानिकश्चिन्तयेत् । इत्यादि । कौटिलीयम् अर्थशास्त्रम्,—२ अधि. ३६ अध्या. ।

University of Mysore, 1919, pp. 143—147.

‡ R. R. Diwakar : Bihar Through the Ages, pp. 212-13.

For the security of the city against suspicious character, the inn-keepers, the house masters, artisans and merchants were to report to the city authorities about the strangers who resided with them while physicians had to report on those whom they treated for suspicious wounds. Late in the night, movement of persons on roads was restricted and only doctors, nurses and Government servants on duty could move with permits. Watchmen were appointed to guard the city and apprehend thieves, robbers and other miscreants moving about in a suspicious manner or during restricted hours.

A fire-brigade service was maintained to fight outbreaks of fire. On all important cross roads plentiful supply of water was available in pitchers to meet emergency of fire, if any. There were various restrictions in kindling fires in the city, which mainly consisted of wooden structures.

Under the Guptas the administration of the City, appears to have been maintained at a high level of efficiency. Fahian, a Chinese pilgrim, who visited Pataliputra in early 5th century A.D. has referred to the King, people and the administration of the City and says that hospitals were attached to the Buddhist monastery at Pataliputra where medicines were served free and patients were also given residence. The excavations at Kumhrar have confirmed this view as a pot shred with an inscription of the Gupta period refers to a Buddhist monastic Sanitorium—*Arogyavihar\**.

#### GROWTH OF MODERN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.]

By 1871, a system had been introduced in the province whereby cess calculated at a certain percentage of the rent of land was to be utilised for the construction and maintenance of roads†. The Committee which was constituted to look into the administration of this road cess mainly consisted of officials. In 1882, Lord Ripon, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India, made substantial contribution to the development of Local Self-Government. In 1885, the Local Self-Government Act was passed, leading to the constitution of District Boards. The Municipality of Patna, Danapur Nizamat, Biharsharif and Barh were established in 1864, 1869, 1869 and 1870 respectively. In pursuance of Montague-Chomsford Reforms Act, 1918, Local Self-Government became a transferred subject and accordingly it came under the control of an Indian Minister. The District Boards, Local Boards, Union Boards and Municipalities were given more powers gradually and became comparatively free from official control. They could now elect their executive heads

\*B.P.Sinha : *Patna Through the Ages. Patna Municipal Centenary Souvenir*, 1965, p. 3.

†This cess, called road cess in Bengal, could not be utilised for other purposes e.g. education.

though Government reserved its right to nominate certain number of members to represent special interests.

In the wake of Independence, 1947, Panchayat Raj Act has been passed, leading to the constitution of *Zila Parishads*, *Panchayat Samitis* and *Gram Panchayats* and thus democratic participation in the Local Self-Government has been carried to the maximum limit. The status of the Patna City Municipality was raised to that of a Corporation; Patna Improvement Trust was founded to initiate schemes of town planning, construction and development; Notified Areas have been upgraded to Municipal status; and on account of accelerated pace of urbanisation, some of the rural areas have been notified to be under Notified Area Committees.

#### PATNA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

The Patna Municipality, established on 2nd November, 1864 was renamed Patna City Municipality in 1917. This as well as Patna Administration Committee and the Patna-Bankipur Joint Water Works Committee were substituted by the Patna Municipal Corporation, which came into force on 15th August, 1952 under the provision of the Patna Municipal Act, 1951\*.

The first election to Patna Municipal Corporation was held in March, 1954. A Mayor, a Deputy Mayor, a Standing Committee and four Consultative Committees *viz.*, (a) Education, (b) Medical and Public Health and Veterinary, (c) Public Works and (d) Market and Garden were elected. The Mayor is the administrative head of the Corporation while the Chief Executive Officer is its executive head. The Corporation has been superseded by Government with effect from 1st September, 1968 and the post of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors has been abolished and the Chief Executive Officer has become the Administrator.

#### *Area, Population and Circles.*

At present (1968) the areas under this Corporation extend over 57.83 † sq. K.M. and it has a population (1961) of 3,64,594 ‡ persons (*i.e.* 2,06,050 males and 1,58,544 females). The areas are grouped for administrative purpose into three circles, *viz.*, Patna City, Bankipur and

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\**Patna Municipal Centenary Celebration Souvenir*, 1965, p. 52.

†*District Census Handbook*, 1961 (Patna), p. 16.

‡On account of migration of rural population to Patna in search of employment, the present population appears to be considerably more than this.

New Capital. The Patna City circle office is located in the main building of the former Patna City Municipality and consists of 16 wards, i.e. ward nos. 17 to 32. It is in charge of an Assistant Administrator. The Bankipur Circle consists of 13 wards, i.e. ward nos. 4 to 16. It is in charge of a Deputy Administrator. The New Capital Circle consists of 8 wards, i.e. ward nos. 1 to 3 and 33 to 37. The office of this Circle is located at Gardanibagh in the building of the Patna Administration Committee. This Circle is in charge of an Assistant Administrator. The total number of persons employed under the Corporation in 1967 was about 4,000\*.

