

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The system of Local Self-Government in India emanated from the idea of entrusting the people with the management of local affairs, thereby developing their capacity for self-governance. Likewise in the district of Puri Local Self-Governing institutions like Puri Municipality, and Puri District Board with two Local Boards under it, were constituted.

History of
Local Self-
Government
in the district

At present, the district has one Municipality at Puri, and seven Notified Area Councils at Bhubaneshwar, Nayagarh, Khurda, Pipli, Jatni, Nimapara and Banpur constituted under the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950. The oldest of these institutions is the Puri Municipality which was established in 1881, and the youngest is the Banpur Notified Area Council which came into being in 1973. The other local self-governing bodies are the Grama Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and the District Development Advisory Board.

The Puri District Board was first constituted on the 6th August, 1885, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Self-Government Act, 1885. The district had two Local Boards under it, namely, the Sadar Local Board and the Khurda Local Board. These two Local Boards were last reconstituted in July, 1946.

District and
Local Boards

The Local Boards exercised powers as were delegated to them by the District Board. Each of these Boards was being administered by a body of elected representatives headed by a Chairman. They continued as such till the last day of 1953. Then the Government took over the administration of the District Board and the Local Boards on the 1st January, 1954. The District Board and the Local Boards had ceased to be representative bodies and were being managed by Special Officers under the administrative control of the Collector. The District Board consisted of 28 members out of which 25 members were elected and three nominated. Out of the three nominated members one was official, one represented the Scheduled Castes and the other was a lady.

The Special Officer had been authorised to exercise powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions as provided in the Local Self-Government Act, 1935 (Bengal Act 11 of 1885). The main duties of the District Board were to look to the primary education, public health, water supply, medical relief and communication in the rural areas.

Union Board
and Village
Chowkidari
System

Like the District and Local Boards, the Union Boards were the smallest units of village administration, mainly dealing with the village police administration. Under the Village Administration Act of 1922, five Union Boards were constituted at Satyabadi, Delang, Pipli, Bhubaneshwar and Khurda in the district. The Union Boards were headed by the Union President. Besides, there was village chowkidari system which was managed by the President. The village Chowkidar was attached to a big village or a group of small revenue villages and his main job was to guard the village and to prevent crimes. Over a few Chowkidars, there was a Dafadar to control them. The union President was in overall control of the Chowkidars and Dafadars. One of the important duties of the Chowkidar was to report the births and deaths in his area at the police station once in a week. A tax called Chowkidari tax was collected from each household for making payment to the Chowkidars as their remuneration. The collection of Chowkidari tax was the responsibility of the Union President and in many cases the Presidents played an important role in the union areas in settling petty village disputes.

Municipality
and Notified
Area
Councils

The Puri Municipality which now covers an area of about 16.84 square kilometres (65 square miles) had a population of 72,674 as per the 1971 Census. Prior to 1973 the Municipality consisted of 23 wards. Since the Municipal elections of 1973 it has been divided into 24 wards, out of which 22 wards represent one member each and the rest two are double-seated. One of the Councillors in each of the double-seated wards belongs to the Scheduled Caste. The Municipal Council thus consists of 26 members elected on the basis of adult suffrage. The Executive Officer of the Municipality who is a Government servant is responsible for the day to day administration of the Municipality and the execution of the resolutions passed by the Municipal Council.

Puri
Municipality

The Municipal Councillors, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Executive Officer exercise their powers and discharge duties in accordance with the provisions made under the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950, and the rules made thereunder.

The Municipality derives its income from the levy of taxes under the heads—land rent, market rent, octroi tax, platform fees, dangerous trade licence fees, etc. It also receives grants from the State Government on account of motor vehicle taxation, education, and for sanitation during Ratha Jatra.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality in 1958-59 were Rs. 7,42,825 and Rs. 8,14,093 respectively and increased to Rs. 37,22,103 and Rs. 37,97,916 in 1972-73.

