

CHAPTER XVII.

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

PUBLIC LIFE.

General Elections.

Historical Retrospect.—Representative Government was partially introduced in India under the Government of India Act, 1919, which created a Central Legislature consisting of a Council of State and a Legislative Assembly. Every Council of State normally continued for five years while every Legislative Assembly for three years from its inception. The Act also created a Legislative Council in every Governor's province including Bihar and Orissa (as this State was then composed). The normal duration of this Council was three years.

The Government of India Act, 1919, was replaced by the Government of India Act, 1935. The Central Legislature continued as before, but the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council was abolished. On being created a new province, Orissa was separated from Bihar and bi-cameral Legislature for Bihar was introduced, consisting of a Legislative Assembly and a Legislative Council. The normal duration of the Bihar Legislative Assembly was five years. The Bihar Legislative Council was a permanent body, one-third of its members retiring every third year.

The franchise under the aforesaid two Acts was generally based on (1) citizenship (*i. e.*, a voter must be a British subject as his status was then defined), (2) residence, (3) community, (4) religion, (5) race, (6) age, (7) sex, (8) property, (9) taxation, etc. Special representation was provided for commerce, industry, mining, plantation, labour, landholders, the university, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. As a result, the constituencies were of diverse nature and the qualifications for membership varied accordingly, except in respect of age.

The first General Elections under the Government of India Act, 1919, were held in the year 1920, simultaneously both for the Legislative Assembly and the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council (as it then was). Thereafter the elections were held at statutory intervals with interruptions in view of further constitutional reforms. The first General Elections under the Government of India Act, 1935, were held in January, 1937 and second and last in March, 1946. This gap was due to interruption in the normal working of the Constitution in course of the Second World War (1939—45).

After the General Elections in March, 1946, a Constituent Assembly was elected by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies and its first sitting was held on the 9th December, 1946. It was entrusted with framing a Constitution for the country. Under the Indian Independence Act, 1947, enacted by the British Parliament on the 18th July, 1947

India achieved Independence on the 15th of August, 1947. While the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly was busy with the preparation of a Draft Constitution of India, the Constituent Assembly, on the 27th September, 1947, called upon the Provincial Government to formulate proposals for the formation of constituencies of the proposed House of the People, providing therein for the reservation of seats for the Muslims, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Indian Christians. The Draft Constitution of India was published on the 26th February, 1948. The Constituent Assembly in its letter, dated 15th March, 1948, requested the Provincial Government to take immediate steps for the preparation of the electoral rolls. It intimated that the Draft Constitution provided that elections to the Lower House of the Central and Provincial Legislatures should be held on the basis of adult franchise, minimum age of voters being 21 years which should be calculated with reference to the 1st January, 1949, and a person who had not resided in a place for at least 180 days during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948, was not eligible for enrolment as an elector. Further, it intimated that there would be no separate communal electorates and therefore only one composite roll for all communities should be prepared, but in order to determine whether a candidate for a reserved seat was a voter belonging to the particular community, namely, Muslim, the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes for which the seat was reserved, the electoral roll should contain the necessary information. After preparation of the electoral rolls and on completion of the necessary arrangements, the first General Elections, both for the House of People and State Legislative Assembly, were held between the period starting the 15th of November, 1951 and polls ending on the 24th January, 1952*.

The most noteworthy feature of this election was universal franchise which both men and women of eligible age availed without any restriction.

General Elections, 1952.

In this district the percentage of electors to its total population was as follows† :—

Population according to 1951 census.			No. of electors.			Percentage of electors to population.		
Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
25,28,272	12,97,266	12,31,006	8,73,660	6,32,537	2,41,123	34.5	48.8	19.5

*See, Report on the first General Elections¹ under the Constitution of India in Bihar, 1951-52, pp. 1,3 and 7.

†*Ibid* p. 20.

It is apparent that female voters did not come forth in sufficient number to get themselves enrolled as voters. This explains their low percentage to the population of the district in which both the sexes were more or less of equal strength, there being no convincing reason for disparity of proportion in various age-groups between them.

Legislative Assembly.—In the General Elections of 1952 there were following 17 constituencies for the Provincial Legislative Assembly (*i.e.*, Vidhan Sabha) in the district out of which three were double-member constituencies (*i.e.*, one seat was general and the other reserved for a candidate of the Scheduled Castes):—

- (1) Maner, (2) Danapur, (3) Patna City West-*cum*-Naubatpur (double-member constituency), (4) Patna East, (5) Fatwa, (6) Punpun-*cum*-Masaurhi (double-member constituency), (7) Chandi, (8) Ekangarsarai, (9) Islampur-*cum*-Silao (double-member constituency), (10) Mokameh, (11) Barh, (12) Asthawan, (13) Bihar North, (14) Bihar South, (15) Bakhtiarpur, (16) Bihta and (17) Paliganj.

The following table gives details of the parties, number of candidates set up, seats won and total votes polled by them:—

Party/Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.
Congress	20	20	2,38,382
Socialist	15	Nil	66,055
F. B. (Marxist)	8	Nil	18,995
United Kisan Sabha	2	Nil	11,252
Jan Sangh	5	Nil	8,961
Communist	1	Nil	3,499
Praja	6	Nil	15,630
Parishad	3	Nil	5,308
Federation	2	Nil	4,971
R. S. P.	1	Nil	302
Independent	75	Nil	1,85,494
GRAND TOTAL	138	20	5 58,849

The total number of votes approximately accounted for 65 per cent of the total electorate, counting only one voter as against two votes in the three reserved constituencies. This high percentage of poll was perhaps due to the non-participation of female voters who, as discussed above, had not got themselves enrolled. It may be noted that in rural areas female voters are rather shy to go to the polling booths. Further, unlike at present booths in 1952 election were situated at some distance from each other.

All the 20 seats including three reserved ones were won by the Indian National Congress which polled 2,38,382 votes as against 3,22,112 polled together by all other parties including Independents. Seventy five Independents polling 1,85,494 votes averaged 2,477 each. The Congress averaged 11,919 and the Socialists 4,403 per candidate. Thus taking into consideration the number of candidates fielded the Congress had almost a walk-over victory over other parties and Independents.

Parliamentary Constituencies.—There were three Parliamentary Constituencies, namely, Pataliputra, Patna Central and Patna East. Besides, one constituency, i. e., Patna-cum-Shahabad included some areas of the Patna district. All these constituencies were single. The total electorate in the aforesaid three constituencies was 7,76,677 and votes cast were 3,97,867, i. e., approximately 50 per cent.

