

CHAPTER X.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The district of Saharsa was a part of Bhagalpur district till March, 1954. The *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* by J. Byrne (1911) mentions that for administrative purposes there were two subdivisions, namely, Madhepura and Supaul. At each subdivision there was a Subdivisional Magistrate (generally a Deputy Collector of the Provincial Service) most of whose time was usually taken up with criminal work under ordinary conditions. Under stress of special circumstances such as floods or scarcity, the brunt of the work of putting into operation remedial measures fell on the Subdivisional Magistrate in his subdivision. Very little purely revenue work was done at the subdivisions. The area and population of each of the two subdivisions is as follows:—

	Area in square miles.	Population (1901).	Number of persons per square mile.
Madhepura ..	1,176	5,59,310	476
Supaul ..	934	5,10,900	547

For administration of civil justice there were Munsifs who used to sit at Supaul and Madhepura. There were, as well, independent Benches of Honorary Magistrates at Madhepura (6 Honorary Magistrates) and at Bangaon (7 Honorary Magistrates). There were four thanas in total in Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions, namely, Bangaon, Kishanganj, Supaul and Pratapganj and three independent outposts, namely, Dagmara, Daparkha and Bhimnagar. Each of the two subdivisions had its Police Inspector who was a gazetted officer. At Supaul and Madhepura there were subsidiary jails in which accused persons were kept while awaiting trial if they were not released on bail.

These two subdivisions were far flung from Bhagalpur, the district headquarters town and the want of proper communications made it difficult for a proper supervision and co-ordination from Bhagalpur. It took about two days for the District Magistrate or the Superintendent of Police of Bhagalpur to reach Supaul or Madhepura in case of an immediate necessity. The journey used to be done partially by train, partially by boat and several rivers had to be crossed. The journey was extremely difficult in the rainy season or at the time of high flood. The constant flood menace of the Kosi river, the fury of the epidemics which had almost become chronic in some areas and the problems of scarcity and distress necessitated a headquarters for a higher level of administration somewhere

within the two subdivisions of Madhepura and Supaul. It was also difficult to meet the problems of law and order quickly. Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions were made into a sub-district with an Additional District Magistrate at Saharsa from the 1st June, 1944. The sub-district functioned till March, 1954. The Additional District Magistrate was given a separate staff of Magistrates and Revenue Officers and for various purposes he could work independently of the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur and had direct contact with the Divisional Commissioner at Bhagalpur and the Government. It was made clear that this was a tentative arrangement and very soon Saharsa would be made into a separate district. Some of the Government departments started opening their branches at Saharsa after an Additional Magistrate was posted.

On the 1st April, 1954, Saharsa was given the status of a full-fledged district with a total area of 2,143 square miles and a total population of 13,08,198 souls according to 1951 census.* Saharsa district has three subdivisions, i.e., Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul. Saharsa Sadar subdivision was carved out of the previous Madhepura subdivision. Madhepura subdivision had three revenue thanas, i.e., Bangaon, Kishanganj and Madhepura. Bangaon revenue thana remained entirely in the Sadar subdivision and police-stations Sourbazar and Sonbarsa were grouped into Sadar subdivision after taking into account some of the villages and chowkidari unions under the above police-stations from the revenue thanas of Madhepura and Kishanganj.

The district has six towns, viz., Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Murliganj, Nirmali and Birpur and 1,353 villages according to 1961 census. The Sadar, Supaul and Madhepura subdivisions have an area of 460.3, 920.7 and 690.4 square miles respectively according to 1961 census. There are sixteen thanas in the district which have been mentioned subdivisionwise in the chapter 'Law, Order and Justice'.

The general administration of the district is vested into the District Magistrate who for administrative purposes is under the control of the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division with headquarters at Bhagalpur. The District Magistrate receives orders both from the State Government, Patna and the Divisional Commissioner, Bhagalpur.

The District Magistrate is at the apex of the administrative structure, the base of which is being more and more broadened after the State has become a Welfare State. Development programmes for the rural areas have been taken up and Community Development Blocks have been opened. Accent has been put on the Village *Panchayats*. The District Magistrate has been given a large number of officers to help him in the administration of the district. For

* According to 1961 census the area is 2,105.5 sq. miles and the population is 17,23,566.

revenue purposes, he has an Additional Collector and for development purposes, he has the services of a District Development Officer. Both the Additional Collector and the District Development Officer have their headquarters at Saharsa. There are three Land Reforms Deputy Collectors posted at the headquarters of each of the subdivisions. At the subdivisional headquarters of each of the three subdivisions, there is a Subdivisional Magistrate in charge of Law and Order as well as revenue and development matters. The Subdivisional Officers are under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. For law and order, there is a Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Saharsa. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by four Deputy Superintendents posted at different headquarters of the subdivisions, namely, Supaul, Madhepura, Uda Kishanganj and one attached to the district headquarters. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Madhepura, controls the areas covered by Sadar subdivision. Details of Police administration will be found in the text on "Law, Order and Justice".

The District Magistrate is responsible for the execution of the planning schemes. He is the head of the District Planning Committee. He has to co-ordinate the functions of all the departments of the Government that are working on development programmes. The success or failure of the Five-Year Plans will be a responsibility of the District Magistrate. He is also responsible for maintaining law and order.

The District Magistrate of Saharsa has the following gazetted officers under him on the 1st April, 1963:—

- (1) Additional Collector—1
- (2) District Development Officer—1
- (3) Senior Deputy Collector—1
- (4) Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors—2
- (5) Sub-Deputy Collectors—2
- (6) District Welfare Officer—1
- (7) District Panchayat Officer—1
- (8) District Public Relations Officer—1
- (9) Land Acquisition Officer—1
- (10) District Statistical Officer—1
- (11) District Industries Officer—1
- (12) District Accounts Officer—1
- (13) District Agriculture Officer—1
- (14) Treasury Officer—1
- (15) Personal Assistant to Collector—1
- (16) Block Development Officer-cum-Anchal Adhikaris—21

The Sadar subdivision has the following officers:--

- (1) Subdivisional Officer—1
- (2) Deputy Collector in-charge Land Reforms and Development—1
- (3) Sub-Deputy Collector—1
- (4) *Anchal Adhikaris-cum-Block Development Officers*—5

The Madhepura subdivision has the following officers:--

- (1) Subdivisional Officer—1
- (2) Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development—1
- (3) Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector—1
- (4) Sub-Deputy Collector—1
- (5) *Anchal Adhikaris-cum-Block Development Officers*—7

The Supaul subdivision has the following officers:—

- (1) Subdivisional Officer—1
- (2) Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development—1
- (3) Sub-Deputy Collectors—2
- (4) *Anchal Adhikari-cum-Block Development Officers*—9

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE.