The statement given below indicates the income and expenditure of the local body from 1969-70 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1969-70 ..	6,21,875·10	17,00,555·00	23,22,430·10	29,84,866·44
1970-71 ..	6,67,566·97	12,34,092·59	19,01,659·56	25,38,137·05
1971-72 ..	6,74,907·24	18,37,076·31	25,11,988·55	31,47,758·23
1972-73 ..	11,52,186·42	25,69,916·50	37,22,102·92	37,97,916·49
1973-74 ..	29,34,515·06	20,87,761·00	50,22,276·06	45,93,806·62

The town of Puri, being situated on the sea, is an important health resort and is a famous place of pilgrimage in India for the shrine of Lord Jagannath. Streams of pilgrims as well as tourists flock to the town throughout the year. So the Municipality has a lot to do for the upkeep of public health and for the safety and convenience of the people residing within its limits. Having these in view, the Municipality is well astride to meet the special needs of the town.

The Municipality maintains 172·46 kilometres of roads, out of which 61·68 kilometres are surfaced and 110·78 kilometres unsurfaced. It has four markets under its control which are leased out annually. The Municipality is maintaining 2 High English schools, 4 Middle English schools, 14 Upper Primary schools and 13 Lower Primary schools. It maintains a park and one out-door dispensary of its own which is in existence since 1903. The total number of persons employed by this local body was 859 in 1972-73, which included the conservancy staff numbering 438. The Municipality has provided adequate number of florescent lights and ordinary bulbs in the town. It provides 800 water taps. About 50 kilometres of drains are being maintained by this local body. It spent a sum of Rs. 2,27,916 in maintaining roads in 1972-73. The total number of staff appointed by the local body to look to the public health and sanitation work in 1972-73 was 22.

This local body has framed two special bye-laws, namely, the Water Works Bye-law and the Octroi Bye-law which have been duly approved by the Government.

It was with the object of preventing the outbreak and spread of epidemic diseases that the Government of Bengal, and since after the partition of Bengal, the Government of Bihar and Orissa gave their

Town Water
Supply

attention to the question of providing pure piped drinking water at Puri as thousands of pilgrims from every corner of India visit the place throughout the year. After about a lapse of 4 decades in quest of water supply, the present site near Puri Railway Station was found as the best source of water supply. The actual work of construction started in the year 1930 under the management of the Public Health Department of the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

The management of the water works which was under the Public Health Department of the Government of Bihar and Orissa was made over to a Joint Water Works Committee with effect from 1st April, 1939. The Committee consisted of 7 members of which 4 represented the Puri Lodging House Fund Committee and 3 the Puri Municipality. The District Magistrate, Puri, was the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee. The Joint Water Works Committee has been merged with the Puri Municipality since 4th September, 1966, and as such, the town water supply is now being managed by the Municipality. Water was first supplied to the town in 1935 through 450 public street hydrants with only 6 oil pumps at Head Water Works and with one reservoir at Markandeswar Sahi. These pumps were made electric driven in 1956. The second reservoir started functioning in 1969 at Tota Gopinath. There are now 780 public hydrants, and so far, 1550 private water connections have been given.

Bhubaneswar
Notified
Area
Council

This local body covering an area of 17.51 square kilometres (6.76 square miles) was first constituted as a Notified Area Committee on 1st February, 1948 under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act, 1922. Subsequently it was reconstituted as Notified Area Council under the provision of the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950, with effect from 1st October, 1952 with an area of 26.08 square kilometres (10.07 square miles). The area of this Notified Area Council is increasing from time to time and it covers nearly 93.24 square kilometres (36 square miles) at present. The population was 1,13,095 according to the 1971 Census.

This Notified Area Council has been divided into 23 wards representing one member each excepting 3 wards which are kept reserved to represent 3 additional councillors belonging to either Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. Out of these 26 members 15 are nominated including the Chairman. The rest 11 members are elected, the Vice-Chairman being elected from among them. The first election of this local body was held on 28th January, 1970. The last election of 15 elected and 10 nominated members from 23 wards was held on 14th October, 1974.

The main sources of income for this Notified Area Council are the collection of different taxes and fees like holding tax, latrine tax, lighting tax, cycle tax, cart tax and licence fees for vehicles plying on hire, trade licence fees etc. Besides, the Notified Area Council receives annual grants from the Government.

