

CHAPTER XII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT BOARD

Barring the area covered by Municipalities, the local affairs in the rest of the district are managed by the District Board, either directly or through Union Boards and Local Boards. The functions of the District Board are maintenance of roads and bridges, primary and middle education, village sanitation, water supply, public health and management of ferries and pounds. The expenditure for this work is met by levying various taxes and grants from the State Government.

The District Board was established in the year 1887. Up to the year 1924, the District Magistrate used to be its *ex officio* Chairman. With the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act in the year 1923, the Chairman was elected. The old District Gazetteer reports that it had consisted of 21 members besides the *ex officio* Chairman. Out of these members, four were *ex officio* members, seven were nominated by the Government and only nine were elected. At present, it consists of 40 members, 30 of whom are elected and only 10 are nominated.

The chief source of income is the provincial rates. The statistical table for 4 years, i.e., from 1950-51 to 1952-53 and 1955-56, given below will show the principal sources from which this body derives its income and the objects on which it is spent :—

Income Schedule

Years.	Heads of Income.								Total.
	Provin- cial rate.	Interest.	Educa- tion.	Medical.	Scienti- fic and other minor depart- ments.	Stationery and printing.	Miscel- laneous.	Civil and Public Works.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51 ..	21,41,042	98,011	10,43,235	63,502	2,201	184	5,24,355	3,81,271	42,59,501
1951-52 ..	14,43,464	36,033	10,77,269	1,45,623	2,104	110	5,41,861	1,04,296	35,69,455
1952-53 ..	15,07,377	71,773	11,03,398	1,92,515	2,048	74	6,27,926	8,41,113	43,46,350
1955-56 ..	17,97,525	14,105	..	2,50,689	2,024	191	1,10,264	3,39,396	25,41,754

Expenditure Schedule

Heads of Expenditure.											
Years.	Admi- nistra- tion.	Police.	Educa- tion.	Public Health.	Medical.	Scienti- fic and other minor Depart- ments.	Super- annua- tion allowan- ces and pen- sions.	Statio- nery and printing.	Miscel- laneous.	Public Works and Civil Works.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51	1,48,364	2,160	15,78,879	1,84,905	2,97,666	73,168	5,944	14,815	3,790	11,30,748	34,93,909
1951-52	1,71,171	1,476	16,97,855	2,39,138	3,02,791	59,665	47,782	4,446	12,814	12,15,852	37,52,990
1952-53	2,09,973	1,039	1,89,674	3,58,456	3,17,182	29,908	73,915	17,419	36,010	11,81,303	41,22,679
1955-56	1,74,545	8,095	7,99,100	3,29,993	3,59,034	59,818	30,989	15,062	7,263	13,59,325	31,73,230

The following statement will show the number of schools maintained by the District Board and the number of scholars :—

Types of Institutions.	Number of Institutions.		Number of Scholars.	
	For boys.	For girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1	2	3	4	5
Middle schools	85	2	10,870	233
Upper Primary schools	207	16	13,711	902
Lower Primary Schools	267	27	10,526	792

LOCAL BOARDS

There are four Local Boards working under the District Board at the four subdivisional headquarters, i.e., Sadar, Nawada, Aurangabad and Jahanabad. Formerly, all the members of a Local Board were nominated by the Government and the Subdivisional Officer used to act as the *ex officio* Chairman. But since the year 1924, in order to make the Local Boards more democratic, the system of election has been introduced. Now-a-days the majority of the members are elected. The Sadar Local Board has 11 elected members and 4 nominated members. In Jahanabad and Nawada Local Boards, out of the total membership of nine for each, six are elected and three are nominated. Aurangabad Local Board consists of seven elected and three nominated members. The Local Boards were established at the same time when the District Board was established and receive annual allotment out of its funds, besides the taxes that they are empowered to levy.

The chief functions of the Local Boards are the maintenance of village roads, control of pounds and ferries and certain other minor

works, such as village sanitation and the upkeep of wells. They had also been entrusted with powers of varying extent with regard to primary education, for example, under the Jahanabad Local Board there were about 572 educational institutions. With the amendment of the Bihar Local Self-Government Act, the control of the Local Boards over the primary schools ceased from the year 1953-54. But wherever any other agency has not been able to take over the portfolio of education from Local Boards, the Local Boards are continuing to look after the educational institutions in that area. It is, however, to be remembered that this arrangement is merely temporary and is due to the fact that the process of transition has not been complete. In view of the establishment and spread of *Gram Panchayats* into the interior of the district, the Local Boards are losing much of their importance.