The old set-up of the District Magistrate's Office in all the districts followed a pattern well suited to that of a component unit of a Police State. Since the advent of independence in the country in 1947 there have been very considerable changes in the character of the State and it is now a Welfare State. The development work, as mentioned before, has been taken up as a matter of State policy. Landlordism has been abolished by law and now there is no intermediary link between the State and the cultivators. Various welfare measures for social uplift have been taken up. The set-up of the Collectorate, the office of the District Officer has been reorganised mainly on the lines of a report of Sri B. D. Pande, a senior I.C.S. Officer, who was especially deputed to study the problems of the reorganisation of the districts and subdivisional offices. This scheme was implemented by the Government in July, 1958 and the set-up of the district offices has been completely changed to suit the new conditions. The main Collectorate office is now divided into seven principal sections as follows:—

- (1) Confidential—This was to be directly under the Collector.
- (2) General Office—This was to replace the English Office.
- (3) Revenue Office—This was to correspond to the Revenue Office set up on the abolition of *zamindaris*.

- (4) Development Office.
- (5) Establishment Office.
- (6) Legal Section Office.
- (7) Treasury and Accounts.

The following is the distribution of subjects:—

Section I—Confidential.

Section II—General.—(1) Law and Order, (2) Agrarian Disputes, (3) Maintenance of Public Order Act, (4) Collective Fines, (5) Police and Homeguards, (6) Requisitioning and derequisitioning of property, (7) Allotment of houses, (8) Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, (9) Elections, (10) Census, (11) Cinemas and dramatic performances, (12) Licenses (Arms, Explosives, etc.), (13) Press, including examination of newspaper cuttings, (14) Public Relations, (15) Relief and Rehabilitation of displaced persons from Pakistan, (16) Evacuee Property Act, (17) Passports and Visas, (18) Political Sufferers, (19) Domicile Certificate, (20) Jails, (21) Supply and Price Control, (22) Anti-Corruption, (23) Assembly, Council and Parliament questions, (24) Local Bodies, i.e., Municipalities, District Boards, Notified Area Committees and other Union Committees, (25) Library, (26) Forms and Stationery, (27) Labour, including Minimum Wages Act, Workmen's compensation, etc.

Section III—Revenue.—(1) Land Reforms, (2) Tenancy Act, (3) Rent and Cess, (4) Khas Mahal, (5) Rent Commutation, (6) Chowkidari, (7) Settlement, (8) Balabandi, (9) Malkhana, (10) Registration, (11) Charkhana, (12) Embankment, (13) Excise and Opium, (14) Kanungo Establishment, (15) Taxation Measures, (16) Record Room, (17) Copying Department, (18) Certificate, (19) Nazarat, (20) Circuit House, (21) Land Acquisition, (22) Ferries, (23) Mining, (24) Treasure Trove, (25) Stamps, (26) Crop and Weather Reports, (27) Flood and Scarcity.

Section IV—Development.—(1) Five-Year Plan and Co-ordination, (2) District Development Office, (3) District Planning Committee, (4) District Education Committee, (5) Community Project and National Extension Service, (6) Local Development Works Programme, (7) Irrigation (major, medium and minor), (8) Reclamation of Waste Land, (9) Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, (10) Gram Panchayats, (11) Vested zamindari improvement

works, (12) Welfare activities of other departments including Grow More Food, (13) Statistics, (14) Forests, (15) Loans including Agriculturists' Loans, Land Improvement Loans, Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act, etc., (16) National Savings Scheme, (17) Works Staff in the District.

Section V—Establishment.—(1) Personal cases—maintenance of service books, character rolls, leave accounts, etc., of personnel employed under the Collector, (2) Appointments, postings and transfers, (3) Leave, (4) Departmental Proceedings, (5) Provident Fund Gratuity, (6) Pensions, (7) Security, (8) Bill and Budget Works of the Collectorate.

Section VI—Legal Section.—(1) Revenue and Judicial Munshikhana, (2) Civil Suits, (3) Pauper Suits, (4) Criminal Motions, (5) Inspection of Trial Registers, (6) Appeals, (7) Correspondence with the Legal Remembrancer, (8) High Court, (9) Release of Prisoners, (10) Pleaders, Mukhtears and Revenue Agents, (11) Probate, (12) Religious Endowments, (13) Payment of Pleaders' bills, (14) Judicial Accounts, (15) Criminal Fines, (16) Law Agents and Law Clerks, (17) Other Criminal, Civil or Revenue Appeals or Motions and matters connected therewith, (18) Court Malkhana.

Section VII—Treasury and Accounts.—(1) Treasury and Accounts, (2) Sale of Stamps.

There was a certain amount of distinction between a Sadar subdivision and a mofussil subdivision. This distinction was done away with.

The Chief Secretary in his no. OM|R-302|56—10443, dated the 20th December 1957, had approved of the suggestions of Mr. Pande as indicated and informed the District Officers by name that the arrangements should be made forthwith to introduce the Reorganisation Scheme in the districts and subdivisions from the 2nd January 1958. He further ordered that the Sadar Subdivisional Officers should function separately from the Collectorate like Mofussil Subdivisional Officer. There was a further confirmation of Sri Pande's scheme in the letter of Sri M. S. Rao, I.C.S., Chief Secretary, bearing no. R2-302|56-CSR—365, dated the 9th July 1958.

NATIONAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

As already mentioned with Independence in 1947 the character of the administration at both the levels of the Centre and the State underwent a great change. Maintenance of law and order and the collection of revenue were the main features of the administration before 1947. The pattern of the Welfare State had to be brought

about slowly and cautiously. At the Centre the Planning Commission was to lay down the policy and to formulate schemes for the States as well and also to co-ordinate the development work at the States. The Centre placed large sums of money to the States to work out the schemes. The Centre in many cases gave technical aid as well.

The Planning Council and the State Planning Board were constituted at the State level also to formulate and work out the schemes given by the Centre and made at the State level and to see to a proper development of the rural areas. A further aim was to decentralise the activities of the State which were so long mostly concentrated at the district level.

With this object the Five-Year Plans formulated at the Centre were taken up at the State level along with the State schemes. A large number of welfare schemes were taken up all over the district in the First Five-Year Plan sponsored in 1951-52. The Second Five-Year Plan sponsored in 1955-56 underlined the work taken up and suggested an extension. The same work has been continued in the Third Five-Year Plan which started in 1961-62. The various economic plans undertaken as a part of the State policy were to be partially implemented through the Community Development Projects and National Extension Service Blocks. A Block is an administrative unit for the rural areas mainly for development and revenue work.