The following table shows the details of the parties, number of candidates set up, seats won and total votes polled by them:—

Party/Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.
Congress	3	3	1,94,212
Socialist	3	Nil	85,533
Krisak Mazdoor Praja Party	1	"	6,709
Hindu Mahasabha	1	"	19,225
F. B. (Marxist)	1	"	27,073
Independent	4	"	65,115
TOTAL	13	3	3,97,867

The Indian National Congress had fought for the Independence of the country and therefore its stock was very high with the electorate. The Socialists till recently had been part of the Congress but seceded from the parent organisation perhaps because they were not satisfied with the pace of the parent body in respect of implementation of their original programme. The Krisak Mazdoor Praja Party founded by Acharya Kripalani was in effect a splinter group of the dissident Congressmen, who had revolted against the parent body on account of alleged deviation from the Gandhian Philosophy. None of them could impress the electorate. The Hindu Mahasabha as well as Forward Block also trailed far behind. The Congress had a well-knit organisation having workers in almost all villages of the district who were devoted to it since before the Independence. The other parties could not match the Congress in

this regard. The Congress was identified with Mahatma Gandhi by the rank and file of the people who held him in the highest esteem and therefore sanctity attached to the Congress. Further, Jawaharlal Nehru who was then the leader of the Congress was regarded by them as the successor to Mahatma Gandhi. Due to his magnetic personality he attracted largest number of votes to Congress. The Congress being in power had all the material resources at its command. The other parties could not even distantly match it in this regard as well as in organisation. The Forward Bloc was linked to the name of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose who had fought for the Independence of the country under the banner of his I.N.A. against the Britishers and had made supreme sacrifice, ultimately becoming a martyr in plane crash. The literate voters were naturally attracted to him and mostly voted for the candidate of the Forward Bloc. However, the Congress emerged as a huge monolith both in the Assembly and Parliament as the sole representative of the district. It may incidentally be noted that part of this district under the Assmibly Constituencies of Paliganj and Bikram which was included in Patna-cum-Shahabad Parliamentary Constituency also returned a Congress representative.

General Elections, 1957.

The second General Elections were held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls prepared in 1952 and revised in course of the last five years. The poll commenced on the 25th of February, 1957 and was completed on the 12th of March, 1957. Seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their population as determined by the Census Commissioner.

Electorate.—In the Patna district the percentage of electors to its total population was as given below* :—

Population according to 1951 census.			Number of electors.			Percentage of electors to population.		
Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
25,28,272	12,97,266	12,31,006	12,46,687	6,80,638	5,66,049	49.31	52.39	45.98

It would appear from the above that in comparison with the General Elections, 1952. the electors, particularly, women electors were more thoroughly enumerated during this General Election so much so that the percentage of female electors rose to 45.98 per cent to their total population as against only 19.5 per cent during the previous election. This reflected in the total percentage of the electors, both males and females, which stood at 49.31 per cent as against 34.5 per cent in the previous election.

Legislative Assembly.—In the General Elections of 1957 there were following 18 constituencies for the Legislative Assembly (i.e., Vidhan

*See, Report on the Second General Elections in Bihar, 1956-57, p. 114.

Sabha) in the Patna district out of which three were double-member constituencies, one seat being reserved in each for a candidate of the Scheduled Castes. These constituencies were:—

- (1) Asthawan, (2) Mokameh, (3) Barh, (4) Fatwa, (double-member constituency), (5) Bihar North, (6) Bihar South, (7) Rajagriha (double-member constituency), (8) Chandi, (9) Hilsa, (10) Masaurhi (double-member constituency), (11) Naubatpur, (12) Patna South, (13) Patna East, (14) Patna West, (15) Danapur, (16), Maner, (17) Bikram and (18) Paliganj.

The following table gives the details of different parties as well as Independents, number of their candidates, seats won and total votes polled by them*:

Party/Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Constituency won.	Total votes polled.	Approximate percentage of votes polled.
Congress	21	15	Mokameh, Barh, Bihar North, Bihar South, Rajagriha (R), Chandi, Hilsa, Masaurhi (Both G and R), Naubatpur, Patna South, Patna East, Patna West, Danapur and Bikram.	3,17,572	43
Praja Socialist ..	11	2	Fatwa (G) and Paliganj.	1,14,190	15
Janta	10	3	Asthawan, Fatwa (R) Rajagriha (G)†	1,01,888	14
Socialist	2	Nil	..	4,403	0.6
Jan Sangh	4	Nil	..	14,039	2
Communist	3	1	Maner	23,967	3
Independent ..	38	Nil	..	1,63,891	22
TOTAL	89	21	(i. e., 18 general plus three reserved).	7,39,950	

We find that as against the total of 20 seats for Legislative Assembly in 1952, there were 21 seats in 1957. However, the total number of candidates in 1957 was only 89 in spite of the addition of one seat though it was 119 in 1952. Fewer Independents contested the election in 1957 perhaps because many of the Independents had forfeited their security in the election of 1952 and this together with the mounting

*See, Report on the Second General Elections in Bihar, 1956-57, pp. 163-166.

†G—General

R—Reserved

cost of election probably acted as deterrent to prospective candidates. Further, some of the parties, e.g., United Kisan Sabha, Forward Bloc, Praja Party, Ram Raj Parishad, Scheduled Caste Federation, Revolutionary Socialist Party, disappeared from the scene altogether. A new party, namely, Janta founded by Raja Kamakhya Narayan Singh of Ramgarh (Hazaribagh) appeared on the scene. Though its appeal was limited mostly to Chotanagpur and particularly Hazaribagh district, its achievement in the Patna district is noteworthy as it captured two general seats in Bihar subdivision and one reserved seat in Barh subdivision. The success of the candidates of Praja Socialist Party and the Communist Party may be attributed mainly to the personal standing of the candidates concerned. Otherwise Congress continued to maintain its hold on the electorate. The success of the candidates belonging to the parties other than Congress does not show that they established their firm hold in any particular area of the district. The Socialist and Jan Sangh failed to make any impression and the Praja Socialist Party who were in the field in the previous election also accounted for a much larger number of votes proportionately for their success (roughly 57,000 per successful candidate) than the Congress whose candidates succeeded on average votes of 21,000 each as against Janta Party candidates who averaged roughly 33,000 each.) The Communist Party fielded three candidates and with one success their average of about 24,000 compares favourably with that of the Congress. This may be attributed to their judicious choice in contesting fewer seats. The Independents wasted a large number of votes for no purpose except that in lieu of time and resources spent by them, they could perhaps have some local publicity. However, with the advance of democratic tradition and experience, the electorate showed maturity and gave fewer votes to the Independents than in the previous General Election.

Parliamentary Election, 1957.—In the General Elections of 1957 there were three Parliamentary Constituencies in the Patna district, namely, Patna, Barh, and Nalanda. A part of this district comprising Paliganj and Bikram Assembly Constituencies was tagged on to Shahabad Constituency.

The following table gives the names of parties including Independents, total number of candidates set up, seats won and votes obtained:—

Name of Party.	Total number of candi- dates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.	Percentage of votes.
Congress	3	3	2,30,660	49
Praja Socialist	1	Nil	37,654	8
Janta	1	Nil	9,477	2
Communist	1	Nil	67,023	14
Independent	6	Nil	1,27,260	27

In Nalanda Constituency an Independent gave a strong opposition to the victorious Congress candidate while in Patna Constituency a Communist lost to Congress by a small margin. All other parties and Independent candidates polled 2,41,414 votes as against 2,30,660 polled by Congress. On comparison of the votes polled by the candidates it is clear that there had been a straight fight between the Congress candidate and the candidate who was next to the Congress, the Nalanda seat would have gone to an Independent ; the Barh to the Praja Socialist and Patna to Communist. It is clear that without the backing of some party a candidate would not have any chance of success as elections in 1957 were much more costly and exacting than the previous one.