The income and expenditure for the four Local Boards for the year 1955-56 are as follows :—

		Income.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1. Sadar Local Board	.. ..	2,45,912	2,01,848
2. Jahanabad Local Board	.. ..	1,70,435	1,67,505
3. Aurangabad Local Board	.. ..	1,89,392	1,78,217
4. Nawada Local Board	.. ..	1,43,020	1,22,102

Local Boards do not have any direct source of income. Funds are allotted to them by the District Board, Gaya.

UNION BOARDS.

The Bihar and Orissa Village Administration Act of 1922 introduced Union Boards under Union Committees and brought a wider area under Local Self-Government. There are seven Union Boards in the four subdivisions of the district as shown in the list below :—

Subdivision.	Number of Union Board.	Name of Union Board.
Sadar	1	Imamganj, Raniganj Union Board.
Aurangabad ..	2	Jamhore Union Board and Nabinagar Union Board.
Nawada ..	2	Rajauli Union Board and Warsaliganj Union Board.
Jahanabad ..	2	Arwal Union Board and Kako Union Board.

The Union Boards have the same functions as the Local Boards. In some Boards, i.e., Imamganj, Raniganj, Warsaliganj and Rajauli, the judicial functions are not exercised. Unlike other districts, all the Union Boards in this district are not concerned with the task of primary education. The only two exceptions to this practice are the Jamhor and Rajauli Union Boards. The number of primary schools under the jurisdiction of Jamhor Union Board is 8 and that under the Rajauli Union Board is 4.

The income of the Union Boards is derived from *chaukidari* tax collected for maintenance of village police, union tax, contributions from the District Board, finance and grants from the State Government. According to the powers invested in the Board, it can collect the *chaukidari* tax upto the maximum of Rs. 12 per assessee and the union tax upto the maximum of Rs. 30, i.e., $2\frac{1}{2}$ times of the *chaukidari* tax. On account of the general poverty of the public and in view of the fact that if the public is taxed to utmost, they would become hostile to the Boards, the Boards do not exercise their powers of taxing to the utmost, nor do they press relentlessly for the collection of arrears in cases of defaulters on account of distress. Consequently, they cannot undertake any ambitious scheme for improvement and they virtually remain the collecting and distributing agents of *chaukidari* tax, etc. Though the proportion of the *chaukidari* tax to the union tax is to be 1:2.5, only in four Boards, out of the total of seven, the collection of the union tax exceeds that of *chaukidari* tax.

Imamganj-Raniganj Union Board.

Imamganj-Raniganj Union Board was first constituted in the year 1926. The area under the jurisdiction of this Union Board is 4.63 square miles and is comprised of eleven villages. Out of the total population of 7,575 within this Union Board, 847 persons are tax-payers. The last election was held in 1943. There are 9 members out of whom 8 are elected and one is nominated. Parts III and IV of the Village Administration Act are in force. It employs a part-time clerk, five sweepers, one *dafadar* and nine *chaukidars*. It has a cattle pound. The amenities provided are conservancy, sanitation and light. The amount of *chaukidari* tax collected in 1951-52 was Rs. 1,227-13-0. The total income of the Board was Rs. 7,377-14-11 and the total expenditure was Rs. 7,007-12-2.

Jamhore Union Board.

Jamhore Union Board was first constituted in the year 1925. It comprises of 12 villages covering an area of 6.85 square miles. The total population is 7,200, out of whom 942 are tax-payers. The total membership of this Board is 9, out of which seven are elected and two are nominated. The last election was held in 1947. Parts II, IV and V of the Village Administration Act are in force. The Union Board employs one part-time clerk, one peon, one *jamadar*, five

sweepers, one *dafadar* and six *chaukidars*. It has a cattle pound and manages 2 upper primary schools and 5 lower primary schools. The other amenities provided are sanitation and water supply. There are 16 wells provided by the Union Board and one tube-well in Jamhore proper. The amounts collected under *chaukidari* tax and union tax for 1951-52 were Rs. 800 and Rs. 1,000 respectively. The total income of the Union Board for the same year was Rs. 17,111 and the total expenditure was Rs. 14,732-0-0.