There are 21 Blocks-cum-Anchals in the district, with headquarters distributed all over the district. A Block covers a number of specified villages with a Block headquarters and usually the name of the Block is the same or that of the headquarters village. There is a Block Development Officer with a number of other officers under him such as a Doctor, a Statistical Supervisor, an Agricultural Officer, an Animal Husbandry man, and a Social Organiser. The Block Development Officer is entrusted with the working of the schemes and projects sanctioned and also to evolve schemes and projects for the development of the village under him. The Block Development Officer is also entrusted to collect revenue and he has been given *karamcharis* for this work. He is not entrusted with judicial work so that he can devote his whole time for an intensive co-ordinated rural development of the area with the active participation of the people. If a Block Development Officer cannot draw out the co-operation of the people he has failed in his object.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

There is a Deputy Director of Agriculture with headquarters at Saharsa under the Director of Agriculture, Bihar, at Patna.

The post of the Deputy Director of Agriculture was created in 1959 at Saharsa to control both Saharsa and Purnea districts. The Deputy Director has four officers under him, namely, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Assistant Director of Agricultural Farm,

Instructor in Plant Protection, Agronomy, Chemistry and Engineering and Assistant Fisheries Development Officer. These officers are meant for the entire range.

The District Agriculture Officer is meant exclusively for the district. He has four Subdivisional Agriculture Officers. Two of them are posted at Saharsa Sadar subdivision while Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions have one officer each. The Subdivisional Agriculture Officers are assisted by three Additional Subdivisional Agriculture Officers with their headquarters at Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul. The Additional Subdivisional Agriculture Officers are meant for the Government Farms.

The District Agriculture Officer is also assisted by a team of subject-matter specialists in Botany, Horticulture, Chemistry, Engineering and Fisheries. Their job is to train the Village Level Workers and to collect information regarding the local problems with which the Agriculture Extension Supervisors, the Village Level Workers and the cultivators come across during the implementation of the agricultural programme and communicate them to the Regional Director of Agriculture, Sabour (Bhagalpur), for providing practical solutions. The Subdivisional Agriculture Officer is also assisted by a team of especially trained staff in Fisheries and Horticulture. Field trials on fertilisers to find out the appropriate doses for different localities are conducted throughout the district.

Usually there is an Agriculture Extension Supervisor at the headquarters of the Community Development Blocks to look after agricultural programme. He is under the administrative control of the Block Development Officer.

There are 17 Seed Multiplication Farms of 25 acres each at Sonbarsa, Nauhatta, Sirai, Singheshwar, Uda Kishanganj, Alamnagar, Chousa, Murliganj, Kumarkhand, Chausipatti, Kishanpur, Chhatapur, Tribeniganj, Birpur, Nirmali, Raghapur and Pipra and two farms of 50 acres at Kahra and Singheshwar. There is a District Experimental Farm at Agwanpur of 100 acres in Sadar subdivision.

There is one Plant Protection Inspector and a team of Field Operators to fight against crop pests and diseases. There is a godown at Saharsa town where pesticides, sprays and dusters are sold to the cultivators.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT.

There is a District Animal Husbandry Officer, with his headquarters at Saharsa to look after the Animal Husbandry Department in the district. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Bhagalpur Range, Bhagalpur and the Director of Animal Husbandry with his headquarters at Patna.

Before September, 1954, the present Animal Husbandry Department was running under two different departments, namely, Veterinary Department and Animal Husbandry Department under two technical heads. In September, 1954, these two departments were amalgamated and the Director of Veterinary Services was designated as the Director of Animal Husbandry, Bihar.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted by one Sub-divisional Animal Husbandry Officer posted at Saharsa, 21 Animal Husbandry Supervisors who are posted in each Block, two stockmen and one messenger to assist the Animal Husbandry Supervisors. Apart from them a Livestock Inspector and Fodder Overseer are working under the guidance of the District Animal Husbandry Officer at the district headquarters.

During the First Five-Year Plan four schemes were taken up, namely, opening of the Artificial Insemination Centres and Sub-Centres, Hospital and Dispensary (Class I Veterinary Dispensary), distribution of bulls and opening of key villages in Bihar. During the Second Five-Year Plan nine additional schemes were started.

A brief mention of some of the important schemes may be made:—

- (a) *Bull Distribution Scheme.*—This scheme was started in the First Five-Year Plan. *Hariana* bulls are distributed in each block and Rs. 10 is given to each bull-keeper per month for the maintenance. The services of the bulls are obtained without any charges.
- (b) *Artificial Insemination Scheme.*—This scheme was taken up in the First Five-Year Plan and during this period two Artificial Insemination Centres were started at Madhepura and Supaul. During the Second Five-Year Plan three Artificial Insemination Centres were opened at Uda Kishanganj, Murliganj and Nirmali.
- (c) *Eradication of Rinderpest.*—This scheme started functioning in March, 1960. Under this scheme it has been decided to eradicate Rinderpest disease by vaccinating all the heads of cattle.
- (d) *Fodder Development.*—To encourage the farmers fodder growing seeds and cuttings of different types of fodder are distributed to the farmers free of cost. Besides this, at each Block headquarters, in two acres of land different types of fodder, namely, Napier, Para, Lucerne and Barseam have been introduced in the fodder demonstration plots.
- (e) *Cattle Shows.*—To encourage the cattle-owners for improving their livestock, one annual cattle show in each Block is organised. Annual District Cattle Shows are also held in a year.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

There is only one division of the Public Works Department under an Executive Engineer with headquarters at Saharsa. He is under the control of the Superintending Engineer with his headquarters at Purnea and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Bihar, at Patna.

The main duty of the Executive Engineer is the construction of roads and bridges and buildings, etc., and to maintain the works already constructed. The Executive Engineer supervises and controls the work of the Subdivisional Officers of the Public Works Department. He has also his responsibility in controlling the expenditure and make payments to the contractors.

The Saharsa Division has four subdivisions, namely, Saharsa proper, Supaul, Madhepura North and Madhepura South with nine sections in all, namely, Saharsa Section I and Section II, Baijnathpur, Supaul Section I and Section II, Murliganj, Kishanganj, Madhepura headquarters and Raghapur. The four subdivisions are under the charge of four Subdivisional Officers with their headquarters at Saharsa proper, Supaul, Madhepura North and Madhepura South. There are nine Sectional Officers under the Division to supervise the execution of works under the guidance of the Subdivisional Officers.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

There are two distinct sections so far as the administration of the Health Department is concerned. Broadly speaking one section is the preventive side which is known as Public Health Department and the other section is the curative side known as the Medical Department. The former is headed by the District Medical Officer of Health and the latter by Civil Surgeon. The functions of both the officers are different, although in certain matters the District Medical Officer of Health is to act in consultation with the Civil Surgeon.

The Civil Surgeon, who is a member of the State Medical Service, is the Superintendent of all the hospitals and dispensaries in the district maintained by the District Board or the Government. He exercises complete professional control over the Government Medical Officers in the hospitals and dispensaries. He is also expected to help the Mission and other hospitals within the district.

During 1947-48, the Additional Civil Surgeon-cum-Executive Medical Officer used to be the head of the Medical Department and the office was located at Bariahi. In April, 1956, the office was shifted to the outdoor block of the Sadar Hospital, Saharsa and in 1957 the office was shifted to its own building. Details will be found in the text on "Medical and Public Health Services".