General Elections, 1962. ✓

The General Elections, 1962, were held from the 19th February to the 25th February, 1962 the actual poll being held on four days only. The important innovations were—(a) two-member Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies were split up into two distinct and separate units ; (b) marking system of voting was introduced ; and (c) the period of poll and counting of votes was drastically reduced. In the previous elections a voter was required to put the ballot paper secretly into ballot box of the candidate of his choice and there were as many boxes as contesting candidates. This required an exclusive and well-screened chamber to keep the boxes to insure secrecy, usually two such chambers were provided at a booth, one for the Assembly Constituencies and the other for the Parliamentary ones. At one time only one voter could go inside the chamber and thus the pace of the poll was naturally slow. Sometimes a second or even a third ballot box was issued to the candidates whose boxes appeared to be full to the Presiding Officer. Now during the third General Elections there was only one common ballot box for all the contesting candidates in a constituency and a voter was required to put the seal against the symbol of the candidate of his choice in the space provided on the ballot paper which contained the symbols of all the contesting candidates in a particular constituency. This brought about a major change. Hitherto it had been possible for an unscrupulous voter to sell his ballot papers as he could take them away outside the booth without being detected. Further, in the contesting candidates by sending their trained agents (also voters) at intervals could drop in their boxes the ballot papers purchased by them as well as those ballot papers which were usually put on the boxes of other candidates and not inserted inside by voters as also those strewn here and there on the floor and appropriate them to their advantage.

At intervals the Presiding Officers had to go inside the chamber to see that the slits of the ballot boxes were not clogged. Sometimes thus cast suspicion on them. Now the ballot box was placed in front of the Presiding Officer and the polling agents of the candidates had opportunity to watch the dropping of the ballot papers inside the ballot box at

all times. In addition to the cost of manufacturing multitudes of ballot boxes the collection and transport of numerous polled ballot boxes entailed much time and cost. This was now reduced to the minimum.

The plural constituencies were converted into single ones after adjusting the areas and population in between the adjacent constituencies. The constituencies were now reserved for the Scheduled Castes (or Scheduled Tribes), taking the district as a whole and periodically shifting such reserved constituencies so that the reserved constituencies in turn could be converted into general ones to enable all communities to participate in the election with interest, which was not usually evinced by non-Scheduled Castes in case of the reserved constituencies. The electoral rolls of all the Assembly Constituencies were revised during the intervening period, i. e., 1957—62.

Electorate.—The following table gives percentage of electors to 1961 census population in the Patna district, both for the House of the People and the Legislative Assembly* :—

Population according to 1961 census.			Number of electors.			Percentage of electors.		
Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
29,49,746	15,22,687	14,27,059	14,59,477	8,05,296	6,54,181	49.47	52.88	45.82

It appears that the percentage of male and female voters are evenly balanced according to their respective population.

Legislative Assembly.—For the General Election, 1962, there were 21 constituencies in the Patna district, namely :—

- (1) Barh, (2) Mokameh, (3) Asthawan, (4) Bihar North, (5) Bihar South, (6) Rajgriha (Scheduled Caste), (7) Islampur, (8) Chandi, (9) Hilsa, (10) Bakhtiarpur†, (11) Fatwa (Scheduled Caste), (12) Masaurhi (Scheduled Caste), (13) Punpun, (14) Nautanpur, (15) Patna South, (16) Patna East, (17) Patna West, (18) Danapur, (19) Maner, (20) Bikram and (21) Pali.

Thus on account of delimitation of constituencies, three general constituencies, namely, Islampur, Bakhtiarpur and Punpun came into existence

*See, Report on the third General Elections in Bihar, 1962, Appendix I, p. 168.

†. It was altogether a new constituency.

The following table gives the name of Parties/Independents, number of candidates set up by them, seats won, total votes polled and percentage of their votes:—

Name of Parties/Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.	Approximate percentage of votes polled.
Congress	21	15	3,39,445	44
Communist	7	Nil	46,105	6
Hindu Mahasabha	3	Nil	2,614	3
Jan Sangh	9	1	54,836	7
Jharkhand	1	Nil	1,487	2
Praja Socialist	12	2	66,907	9
Socialist	6	1	23,417	3
Swatantra	16	1	1,22,885	15
Independent	50	1	1,14,523	15
TOTAL	125	21	7,62,219	

It would appear that on average for one Assembly seat there were six candidates. This number was swelled up on account of the entry of a large number of Independents who constituted almost half of the total though they could poll only 15 per cent of the total votes and capture one seat only. From the analysis of votes polled by the Independent candidates it is clear that few were serious candidates. They had mostly been set up on basis of caste affinity by interested parties to divide the votes which would otherwise have gone to their opponents. They were usually of the same castes which were dominant elements in the local constituency. By and large, the multiplicity of candidates benefited the Congress, which maintained its position as in the last General Elections though with lesser percentage of votes. Had their candidates faced the opposition straight they would have won only five seats out of a total of 21 as would appear from the table below. The appeal of the Hindu Mahasabha, which was derived mostly from the division of the country into India and Pakistan and hardships the tribulations of the Hindu still left in Pakistan and the plight of those who came as refugees to this country, were more or less diminished by this time as

was reflected in very poor poll by this party. The Janta Party had now merged into the Swatantra Party, which no doubt improved its percentage of poll, but could gain only one seat. The Praja Socialist and the Socialist could not make any appreciable impression on the electorate on account of their mutual strife and thus gave but a poor account of themselves. The Jharkhand Party was a non-entity securing negligible per cent of votes.

The voting trends indicated that the election was based on caste appeal. This cut at the root of democracy, dividing each and every village among so many caste groups. However, on the whole the elections were held peacefully.

TABLE

Name of Constituency.	Total votes polled by Congress candidates.	Total votes polled by all other candidates.
1. Barh	15,865	17,984
2. Bihar North	19,324	21,488
3. Bihar South	12,337	19,202
4. Rajgir	18,091	13,710
5. Bakhtiarpur	15,846	20,007
6. Fatwa	13,704	15,161
7. Masaurhi	14,140	8,058
8. Punpun	17,390	11,865
9. Naubatpur	16,723	25,286
10. Patna South	17,009	26,397
11. Patna East	13,739	25,453
12. Patna West	27,925	9,999
13. Maner	9,687	19,280
14. Bikram	18,238	24,456
15. Paliganj	27,494	22,042

The above figures indicate that the Congress would have won only reserved constituencies of Rajgir, Fatwa and Masaurhi and general constituencies of Patna West and Paliganj.

Parliamentary Elections.—In the General Elections, 1962, there were three Parliamentary Constituencies, namely, Nalanda, Barh and Patna.

The total number of electors was 12,31,326 out of them 6,32,748 voted, the votes of 19,759 being invalid. Thus roughly a little over 50 per cent of the electors went to polls.

The following table gives the name of the Parties/Independent candidates set up by them, seats won, votes polled and percentage of votes polled:—

Parties/Independents.	Candidates set up.	Seats won.	Votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled.
Congress	3	3	3,01,372	48
Communist	2	Nil	1,35,574	21
Hindu Mahasabha	3	Nil	24,109	4
Jan Sangh	2	Nil	55,652	9
Swatantra	1	Nil	65,581	10
Socialist	1	Nil	7,161	1
Independent	5	Nil	43,299	7
TOTAL	17	3	6,32,748	100

The Congress maintained its previous position capturing all the three seats while the Communist Party increased their poll to 21 per cent. The performance of other parties as well as Independents was insignificant. If there would have been straight fight between the Congress and the Opposition, the Congress could have retained only the Barh Constituency and lost Nalanda and Patna as would appear from the following table* :—

Name of Constituency.	Total votes polled by Congress candidates.	Total votes polled by all other candidates.
Barh	1,03,802	81,985
Nalanda	95,863	1,21,542
Patna	1,01,687	1,24,849

* See, Report on the third General Elections in Bihar, 1962, Appendix IV, p. 193.

General Elections, 1967.

The General Elections, 1967, were held from the 15th February to the 21st February, 1967 and the results of the elections were declared during the period 22nd to 24th February, 1967. The procedures laid down in the previous elections in 1962 were followed and the electorate was based on 1961 census, subject to the revisions of the electoral roll of the constituencies in the meantime.