Nabinagar Union Board.

Nabinagar Union Board was first constituted in the year 1924. The area covered under its jurisdiction is 16 square miles and comprises of 60 villages. Out of the total population of 11,176, 1,602 are tax-payers. Out of the total membership of 8 during 1951-52, 7 were elected and one was nominated. Parts III, IV and V of the Village Administration Act are in force. The Union Board employs a part-time clerk, a peon, six sweepers, two *dafadars* and sixteen *chaukidars*. It has a cattle pound. The amenities provided are sanitation, street lighting, and water supply in the form of 23 *pucca* wells and 4 tube-wells. The amounts of *chaukidari* tax and union tax collected in the year 1951-52 were Rs. 1,844 and Rs. 53 respectively. The amount of union tax is very low as at the end of that year a sum of Rs. 1,858 under that head remained uncollected. The total income and expenditure of the Board for the same year were Rs. 5,719 and Rs. 4,797 respectively.

Warsaliganj Union Board.

Warsaliganj Union Board was first constituted in the year 1926 by replacing a Union Committee which had existed since 1919. The area under its jurisdiction is 2 square miles and comprises of four villages and four *tolas*. Out of the total population of 7,810, 766 are tax-payers. It has five elected and two nominated members. Parts III, IV of the Village Administration Act are in force. Amenities provided are sanitation, street lighting and water supply in the form of 3 tube-wells and 6 wells. It has a cattle pound. It employs one *dafadar* and 7 *chaukidars*, apart from the usual office staff. The figures for *chaukidari* tax and union tax in the year 1951-52 were Rs. 920 and Rs. 2,670 respectively. The total income, including the balance of Rs. 9,671 brought over from the last year, was Rs. 20,413 for 1951-52 and the total expenditure was Rs. 10,014.

Rajauli Union Board.

Rajauli Union Board was first constituted in the year 1926. The area under its jurisdiction is 11.7 square miles comprising of seven villages and 12,785 persons. The tax-payers total up to 1,709. It has 5 elected and 2 nominated members. Parts III, IV of the Village Administration Act are in force. Amenities provided are sanitation and wells. It employs a part-time clerk, one *jamadar*, seven sweepers,

one *dafadar* and twelve *chaukidars*. It manages four lower primary schools. The figures for *chaukidari* tax and union tax for 1951-52 were Rs. 1,644 and Rs. 20-1-0 respectively. The total income and expenditure for the same year were Rs. 13,478 and Rs. 10,022 respectively. This Union Board maintains 4 lower primary schools, which are attended on the average, by 137 scholars.

Arwal Union Board.

Arwal Union Board was first constituted in the year 1926. The area under its jurisdiction is 46 square miles comprising of 180 villages and 56,075 persons, out of which 6,069 are tax-payers. Out of the total membership of 9, 8 are elected and one is nominated. Parts III, IV and V of the Village Administration Act are in force. Amenities provided are sanitation and water supply in the form of wells. It employs a part-time clerk, one *jamadar*, six sweepers, four *dafadars* and 36 *chaukidars*. The amounts for *chaukidari* tax and union tax collected during the year 1951-52 were Rs. 5,734 and Rs. 3,292 respectively. The total income and expenditure for the same year were Rs. 17,232 and Rs. 11,448 respectively.

Kako Union Board.

Kako Union Board was first constituted in the year 1924. The area under its jurisdiction is 24 square miles comprising of 323 villages and 55,645 persons out of whom 7,996 are tax-payers. Parts III, IV and V of the Village Administration Act are in force. Out of the total membership of 8, 7 are elected and one is nominated. Amenities provided are sanitation and water supply in the form of one thousand *pucca* (including 100 semi-*pucca*) wells and five tube-wells. The Board employs one part-time clerk, one peon, two *jamadars*, eight sweepers, seven *dafadars* and 63 *chaukidars*. It has three cattle pounds. The figures for *chaukidari* tax and union tax collected during the year 1951-52 were Rs. 6,636-15-0 and Rs. 1,777-10-0 respectively. The total income and expenditure for the same year were Rs. 25,423-11-9 and Rs. 23,572-7-6 respectively.