According to a Government Circular no. 11-A3-43 of 1958-59, dated the 3rd January 1959, the posts of Civil Surgeons in the districts were converted into the posts of Senior Executive Medical

Officers and Civil Surgeons with the result that in this district the Senior Executive Medical Officer is responsible for the efficient implementation, supervision and control of all public health measures, preventive as well as curative.

The Senior Executive Medical Officer is responsible for the enforcement of drug control measures and as such he can inspect any druggist's shop within the district and take steps for the prosecution of lapses. He is the authority to issue license for medical shops and also to cancel the same in case of non-observance of prescribed rules.

He is expected to scrutinise the expenditure and accounts of every hospital and dispensary in his district and guide the managing body. In all professional matters his decision will be final, but if any difference of opinion arises between him and the managing body regarding any non-professional matter affecting the management of the institute, a reference is made to the Director of Health Services for a decision.

Details of the hospitals and the dispensaries will be found in the text on "Medical and Public Health Services".

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT.

This department was started in 1956 at a subdivisional level at Saharsa. The Electricity Subdivisional Officer with headquarters at Saharsa is in charge of Saharsa Electricity Department. He is under the control of the Executive Engineer with headquarters at Katihar in Purnea district and the Electrical Superintending Engineer with headquarters at Muzaffarpur. The Chief Engineer, Electricity Department, Bihar, at Patna is the head of the department. The Subdivisional Electrical Officer is helped by three Sectional Officers posted at Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul respectively.

About six towns and twenty-three villages have been electrified till the end of March, 1963. The important towns electrified are Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Murliganj, Nirmali and Birpur. Some of the villages electrified are Kahra, Bariahi, Bangaon, Panchgachia, Panchgachia Railway Station, Barail, Parsarma, Sukhpur, Karampur, Sourbazar, Mithai, Dhanchhoha and Singheshwar, etc. The spread of electricity has not been very rapid in the district due to the bad communications and the economic condition of the people. There is very little demand of power for industry.

The following statement shows the total work done up to March, 1963, in Saharsa district:—

1. High Tension Extension in miles—
11 K.V.—(103 miles).
2. Low Tension Extension in miles—
One phase—Nil.
Two phase—40 miles.
Three phase—15.13 miles.

3. Distribution of Transformer—

- (1) 100 K.V.A.—7
- (2) 50 K.V.A.—15
- (3) 25 K.V.A.—10
- (4) 15 K.V.A.—Nil.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

There are five Registration Offices in the district, namely, Madhepura (established in 1865), Supaul (established in 1891), Uda Kishanganj (established in 1957), Ganpatganj (established in 1918) and Saharsa (established in 1954). The Saharsa Registration Office was shifted from Bangaon in 1954 when Saharsa gained the status of a full-fledged district.

The Indian Registration Act, 1908, the Indian Stamp Act of 1899 and other allied Acts are in force in the district.

The District Sub-Registrar, Saharsa, is the departmental head of the Registration Department under the immediate administrative control of the District Registrar, i.e., the District Magistrate. The Inspector-General of Registration, Patna, is the head of the department. Each of the Sub-registry Offices at Supaul, Madhepura, Ganpatganj and Uda Kishanganj has a Sub-Registrar. The District Sub-Registrar is to supervise the work in all the Registry Offices. He has to inspect the *muffasil* offices once a year. The District Sub-Registrar deals with the registration of the documents within his jurisdiction.

The District Sub-Registrar's office at the headquarters of the district has got a record room where there are many old registers and indices including copies of documents registered in 1865 A.D.

The statistics below supplied by the Registration Department, Saharsa, show the number of documents registered, receipts and expenditure of the whole district from 1953 to 1962. The figures include those of all the Registration Offices located in the district:—

Year.	Documents registered.	Receipts in rupees.	Expenditure in rupees.
1953	21,182	1,11,482	37,144
1954	21,206	1,15,676	43,968
1955	25,859	1,28,527	51,137
1956	34,163	1,80,596	51,636
1957	42,812	2,28,159	59,719
1958	40,102	2,19,926	67,757
1959	35,918	2,08,983	61,085
1960	46,063	2,59,727	73,423
1961	48,423	3,01,478	73,498
1962	48,111	2,99,165	94,019

The Money-lenders' Act came into force in 1938, authorising the Registering Officer to grant licenses. The total number of licenses issued to the money-lenders is 390 during 1962-63.

The District Sub-Registrar is the Marriage Officer under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, but no marriage has been performed yet in Saharsa district under this Act.

By notification no. A/K3-104/56-R.-1343, dated the 18th June 1956, issued by the Government of Bihar, Revenue Department (Registration Section) and by an amendment passed by the Parliament, the system of mentioning caste in the body of documents has been abolished.

All the Registering Officers are required by an order of Government to pass an examination in the tribal languages. The officers of the Registration Department are recruited by the Bihar Public Service Commission after passing the competitive examination and they are confirmed in their appointment after passing the departmental examination.

Under the Government orders, the officers of the department are eligible for appointment as Honorary Magistrates and Deputy Collectors. The Sub-Registrars may also be employed in connection with other duties with the permission of the District Registrar subject to the order of the District Magistrate.

COMMERCIAL TAXES OFFICE.

The Saharsa Circle of the Commercial Taxes was created in 1950 at Saharsa. Prior to 1950 it was amalgamated with Bhagalpur Circle. The controlling head of this department is the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes at Patna. The Superintendent of Commercial Taxes is the head of the department at the district level. There are two Assistant Superintendents and one Inspector of Commercial Taxes attached to this Circle to assist the Superintendent in the assessment of taxes and for making enquiries.

The department is concerned with the assessment and realisation of the following taxes:—

- (1) *Agriculture Income-tax*.—It was levied in 1938 under the Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938, but its administration was taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1944-45. The collection had reached its peak in 1960-61 when it rose to Rs. 2,06,711 which was mainly due to enhancement in the rate of tax.
- (2) *Bihar Sales Tax*.—It was introduced in the State from 1944-45. In 1961-62 the collection from this amounted to Rs. 4,49,978.99. The collection in 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 in this Circle amounted to Rs. 5,50,940, Rs. 4,94,468, Rs. 3,95,429 and Rs. 4,23,440 respectively. The fluctuating trends during these years are mainly due to the de-registration of a large number of dealers consequent upon the raising of the registerable limit from over Rs. 10,000 to over Rs. 15,000 from 1954.
- (3) *Central Sales Tax*.—Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, was introduced in Bihar from the 1st July, 1956 and the

collection from this tax was introduced in 1959-60 at Saharsa. The receipts were Rs. 1,312 and Rs. 1,098.01 in 1959-60 and 1961-62 respectively.