The statement given below indicates the income and expenditure of the local body from 1969-70 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1969-70	12,04,429.39	5,80,857.31	17,85,286.70	18,64,023.19
1970-71	16,72,489.18	10,09,983.00	36,82,472.18	21,49,127.06
1971-72	9,59,386.09	9,13,039.00	18,72,425.09	19,10,409.83
1972-73	15,02,221.94	9,37,764.00	24,39,985.94	23,04,562.77
1973-74	11,24,889.23	11,66,892.24	22,91,781.47	28,64,394.28

The Public Health (Engineering) Department is maintaining the piped water supply schemes in this Notified Area. At present the department has provided 40 water hydrants in Kapileswar, Bhubaneshwar (Old town), Badagada, and Laxmisagar village areas. Nearly 3,562 street lights have been provided in different roads and public places of this Notified Area. About 14.07 kilometres of *pucca* and 12.84 kilometres of *katcha* drains have been constructed. The local body is maintaining 2 Boys' High English schools, one Girls' High English school, 6 Upper Primary schools, one Lower Primary school and one hospital with 40 beds for indoor patients. Besides, a charitable homoeopathic dispensary is also under the management of the Notified Area Council. It maintains 73.65 kilometres of roads out of which 26.78 kilometres are black topped, 3.35 kilometres cement-concrete, 17.52 kilometres water-bound macadam, 18.60 kilometres unsurfaced and 7.39 kilometres gravelled. Money spent in maintaining roads amounted to nearly Rs. 1,07,000 during 1972-73. The staff strength of the local body was 592 in 1972-73. Its conservancy staff numbering 313 look to the work of latrine clearance, street sweeping, removal of filth etc. At present 11 Sanitary Inspectors, 7 Vaccinators and 5 Disinfectors have been deputed by the Government to look to the public health and sanitation work. Besides, since 1972-73 one Malaria Inspector and one Malaria Supervisor have been posted in this Notified Area on deputation from the Government.

A Municipality first existed in Nayagarh town during the Durbar Administration and after the merger of the ex-State with the State of Orissa, it continued to function till 1952. Then a Joint Committee was formed to manage the work of the Municipality for sometime but was subsequently abolished. From 1952 to the date of formation of the Nayagarh Notified Area Council on 13th July, 1953, the Municipality was being managed by an *ad hoc* committee. It received financial aid from the Government to meet its expenses.

The Nayagarh Notified Area Council has an area of 7.77 square kilometres (3 square miles). The population was 5,209 according to the Census of 1971. Prior to 1973 the Notified Area Council consisted of 11 wards with 12 Councillors. At present, it has been divided into 10 wards, one of which is double seated. One ward is reserved either for Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidates. The last election to the Notified Area Council was held in 1973.

The general administration of the Notified Area Council is managed by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman who are elected from among the Councillors. The Executive Officer executes the resolutions passed by the Council.

The local body derives its income chiefly from holding tax, latrine tax, light tax and water tax. It also receives grants from the State Government. The annual income and expenditure of the Notified Area Council in 1953-54 were Rs. 4,195.27 and Rs. 10,298.50 respectively and increased to Rs. 4,52,739.62 and Rs. 4,16,553.21 in 1973-74.

The statement given below shows the income and expenditure of the local body from 1969-70 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1969-70	54,884.93	91,011.50	1,45,896.43	1,13,831.64
1970-71	90,138.92	69,202.00	1,59,340.92	1,63,675.64
1971-72	63,001.50	5,19,512.69	5,82,514.19	5,56,914.45
1972-73	82,592.22	1,23,369.70	2,05,961.92	1,00,074.92
1973-74	3,16,620.62	1,36,119.00	4,52,739.62	4,16,553.21

The water supply scheme of this Notified Area Council is under the management and control of the Public Health (Engineering) Department. The Department has so far provided 70 water taps on road sides. The local body has provided 103 street lights. It maintains 16 kilometres of roads, of which 5 kilometres are black-topped, 8 kilometres metalled and 3 kilometres unmetalled. During 1972-73

nearly Rs. 5,000 was spent in maintaining roads. About 1828.8 metres of pucca and 1981.2 metres of katcha drains have been constructed by the local body. It maintains one Middle English school and two parks. The staff strength of the local body is 44 and its conservancy staff number 28. One Sanitary Inspector, one Vaccinator and one Disinfecter constitute the public health staff who look to the public health and sanitation work of the town.

The Notified Area Council has framed a bye-law for the smooth management of its Town Hall which awaits Government approval.