#### *Incidence of Taxes.*

The taxes on holding *viz.*, house, latrine and water are at the rate of 16 per cent, 10 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. The total number of rate-payers in 1965 was 1,20,000†. The net demand during 1966-67 was Rs.71,27,700†(arrear Rs. 30,14,400 and current Rs. 41,13,300) and the net collection was Rs. 23,63,102 (arrear Rs. 6,95,783 and current Rs. 16,67,319).

#### *Other Sources of Revenue.*

The other sources of revenue to the Corporation are : (i) Settlement of roadside space for trading purposes to hawkers carrying on trade, on roads and by-lanes of the Corporation ; (ii) tolls on vehicles, carts and pack animals entering urban areas ; (iii) registration fees on vehicles and dogs ; and (iv) professional tax.

#### *Education.*

The Corporation has under its management 64 middle schools, 59 upper primary schools and 30 lower primary schools, both for boys and girls. It also maintains 13 stipendiary and aided schools. In respect of managed schools the Corporation bears all the costs towards pay and allowances of teachers, house rent etc. In respect of stipendiary schools the Corporation bears only the pay of the teachers. There were 350 teachers in middle schools, 145 in upper primary schools and 71 in lower primary schools during 1966-67.

#### *Libraries.*

The Corporation maintains four children's libraries, one in Patna City Circle, another in Pataliputra Club buildings at Mangle's Tank, the third near Yarpur *dom* shed and the fourth in the building of Machhua-toli Middle School. It also gives monetary aid to various libraries and

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\*Source—Head office of the Patna Municipal Corporation, Patna.

†*Ibid.*

other cultural institutions in the town including Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Ram Krishna Mission Library, Maheshwari Public Library, Vedic Hindi Pustakalaya, Bihar Theosophical Federation Library, Rashtriya Pustakalaya, Suhrid Parishad and Hemchandra Granthagar, and Hari Sabha Library.

#### *Public Health.*

The Corporation maintains four Ayurvedic dispensaries and one *Unani Safakhana*. Besides, there are some private institutions which receive grants from it for free treatment of patients. It has a Health Officer, three Assistant Health Officers and 21 Sanitary Inspectors to look after public health.

The Corporation has its own Veterinary Hospital located at Bhowar Pokhar in Bankipur Circle. The usual cases treated here are rinderpest, blackquarter, foot and mouth disease etc. Vaccinations against rinderpest, rinderpest, blackquarter and anthrax are given regularly.

#### *Road Cleaning.*

In 1966-67, the Corporation had a total length of 235.01 K.M. of *pucca* and 237.08 K.M. of *katcha* road respectively. It employed about 800 sweepers for road cleaning. Besides, it had 24 trucks, 39 tractors, 30 trailers and 6 tempos for removal of garbage and refuse matter.

#### *Slaughter House.*

There are only 2 slaughter houses, one for cattle and the other for goat and sheep, located at Sultanganj and New Market, Patna respectively. There is a part time Veterinary Surgeon to examine all the animals before they are slaughtered.

#### *Municipal Markets.*

There are following municipal and private markets in the Corporation area :—

*Municipal Market.*—(1) Mina Bazar Municipal Vegetable and Fish Market, Maharajganj; (2) Bhowar Pokhar Municipal Market; (3) Central Market, New Market area.

*Private Markets.*—(1) Gulzarbagh Vegetable Market; (2) Gulzarbagh Fish Market; (3) Purab Darwaza Vegetable Market; (4) Purab Darwaza Fish Market ; (5) Bori Das Ki Bhatthi Vegetable Market, Malsalami; (6) Gulabbagh Market; (7) Musallahpur Hat Market; (8) Chitkohra Bazar at Chitkohra; (9) Rajabazar at Salimpur Dumra; (10) Machhuatoli Fish Market and Simli Hat.

The owners of all private markets take annual licenses from Corporation on payment of requisite fee. They have to abide by terms and conditions imposed by the Corporation from time to time in respect of sanitation, cleanliness and other points in respect of maintenance of markets.

#### *Burning Ghats.*

There are four burning ghats managed by the Corporation : (1) Dujra Burning Ghat, (2) Bansghat, (3) Gulbighat and (4) Baghzafar-khan Ghat. Contractors have been appointed on each of the *ghats* to sell fuel at the prescribed rate for cremation. There are no public burial grounds managed by the Corporation.

#### *Street Lighting.*

The lighting of the public streets in Corporation area is done by the Patna Electric Supply Company. In 1967 there were 6,790 electric bulbs on roads.

#### *Income and Expenditure.*

The income in 1920-21 and 1921-22 was Rs. 4,73,326 and Rs. 3,96,312 respectively which rose to Rs. 1,08,63,353 and Rs. 1,18,44,650 in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively\*.