- (4) *Entertainment Tax*.—The administration of the tax was taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1948-49. In 1961-62 the receipt was Rs. 71,122.87.
- (5) *Electricity Duty*.—It was first levied in the district in 1948-49. The collection from this tax reached its peak in 1961-62. This increase was due to a rise in duty.
- (6) *Motor Spirit Sales Tax*.—Before 1949 this tax was realised by the Excise Department. In 1957-58 the total receipt from this tax amounted to Rs. 69,552. Since then there had been constant rise in the collection and Rs. 96,530.47 was the receipt in 1961-62. This was partly due to a rise in duty and because more vehicles came on the roads as the roads were improved.
- (7) *Passengers and Goods Transport Tax*.—It was levied for the first time in 1950. During 1955-56 the total yield from the tax was Rs. 2,830. In 1961-62 it showed a downward tendency, i.e., the total yield was Rs. 280 only because the Act was declared *ultra vires* in September, 1960.

The statement below supplied by the Commercial Taxes Office, Saharsa, shows the receipts from 1955-56 to 1961-62:—

Year.	Agricultural Income-tax.	Bihar Sales Tax.	Central Sales Tax.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1955-56	58,379.00	4,22,557.00	This tax was in force during 1959-60.
1956-57	60,305.00	5,39,175.00	Nil
1957-58	70,470.00	5,50,940.00	Nil
1958-59	86,565.00	4,94,468.00	1,312.00
1959-60	61,621.00	3,95,429.00	2,300.00
1960-61	2,06,711.00	4,23,440.00	1,098.01
1961-62	88,587.63	4,49,978.99	

Year.	Entertainment Tax.	Electricity Duty.	Motor Spirit Tax.	Passengers and Goods Transport.
1	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1955-56	15,577.00	431.00	17,337.00	2,830.00
1956-57	45,697.00	1,187.00	34,500.00	2,195.00
1957-58	58,570.00	2,533.00	69,552.00	6,538.00
1958-59	67,790.00	3,641.00	44,939.00	9,934.00
1959-60	54,372.00	74,100.00	68,197.00	8,874.00
1960-61	62,799.00	47,214.00	70,636.00	3,315.00
1961-62	71,122.87	55,321.43	96,530.47	280.00

(The Act was declared *ultra vires* in September, 1960.)

EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

The Superintendent of Excise is the head of the administration at the district level. He is under the immediate control of the District Magistrate, Saharsa. The Superintendent of Excise is also under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Range, Muzaffarpur, and the Commissioner of Excise, Patna.

The district is divided into two ranges, namely, Saharsa Sadar and Supaul under the charge of one Inspector with headquarters at Saharsa. These two ranges have been further divided into four Circles, namely, Sadar, Uda Kishanganj, Supaul and Raghapur. Each Circle is under the charge of one Sub-Inspector.

There are only two Warehouses located at Madhepura and Supaul. There is also a *Ganja gola* in Madhepura. Each Warehouse is under the charge of a Sub-Inspector.

The consumption of foreign liquor is confined only to the richer class. The greater portion of the excise revenue is derived from the taxes levied on country spirit, toddy and *bhang*.

The consumption of opium has been sought to be restricted by the prohibition of free sale of opium. Opium is sold now for medicinal purposes only to those persons who hold a medical certificate from a proper authority that consumption of opium is a necessity on medical grounds.

There is no prohibition in Saharsa district. The State has not yet adopted prohibition as a policy. An attempt is made to restrict consumption by the raising of the prices of the intoxicants through the increase of excise duty and imposing certain restrictions against consumption of intoxicants at public places. Bar licences are restricted. The incidence of illicit distillery cases is low. Owing to the proximity of Nepal, non-duty paid Nepali *ganja* is smuggled. During 1961-62 and 1962-63 about 358.552 kilograms and 774.62 kilograms of non-duty paid Nepali *ganja* respectively were seized. There must have been a quantity smuggled without detection.

The following table will show the number of illicit distillery, *ganja* and *bhang* cases during 1959-60 to 1962-63:—

Number of cases.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1961-62.	1962-63.
<i>Ganja</i>	49	58	62	36
<i>Bhang</i>	3	6	9	2
Illicit Distillery	7	10	14	9

STATEMENT SHOWING CONSUMPTION OF EXCISABLE ARTICLES AND REVENUE DERIVED THEREFROM IN THE DISTRICT OF SAHARSA DURING 1954-55 TO 1961-62.

Distillery liquor.

Year.	No. of Consumption in litre per gallon.	License fee.	Duty.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
6				

1954-55	49	0,080.1	31,094	1,41,686	1,72,780
1955-56	49	9,855.9	31,969	1,55,465	1,87,434
1956-57	49	11,423.4	39,493	1,83,068	2,22,561
1957-58	49	8,699.7	30,846	1,37,192	1,68,038
1958-59	49	7,956.8	24,582	1,27,402	1,51,984
1959-60	49	9,129.2	26,243	1,45,874	1,72,117
1960-61	49	10,484.6	39,291	1,87,901	2,27,192
1961-62	49	12,583.4	45,278	2,33,175	27,845.3

Ganja.

Year.	Number of Consumption.	License fee.	Duty.	Total.
1	7	8	9	10
11				

1954-55	50	23 29 0	5,269	50,752	56,019
1955-56	50	25 1 0	5,267	54,662	59,929
1956-57	50	35 17 0	10,098	77,995	88,093
1957-58	50	25 13 0	7,336	54,945	62,281
1958-59	50	17 30 0	3,593	39,985	43,578
1959-60	50	17 26 0	3,041	38,292	41,333
1960-61	50	17 38 0	3,664	39,875	43,539
1961-62	50	13 21 0	2,426	45,923	48,349

Bhang.

Year.	Number of Consumption.	License fee.	Duty.	Total.
1	12	13	14	15
16				

1954-55	4	6 0	61	45	106
1955-56	4	8 0	80	72	152
1956-57	4	11 0	126	100	226
1957-58	4	8 0	93	72	165
1958-59	4	4 0	56	36	102
1959-60	4	9 0	59	83	142
1960-61	4	10 0	83	94	177
1961-62	4	10 0	73	90	163