The Khurda Notified Area Council covering an area of about 25.90 square kilometres (10 square miles) was established on the 12th July, 1960. At present it covers nearly 25.43 square kilometres (9.82 square miles). The population was 15,879 as per 1971 Census. The whole area of this local body has been divided into 15 wards representing 17 Councillors. Of these wards, two are double seated and two are reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. The last election of this Notified Area Council was held on the 31st May, 1973. Total staff employed by this local body is 36.

Khurda
Notified
Area Council

From 1960 a Council consisting of 10 members with a part-time Executive Officer managed the affairs of the Notified Area Council. At present the general administration is managed by a Council of 17 members who have elected a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among them. The resolutions passed by the Council are executed by the Executive Officer, who is an officer deputed by the State Government.

The financial resources are mainly derived from (1) holding tax, (2) lighting tax (3) license fees under section 255, and license fees under section 290 of the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950 (4) Khasmahal market shop-rent, (5) new market shop-rent, (6) market toll, (7) Bus-stand fee, (8) fisheries, (9) tax on carts and carriages, (10) slaughter fees and (11) ground rent. Besides, the local body receives grants from the State Government.

The following statement shows the annual income and expenditure of the Khurda Notified Area Council from 1968-69 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1968-69	58,606.93	37,430.25	96,037.18	1,42,946.60
1969-70	86,794.67	46,575.00	1,33,369.67	1,71,226.09
1970-71	67,481.00	42,957.00	1,10,438.00	3,61,224.28
1971-72	9,1943.95	36,124.72	1,28,068.67	2,04,713.50
1972-73	95,165.31	1,02,760.00	1,97,225.31	2,55,862.74
1973-74	1,44,820.93	1,06,971.68	2,51,792.61	2,04,025.44

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Steps are being taken by the Public Health (Engineering) Department for supplying water to the residents and institutions of the town. Street lights numbering 178, and 19 water pipes have been provided in different places of the town. At present 48.61 kilometres of roads and 97.22 kilometres of drains are being maintained by this local body. As regards sanitary arrangements-road sweeping, clearance of debris and clearing of private latrines are being carried out regularly by a conservancy staff consisting of 19 members.

The public health staff under this Notified Area Council consists of one Sanitary Inspector, one Vaccinator and one Disinfectant.

Pipli Notified Area Council

This Notified Area Council was constituted on the 17th April, 1972. The area of the local body is 8.94 square kilometres (3.45 square miles). The population according to 1971 Census was 6,152. It has been divided into 12 wards of which two are reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. Two are double seated wards. The last election of this Notified Area Council was held on 3-3-1975 to elect 14 Councillors from 12 wards.

The local body derives its income from Pipli Hat, daily market, pisciculture, cocoanut gardens etc. It also receives grants from the State Government.

The statement below shows the annual income and expenditure of the Notified Area Council from 1972-73 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1972-73	25,816.00	5,000.00 (Government grants and loans)	30,816.00	30,526.16
1973-74	30,803.85	1,47,950.00 (loan Rs. 35,300.00)	1,78,753.85	68,208.63

The Notified Area Council of Pipli has provided 60 street lights and 42 tube-wells in the town. It is maintaining 45 kilometres of roads of which 8.5 kilometres are black topped, 4 kilometres metalled, 13.5 kilometres unmetalled and 19 kilometres earthen. A sum of Rs. 30,000 was spent in maintaining roads in 1973-74. The total staff of the local body consists of 10 which includes 4 appointed for conservancy. One Sanitary Inspector and one Vaccinator constitute the Public health staff.

Jatni Notified Area Council was constituted on the 13th March, 1972. Its total area is 194.25 square kilometres (75 square miles) and the population, according to 1971 Census, was 28,965. It is divided into 21 wards, two being double seated. Two seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. The last election of Jatni Notified Area Council was held on the 14th October, 1974.

Jatni Notified Area Council

The chief sources of income of the Notified Area Council, besides Government grants, are the license fees under Section 290, tax on carts and carriages, tax on public resort and other entertainments.

The statement given below shows the annual income and expenditure of Jatni Notified Area Council from 1972-73 to 1973-74.