Legislative Assembly.—There were in all 20 Legislative Assembly constituencies as named below:—

- (1) Mokameh, (2) Barh, (3) Bakhtiarpur, (4) Fatwa (Scheduled Caste), (5) Bihar, (6) Asthawan, (7) Ekangarsarai, (8) Rajgir (Scheduled Caste), (9) Islampur, (10) Chandi, (11) Hilsa, (12) Masaurhi, (13) Punpun (Scheduled Caste), (14) Patna South, (15) Patna East, (16) Patna West, (17) Danapur, (18) Maner, (19) Bikram and (20) Paliganj.

It would appear that in course of delimitation of the constituencies, Naubatpur Constituency disappeared altogether while Bihar South and Bihar North (as in the elections, 1962) were readjusted under the name of Bihar. As against the loss of these two seats, Ekangarsarai came on the plus side, thus the net loss was one only. Fatwa, Rajgir and Punpun were Scheduled Caste constituencies while the rest were general.

The following table gives the names of Parties/Independents, number of candidates set up by them, seats won, total votes polled and percentage of their votes* :—

Name of Party/ Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled.
Congress	20	8	3,72,101	35.3
Communist (Right)	5	2	50,705	4.5
Communist (Marxist)	3	Nil	12,014	1.5
Jan Sangh	14	3	1,36,053	12.4
Sanyukt Socialist	13	2	96,499	9.5
Praja Socialist	9	Nil	55,896	5.5
Swatantra	5	Nil	6,586	1
Republican Party	2	1	23,893	2
Independent†	51	4	3,00,435	28.3
TOTAL	122	20	10,52,922	100

*SOURCE.—Public Relations Department, Bihar, Patna.

†Includes candidates set up by Jan Kranti Dal founded by Shri Mahamaya Prasad Sinha in January, 1967.

As against 15 seats won by Congress during the General Elections, 1962, it could win only eight seats, namely, Bakhtiarpur, Asthawan, Ekangarsarai, Islampur, Chandi, Hilsa, Patna South and Bikram. An important feature of the election was that it lost all the three Scheduled Caste constituencies, namely, Fatwa, Rajgir and Punpun. Fatwa and Rajgir went to Jan Sangh while Punpun to Jankranti Dal. The success of Congress was mainly in the Bihar subdivision where it won as many as five constituencies, namely, Asthawan, Ekangarsarai, Islampur, Chandi and Hilsa. Except in Patna West Constituency the elections were strongly based on caste appeal. The candidates set up by political parties as well as Independents usually belonged to the castes which were numerically dominant in the constituencies concerned. In the Biharsharif subdivision combination of two castes, namely, Kurmis and Bhumihars, produced the most favourable results for Congress.

The Communist Party (Right) won seats, Bihar and Masaurhi as against none in 1962, averaging per seat a little over 2 per cent of the total votes in the district.

The success of their candidate in the Bihar Constituency may be attributed, apart from party organisation, to votes influenced by the police firing on students at Biharsharif in early part of January, prior to the election.

The success of the non-Congress candidates was mainly due to anti-Congress feeling of the electorate. An interesting contest took place in Mokameh Constituency where the Congress was defeated by a candidate of the Republican Party*. This Party was rather obscure in this district. This seat was held by Congress through a high caste candidate in 1952 and 1957 and by a high caste independent in 1962.

The loss of all the three Scheduled Caste seats as well as Mokameh general seat by the Congress which hitherto had polled Harijan votes solid in the district, is significant.

The Jan Sangh won three constituencies, namely, Scheduled Caste constituencies of Fatwa and Rajgir as well as general Patna East Constituency. Its performance in the Patna East Constituency was creditable inasmuch as all other candidates including one set up by the Congress forfeited their security. During the election of 1962, the Jan Sangh had finished only next to the Congress which had won this seat. The analysis of votes shows that the Muslim votes which are quite substantial went to two Muslim candidates, one having been set up by Congress and the other an Independent. But even if only one of them had

*Founded by late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and consisting of the Backward Classes only.

stood, it would have made no difference to the fortune of Jan Sangh in this constituency.

But far the most important fight was in the Patna West Constituency where the then Chief Minister of Bihar and the President of the newly-formed Jankranti Dal faced each other. In this constituency 'caste' had no place. The Jankranti Dal won the Patna West seat by a majority of over 20,000 votes against the then Chief Minister of Bihar.

A very keen contest developed in the Patna South Constituency where a powerful Minister was locked in a neck and neck fight with a candidate of the Jankranti Dal. Two communities, namely, Yadavas and Kurmis, who are numerically dominant, fought for their respective candidates, the Minister belonging to the Yadava Community winning by a margin.

Parliamentary Constituencies.—As in the General Elections of 1962, there were three Parliamentary Constituencies in this district, namely, Nalanda, Barh and Patna. Part of this district covering Paliganj and Bikram was included in Shahabad Constituency. The Communist candidate won the Patna seat while Barh and Nalanda were retained by Congress. The electoral alliance between Kurmis and Bhumihaars mainly helped the Congress while the wrath of the progressive electorate against it was mainly responsible for its defeat in Patna.

The following table gives the details of the parties, their candidates, seats won, votes polled and percentage in the Parliamentary constituencies:—

(1) Total Electorate	17,05,352
(2) V. V. polled*	9,44,478
(3) V. Rej.†	41,348

Name of Party / Independents.	Number of candidates.	Seats won.	Total votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled.
Congress	3	2	3,22,252	35
Communist Party of India (Right)	2	1	2,06,155	22
Jan Sangh	3	Nil	1,20,498	12
Swatantra	1	Nil	17,132	1.5
Samyukt Socialist	1	Nil	18,328	1.5
Praja Socialist	1	Nil	79,566	8
Independents	12	Nil	1,90,547	20
TOTAL	23	3	9,44,478	100

* V. V.—Votes Valid.

† V. Rej.—Votes Rejected.

NEWSPAPER.

The number of literate people is progressively increasing in the Patna district as elsewhere. Besides, Patna being the capital city and seat of learning and culture, its intellectual level is the highest in the State. Further, it receives a substantial floating population consisting of a fair proportion of educated persons everyday to transact work with the Legislature, High Court, University and the various Government Offices. Thus there is a very effective demand by the readers at Patna for newspapers. This in turn percolates down to the masses even in the remotest interior of the district.

The Second World War (1939—45), in fact, ushered in the popular era of newspaper reading in this district, as elsewhere in the State, when common man became inquisitive for news from the battle fronts. Apart from the English journals, the vernacular papers, particularly those in Hindi began to be subscribed by the people even in rural areas. Thus the circulation of the papers gradually increased. The absence of radio sets, which were still a luxury confined to the well-to-do people in towns with electric supply, further helped their circulation. The Chinese aggression against India in the autumn of 1962 and the Indo-Pakistan conflict in winter of 1965 made newspapers mass media of communication in spite of the popularity of radio.

The only English dailies published from the district headquarters are the *Indian Nation* and the *Searchlight*. The leading Hindi dailies are the *Pradeep* and the *Aryavarta*. They circulate all over the State, and also in other parts of India.

The English dailies, i.e., the *Statesman*, the *Hindusthan Standard*, the *Times of India* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, published outside Bihar, also circulate fairly well. Among the English weeklies and periodicals the *Blitz*, the *Illustrated Weekly of India* and the *Shanker's Weekly* may be mentioned.