UNION COMMITTEES

There are five Union Committees within the Gaya District, three of which belong to the headquarters of the subdivision of Jahanabad, Nawada and Aurangabad; of the two remaining committees one is at Sherghati in the Sadar subdivision and another at Rafiganj in Aurangabad subdivision.

Union Committees have been formed since urban areas have been constituted under the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885. Out of the total of 20 Union Committees in the State, Gaya has 5 Union Committees.

The income of the Union Committees is derived from union tax levied by them and from contributions from the District Board. The State Government make grants only for some specific purposes.

Particulars about each Union Committee have been furnished in the statement appended below—

Name of Union Committees.	Year of establishment.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Number of members.	Amenities provided.	Income in 1951-52.	Expenditure in 1951-52.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jahanabad ..	1911	8	12,559	9	Sanitation, conservancy and street light.	Rs. 34,500	Rs. 21,000
Nawada ..	1911	2	10,420	7	Ditto ..	9,893	9,947
Aurangabad	1918	1.2	10,000	8	Ditto ..	10,345	10,208
Sherghati ...	1913	1.5	9,005	9	Sanitation and conservancy.	2,220	2,782
Rafiganj ..	1919	.46	7,033	8	Sanitation, street lights, and water supply (7 tube-wells).	6,767	4,298

Though subordinate to the Gaya District Board and acting as agents of the same, the Union Committees are not flourishing as well as they should for want of care from the members and due to general apathy of the public. Large arrears remain unrealised under the head of union tax in each and every Union Committee which hamper the smooth working of the Committees.

MUNICIPALITIES

There are three Municipalities in the district, viz., Gaya, Tekari and Daudnagar.

Gaya Municipality.

The oldest is the Gaya Municipality in the district which was constituted in the year 1865. It was superseded in September, 1946, and remained under supersession till the 14th of June, 1952. During this period, a Deputy Collector was appointed as the Special Officer in charge of its affairs. The election of the municipal commissioners took place in November, 1951 on the basis of adult franchise and now the affairs of the Municipality are being managed by 36 commissioners, out of whom 29 are elected and 7 are nominated by the State Government.

The present Municipal limits cover an area of 11.75 square miles. A few years back, it covered only 8.25 square miles but since the year 1943-44, however, the expansion has begun towards the north and north-easterly directions, that is, the area of Gaya Cotton Mills and Kandy Nawada. For the purpose of administration, the town is divided into 10 wards, there are 195 *mahallas*. As per old District

Gazetteer, in 1905 the area under the municipal jurisdiction was 8 square miles and the number of municipal commissioners was 25, out of whom 3 were *ex officio* members, 16 were elected and 6 were nominated. Out of the total population of 1,34,590 in the year 1952-53, 18,500 or 13.6 per cent of the population were tax-payers. When compared with the number of tax-payers given in the last District Gazetteer, it will be seen that though their number has increased from 13,285 to 18,500 yet their percentage to the total population is less than before. At that time, it was 18.6 per cent whereas it is now 13.6 per cent.

In 1952-53 the total income of the Municipality was Rs. 9,27,544 and the total expenditure was Rs. 8,79,155. In 1904-05 these figures amounted to Rs. 1,16,388 and Rs. 1,01,169 respectively and the incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 1-12-10. In the year 1952-53 it had arisen to Rs. 4 per head of population. The main heads of income are tax on holdings at 12½ per cent of their annual value, which in 1952-53 yielded Rs. 19,777-1-0, water rate at 12½ per cent yielded Rs. 1,57,614-3-5 and latrine tax at 7½ per cent yielded Rs. 98,097-6-3 in the same year. The rest of the income of Rs. 6,52,055 was derived from revenues from markets, fee from carts, cycles, platforms, registration of public vehicles and animals.

The principal heads of expenditure are conservancy, water supply, public works, lighting and education. During the year 1952-53 the following sums were spent on some of the important heads :—

Head.	Total Amount.		
	Rs. a. p.		
Conservancy	2,73,623 13 6
Water supply	1,10,600 0 0
Public Works	33,902 15 6
Education	1,37,994 5 9

During 1955-56 the total receipt and expenditure of the Gaya Municipality are reported to be Rs. 13,59,915 and Rs. 12,34,370 respectively.