Year.		Opium.				Foreign liquor.						
		Number of Consumption.		Licence fee.		Licence fee.		Duty.		Total.		
I		17		18		19		20		21		
		Md. Sr. ch.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
1964-55	..	22	16 8 0	3,436	3,870	7,306	..	22	16 8 0	3,377	7,525	10,902
1955-56	..	22	17 8 0	3,377	7,525	10,902	..	22	17 8 0	4,383	7,525	11,908
1956-57	..	22	17 8 0	4,383	7,525	11,908	..	22	17 8 0	3,356	4,730	8,086
1957-58	..	22	11 0 0	3,356	4,730	8,086	..	22	10 8 0	2,235	4,515	6,758
1958-59	..	22	10 8 0	2,235	4,515	6,758	..	22	3 8 0	646	1,505	2,151
1959-60	3 8 0	646	1,505	2,151	..	..	3 0 0	564	1,290	1,854
1960-61	3 0 0	564	1,290	1,854	..	..	3 8 0	644	1,505	2,149
1961-62	3 8 0	644	1,505	2,149	..	..	3 8 0	644	1,505	2,149
1964-55	..	2	795	Rs.	795	Rs.	..	2	795	Rs.	795	Rs.
1955-56	..	2	1,215	Rs.	1,215	Rs.	..	2	1,215	Rs.	1,215	Rs.
1956-57	..	2	685	Rs.	685	Rs.	..	2	685	Rs.	685	Rs.
1957-58	..	2	624	Rs.	624	Rs.	..	2	624	Rs.	624	Rs.
1958-59	..	2	401	Rs.	401	Rs.	..	2	401	Rs.	401	Rs.
1959-60	..	2	727	Rs.	727	Rs.	..	2	727	Rs.	727	Rs.
1960-61	..	2	1,056	Rs.	1,056	Rs.	..	2	1,056	Rs.	1,056	Rs.
1961-62	..	2	1,992	Rs.	1,992	Rs.	..	2	1,992	Rs.	1,992	Rs.

Year.	No. of licence.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	27	54	4,056	3,26,036
1955-56	27	54	4,056	3,57,822
1956-57	26	52	2,660	4,20,788
1957-58	17	34	2,408	3,29,237
1958-59	..	..	2,888	2,95,187
1959-60	..	..	5,023	3,19,523
1960-61	..	..	3,712	3,76,125
1961-62	..	..	3,664	4,37,671
1	34	35	36	37

Pachwai.

No. of licence. Licence fee. Miscellaneous. Grand Total.

Year.	No. of licence.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	120	37,333	43,936	81,269
1955-56	120	47,347	45,024	92,371
1956-57	120	48,569	43,316	91,912
1957-58	120	42,266	42,595	84,861
1958-59	120	49,141	37,431	86,572
1959-60	120	53,300	41,859	95,159
1960-61	119	52,020	43,185	95,205
1961-62	119	50,782	46,424	97,206
1	30	31	32	33

Tari.

No. of licence. Licence fee. Free tax. Total.

Year.	No. of licence.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	19	1,476	..	1,476
1955-56	22	1,704	5	1,709
1956-57	28	2,576	115	2,691
1957-58	..	2,702	38	2,740
1958-59	24	2,874	35	2,909
1959-60	24	2,848	23	2,871
1960-61	25	3,355	35	3,390
1961-62	25	3,824	1,871	5,695
1	26	27	28	29

Commercial spirits.

No. of licence. Licence fee. Duty. Total.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

This department has been created at the Government level to look after the particular interests of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes. There is a District Welfare Officer who works both under the District Magistrate and the Secretary, Welfare Department at the Government level.

The Welfare office was started at Saharsa in 1948. At that time the Harijan Welfare Officer was the administrative head at the district level and he used to be under the administrative control of the Divisional Welfare Officer, Bhagalpur. From 1958, the post of the Divisional Welfare Officer was abolished and the post of the Harijan Welfare Officer was designated as the District Welfare Officer.

The District Welfare Officer works under the District Magistrate. There is an Assistant Welfare Officer to assist the District Welfare Officer. A Welfare Inspector has been posted in each Block.

The District Welfare Officer is to implement the various welfare programmes indicated in the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans for the uplift of the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes, such as, establishment of grain *golas*, construction of special schools, hostels, residential buildings, sinking of wells, etc.

Nine grain *golas* have been constructed for the Harijans at Mahishi, Sourbazar, Sonbarsa, Murliganj, Madhepura (two), Singheshwar, Supaul (two) and three for the Adivasis at Mahuabazar, Gamharia and Giridharpatti.

GRAM PANCHAYAT OFFICE.

This office was started in 1948 at Saharsa. The District *Gram Panchayat* Officer with headquarters at Saharsa, is under the control of the District Magistrate. At the Divisional level the Regional Deputy Director is the administrative head with headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director of *Gram Panchayats*, Patna, is the administrative head.

There are eleven *Gram Panchayat* Supervisors with their headquarters at Kahra, Sonbarsa, Madhepura, Murliganj, Kishanganj, Alamnagar, Birpur, Nirmali, Raghapur and Vishanpur. Details will be found in the text on 'Local Self-Government'.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The Co-operative Department for the district is divided into three Circles, namely, Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul. Three Assistant Registrars with headquarters at Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura are in charge of their respective Circles.

The Assistant Registrars are under the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhagalpur and the Registrar at Patna respectively. One Inspector designated as Co-operative Extension Supervisor and one Auditor are posted at each of the Block headquarters.

There are two Central Co-operative Banks at Supaul and Madhepura respectively. The Co-operative Banks are under the control of the Managers posted at Supaul and Madhepura.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The District Education Officer with his headquarters at Saharsa looks after the Education Department at the district level. He works under the control of the Regional Deputy Director of Education with his headquarters at Bhagalpur. The Director of Public Instruction with headquarters at Patna is the head of the department.

The District Education Officer is assisted by a number of officers. Each subdivision is placed under the charge of a Subdivisional Education Officer with headquarters at Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul.

At the district level the District Education Officer is assisted by the District Superintendent of Education, District Social Education Organiser, Deputy Superintendent of Physical Education posted at Saharsa. There are a Deputy Superintendent for Basic Education and a District Inspectress of Schools at Saharsa.

There are three Deputy Inspectors of Schools with their headquarters at Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul. There are 31 Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the district who are responsible for their respective Circle. With effect from December, 1962, the Sub-Inspector of Schools has been re-designated as Education Extension Officer. There is one Deputy Inspectress of Schools posted at Supaul. She is meant for the whole district.

UNIFIED MINOR IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

Minor Irrigation Schemes include *bundhs*, tanks and *ahars* as well as repairs to old minor irrigation works. These Minor Irrigation works were carried out by three agencies, namely, the Revenue Department, the Agriculture Department and the Community Development Department respectively. To avoid overlapping, the Unified Minor Irrigation Division has been set up which looks after all such schemes. This agency (Division) was created at Saharsa on the 30th June, 1960. The districts of Saharsa, Purnea and North Monghyr, originally formed parts of this Division with the following subdivisions:—

Saharsa district—

- (1) Saharsa subdivision.
- (2) Supaul subdivision.
- (3) Madhepura subdivision.

Purnea district—

- (1) Purnea subdivision.
- (2) Katihar subdivision.
- (3) Araria subdivision.
- (4) Kishanganj subdivision.

North Monghyr—

- (1) Khagaria subdivision.
- (2) Begusarai subdivision.