The Hindi weeklies, namely, the *Dharmayuga*, the *Blitz* and the *Hindusthan Weekly* have also some circulation. The Bengali dailies, the *Anand Bazar Patrika* and the *Yugantar* are also read*.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

Theosophical Society, Patna.

The Theosophical Society is an International Organisation, founded in New York on 17th November, 1875 by Col. Olcott, an American

*See, Chapter on "Education and Culture" for details of newspapers and periodicals being published from Patna.
For fuller details see, "*Journalism in Bihar*", a Supplement (1969) to this Gazetteer.

lawyer and H. P. Blavtsky, a Russian lady, with a view to promote universal brotherhood of man without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour and also to encourage the study of comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science. Social services in various fields are an integral part of the activities of the Society.

The Society established its first lodge in Bihar at Bhagalpur in November, 1882 and at Patna in December, 1882. In 1905, the Bihar Theosophical Federation was constituted to look after the working of the Society. At present (1968), there are five full-fledged lodges located in different parts of Patna. The headquarters of the Society is situated in the Annie Besant Road, opposite Patna College. The activities of the Society covers various fields as indicated below:—

- (i) *Education*.—The late Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha, one of the leading Theosophists of his time, established the Anglo-Sanskrit School at Bankipur in 1885, which is still flourishing. The Theosophical Vanaprastha Samaj started the Panchasheel Vidyalaya in 1957 at Kumhrar. It is a residential school and prepares students for the Secondary Examination. The *Bal Vihar* Theosophical Montessori School at Patna is also being run by the Society. In 1939, the Society established a Harijan Industrial School at Mahendru for the welfare of the Harijans and ran it until 1958, when its management was taken over by the Welfare Department of the State Government. The Bihar Theosophical Federation runs a public reading room and a library having over 2,000 books on various subjects in Sir Jwala Theosophical Hall in its headquarters building. A special feature of the education imparted through the Society is emphasis on moral and spiritual balance. It is intended to awaken in the youth a spirit of service to humanity.

The single service was rendered by the Society in respect of the upliftment of Harijans in 1930s, when it accommodated Harijan boys in the Purnendu Narayan Theosophical Hostel at Patna when they could not be accommodated by the caste prejudices in the regular hostels of the colleges of Patna. Both Harijan and non-Harijan boys lived and messed together and thus prepared the background for their reception in the regular hostels of the Patna colleges towards the closing decade by about 1940.

- (ii) *Health*.—Two Theosophical Charitable Dispensaries are running in Patna, for the last several years, one located at the Popular Nursing Home at Chauhatta and the other at Chiraiyatand on Tarkeshwar Nath Path.

(iii) *Home for Crippled.*—In recent years, institutions for crippled persons, such as Netra Vihin Kalayan Sangh, Nihshahay Balak Grih and Ayyangar Bal Bhavan have been started at Kumhrar, Patna, for the welfare of homeless and disabled persons.

(iv) *Other Social Work.*—Over the past years, the members of the Society have visited jails and delivered religious discourses to persons. They have also taken active part in emancipation of women by running crusade against *Purdah* and supporting re-marriages. In the drought of 1967, the Theosophical Order of Service made a donation of Rs. 15,000 for the relief work in the drought-stricken areas. Distribution of clothes and digging of wells in the affected areas were also taken up.

The Society has thus a patron of work in other districts of Bihar also. But perhaps the most important service of the Society has been awakening in the youth, reverence for truth and spirit of service for the country. The work among the youths received a great impetus when Annie Besant presided over the Bihar Students Congress at Muzaffarpur in 1915. She gave a motto to the youth, "Be God-loving and Man-serving; Be pure, Be Brave and Be Strong"*.

Ram Krishna Mission Ashram, Patna.

After his return from the West, Swami Vivekanand with the help of his brother monks and lay disciples of Shri Ram Krishna, formed on May 1, 1897, an association called the Ram Krishna Mission. Its objects are to impart and promote the study of Vedanta and its principles as propounded by Shri Ram Krishna and of comparative theology in its widest form. It imparts and promotes the study of arts, sciences and industries and conducts philanthropic and cultural activities. It establishes and maintains schools, colleges, orphanages, workshops, laboratories, hospitals, houses for the infirm, invalid and afflicted, famine relief works, and other educational and charitable works and institutions of like nature. After the death of Shri Ram Krishna with only a few monks the movement has grown into a world organisation with branches in many countries.

The Ram Krishna Mission at Patna was founded in 1921 with a committee to celebrate the birth anniversary of Shri Ram Krishna and to popularise the life and teachings of Ram Krishna-Vivekanand. Two

*Dr. Annie Besant was the Founder of Home Rule League and leader of freedom-movement prior to Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Co-operation Movement of 1921.

Swamis, namely, Jnaneswarananda and Ramananda were invited from Varanasi Mission to pilot the *Ashram* in the initial stage. From June, 1922, the *Ashram* stated functioning at Baldeva Palit's house at Govind Mitra Road, Bankipur. In July, 1922, it shifted to a rented house in the neighbourhood and in 1927 again removed to a bigger house at Govind Mitra Road. A portrait of Shri Ram Krishna was installed in a room to be used as shrine, with due observance of *pūja*. This *Ashram* was affiliated as a branch centre of the Ram Krishna Mission at Belur Math. At a cost of Rs. 14,000, donated by the widow of late Bhuwaneshwar Dutta it purchased a piece of land in Langartoli to which the *Ashram* was shifted in 1930.

It organised flood relief work at Koilwar in the year 1923-24 under the leadership of Swami Jnaneswarananda. It did extensive relief work in context of the earthquake of 1934 and also undertook East Bengal Refugee relief work at Bihta and Mokameh in 1950. It distributed wheat among the indigent in the scarcity affected areas and also organised flood relief work in affected districts of North Bihar from 1953 to 1955. In 1961 it opened a flood relief centre at Barhaiya in Monghyr district. In 1967 the *Ashram* has undertaken relief work in the drought affected areas in the districts of Santhal Parganas, Monghyr and Hazaribagh.

It published a weekly paper, "The Morning Star", in 1926 which converted into a monthly from January, 1930. It specially published the topics on nation-building as expounded through practical *Vedānta* by Swami Vivekananda; but due to paucity of funds, it ceased publication in 1932. In 1929, it published a book, 'Vivekananda, the Nation Builder' and in 1933 another book, 'India in the Making'.

It opened several night schools in and outside Patna. In the year 1931-32, a homoeopathic charitable dispensary was opened in memory of late Bhuwaneshwar Dutta. It also started a surgical and a first-aid section in 1949. An Upper Primary School, a public library and free reading room were opened in memory of Swami Adbhutanandanji, a direct disciple of Shri Ram Krishna, born in the Saran district, and Swami Turiyanandji, respectively. It constructed a temple and a prayer hall with public contribution in 1950.

In the year 1954, the foundation of Turiyananda Public Library and reading room was laid and it was declared open by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice-President of India, in 1956. The Central and State Governments donated Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively for its construction, the total cost amounting to more than a lakh of rupees. Books on various subjects are available in the library.

The Students' Home started in 1927 could not become a permanent feature of the activities of the *Ashram* till 1957 when it received an endowment for the benefit of the poor but meritorious college students created by Shri Lawly Sen in memory of his late wife Pratima Sen. He also donated a sum of Rs. 12,000 as cost of the land adjacent to the southern side of the *Ashram* which was acquired through the State Government for the Students' Home. The two storeyed building was completed in 1959 at the cost of more than one lakh of rupees including contribution of Rs. 45,000 and Rs. 40,000 from the Central and State Governments respectively. It was opened by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then President of India, in 1966.