Year	Income			Expenditure
	Taxes and fees	Government grants	Total	
1972-73 ..	21,712.29	37,604.00	59,316.29	29,907.94
1973-74 ..	22,480.91	Grant— 74,242.00 Loan— 10,000.00	1,06,722.91 ..	68,109.59 ..

The local body has provided 106 street light points in the town and maintains 74.08 kilometres of roads which include metalled, unmetalled and earthen roads. The staff strength of this Notified Area Council is 24 including 10 sweepers. There is one part-time Sanitary Inspector to look to the sanitation of the town.

The Banpur Notified Area Council was constituted on the 15th March, 1973. This local body with an area of 10.87 square kilometres (4.196 square miles) and 9,664 population (1971 Census) has 15 wards, one being double seated. One ward is reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. Total staff employed by this Notified Area Council is 10. It has a Council of 16 nominated members to manage its affairs.

Banpur Notified Area Council

The chief sources of income of this local body are pisciculture, cocoanut gardens and grants received from the State Government. The income in 1973-74 was Rs. 45,935, which included Rs. 5,000 from pisciculture and cocoanut gardens, and Rs. 40,935 as grants received from the Government.

The Notified Area Council of Banpur has provided 57 street lights. It is maintaining 43½ kilometres of roads and one park. Its conservancy staff numbering 5 look to the latrine clearance and street sweeping. There is one part-time Sanitary Inspector to look to the public health and sanitation work of the town.

The Nimapara Notified Area Council was constituted on the 15th July, 1973. It has an area of 14 square kilometres and the population, according to the 1971 Census was 8,693. The whole area of this Notified Area Council has been divided into 11 wards of which 4 seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. At present, it has a Council consisting of 13 nominated members for the management of its affairs.

This local body, besides Government grants, derives its income mainly from the Daily Market and the cocoanut trees. During 1973-74, it received a sum of Rs. 14,000 from the State Government and spent Rs. 12,490.71 on various development works. Fourteen kilometres of roads are maintained by this Notified Area Council. The total staff strength of the organisation is 12 and the conservancy staff number 8. There is one Sanitary Inspector to look to the public health and sanitation work of the town.

As mentioned earlier, the Councillors of the Puri Municipality and the Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Nayagarh, Jatni and Pipli Notified Area Councils are elected every four years in accordance with Section 41 (1) of the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950, read with Section 12 (1) thereof, but the Banpur and Nimapara Notified Area Councils have nominated body of members. The election of Councillors to the Municipalities and the Notified Area Councils were suspended as per the provisions laid down in Orissa Local Body (Suspension of Election) Act, 1962. In the beginning of 1963, the said Act was repealed and Government in Health (Local Self-Government) Department letter No. 5012-(13)/LSG., dated the 8th May 1963, decided to hold the pending elections of the Municipalities and the Notified Area Councils.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of one Municipality and five Notified Area Councils were elected by its Councillors from among themselves. But the Chairman of Banpur and Nimapara Notified Area Councils were nominated members. The Councils discharge the duties as provided under the Orissa Municipality Act, 1950, with regard to finance, public health, public works, education and any other special subject relating to the purposes of the Act. There are Executive Officers appointed by the State Government in these local bodies to carry out day to day administration.

The Chairman and the Executive Officer carry out various functions as per the provisions contained in different chapters of the Orissa Municipal Act, and Rules.

To develop the old existing towns in the district, Master Plans for Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Konarak have been prepared by the Town Planning Organisation, Orissa. The Orissa Town Planning and Improvement Trust Act, 1956, has been enforced in the above mentioned towns to control the use of land. Special planning authorities have also been constituted to implement the Master Plans and to check haphazard growth of the towns by granting permission for the construction of various types of buildings and also to prepare new schemes.

Town
Planning

With the Zilla Parishad Act, 1959, as amended in 1960 and 1961, coming into force, Zilla Parishad for Puri district was constituted on the 26th January, 1961. This organisation was an advisory body at the district level to advise the Government on all developmental matters relating to the district. It was entrusted with the task of approving the programme and budget of the Panchayat Samitis in the district and distributing amongst them funds received from the Government for expenditure on various developmental works. This institution, which was also supervising the activities of the Samitis at Block level, served as the apex of the three-tier system of democratic decentralisation.