The expenditure of the Corporation is on general administration, public health, public institution etc. The expenditure during 1920-21, 1921-22 was Rs. 6,23,229 and Rs. 4,36,817 respectively which rose to Rs. 1,01,48,971 and Rs. 1,28,38,243 in 1964-65 and 1965-66 respectively.

#### BIHAR MUNICIPALITY.

This was established in 1869. The total population (1961) of the town was 78,581. *i.e.* 40,651 males and 37,930 females†. It extends over 7½ square miles. It is divided into 16 wards. There are 40 commissioners, 32 elected and 8 nominated. The total number of rate-payers is 16,000.

It maintains 9.33 miles of *pucca* and 16.03 miles of *katcha* road; 22 miles of *pucca* and 20 miles of *katcha* drains. It also maintains 31 lower primary and 18 upper primary schools including *maktabs*, both for boys and girls and also 5 middle schools, 3 being exclusively for girls. It has provided 2 water towers of 1,00,000 gallons capacity each

\* Patna District Gazetteer (1924), p. 148.

† Census of India, 1961, Vol. IV, Part II-A, p. 278.

and 4 tube-wells for supply of drinking water in the town. There are about 248 water hydrants on the roads and about 1,749 house connections for water in the municipal area. It has provided electric light on the streets. The number of electric bulbs on the streets and lanes during 1965 was 1,090. It has employed 100 sweepers, 50 *mehtars*, 4 carters and 4 drivers. It has also in its regular employment one Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, 2 Ward Inspectors, 2 Head *Jamadars* and 16 *Jamadars* to look after the sanitation of the town. There are 2 slaughter houses in the town, one for cattle and the other for goat and sheep. The municipality also maintains a municipal market.

The main sources of income of the municipality are holding tax, latrine tax, water tax, taxes on platform and offensive and dangerous trades. The main items of expenditure are public conveniences, conservancy and public health. The total income and expenditure of this municipality from 1959-60 to 1964-65 are as follows :—

Year.	Income.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1959-60 .. ..	2,63,413	2,60,341
1960-61 .. ..	2,68,413	2,67,432
1961-62 .. ..	5,69,378	5,00,132
1962-63 .. ..	5,86,744	5,03,121
1963-64 .. ..	5,39,465	4,89,439
1964-65 .. ..	7,25,744	5,99,174

#### BARR MUNICIPALITY.

This was constituted in 1870. Its area is 4½ square miles with a population (1961) of 18,808 persons, *i.e.* 10,133 males and 8,675 females\*. It is divided into 14 wards. There are 17 Commissioners, 14 elected and 3 nominated. The total number of rate-payers is 5,515.

It maintains 10 miles of *pucca* and 2 miles of *katcha* road ; 5.5 miles of *pucca* and 1.54 miles of *katcha* drain. It maintains 11 lower primary, 3 upper primary and 5 middle schools. It has provided one water tower and 2 pumping sets in the town. There are about 30 water hydrants and about 90 house connections in the municipal area. There are 1,407 latrines in the town. For sanitation purposes the municipality has employed one Sanitary Inspector, one Vaccinator, 7 *Jamadars* and 87 sweepers. It maintains one slaughter house. There are 212 electric bulbs and 110 kerosene oil lamps on its roads.

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\*Census of India, 1961, Vol. IV, Part II-A, p. 288.

The main sources of its income are holding, latrine and water taxes, the rates being 10 per cent, 7½ per cent and 7½ per cent respectively. The income and expenditure from 1960-61 to 1964-65 are as follows :-

Year.	Receipt. Expenditure.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1960-61 .. ..	1,77,580.90	1,40,722.71
1961-62 .. ..	3,33,807.29	2,14,939.16
1962-63 .. ..	3,11,501.54	4,34,460.04
1963-64 .. ..	2,44,846.81	2,41,527.09
1964-65 .. ..	2,49,535.55	2,46,692.31

#### DANAPUR NIZAMAT MUNICIPALITY.

It was constituted in 1869. In early 1920s it consisted of 20 Commissioners, of whom 16 were elected. The area within municipal limits was 5 square miles, and there were 4,878 rate payers\*. The number of rate payers has now (1965) increased to 5,500, but the number of Commissioners and area have remained as before. Of the 20 Commissioners, 16 are elected and 4 are nominated. The municipal area is divided into 16 wards with a population (1961) of 35,159 (i.e. 18,502 males and 16,657 females)†.

It maintains 8 miles of *pucca* and about 2½ miles of *katcha* road and 2 miles of *katcha* drain. It has 11 lower primary, 4 upper primary (two for boys and two for girls) and 4 middle schools. The total number of teachers during 1965 was 64. It has provided one water tower of 1,50,000 gallons capacity and 2 tube-wells for water supply in the town. There are about 100 stand posts and about 182 house connections in the municipal area. It has also provided electric light on some of the streets. The number of electric bulbs on the streets and lanes during 1965 was 230. There are 1,950 private and public latrines in the municipal area. For sanitation purposes the municipality has employed 100 sweepers, 50 *meh tars*, 4 carters and 4 drivers. One Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, one Vaccinator and 8 *Jamadars* are also employed to look after the sanitation of the town.