As the prayer hall was inadequate so two wings were added to it in 1951. A marble statue of Shri Ram Krishna was installed in the *Ashram* in 1953. On *Ekadashi* days *Ramanama Sankirtan* is conducted in the *Ashram* when a large number of devotees congregate.

Puja and other festivals are observed regularly in keeping with the spiritual atmosphere of the *Ashram*. The *Durga Puja* has become a popular annual festival and attracts large audience.

Arya Samaj.

The Arya Samaj is a radical wing of Hinduism. It stands for the propagation of Vedic religion and culture. It believes in conversion of people of other faiths into its own.

The Bihar Rajya Arya Pratinidhi Sabha was established at Danapur in 1926. Later its headquarters was removed to Munishwaranand Bhavan in Mahalla Nayatola, Patna. In 1966, there were 99 units of the Arya Samaj all over the Patna district, the important ones being at Danapur, Bayapar, Patna City, Mithapur (Patna), Kharfar, Bargs, Tineri, Masaurhi, Fatwa, Barh, Biharsharif, etc.

The Samaj maintains a *Vyayamshala* and a *Yajnashala* in the premises of its headquarters. It also runs Radhika Charitable Dispensaries at Bankipur and Dayanand Seva Ashram, Masaurhi.

Its educational activities are:—

Sanskrit Schools.—

- (1) Shraddhanand Vedic School—Patna City;
- (2) Ved Ratna Vidyalaya—Mustafapur;
- (3) Sanskrit Ved Vidyalaya—Khusrupur.

Schools for boys.—

Higher Secondary Schools—One at Mithapur (Patna) and the other at Danapur;

Middle Schools—Three at Khusrupur and two at Mokameh;

Primary Schools—One each at Bankipur, Khusrupur, Barh and Mokameh.

Schools for girls.—

Higher Secondary Schools—One at Nayatola (Central Patna) and the other at Mithapur (West Patna);

Secondary Schools—One at Mokameh and the other at Khusrupur;

Middle Schools—One each at Khusrupur, Mokameh, Anta (Mokameh Ghat) and Sohsarai (Biharsharif);

Primary Schools—One each at Hilsa, Anta and Chintamanichak (Mokameh).

It runs two orphanages at Danapur, namely, Dayanand Anathalaya and Bihar State Hindu Banita Ashram. It devotes its resources to the rescue of women and children and about 20 volunteers are on deputation all through the district for this work. It intensifies this work on festive occasions, fairs, sports, public gatherings, etc.

The volunteers of the Samaj regularly visit hospitals and other places to collect unclaimed dead bodies of Hindus and arrange for their cremation according to the Vedic rites. For each such cremation the State Government pays a sum of Rs. 16 and the Patna Municipal Corporation Rs. 4.

The Samaj has also taken up a scheme of moral education to public to dissuade them from drinks, gambling and such other social vices and write out mottoes, such as, *nasha chhoro*, *sach bolo*, etc., on vantage points.

The proselytising mission of the Samaj is also seen occasionally when Hindus marrying non-Hindu women get them converted to Arya Samaj faith to bring the marriage within traditional Hindu fold by *shudhi* and *havana*.

All-India Women's Conference, Bihar State Branch, Patna.

The All-India Women's Conference was founded in 1926 by Mrs. Margaret E. Cousins, Secretary to the Women's Indian Association, Adyar, Madras, primarily with a view to form local committee and hold

constituent conferences in each province to declare their views on problems of education. In its third conference held in 1929 at Patna under the presidentship of the Rani of Mandi, it also laid stress on social reforms.

The Bihar State Branch of the All-India Women's Conference is a registered body under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Its main objects are—

- (a) to work for the general progress and welfare of women and children and to help women to utilise to the fullest the fundamental rights conferred on them by the Constitution of Indian Union; and
- (b) to co-operate with people and organisations of the world in promoting permanent international amity and world peace.

In 1966, it had three hundred members in the Patna district. It has branches at Arrah, Gaya, Motihari, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and Siwan. Its achievements are a High School for girls, namely, Mahila Kala Bhavan and one Craft Centre at Boring Road, Patna; six Social Centres, one each in Mahallas Kadamkuan, Langartoli, Lohanipur, Salimpur Ahra, etc.

It has a proposal to open a Family Planning Centre in an undeveloped area.

Harijan Sevak Sangh.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at a meeting presided over by late Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya on September 25, 1932, in Bombay, the All-India Anti-Untouchability League was founded in New Delhi with a view to remove by all legitimate and peaceful means, the prevailing social disabilities imposed by custom upon the so-called untouchable classes, particularly in respect of their admission to Hindu temples. Subsequently the name of the said League was changed in Harijan Sevak Sangh on October 26, 1932. It opened a branch in Bihar in 1933 with headquarters at Patna.

The object of the Sangh is to eradicate untouchability from the Hindu society and thus help free movement of the Harijans to temples, wells and ponds, refreshment stalls, etc. In the urban areas the Sangh concentrates its activities mainly in the *basties* of Bhangis and Sweepers employed in Municipalities and Corporation by organising Co-operative Credit Societies for redemption of their indebtedness and otherwise to improve their economic and moral status.

There is a State Organiser of the Co-operative Credit Societies with headquarters at Patna, three Divisional Organisers one each with headquarters at Patna, Muazaffarpur and Bhagalpur, 39 part-time teachers-writers for writing out the loan transaction and to realise the dues of the society on the pay day of the employees. The Government of Bihar gives a grant of Rs. 32,000 to this society for the maintenance of the staff employed in Co-operative Societies.

In wake of the independence movement in the country, people from all walks of life came together for emancipation of the country and this prepared a popular mood for amelioration of the conditions of the Harijans. This tempo was vigorously maintained in the post-independence era when Harijans began to occupy high positions in politics and services. Thus social barriers which had separated the caste Hindus from the Harijans began to crumble and in view of the extensive measures taken by the State for the advancement of the Harijans, the Harijan Sevak Sangh now remains just a historical relic of the past. The Sangh has started twenty Sweepers' Co-operative Credit Societies in the urban areas of the district from 1943 to June, 1966. The following data relating to the above period speak of the progress of these societies :—

Total membership	2,445
Deposit by members	Rs. 34,675.00
Working capital	Rs. 61,971.00
Financial help (1943 to 1965)	Rs. 17,350.00
Total amount of debt so far liquidated	Rs. 5,18,446.00
Reserve Fund	Rs. 2,834.00
Profit	Rs. 6,912.00

Anjuman Khadimul Salam Muslim Orphanage.

This is located at Kashmiri Kothi, Patna City. The *Yatimkhana* is a solitary one for Muslim community in the district. It was established in 1910 with a view to render help to Muslim orphans. It was registered under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) on the 9th May, 1938. It runs under the supervision of the Managing Committee under the presidentship of Dr. M. A. Hai. Its main object is to make Muslim orphans self-dependent. It started a Middle School adjacent south of the *Yatimkhana* in 1940 to impart general education and also to give industrial training in weaving, tailoring and leather works to the orphan boys who in 1966 numbered 49. They get free fooding and lodging. Besides the orphans, other Muslim boys who are day scholars also get free education. The fund of *Yatimkhana* is collected from donation from Muslims especially at the time of *Id*, *Bakrid* and other festivals. The school was given a grant of Rs. 7,200 from the Industry Department in the past, but since 1965-66 it is getting Rs. 3,600 annually.

Kishore Dal, Patna.