The Gaya Municipality maintains 30.55 miles of bituminous or tarred roads, 1.61 miles of water bound macadam pavements with bricks or stones and 3.3 miles of *katcha* roads.

The Joint Water Works Committee.—The Joint Water Works Committee consists of seven members, 3 nominated by the Municipality, 2 by the Lodging House Committee and one by the State Government. The Chairman of the Municipality presides over its meetings. Gaya Municipality controls the pipe water supply in the town. The present water works pumping plant was installed in the year 1911-12 and after a continuous service of about 44 years, it now requires major changes, specially when the population has increased from 49,921 in 1911-12 to 1,34,120 in 1951. The requirement of the water is much greater than

what the plant is capable of supplying. The present water works merely pump water from the wells dug in the bed of Phalgu river into reservoirs. There is however no arrangement for filtration of the water which results in supply of muddy water during rains, making it unfit for drinking; during hot months, the supply of water from the wells is so meagre that in many *mahallas*, people have to stand in rows by roadside taps to get their turn for filling a pitcher or a bucket. As a temporary measure to allay the distress of people, some tube-wells have been sunk but the carrying out to completion the scheme for supplying enough quantity of filtered water is the crying need.

Another crying need of the town is a good drainage system. The last District Gazetteer mentions 18 miles of masonry drains and 12 miles of other drains, nearly all outlets of which led into the Phalgu river. In 1942-43 the Municipality constructed a sewer; a drainage scheme for the construction of surface drains was started in 1939-40 but it had to be abandoned as due to the Second World War, the costs rose high. At present, besides the old 18 miles of masonry and underground drains, there are $33\frac{1}{2}$ miles of surface drains in the main town; these however are not enough to keep the town clean. Motor lorries remove the night-soil from the town to the trenching grounds situated at Kandir, Nawada and Naili on the northern and southern outskirts of the town respectively. But this arrangement leaves much to be desired and unless more money is spent adequately in the construction of drains and proper disposal of wastes, the sanitation of the town will continue to suffer.

Electricity.—Electricity came to Gaya in the year 1933-34. At present the town is lighted by 912 street lights. The number of municipal parks is 15. It also has a town hall of its own.

Education.—The primary education is entirely in the hands of Municipality since 1949. There are 34 lower primary schools and 38 upper primary schools. The number of boy's schools is 51 and that of the girl's schools is 22 (21 recognised and one proposed).

Daudnagar Municipality.

The Municipality of Daudnagar was constituted in 1855 and had according to the old District Gazetteer a Municipal Board of twelve commissioners, of whom three were *ex officio* members and nine were nominated members. The area then covered by the Municipality was a little over one square mile and was divided into nine wards. At present the area within municipal limits is five square miles and is divided into six wards. Since the year 1920, the system of election has been introduced and now the Municipal Board, besides the elected Chairman, consists of fifteen commissioners, out of whom twelve are elected and three are nominated. The number of rate-payers has increased from 1,149 to 1,473 which forms 13.3 per cent of the total population—a percentage lower than 17.9 as mentioned in the last District Gazetteer. The total income in 1951-52 was Rs. 32,097 as compared to Rs. 29,314 of 1950-51. The incidence of

taxation is 10 annas per head of the population. Out of this total income of Rs. 32,097 in 1951-52, 2.7 per cent was spent on conservancy, 3.3 per cent on public health, 24.8 per cent on education and the rest on other miscellaneous items of expenditure. In 1904-05 only 9.9 per cent of the municipal revenue was spent on education, whereas now the bulk of the expenditure goes in maintaining five primary schools for boys and one primary school for girls. The Municipality in combination with the District Board maintains one dispensary. The total length of roads maintained by the Municipality is two miles of *pucca* road and five miles of *katcha* road. The total length of drainage maintained by the Municipality is two miles of masonry and eight miles of *katcha* drains.

The percentage of expenditure on medical relief and conservancy has gone down considerably since the last District Gazetteer was written. In 1951-52, it was, as stated above, 3.3 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively whereas in 1904-05, it was 23.8 per cent on the former and 27.2 per cent on the latter.

During 1955-56 the total receipt and expenditure of the Daudnagar Municipality are reported to be Rs. 51,160-9-3 and Rs. 46,489-9-6 respectively.

The people obtain their water supply from the Patna-Gaya Canal from the Son river and from wells; but the people are almost entirely dependent upon the latter for their drinking water.