The main sources of income of the municipality are holding, latrine, water tax and also taxes on platform and offensive and dangerous trades. The rate of holding and latrine tax is 6½ and 3½ per cent

\*Patna District Gazetteer (1924), p. 150.

†Census of India, 1961, Vol. IV, Bihar, Part II-A, General Population Tables, p. 279.



respectively of the annual value of the holding. The income and expenditure from 1959-60 to 1963-64 are as follows :—

Year.	Income.		Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.
1959-60 .. ..		1,90,923		1,87,321
1960-61 .. ..		1,94,325		1,90,503
1961-62 .. ..		2,10,321		1,98,910
1962-63 .. ..		3,18,001		3,05,187
1963-64 .. ..		2,29,163		2,35,643

#### KHAGAUL MUNICIPALITY.

This was constituted on the 1st July, 1907. It is situated about 5 miles south-west of Patna. The Divisional headquarters of the Eastern Railway, Danapur is located within this Municipality. It has an area of 2.20 square miles and the total population (1961) is 20,549 (i.e. 11,213 males and 9,336 females)\*. The total number of rate-payers is 2,064. It is divided into 7 wards. It has 11 Commissioners, 9 elected and 2 nominated.

It maintains 7 lower primary, 2 upper primary and 2 middle schools. It maintains 7.4 miles of metalled and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of *katcha* road and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of drain. It has also provided one water tower and 2 tube-wells for water-supply to the town. There are about 30 stand posts and about 80 house connections in the municipal area. There are 750 latrines in the town. For sanitation purposes it has employed one Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, four *Jamadars* and 50 sweepers.

The main sources of its income is holding tax, the rate being  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Its income and expenditure from 1952-53 to 1964-65 are as follows :—

Year.	Income.		Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.
1952-53 .. ..		66,671		63,826
1953-54 .. ..		67,876		60,517
1954-55 .. ..		57,459		62,710
1955-56 .. ..		66,612		59,719
1956-57 .. ..		67,960		49,160
1957-58 .. ..		65,578		75,630
1958-59 .. ..		66,946.96		67,517.87
1959-60 .. ..		63,671.77		70,191.50

\* *Census of India*, 1961, Vol. IV, Part II-A, p. 279.

Year.	Income.		Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.
1960-61 .. ..	94,429.00	94,429.00	94,455.48	94,455.48
1961-62 .. ..	1,38,719.83	1,38,719.83	1,17,191.16	1,17,191.16
1962-63 .. ..	1,29,209.50	1,29,209.50	1,29,067.86	1,29,067.86
1963-64 .. ..	1,17,423.96	1,17,423.96	1,30,416.90	1,30,416.90
1964-65 .. ..	3,41,420.30	3,41,420.30	3,36,081.77	3,36,081.77

#### DANAPUR CANTONMENT BOARD.

This was established in 1765\* to look after the sanitation work of the military cantonment area. Till 1923 it was under the administrative control of Cantonment Magistrate appointed by the Central Government. With the passing of the Cantonments Act, 1924, a representative body consisting of 14 members (7 elected and 7 nominated) is managing the local affairs since 1924. A member of the Central Military Lands and Cantonments Service works as the Executive Officer of the Cantonment Board.

The area of the Board is 1.35 square miles, divided into 7 wards. The total population (1961) was 15,058† (i.e., 8,606 males and 6,452 females). The total number of rate-payers is 1,757. The Board maintains 3 miles of metalled road and 5,337 yards of drain. There are 1,200 private latrines. For sanitary purposes the Board has employed a conservancy staff of 115 persons including one Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector and six *Jamadars*. There are one lower primary, two upper primary and one middle schools under the management of the Board. The total number of school-going boys and girls during 1965 was 949. The Board has two water towers, each of 50,000 gallons capacity and two tube-wells. There are 95 stand posts and 400 house connections in the Board area. The average daily consumption of water is 4,00,000 gallons. The Board has provided 412 electric bulbs on roads. About 1,200 houses have been electrified. A park for the children is also maintained by the Board.

The main sources of income of the Board are holding and latrine tax, licence fee from dangerous and offensive trades and tax on the registration of vehicles. The rate of holding, latrine and water tax is 12½, 7½ and 9 per cent respectively of the annual value of the holding. The following

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\* Report from the Danapur Cantonment Board.