Zilla
Parishad

The Zilla Parishad consisted of both official and non-official members. All district level officers connected with the developmental work of the district were included as official members. The non-official members consisted of the Chairman of each Panchayat Samiti, Chairman of the Municipalities and Notified Area Councils with a population of more than twenty thousand, and the President of Central Co-operative Bank. Besides, there was a lady member elected by the non-official members. Members of the State Legislative Assembly and of the House of the People whose jurisdiction came under the district were entitled to participate in the meetings of the Parishad, but had no right to vote.

The Zilla Parishads were replaced by the District Advisory Councils from 1st November, 1968. The District Advisory Council, consisted of the following members :

District
Advisory
Council

- | | | |
|---|----|--------------------|
| 1 Collector | .. | Member
Convener |
| 2 M. L. As. and M. Ps. (Lok Sabha) whose jurisdiction comes under the district, and M. Ps. (Rajya Sabha) whose place of residence is in the district. | | Member |
| 3 Chairman of all the Panchayat Samitis within the district. | | Member |

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 4 | Chairman of all the Municipal Councils of the district | Member |
| 5 | President of the Central Co-operative Bank .. | Member |
| 6 | President of the District Land Mortgage Bank .. | Member |
| 7 | Any officer notified by the Government from time to time. | Member |

The functions of the District Advisory Council were to advise the Government regarding developmental work and other activities referred to it by the Government from time to time, and also to consider and advise the Government as to how best the developmental activities could be expeditiously and efficiently executed and to suggest ways and means to remove bottle-necks in the execution of developmental works.

District
Development
Advisory
Board

Again the State Government in Planning and Co-ordination Department Resolution No. 16636, dated 14th November, 1970, superseded the District Advisory Councils and constituted the District Development Advisory Boards. Besides all the members of the superseded Council, members of the District Development Committee and any representative of the public, declared as member by the Government from time to time, are included in the present Board. This apart, all Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker whose jurisdiction comes under the district, and M. Ps. (Rajya Sabha) whose place of residence is in the district are also members. The Collector of the district is the Chairman and the District Development Officer is the member-Secretary of the Board.

All the functions of the District Advisory Council are entrusted to the present Board. In addition, the Board is to help the district authorities in enlisting the participation of the people for the implementation of the schemes like growing of high-yielding varieties of crops, multi-cropping, use of fertilizers, water resources, management, etc. where such co-operation and participation are essential for smooth working of the schemes.

Panchayat
Samitis

Panchayat Samitis, the second-tier in democratic decentralisation, were established throughout the State in accordance with the provisions of the Orissa Panchayat Samitis Act, 1959. In the district of Puri, the Samitis were constituted on the 26th January, 1961. At present there are 29 Panchayat Samitis in the district. Each Panchayat Samiti which includes within it six to ten Grama Panchayats, is co-terminous in regard to its area with the Block administration created by the Government in the Community Development Department.

Each Panchayat Samiti consists of official and non-official members. The official members are the Block Development Officers and the officers of various Departments of the State Government ordinarily stationed at Block level. The non-official members include Sarpanchas of Grama Panchayats. Women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given due representation in the Samiti. The Chairman is elected directly by the Panchayat members and Sarpanchas. The non-official members who hold office for three years elect Vice-Chairman from among themselves. By-monthly meetings are held regularly. Official members can take part in the discussions of the Panchayat Samiti meetings along with non-official members, but are not entitled to vote.

The planning, execution and supervision of all development programmes in the Block area are done by the respective Panchayat Samitis. It looks after the spread of primary education, management of trusts and endowments which the Government may entrust, and registration of births and deaths. It supervises the work of Grama Panchayats within its jurisdiction. The Block Development Officer is the Executive Officer of the Samiti. He is also its Drawing and Disbursing Officer. The main sources of income of the Samiti are the Government grants and loans.

The Community Development Department of the State Government is the principal agency for providing funds to the Panchayat Samitis. The allotment of this Department to the Panchayat Samitis of Puri district in 1970-71 and 1971-72 amounted to Rs. 7,49,966 and Rs. 11,84,217 respectively. Besides, the Panchayat Samitis got Rs. 9,20,800 in 1972-73 from the State Government for various developmental works.

A list of the Panchayat Samitis of the district with their respective headquarters is given in the Appendix.