Tekari Municipality.

The Tekari Municipality was constituted in 1885. Since the time the last District Gazetteer was written, its area has increased from one square mile to two square miles; the number of wards has decreased from nine to seven and the number of commissioners has increased from 12 to 15. Formerly, out of twelve commissioners, three used to be *ex officio* members and nine used to be nominated. Since the year 1895 the system of election has been introduced and now, out of the total of fifteen members, three are nominated and twelve, including the Chairman, are elected. The number of tax-payers has increased from 2,500 to 6,300 and the percentage of tax-payers to the whole population has increased from 17.9 per cent to 25.3 per cent. The income of the Municipality from different sources is Rs. 25,385 annually, whereas its expenditure is Rs. 20,000 annually, leaving approximately a balance of Rs. 5,385 per year. The Tekari Raj which used to pay annually Rs. 3,400 towards tax for its buildings within municipal area has not been paying the same for last two years (1951-52 to 1952-53). Now that the Tekari Raj has been taken over by the Government under the Land Reforms Act, it is not expected that the Raj will be in a position to pay its arrears to the Municipality. The income of the Municipality is derived from house and latrine taxes, cart and platform taxes and trade tax. The main source of income is, however, the tax on holdings which is 12½ per cent of their total annual value. The main item of

expenditure is conservancy which takes up 42.2 per cent of the revenue; education utilises only 24.1 per cent. The Municipality maintains seven primary schools, out of which 5 are for boys and 2 for girls. It maintains two miles and 246 yards of metalled roads and 500 yards of unmetalled roads. The last District Gazetteer mentions ".....there is a good system of drainage well planned and arranged. The total length of the drains is already over 7 miles, of which two miles have masonry drains". The report received from the Chairman of the Municipality mentions that the town has now only three miles of drains, even though since the time the last District Gazetteer was written, the area under the Municipality has increased from one square mile to two square miles. The total grant received from the Government in 1951-52 was Rs. 12,692-5-0, out of which Rs. 708 was used for maintenance of roads. The rest of the amount was paid by the Government to the Municipality towards pre-war road grant.

During 1955-56 the total receipt and expenditure of the Tekari Municipality are reported to be Rs. 41,117-2-0 and Rs. 38,157-4-3 respectively.

GRAM PANCHAYATS.

The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act was put into operation in this district in November, 1948. The Act is now being implemented by a District Panchayat Officer with the help of four Subdivisional Supervisors of the *Panchayats*. Two Instructors for training the village volunteer force have been appointed by the Government. More Instructors are however necessary so that each *Panchayat* could have a well trained village volunteer force to protect the village communities from dacoits and thieves.

The idea behind the establishing of *Gram Panchayats* is to make villagers conscious of the fact that they form a very vital part of the democratic republic of India and to train them to enrich their social and economic life. The *Panchayat*, therefore, has multifarious powers and functions. It undertakes planning of roads, wells, etc., of which a particular village may be in need. It marshalls all forces available and seeks that the aid be voluntary for executing its plans. It runs education centres for making the villagers literate. It acts as a court but only with this difference that it seeks to bring a compromise first and when it is not possible then only it delivers a verdict. It organises a village voluntary force which, to a certain extent, takes over the functions of police. In short, it touches the life of village community at all points in order to strengthen and enrich it mentally, socially and economically.

In the initial stage, an un-official Panchayat is formed by the District Panchayat Officer with the help of the Subdivisional Supervisors and a target of constructive work is chalked out. Normally a number of villages falling within the radius of two miles are grouped together under one Panchayat. Villagers elect a *Mukhia* or a headman from

amongst themselves. The Supervisors and the Panchayat Officer act as guides and helpers in the implementation of this programme. Those village *Panchayats* that conclude their programme satisfactorily are recommended for notification. In 1951-52 there were 122 notified *Panchayats*, 57 recommended *Panchayats* and 83 unofficial *Panchayats* functioning in Gaya District. The number of villages covered by recommended *Panchayats* was 673 and the total population was 2,81,043 whereas the number of villages covered by notified *Panchayats* was 689 with a population of 2,72,000. 140 *Gram Sevaks* were working under the different *Panchayats*. Their job is to maintain accounts and register and work as bench clerks in *gram kutcheharies*. They are appointed by the State Government with a basic salary of Rs. 40 per month.