† *Census of India*, 1961 Vol. IV, Bihar, Part II-A, p. 280.

table shows the income and expenditure of the Board from 1955-56 to 1964-65:—

Year.		Receipt.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1955-56	..	2,69,932.69	2,61,989.47
1956-57	..	1,95,254.81	2,10,360.37
1957-58	..	3,00,381.95	2,90,560.93
1958-59	..	3,93,693.08	4,03,912.44
1959-60	..	5,13,418.74	5,08,188.44
1960-61	..	3,93,691.89	4,20,580.50
1961-62	..	4,24,777.99	4,13,163.95
1962-63	..	3,60,331.75	4,02,667.20
1963-64	..	4,37,170.16	3,87,830.41
1964-65	..	4,09,321.56	3,98,036.32

#### MOKAMEH NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

This was constituted on 16th August, 1945. Its jurisdiction extends over 5.60 square miles. The total population (1961) in its jurisdiction is 35,743 (i. e., 18,739 males and 17,004 females)\*. The committee has 37 members and functions under the administrative control of the Sub-divisional Officer, Barh who is *Ex-officio* Chairman.

It maintains 14 miles of *pucca* and 3.68 miles of *katcha* road and also 2.3 miles of *pucca* and 8.9 miles of *katcha* drain. It also maintains a park for the children. There are 8 lower primary, 6 upper primary (2 for girls) and 4 middle schools under its management. Drinking water is provided through 50 wells and some hand pumps†. It maintains a staff of one Sanitary Inspector, 5 *Jamadars* and 80 Conservancy menials. It has provided 242 electric bulbs on roads.

\*Census of India, 1961, Vol. IV, Bihar, Part II, p. 283.

†The State Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to the committee to provide for filtered drinking water.

The main sources of its income are holding, latrine and professional taxes, fees from offensive and dangerous trades and registration fees for carts and other vehicles. The rate of holding and latrine taxes is 6 per cent and 3 per cent respectively of the annual value of the holding. The main items of expenditure are public convenience, conservancy and public health. The statement below shows the receipt and expenditure from 1959-60 to 1964-65 :—

Year.	Receipts.		Expenditure.	
		Rs.		Rs.
1959-60	..	3,00,637		2,00,137
1960-61	..	3,06,688		2,05,802
1961-62	..	3,15,749		2,30,344
1962-63	..	3,06,320		2,88,950
1963-64	..	3,02,178		2,15,322
1964-65	..	7,43,798		6,21,257

#### RAJGIE NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

This was established in 1957. The total population (1961) of the town is 9,033 (*i.e.*, 4,821 males and 4,212 females)\*. It has 11 members and functions under the administrative control of the Subdivisional Officer, Bihar-shariff who is *Ex-officio* Chairman. It has 7 wards extending over 22.10 square miles. There are 1,643 rate-payers. It maintains 12 miles of *pucca* and 4.6 miles of *katcha* road. The length of the *pucca* and *katcha* drain is 2 miles and 6 miles respectively. It maintains 9 lower and upper primary and 2 middle schools and a park. The Public Health Engineering Department supplies water to the town through three water towers. There are 95 stand posts and 103 house connections in the town. The Committee has employed one Sanitary Inspector, 4 *Jamadars* and 34 conservancy staff. There are 112 electric bulbs on roads. The Committee maintains one charitable homeopathic dispensary.†

The main sources of income of the Committee are holding, latrine and taxes on platform and offensive and dangerous trades. The main items

\*Census of India, 1961, Vol. IV, Bihar, Part II-A, p. 94.

†Besides, there are a State dispensary, child maternity centre and a Jain Ayurvedic *Aushdhalya* in the town.

of expenditure are public convenience, conservancy and public health. The statement below shows the receipt and expenditure of the Committee from 1959-60 to 1963-64 :—

		Receipt.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1959-60	..	35,604	21,190
1960-61	..	37,587	24,174
1961-62	..	62,354	25,214
1962-63	..	82,326	35,040
1963-64	..	1,15,443	45,090

#### PATNA WATER BOARD.

With the enforcement of Patna Municipal Corporation Act, 1952, the Patna Water Board came into being replacing the Patna Bankipur Joint Water Works Committee, constituted as a Joint Committee under section 51 of the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act, 1922\*. The Water Board works under the aegis of the Patna Municipal Corporation, which, under the Act exercises the function regarding water-supply through the Patna Water Board. The term of the Board is co-existent with the term of the office of the members of the Corporation.

The Board has five elected members, one Chairman and two *ex-officio* members. The Chief Executive Officer of the Patna Municipal Corporation acts as Secretary and Chief Officer of the Board according to the provision of section 338(3) of the Act and all other officers and employees of the Board are under him†.

#### *Water-supply System.*

Water is supplied through the following water towers :—

Place.		Storage capacity (gallons).
Amlatola Water Tower	..	1,00,000
Bailey Road Water Tower	..	1,00,000
High Court Water Tower	..	1,00,000

\* See, Patna Municipal Centenary Celebrations Souvenir, Vol. 1965, pp. 40-42.

† Since 20th April, 1967 the Board has been superseded by Government and a Special Officer has been posted to look after the work of the Board and the post of Chairman and Members have been abolished.