Since October, 1962, the charge of North Monghyr has been handed over to the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Monghyr and now Saharsa and Purnea districts are left in this Division under the charge of an Executive Engineer. The Executive Engineer is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate and also the Chief Engineer, Unified Minor Irrigation, Patna.

ELECTION DEPARTMENT.

This department was established for election purposes in 1948, when Saharsa was a sub-district. The District Election Officer runs the office under the control of the District Magistrate and the Chief Electoral Officer, Patna. He is assisted by three Election Supervisors who are in charge of Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions. The Election Department has to maintain an up-to-date electoral roll and to see to the carrying out of the instructions of the Government regarding elections. With the widening of the franchise the work of the department has become very important.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The District Labour Officer, Saharsa, is the head of the labour office. He is under the direct control of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Bhagalpur. The Labour Commissioner, Patna, is the head of the department.

There are three Labour Inspectors posted at Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul and the District Labour Officer is assisted by them.

The main duties of the Labour Officer are to promote harmonious relations between the labour and the management and to act as the Liaison Officer between them. He has to insist on the amenities to the labour and to see that the labour laws are implemented. In cases of disputes he has to take necessary steps according to law.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

The department was started in 1954 at Saharsa. One Inspector was posted to Saharsa to look after the work. In April, 1963, the department is under a District Industries Officer who is under the

direct control of the Director of Industries, Bihar, Patna. The District Industries Officer has an Inspector at Saharsa and 16 Industrial Extension Supervisors posted at various Block headquarters of the district. The main function of this department is to encourage and develop the small-scale and village industries.

Training-cum-Production Centres have been started where the trainees are given monthly stipends. The Centres located in different Blocks of the district are:—

Name of the Training-cum-Production Centres.	Place and Block where located.
1. Tailoring Centre ..	Kahra Block.
2. Knitting and Embroidery ..	Sour bazar.
3. Ditto ..	Pipra.
4. Leather Goods Production Centre.	Sour bazar.
5. Ditto ..	Madhepura.
6. Tailoring Centre ..	Murliganj.
7. Ditto ..	Kumarkhand.
8. Carpentry Centre ..	Chousa.
9. Blacksmithy Centre ..	Uda Kishanganj.
10. Ditto ..	Alamnagar.
11. Electroplating Centre ..	Madhepura.
12. Ladies Tailoring and Cutting Centre.	Kishanpur.
13. Tailoring Centre ..	Supaul.
14. Knitting and Embroidery Centre.	Niwal.
15. Ditto ..	Supaul.
16. Cotton Weaving Centre ..	Supaul.
17. Leather Tanning Centre ..	Singheshwar.
18. Leather Tanning Centre ..	Nirmali.
19. Leather Goods-making Centre	Nauhatta.
20. Carpentry Centre ..	Nirmali.

The Training-cum-Production Centres are shifted occasionally according to a phased programme so that the different areas receive the advantages.

SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICE.

The office was started in 1954 at Saharsa. The Special Land Acquisition Officer is the administrative head of this office. He is under the direct administrative control of the Director of Rehabilitation and Land Acquisition (River Valley Projects), Patna.

The main function of this department is to acquire lands for Kosi Project at Saharsa.

The statement below shows the unitwise land acquired during 1955-56 to 1962-63:—

Year.	Unit II (Embankment side).		Unit III (Distributa- ries).		Rehabilitation.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1955-56	2,282.944	Nil	3.05		
1956-57	1,946.077	Nil	Nil		
1957-58	3,688.541	Nil	Nil		
1958-59	549.218	1,734.37	1,280.75		
1959-60	187.045	968.715	621.98		
1960-61	14.03	846.998	44.41		
1961-62	1.42	454.59	44.61		
1962-63	304.86	1,576.169	4.14		

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING.

This department was started in 1953, at Saharsa at a subdivisional level. The Subdivisional Officer, Public Health Engineering, is the head at the district level and he is under the administrative control of the Executive Engineer, Purnea, and the Superintending Engineer, Muzaffarpur. The Chief Engineer, Patna, is the administrative head of the department.

Prior to 1956, this office used to control the water-supply scheme of Madhepura but in 1956, a separate subdivision was started for the requirements of Madhepura.

There are six Sectional Officers out of which three are posted at Saharsa town, one at Supaul, one at Madhepura and one at Singheshwar.

STAMPS.

There is one Treasury Officer of Finance Service at the District Treasury Office. Besides, there are three Sub-Treasury Officers at Supaul, Madhepura and Birpur respectively. These officers are under the direct control of the District Magistrate, Saharsa. The Subdivisional Officers of *Muffasil* subdivisions are the head of the Sub-Treasury Offices.

The revenue from the sale of stamps is an important source of income to the State Government.

The statement below supplied by the Saharsa Treasury Office, shows the receipts from the sale of stamps:—

Year.			Non-judicial. Rs.	Judicial. Rs.
1955-56	..	..	2,37,038.13	1,95,701.62
1956-57	..	..	3,31,878.02	19,53,398.09
1957-58	..	..	Not available	Not available.
1958-59	..	..	2,65,082.79	13,456.96
1959-60	..	..	3,77,863.63	1,66,850.83
1960-61	..	..	5,07,331.70	1,80,804.94
1961-62	..	..	5,00,657.13	2,03,692.40

The above figures also include the figures of all the Sub-treasury Offices of the district.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

Prior to 1952, the Public Relations Department was known as the Publicity Department. The Public Relations Officer is the head of the department. He is assisted by three Assistant Public Relations Officers with headquarters at Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul respectively.

The District Public Relations Officer and the Assistant Public Relations Officers are under the immediate control of the District Magistrate. He is also under the Director of Public Relations, Patna. The department is the link between the people and the State Government.

A mobile publicity van equipped with a projector is taken round the district and free film shows and talks are arranged on various useful topics on health, village industries, education, Five-Year Plans, etc. Publicity literature are also distributed. Radio sets have been distributed.

There is an Information Centre at Saharsa where several daily newspapers, magazines, publicity literature, etc., are kept for public consumption. It was observed that the Information Centre was visited by very few persons and could be said to be popular. Information Centres at Block level have been established and supervised by the District Public Relations Officer. Not much use is made of them either.

SUPPLY AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Supply and Commerce Section or more popularly known as the Price Control Office was opened in every district during the stress of short supply of essential commodities in the Second War Years. The section has continued and is controlled by the Supply and Commerce Department at the Government level in Patna. The District Magistrate is the administrative head and the section works under a District Supply Officer who is helped by several Inspectors. When Saharsa received the status of a sub-district this section was opened.