It was founded on January 18, 1942 with headquarters at Patna and is a registered body under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Its aim is to promote healthy growth of children. Its achievements are (1) Sishu Bhavan, (i. e., Montessori school for children below eight years), (2) Bal Niketan, (i. e., founding home for unclaimed children) and (3) Children's clubs and libraries, children's parks and play centres. Besides, it conducts educational trips, holiday home camps, seminars and conferences on the child welfare, *Kishore Bharati* (art centre for children in dance, music and drama). Occasionally it also holds inter-school essay and elocution competitions, children's art exhibition and children's festival and *Bal Bela*. It opened a branch at Arrah in 1949 and at Chapra in 1950, where some activities are centred round the Sishu Bhavan. It is constructing its own building at Rajendra Nagar on ten-katha plot. Its finances are managed by Government grant and public donations.

Kishore Dal Sishu Bhavan.—The main school was started in 1954 and its branch in 1959. It has its own conveyance, i. e., rickshaws especially designed for small children. The 'Bal Sabha' is a special feature for both the schools to develop the cultural activities among children.

Bal Niketan or Founding Home.—The Bal Niketan was started in 1960 with three unclaimed babies. In 1966 the number of such children rose to 22. The infant mortality is a big problem because infants received within a few days of their birth generally do not survive in spite of best efforts. Some of the senior children are receiving education in High Schools. This institution gets gifts and donations from different sources and personalities of Patna.

Rotary Club.

Rotary is an international movement, initially founded on 23rd February, 1905 at Chicago by an American lawyer, Paul Harris and four of his fellow citizens, who were in small business. Its motto is : 'Service before Self'.

The Rotary Club of Patna was founded on 22nd August, 1943. Among its notable services the following may be mentioned : contribution to Bengal Famine Relief in 1945; organisation of a team of doctors to fight malaria epidemic in North Bihar in 1946; and distribution of food packets and medicines and relief work in Biharsharif, Fatwa and Patna in 1947 in context of communal riots. This club also rendered relief to refugees who were housed in Patna and Bihta camps after the partition of the country in 1947. It carried on development work in villages of Nagwa and Motipur (near Danapur) and made them model villages with a hall constructed with voluntary labour of the villagers and funds provided by them.

Rabindra Parishad.

Rabindra Parishad came into existence at Patna on the initiative of late Shri Manindra Chandra Samaddar and some other individuals as well as literary organisations of the town to pay tribute to Rabindra Nath in a more abiding manner than the mere observance of his birth and death anniversaries. A Tagore Birthday Celebration Committee was formed in 1948 with representatives from different cultural institutions and a few individual lovers of Tagore. At the end of a week-long programme this Committee reconstituted itself into a new organisation which was named Rabindra Parishad.

The main objects of this Parishad are propagation of Tagore's art and poetry and creation of environment for a fuller understanding of his philosophy.

In pursuance of its objects the Parishad has founded a library containing about 500 volumes on different aspects of Tagore literature, art and philosophy. It has started a music school named Geeta Bhavan to teach Rabindra Sangeet in its correct form and also to popularise it. The course of study is based on the curriculum of Sangeet Bhavan of Shantiniketan, which is the authoritative exponent of Rabindra Sangeet in the country. This school is run on no-profit basis and tuition fees are nominal. A school of domestic crafts has also been opened in 1960 with a view to inculcate artistic sense among its pupils.

The most outstanding achievement of the Parishad is Rabindra Bhavan on the Gardiner Road. It has a fine auditorium with 650 seats and a scientifically designed stage with equipments for good sound effect and lighting arrangements. It has a garden in front and a lawn on the back side where snacks can be served during intermissions. The Government of Bihar made a gift of a piece of land to the Parishad and with the grants received from the State and the Central Governments and public donations the auditorium was constructed. The plays and dance-dramas of Rabindra Nath are staged periodically on this stage. Besides, this stage is made available on rent to other parties for staging cultural shows and dramas.

Working Women's Association, Patna.

The Working Women's Association was started in 1948 by a group of ladies working in different fields. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act (1860) and has branches at Gaya and Giridih. Its objects are—

- (a) to promote contact and co-operation between working women of all classes in the country;

- (b) to promote the welfare of working women; and
- (c) to promote knowledge of and interest in professional work among women in general, particularly as regards those professions in which women are most needed.

All adult women who are working in any capacity are eligible for membership. The membership is of three types : (i) Patrons, who pay Rs. 500 or more; (ii) Life members, those who have continued to be members of the Association for 10 years and have paid their subscription regularly; (iii) Ordinary, on payment of Rs. 10 as Admission and 3 annually as subscription. The annual general meeting of the Association is held in the month of April. The finances and funds of the Association and its branches are made up of membership fees, grants, donations, gifts, proceeds of charity shows and also of the contribution by the branch centres. A grant was sanctioned by the Central Social Welfare Board to organise a holiday home camp for the children of the working mothers of low-income group.

Some enthusiastic members have started ladies club in the premises of the Working Women's Association. Provisions for outdoor and indoor games have also been made. In order to raise funds for flood victims it organised a charity show and donated the proceeds to Governor's Relief Fund. It also collected funds for National Defence Fund. It founded a *Shishu Niketan*, i.e., a school for little children in August, 1954 so that the working mothers may be relieved of the anxiety of leaving little children at home, either alone or in the care of a servant. This *Niketan* functions in a house at the Bank Road.

It is running a condensed course for adult women since 1959. This scheme is fully financed by the Central Social Welfare and is meant to spread literacy amongst adult women between the ages of 20 and 30 to enable them to earn a living. Many of them have been absorbed in different professions.

It is helping women in getting employment. It collects informations about vacancies suitable for them and informs about them to those seeking employment. Several women have got jobs through it. It started a creche for the babies of the working women in April, 1962.

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India, Bihar State Branch.

The question of ending immoral traffic in women and girls in India was taken up first in the year 1875 when Keshab Chandra Sen, Social Reformer and Founder of the Brahmo Samaj visited Mrs. Josephine Butler, the founder of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in Liverpool. Thus began a period of close co-operation between workers of the Association in England and leaders of thought in India.

The need for Sen's visit to Mrs. Butler arose from the fact that in those days there was a regular system of procuring Indian or Japanese women for British troops stationed in India, who were subjected to regular medical examination and segregation. In spite of this, the incidence of venereal diseases amongst British troops rose to 750 to 1,000 cases*.

In 1928, the Josephine Butler Centenary year, Miss Meliscent Shephed, a representative from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, London, was invited to come to India to carry on work of the Association in a more comprehensive and systematic manner. The Indian Branch thus started in India. She stayed on till 1957.

The All-India Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, New Delhi, was formed in the year 1950. A branch of the Association was formed in the State of Bihar, in 1951 with Miss B. Dey as President. It is a registered institution. Its objects are—

- (i) to serve and help those sisters who are in distress morally, socially and economically;
- (ii) to encourage and establish the highest standards of morality and family life;
- (iii) to eradicate commercialised vice in all its forms;
- (iv) to promote education for family life;
- (v) to combat venereal diseases and the conditions which promote them; and
- (vi) to educate public opinion for creating proper social hygienic conditions.

The State Branch has constituted the following Sub-Committees with the co-operation of all classes of public :—

- (1) Education Sub-Committee;
- (2) Finance Sub-Committee;
- (3) Legal Sub-Committee;
- (4) Health Sub-Committee;
- (5) Vigilance Sub-Committee; and
- (6) Press and Publicity Sub-Committee.