Place.	Storage capacity. (gallons).
Kadam Kuan Water Tower ..	50,000
University Water Tower ..	1,00,000
Khajekalan Water Tower ..	1,00,000
M. L. A. Flat Water Tower ..	50,000
Mangles Tank Water Tower ..	1,00,000
Digha Pumping Station ..	1,00,000
Water Tower.	
Chiraiyatnir Pumping Station Water Tower.	50,000
Bankipur Water Tower ..	1,00,000
Simli Water Tower ..	1,00,000
Rajendra Nagar Water Tower ..	1,00,000

Besides, there are 15 deep bore tube-wells and 50 hand operated small tube-wells in different localities to supply water.

At present (1968) the total length of water-supply is 240.34 miles and there are 2,393 stand posts in the Corporation area. There are 20,340 house connections and 490 non-domestic water connections. Non-domestic water connection is generally given for building construction purposes and to small industries. The average daily supply of water is 190 lakh gallons.

#### *Medical Aid.*

The employees of the Water Board and their family are given free medical treatment. There are two medical officers one at Bankipur and the other at Patna City to look after them.

#### **PATNA IMPROVEMENT TRUST.**

It was established in 1952 with a view to improve and develop the urban areas of Patna. Keeping in view a 20-year perspective, it took up the preparation of a Master Plan in 1956 and after a comprehensive survey of the problems and conditions now obtaining in the urban areas of Patna and a careful study of the City's present needs and future requirements by a panel of technical experts of the Trust as well as some of the important town planners in the country, it produced a Master Plan\* for Patna.

#### *New Residential Sites.*

As a first step towards the implementation of the proposals in the Master Plan as well as to meet the housing shortage for the growing

\*This document gives an exhaustive picture of the haphazard growth of the town in relation to land use, slums, roads and traffic, drainage and sewerage facilities; and an analysis of the planning problems and the solutions to these for a twenty-year period ending in 1981.

population of the City, the Trust took up development of new residential sites within the City and has developed the following two new sites so far, namely, Rajendranagar and Shrikrishnapuri.

#### *Rajendranagar.*

This 200-acre residential colony, in the centre of the town with the amenities of modern urban life has provided in the first phase 304 units of houses for the low-income group and two markets with 92 stalls. A total of 60 units of houses for the middle-income group and 124 more units for the low-income group have since been constructed. While the houses for the low-income group are one and two room units of varied designs, those for the middle-income group are three, four and five-room units to suit varying needs.

Apart from these houses, 607 residential plots of 3 *kathas* to 7 *kathas* each have been developed and 564 of them have been settled to individuals\*. This colony provides a frame-work of major and minor roads, having a length of over eight miles, to meet the needs of traffic ; a net-work of underground drainage and sewerage system and other essential civic amenities such as parks, schools, shops and dispensaries. A community hall meant for social and ceremonial functions of the community has also been constructed.

#### *Shrikrishnapuri (Phase I).*

This residential unit has been developed by the Trust in the western zone of the City. In the first phase 52 units of four and five-roomed houses for the middle-income group and 152 units of two-roomed houses for the low-income group have been constructed. In addition, the Trust proposes to sell about 158 residential plots of land of sizes varying from 1½ *kathas* to 14 *kathas*.

#### *Shrikrishnapuri (Phase II).*

The Trust proposes to develop another large residential neighbourhood covering an area of 415 acres, to the west of the Rajapur Channel Road.

#### *Roads and Traffic.*

The lack of a proper road system and mixed character of traffic including *thelas*, bullock carts, *tangas*, and cycles with narrow streets and junctions constitute a major problem of road traffic in Patna . The demands of the fast moving vehicles, *e.g.*, buses, cars, vans, trucks, etc.

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\*Since then many more plots have been settled by the Trust to individuals and at present (1968) almost the entire colony has come to its full capacity.

are in direct conflict with the above conveyances. The roads and streets of Patna were not intended in the past to cope with the modern traffic. Thus an unprecedented situation began to develop on the roads of Patna in the post independence era and an ever growing traffic, in view of the increasing population of the City, continues to pose a traffic problem\*.

The Trust conducted a comprehensive traffic survey and as proposed in the Master Plan a grade pattern of road comprising six major east-west roads and 10 major north-south roads of width between 60 and 90 feet are planned to be constructed. In addition, the Trust proposes to improve the Ashok Rajpath and Bari Path and the Kankarbagh Road in width and alignment. Further, in order to function as inner relief road to the Ashok Rajpath the Trust proposes to construct a 120 ft. wide Pataliputra Path, which will be a continuation of Bailey Road, Hassan Imam Path and Bhattacharya Road.