The *Mukhia* of a *Gram Panchayat* and a panel of 15 *Panches* are elected by adult suffrage. A *Surpanch* is elected by these *Panches*. His job is to preside over the *gram kutchehary*. *Mukhia* acts as the head of the executive committee of the *Panchayat*. Usually the *Mukhia* is elected uncontested. In 1951-52, out of all the *Panchayats* in the district, only in twelve *Panchayats*, the office of the *Mukhia* was contested.

Public Health and Sanitation Measures.

Gram Sevaks are trained in vaccination, inoculation as well as in the disinfection of wells. In 1950-51, 26 syringes were supplied for inoculation. In 1950-51, 30,198 persons were inoculated. In the same year 5,165 wells were disinfected. The sanitation of villages is done by weekly and monthly cleaning campaigns. In 1950-51, 267 trenches, 294 bore-hole latrines and 1,981 soakage pits were constructed. These measures have improved the sanitation to a considerable extent.

Whenever supplies of skimmed milk are available, it is supplied through the agency of village *Panchayats* to children, invalids and expectant mothers. Some medicines and drugs are also stocked so that instantaneous relief may be given to those who need it.

Other Activities of Gram Panchayats.

During 1950-51, 27 wells were constructed through the agency of *Panchayats* in the district, out of a total grant of Rs. 15,000. During 1951-52, 34 wells had been sunk out of the same amount of Government grant. The *Gram Panchayats* contributed one-third of the cost in the shape of labour-tax, 10,607 yards of roads were constructed, 18,968 yards of old roads were repaired; 166 culverts were repaired, 33 new culverts were built; 5,639 persons had been made literate in 134 adult education camps, 28 new *pains*, 31 *ahars*, 13 tanks and 343 wells had been constructed, whereas 364 *pains*, 393 *ahars*, 93 tanks and 357 wells had been repaired. All these aforementioned achievements had been done within the quinquennium from 1948 onwards.

In 1951-52, 15 basic schools, 154 other schools and 128 libraries were being run in this district by the *Gram Panchayats*. During the same

year 11,197 trees were planted, out of which nearly half have survived and are flourishing and 9,783 compost pits were prepared for improving agricultural production.

In the same year, 167 cases were filed in different *gram kutcheharies*, out of which, 139 were settled by compromise and judgements were delivered only in 12 cases. During the same period, 228 civil suits were filed, out of which settlement by compromise was arrived at in 122 cases and judgements were delivered in 51 suits.

The Finances of the Gram Panchayats.

The *Gram Panchayats* have been invested with powers to raise taxes, e.g., property tax, professional tax, i.e., tax on any business conducted within its area. The main sheet-anchor of the scheme, however, is the compulsory labour tax payable by all able-bodied males between the age of 18 to 50. The minimum tax payable by every taxpayer is 12 units or 48 hours of manual labour per annum. Payment in lieu of labour tax is permissible, in case of invalids or those who are unused to manual labour. The proceeds of the tax are mainly utilized in development works. After being authorised to levy *chaukidari* tax and rent, the *Panchayats* may now be able to increase their income but so far their resources are not placed on a very sound basis. The income of the *Gram Panchayats* for the year 1951-52 was Rs. 36,983-7-3, out of which Rs. 16,755-6-9 were derived from taxes. The expenditure incurred in the same year totalled up to Rs. 27,818-13-0, out of which Rs. 6,179-12-9 was spent on items associated with sanitation and conservancy.

The following statement shows the expenditure of *Gram Panchayats* for the year 1955-56 :—

Heads of expenditure.							
Sub-divisions.	Pay of establishment.	Cost of living allowance and house rent.	Travelling allowance.	Contingen- cies—Non- contract.	Grant- in-aid.	Rural water supply.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Sadar Sub-division.	57,187 14 0	2,370 3 0	3,823 9 0	1,547 0 3	450	..	65,378 10 3
Aurangabad Sub-division.	35,412 14 0	719 15 0	2,292 9 0	643 0 0	100	4,500	43,668 6 0
Nawada Subdivision.	33,567 3 0	545 7 0	2,580 15 0	200 0 0	..	4,500	41,393 9 0
Jahanabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,639 12 0