Grama Panchayat is the primary unit in the democratic decentralisation. Grama Panchayats were established on experimental basis in some of the rural areas of this district in 1949. The Grama Panchayat administration was extended all over the district covering all the villages in 1953. These institutions are governed under the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964. In the district, each Grama Panchayat comprising one or more than one village has been divided into a number of wards. The election of Sarpancha, Naib-Sarpancha, members, and Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe members are conducted according to the provisions of Orissa Grama Panchayat Election Rule, 1965. According to this rule, in every three years one member from each ward is

Grama
Panchayats

elected to the Grama Panchayat on the basis of adult franchise. The Sarpancha is also directly elected by the voters. But the Naib-Sarpancha of a Grama Panchayat is elected from amongst the ward members. The Sarpancha is the head of the Panchayat and is assisted by the Naib-Sarpancha. In areas where the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes population of the Grama Panchayat is more than 5 per cent, provision has been made to elect a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidate.

In 1962 there were 275 Grama Panchayats in the district of which 143 were in the Sadar subdivision, 72 in Khurda subdivision and 60 in Nayagarh subdivision. At present there are 368 Grama Panchayats in the district which include 142 in Puri Sadar subdivision, 46 in Bhubaneshwar subdivision, 77 in Khurda subdivision and 103 in Nayagarh subdivision. In this district a woman in Nandapur Grama Panchayat under Banpur police station has been elected as Sarpancha. Besides, there are 9 women members in 9 Grama Panchayats, 485 Scheduled Caste members in 368 Grama Panchayats, and 297 Scheduled Tribe members in 243 Grama Panchayats.

The Grama Panchayats continue to function as the main agency for the implementation of all development works and for mobilising man-power in rural areas. Development activities of different Departments of the Government which are co-ordinated at the Block level also continue to be executed through the agency of the Panchayats.

The functions of the Grama Panchayats include looking to village sanitation, aiding schools, supplying of drinking water, maintenance of roads, ferry ghats and cattle pounds, providing street lights and implementing different agricultural schemes. Pisciculture is one of the most lucrative schemes in augmenting internal resources of the Panchayats.

Besides Government grants and loans, the other sources of income of the Panchayats are from Panchayat and other taxes, fees received for issuing licence for dangerous trades and vehicle registration fees, rent from markets, cattle pounds, irrigation pumps, ferries and ghats. They also earn from pisciculture and orchards.

The expenditure incurred by Grama Panchayats include mainly money spent on construction and maintenance of roads and buildings, education, village sanitation, pisciculture and other remunerative schemes and for pay of staff and contingencies as well as payment of debts.

The annual income and expenditure of the Grama Panchayats of the district from 1969-70 to 1971-72 are given below :—

Year	Income			Total expenditure
	Kendu leaf grants	Government grants	Total income	
1969-70 ..	7,376.49	2,20,269.34	10,63,695.98	8,97,740.31
1970-71 ..	25,828.30	4,01,196.26	13,69,941.95	10,18,243.87
1971-72 ..	22,564.06	1,54,978.21	14,43,274.91	10,29,534.84

*

APPENDIX

PANCHAYAT SAMITIS IN THE DISTRICT

Name	Headquarter
1. Begunia	.. Begunia
2. Kakatpur	.. Kakatpur
3. Nuagaon	.. Nuagaon
4. Tangi	.. Tangi
5. Chilka	.. Gangadharpur
6. Krushnaprasad	.. Krushnaprasad
7. Brahmagiri	.. Brahmagiri
8. Puri Sadar	.. Puri Sadar
9. Astarang	.. Astarang
10. Delang	.. Delang
11. Odagaon	.. Odagaon
12. Bhapur	.. Bhapur
13. Bolgarh	.. Bolgarh
14. Khurda	.. Khurda
15. Banpur	.. Banpur
16. Kanas	.. Kanas
17. Baliana	.. Baliana
18. Daspalla	.. Daspalla
19. Gania	.. Gania
20. Pipli	.. Pipli
21. Nayagarh	.. Nayagarh
22. Ranpur	.. Ranpur
23. Bhubaneshwar	.. Bhubaneshwar
24. Gop	.. Gop
25. Nimapara	.. Nimapara
26. Satyabadi	.. Satyabadi
27. Balipatna	.. Balipatna
28. Khandapara	.. Khandapara
29. Jatni	.. Jatni