The Trust has constructed a network of new road measuring about 15 miles within the new residential areas of Rajendranagar, Shrikrishnapuri and Kankarbagh. Mazharul Haq Path which was nearly 22 feet wide has now been widened 90 feet from the Patna Junction Railway Station to the Dak Bungalow and a width of 36 feet from the Dak Bungalow Road to Gandhi Maidan. The Patna-Gaya Road has now been widened from 20 feet to 90 feet, a duel carriageway road over a length of 2,220 feet. The Dak Bungalow Road has been widened from 8 feet to 26 feet over a length of 1,408 feet from Kotwali thana upto its junction with the Mazharul Haq Path. The former Hardinge Road has now been widened to 90 feet from its junction with Mazharul Haq Path to Gardiner Road. In order to improve the road junctions within the city, Trust has completed the construction of roundabouts at the following important road junctions within the city:—(1) Junction of Ashok Rajpath and Gandhi Maidan Road ; (2) Junction of Mazharul Haq Path and Dak Bungalow Road near the Bankipur Dak Bungalow ; (3) Road Junction opposite Patna Junction Railway Station ; (4) Road Junction opposite Patna G. P. O. ; (5) Junction of Hardinge Road and Gardiner road ; and (6) Junction of Gardiner Road and Bailey Road. The Trust has also provided improved lighting comprising of fluorescent tubes on the roads which have been widened and improved.

#### *Gandhi Maidan.*

The Trust has modernised the Gandhi Maidan, spreading over 64 acres with railing and a 9 feet wide foot-path all around with parks and flower beds and fluorescent lighting.

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\*Even in narrow lanes such as Govind Mitra, Makhania Kuan etc., cars remain parked on flanks.



*Golghar Park.*

The Trust has converted the area adjacent south-west of Golghar into a 6 acre park. Pathways and ornamental grills with a fountain in the centre add to its beauty. A children's corner with a tortoise in concrete is a special attraction.

*Toy-trains for Children.*

A toy-train for the children has been developed in the Hardinge Park. The area round the rail track is being developed as a children's park with fountains, ornamental flower beds and playing instruments for the children.

*Ghats.*

The Trust has constructed a modern bathing ghat named Buddhaghat on the bank of river Ganga near the Golghar. In addition to 7 flights of *pacca* steps, the *ghat* provides waiting sheds and dressing rooms for men and women. A little towards the west a modern burning *ghat* has been constructed at Dujra.

*Clearance of Slums.*

The slum areas around Patna Junction Railway Station and opposite Patna General Post Office have mostly been cleared. The Trust has prepared slum improvement schemes in Mithapur, Jakkanpur, Mandiri, Salimpur Ahra, Lohanipur, Sabzibagh, Musallahpur, Langartoli and Nawab Bahadur Road areas which are some of the worst slums in the city.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*

For this purpose the city has been divided into three zones, namely, western, central and eastern. In the western zone, for the two existing outfalls channels, namely the Rajapur and the Serpentine channels, pumping plants have been installed at their outfall ends with adequate capacity of throwing out water into the river at the rate of 60,000 to 90,000 gallons even when the Ganga is in high floods in the central zone. The main outfalls, namely, Kadamkuan and the Bakerganj Nala have also been improved and a pumping plant on the Bakerganj Nala at Antaghat with a discharge capacity of 60,000 gallons per minute has been installed. Pumping Plants have also been installed at Saidpur and Agamkuan.

An underground storm sewer covering a total length of 1,65,000 running feet has been laid in the central zone as well as in the new residential colonies of Rajendranagar and Shrikrishnapuri.

*Soil Sewerage.*

A scheme for laying soil sewers throughout city has been prepared to be taken up for execution as soon as funds are available. In the meanwhile, the Trust has undertaken the construction of the purification plant. As a part of the soil sewerage scheme the capacity of the Saidpur purification plant has been extended from 45,000 gallons per day to one million gallons per day. It is, however, proposed to have a capacity of 6.2 million gallons per day. The Trust has also constructed a Sludge Digestion Plant at Saidpur and a part scheme has been run up for making available sewerage plant for domestic use. In addition, it also proposes to produce sludge which will be used as manure.

The Trust has taken up installation of another purification plant at Beur to serve the soil sewer of the western zone of the city. The plant will have a capacity of 8 million gallons per day. The approach road and staff quarters for this plant have already been completed.

*Anticipated Schemes.*

The Trust has submitted to Government the following schemes:—(a) Development of Serpentine Nala into a lake with recreational park on either side ; (b) Construction of a swimming pool at Shrikrishnapuri ; (c) Development of a 200-acre Zoological garden east of Rajendranagar ; (d) Development of a 500-acre area beyond Agamkuan into a well-planned Milk Colony ; and (e) Construction of a Middle Class Hospital in the premises of the existing Bankipur Dak Bungalow.