It has branches at district and subdivisional level with District Magistrate and Subdivisional Officer as President respectively. It has also some officers at Block level and village level. The Association receives grant from Government and also donations from public.

*SOURCE.—Report of the Association, 1965.

Among its achievements is one V. D. clinic at Patna, equipped with staff of Medical Officer (male), part-time Lady Doctor, Laboratory Technician, Nurse and one Medical Social Worker provided by the Union Health Ministry, where more than 1,00,000 new and old V. D. cases have already been freely and confidentially treated*. Compulsory monthly medical check up of Kishore Dal, Bal Niketan and Government After-Care Home for Women, Patna City, has also been taken up.

Bharat Sewak Samaj.

The Bharat Sewak Samaj was evolved on All-India basis in August, 1952 to enlist public co-operation to help implement the concept of Welfare State. It is a registered body under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. A branch of the organisation for the State of Bihar was opened with headquarters at Patna in 1953.

The programme of the Samaj is to function within its district branches, subdivisions, blocks, anchals and thanas and even in villages. The total membership of the Samaj in the Patna district in 1966 was 2,000†.

The objects of the Samaj are—

- (i) Restoring and improving the social health of the community by building up standard of honesty in public conduct, public administration and business relations, creating a social atmosphere conducive to the observance of such standard and organising public opinions and social action to combat anti-social behaviour;
- (ii) Creating social awareness among the people with regard to conditions and problems and their own objection and to the need for unity, tolerance and mutual help;
- (iii) Organising and conducting students and youths, labour and social service work camps and follow-up activities as well as seminars and training camps;
- (iv) Engaging in agricultural operations and generally helping in the "grow more food" activity; and
- (v) Bringing out publications, putting forth publicity materials and setting up a press in connection with printing and sale of books.

The Samaj launched projects of welfare and local development in this district and constructed roads, tanks, school buildings and *panchayat ghars*, bridges and dams through *shramdan* (i.e., public donation

*SOURCE.—Report of the Association, 1955.

†SOURCE.—Souvenir of Bihar State Bharat Sewak Samaj, 1965.

of voluntary labour). The programmes of slum-clearance and slum-service have been executed in Purandarpur, Patna City, Mandiri, Lohanipur and Danapur. Sanitation weeks are also occasionally organised as part of "Swachchha Bharat" campaign. The "grow more food" campaign is also being helped through the construction of bunds, wells and tanks. The women's centres are run in Patna City and Patna and scouts' camps are organised in *melas* of the district to render services to the visitors.

Anugrah Smarak Nidhi, Khazanchi Road, Patna.

This endowment was created in 1957 to commemorate the memory of late Dr. Anugrah Narain Sinha, a patriot, social worker and Finance Minister of Bihar till the end of his life, who was held in high esteem and deep affection by the people of Bihar.

The aims and objects of the organisation are—

- (a) Establishment of institution of research, study and education;
- (b) Establishment of institution for social services such as homes and clinics for the sick, disabled and handicapped and for the needy and the homeless;
- (c) Performance of constructive work in rural and urban areas on Gandhian or Sarvodaya lines and establishment of *Ashram* and similar institutions towards this end; and
- (d) Building of halls, libraries and museums.

It was registered on 27th September, 1957 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. In early stage, it devoted most of its time in collecting donations for the memorial and a sum of Rs. 3,00,000 was collected.

A committee was formed of 15 members under the presidentship of Shri Jai Prakash Narain, with Shri Krishna Ballabh Sahay, the then Chief Minister, Bihar as General Secretary.

Anugrah Seva Sadan.

Late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India and late Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, former Chief Minister of West Bengal, suggested the Organisation to provide shelter for attending friends or relatives of patients admitted into the hospitals. Accordingly it undertook the scheme of the Anugrah Seva Sadan for pioneering work in the field of humanitarian service.

The Sadan has threefold programme—

- (i) to provide shelter to those care-takers—males or females, whose patients are admitted into the hospital;

- (ii) to set up a pathological clinic on a no-loss-no-profit basis; and
- (iii) to maintain some emergency beds for patients awaiting admission.

As a first step, an old building on 12 *kathas* of land was purchased at a total cost of Rs. 94,417.58. The old building was renovated at a total cost of Rs. 1.12 lakhs and additional expenditure of Rs. 1.72 lakhs was subsequently incurred in raising the newly constructed three-storeyed building with four quarters for the staff at the roof. In the renovated wings of the old building a canteen has been started to cater cheap and wholesome food to the visiting attendants.

The Pathological Laboratory has been housed in the original building fully renovated now which conducts 16 categories of Clinical Examination such as Routine Examination of Stool, Urine, Sputum, Blood-sugar, Blood-Urea, Total and Differential, Haemoglobin, Sedimentation rate, etc. The Laboratory is being nursed by an efficient Medical Board consisting of 10 members including leading pathologists and physicians. For clinical and chemical examination charges payable are 40 per cent to 60 per cent less than in private clinics from low and fixed income group patients. On an average 1,000 to 5,000 patients get expert medical investigation annually. The poor are examined free. A sum of Rs. 60,000 was invested in X-ray Department which started in January, 1966. The charges were Rs. 12 per cent per plate, i.e., 33 per cent less than in private clinics. A Medical Board consisting of four prominent doctors supervises the department.

In Seva Sadan 85 seats have been provided with sanitary fittings and water connections. Except for a sum of Rs. 2 charged weekly for electricity and sanitation, no rent or any other fees are payable. On average 40 to 45 persons stay there daily.

Lions Club, Patna.

The International Association of Lions Club was founded in Chicago on June 7, 1917 by Late Malvin Jones an Insurance Agent by Profession, as an association of independent social clubs bound into one strong influential unit for service to humanity. At Patna the first Lions Club was established on 31st July, 1960. It has a membership of 90. Its meetings are held in the premises of the Bankipur Club. It runs its annual camp at Danapur and distributes Brailles and white canes to the blind. A charitable homoeopathic dispensary is also run by it at Patna. It has adopted two schools in Patna for regular medical check-up of students and advice at regular intervals. In order to provide incentive to agriculturists, it donates a trophy and seeds annually to the owner of the best utilized compound in Patna for 'grow more food'.

The Young Men's Christian Association, Patna.

The Young Men's Christian Association, popularly known as Y.M.C.A. was started in 1844 in London by 12 young men under the leadership of George Williams, with a view to develop Christian personality and build a Christian society. It is a movement dedicated to the service of youth all over the world in character building and leadership training. It is an idea fundamentally based on the teachings of Christ and the movement has followed the principle of learning through doing. It manifests itself through a club, a lay men's retreat, a farm training school, a holiday centre, an apprentice discussion group, a residential hostel, youth college and camp. Its membership is open to men and boys of every country irrespective of race and creed.

The Y.M.C.A. Branch at Patna was founded with the help of local people on 12th May, 1962. It is run by a Managing Committee of ten members and is housed in a rented building at Road no. 5 A, Rajendra Nagar, Patna. It organises cultural programmes, e.g., essay and painting competitions for students and children, dramas and film shows.

Christian Orphanage, Padri-ki-Haveli.

In early 1963, the Missionaries of Charity, Sisters of Mother Teresa, came to the Church, Padri-ki-Haveli, at Patna City and organised an orphanage, a home for the aged, a small school, a dispensary and several leprosy clinics. During the famine of 1967 they opened a large feeding centre at Padri-ki-Haveli and also, other such centres in neighbouring villages. The orphanage receives many abandoned children and brings them up and also trains them for appropriate vocations.