The District Supply Officer is assisted by three Assistant Supply Officers in the three subdivisions, namely, Saharsa Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul under the administrative control of the respective Sub-divisional Officers. Besides, there are 18 Supply Inspectors in the district at different points, i.e., one at the district headquarters, six at Sadar subdivision, six at Supaul subdivision and five at Madhepura subdivision to supervise the supply of essential commodities like cement, coal, sugar, iron goods, etc., wherever there is scarcity. The main function of the department is to enforce the control orders and to see to the equitable distribution of essential commodities. Licensed dealers and Fair Price Shops in the urban areas are the usual agencies for such distribution.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

The Employment Exchange Office is under the charge of the District Employment Officer. The department is under the Labour Department. The administrative head is the State Director of National Employment Service, Patna. There is a Regional Employment Officer with his headquarters at each division. This office is under the Regional Office, Bhagalpur.

The work of the Employment Exchange in the district of Saharsa is looked after by the District Employment Officer who is of gazetted rank and is under the control of the Regional Employment Officer, Bhagalpur.

The chief function of the department is to work as the link between the employer and the unemployed and to find placement for the unemployed. The unemployed are expected to register themselves indicating their qualifications and preference for particular job or trade. The entries are categorised and whenever there is a demand from any employer, the Employment Officer sends up the names of the possible candidates. The arrangement does not work well as the employers seldom notify their requirements to the Exchange and there are too many unqualified registered candidates looking for jobs of one and the same type. The placements are very few.

A statement is given below to show the number of applicants registered, placed and number of vacancies notified at the end of each year for six years:—

Year.	Number of applicants at the register at the end of the year.	Number of persons regis- tered during the year.	Total number of persons enrolled.	Vacancies notified.
1	2	3	4	5
1956 ..	557	1,629	2,186	391
1957 ..	246	600	846	75
1958 ..	219	567	766	183
1959 ..	269	996	1,265	118
1960 ..	542	1,803	2,345	207
1961 ..	582	1,544	2,126	312

The statistics above indicate that the Employment Exchange has not been very popular or effective although it is a fact that in a district like Saharsa employment chance is small.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The District Inspector of Weights and Measures under the control of the District Magistrate runs the Inspectorate of Weights and Measures. The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Patna and the Divisional Inspector, Bhagalpur, are also the superior authority of the District Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The District Inspector is assisted by three Subdivisional Inspectors posted at Sadar, Madhepura and Supaul subdivisions with headquarters at Saharsa. Their duty is to see that correct weights and measures are used. They have the authority to verify the weights and weighing instruments and to prosecute, if necessary. They seize unauthorised weights and measures and educate the public as to the correct weights and measures. Their work has become all the more important owing to the recent changes in the measures by law. A bewildering variety of weights and measures were in use and they differed from place to place.

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

The District Statistical Officer is in charge of the Statistics Department at the district level. He is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate and also works under the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bihar, Patna. His duty is to collect statistics of various descriptions and also to carry out any sample survey, if ordered. He is expected to watch the weekly progress of the surveys to give the necessary direction to the field staff.

At present (1963) the District Statistical Officer is assisted by the following staff:—

- (1) One District Statistical Supervisor posted at Saharsa.
- (2) One District Statistical Inspector posted at Saharsa.
- (3) One Junior Statistical Assistant posted at Saharsa.
- (4) Seventeen Junior Statistical Assistants at the different Block headquarters.
- (5) Three Junior Field Investigators posted at Saharsa, Uda Kishanganj and Supaul respectively.

This is an important section and can only be useful if properly manned. It has been felt that the District Statistical Officer here has not yet been able to collect reliable data for the district.*

* A lot of unreliable and fantastic statistics had been supplied by this office which had to be returned and rejected. The District Magistrate was informed. The section has yet to find its feet. (P. C. B. C.)

KOSI PROJECT DEPARTMENT.

The Kosi Project Department is under the control of the Chief Administrator of Kosi Project, Bihar, Patna. The work of the department in this district has been described elsewhere.

The Chief Engineer, Kosi Project, is in charge of the execution of the various schemes under Kosi Project. He is assisted by the following principal officers:—

- (1) Superintending Engineer, Barrage Circle.
- (2) Superintending Engineer, Canal Circle.
- (3) Superintending Engineer, Chatra Canal Circle.
- (4) Superintending Engineer, Quality Control.
- (5) Superintending Engineer, Railways.
- (6) Administrative Officer, Birpur.
- (7) Executive Engineer, Barrage Division.
- (8) Executive Engineer, Quarry Division.
- (9) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division.
- (10) Executive Engineer, Earth Dam Division.
- (11) Three Executive Engineers one each for Rehabilitation at Raghapur, Nirmali and Madhepura.
- (12) Executive Engineer, Chatra Division.

The Canal Division and Barrage Divisions are divided into a number of subdivisions. Each subdivision is under the charge of one Assistant Engineer. There are a large number of Sectional Officers under the immediate control of the Assistant Engineers. There are hundreds of subordinate employees.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Postal Department.

The Postal Department including Telegraphs and Telephones is under the control of the Superintendent of Post Offices with headquarters at Purnea and the Post Master General, Bihar, Patna. For administrative purposes this department has two subdivisions, namely, Saharsa and Madhepura. There are two Postal Inspectors posted at Saharsa and Madhepura respectively.

The Saharsa Post Office is the head post office. There are two types of Sub-post offices, i.e., Departmental and Extra Departmental. The strength of the Departmental Sub-post Offices in the district is seventeen and that of the Extra Departmental is one. In Extra Departmental Sub-post Offices, part-time clerks are appointed. There are 35 Branch Post Offices. The majority of the Sub-post Offices are served direct by rail communication with railway mail service and a few of them are served by roads through mail runners. The Branch Post Offices are located at bigger villages.

The Post Offices are very few in number in consideration of the population and the number of villages. The bad communications have been a problem for efficient postal services.

Life Insurance Corporation.

After the nationalisation of Life Insurance work, the Life Insurance Corporation, India, was set up and the Saharsa Branch was sponsored in October, 1958. The Branch Office at Saharsa has one Development Centre at Supaul since July, 1962. There is an Assistant Branch Manager (Development) at Supaul. The Saharsa Branch is under Muzaffarpur Division.

There are fourteen Field Officers in Saharsa Branch out of which three are posted at Saharsa, five at Madhepura and six at Supaul respectively. The Field Officers have a specified area in their charge and they work through appointed village agents. These village agents work on commission basis calculated on the premiums paid on policies.

Central Excise.

There are three Range offices of the Central Excise Department at Saharsa town, Murliganj and Uda Kishanganj respectively. There are Inspectors of Central Excise at each of these places. The Central Excise Inspector is assisted by three Sub-Inspectors, one for each Range. They are under the Inspector of Central Excise at Saharsa who is controlled by the Superintendent of Central Excise, Santal Parganas, and the Assistant Collector of Central Excise, Purnea. The Collector of Central Excise, Patna, is the administrative head of the department.

The chief function of the department is to look after the proper collection of excise duty on commodities like tobacco, non-essential vegetable oil, etc., levied by the Central Government. The district is not of much importance from Central Excise Department point of view.