**DISTRICT BOARD.**

The Patna District Board was constituted in 1887 under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, passed in 1885. The Board originally consisted of 25 members with the District Magistrate, Patna as *ex-officio* member and Chairman. Out of the remaining 24 members, 5 were *ex-officio* members, 7 were nominated by Government and 12 were elected. The Vice-Chairman used to be elected from amongst the elected members. Under the Local Self-Government Act of 1923, the strength of the Board was raised to 40 members of whom 30 were to be elected and 10 nominated. The first elected Chairman was Shri Syed Zahiruddin. This Board, as indeed all others in Bihar, was taken over by State Government on 14th September, 1958\*. Initially the District Magistrate, Patna took it over on the 15th September, 1958 and later handed over the charge to

\* See, Notification no. 8002/L.S.-G., dated the 12th September, 1958 .

It had been found that the efficiency of the District Boards had been deteriorating and so it had become imperative for the State Government to take steps to overhaul the administration.

a Special Officer, who was subsequently designated as Administrator\*. The Patna District Board still functions under the Administrator, who is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate.

The important roads of the district as well as dispensaries formerly under the Board, have since been provincialised. The administration of Board's primary and middle schools was transferred to the District Superintendent of Education in early 1950s. The Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir narrow gauge light railway, formerly managed by the Board, has also been substituted by a broad gauge line of the Eastern Railway. Thus, apart from some public health measures and village roads the Board has not much work to transact and is awaiting to be replaced by the Zila Parishad.

#### *Income and Expenditure.*

The main sources of income of the District Board are Government grants, road cess, ponds, ferries, etc. and the main items of expenditure are office establishment, public health, civil works, etc. The statement below shows the income and expenditure of the Board from 1958-59 to 1967-68† :—

Year.	Receipt.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1958-59 .. ..	27,17,454.35	17,74,641.91
1959-60 .. ..	34,37,767.51	33,25,222.07
1960-61 .. ..	24,51,375.95	23,47,801.81
1961-62 .. ..	28,66,709.89	19,95,985.45
1962-63 .. ..	27,52,978.07	28,28,841.58
1963-64 .. ..	32,30,915.19	26,53,347.35
1964-65 .. ..	19,84,993.61	21,16,406.50
1965-66 .. ..	21,14,776.94	21,15,077.38
1966-67 .. ..	20,39,025.73	22,57,976.58
1967-68 .. ..	18,15,664.25	19,84,969.71

\* See Government letter no. 8067/LSG, dated the 1st September, 1961.

† Source.—District Board Office, Patna.

## GRAM PANCHAYAT.

In 1967 this district had 567 notified *gram panchayats* of which 562 were functioning. Out of 2,536 villages, 2,465 villages had been covered by the *gram panchayats*. There were 562 *mukhiyas*, 562 *sarpanches*, 4,480 members of the Executive Committees and 5,480 *panches*. 555 *gram sevaks* (280 trained) were posted in *gram panchayats* of this district. The District Panchayat Officer posted at Patna looks after the functioning of the *gram panchayats* with the help of a supervisory staff.

The functions of *gram panchayats* are of two categories *viz.*, obligatory and discretionary. The obligatory functions comprise sanitation and conservancy, medical relief and first aid, supply of water, cleaning and disinfection of sources of water, maintenance and construction of public streets, protection of village roads and paths, extinguishing fire, taking steps against famine, burglary and dacoity, execution of such schemes in regard to rural development as the Government may direct and the protection and improvement of irrigation works in the village. The discretionary functions are lighting of public streets, primary education, registration of births, deaths and marriages, construction of wells, ponds, tanks, etc.

In order to enable the *panchayats* to discharge their obligatory and discretionary duties satisfactorily, the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act provides that the *panchayats* shall raise fund, known as *panchayat fund* by levy of a compulsory tax on persons owning immovable property within their areas. There are other discretionary taxes which the *panchayats* are empowered to levy within their areas, such as licence fee on traders, tax on vehicle, etc. The *panchayats* are generally able to raise the required resources through the levy and collection of the aforesaid taxes. With the result few have not been able to make headway towards the discharge of their obligatory or discretionary duties.

*Village Volunteer Force.*

A special feature of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, is a provision of the enrolment of all the able-bodied males of the villages, between the age-group of 18 to 30 years as members of the Village Volunteer Force, under the command of a Chief Officer for general watch and ward and for meeting cases of emergency like fire, breach of an embankment or dam, outbreak of epidemics, burglary and dacoity. In this district 14,580 members of the Village Volunteer Force had been recruited (1967). Some of them known as *Dalpatis* give training to the members.

Out of the 562 functioning *gram panchayats*, 459 *panchayats* have been entrusted with the work of rent collection. In 1966-67 the total demand of rent to be collected by the *gram panchayats* was Rs. 1,22,09,320. Out of this a sum of Rs. 98,34,318 was realised. The *gram panchayats* received a sum of Rs. 2,43,380 as commission for rent collection.

*Administration of Justice.*

In the administration of justice the *gram kutcheries* have not made much progress. People still, prefer to file cases before the magistrate. In this district in 1966-67, 320 suits and 1,969 cases were filed in the *gram kutcheries* out of which 280 suits and 1,820 cases were disposed of.