

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

The local self-governing bodies in the district are a municipal board, an Antarim Zila Parishad and 575 *gaon sabhas*. These bodies wield wide powers and responsibilities in respect of the areas under their jurisdiction.

MUNICIPAL BOARD

The town of Pithoragarh, before the creation of a municipal board, was administered as a town area by a committee consisting of 10 members and a chairman. The municipality came into existence on November 24, 1962, and the members and chairman of the town area committee became its members. On March 12, 1963, the board was dissolved and since then the town is administered, under the U. P. Municipalities Act, 1916, by the district magistrate who is ex officio administrator to the board. There is no elected body and the affairs are supervised by an officer in charge (a deputy collector) to whom the powers are delegated by the district magistrate. The municipality has an area of 28.3 hectares and a population of 5,000, according to the census of 1961.

Finances—The main sources of income are house tax, rent from government land managed by the municipal board, tolls, contributions, income from cattle pounds, etc. The major heads of expenditure are general administration and collection charges, public works, waterworks and conservancy. The income and expenditure figures for the last seven years have been appended in Statements I (a) and I (b) at the end of the chapter.

Waterworks—The waterworks is maintained by the board which employs a waterworks engineer, a meter reader and other officials for its maintenance.

ANTARIM ZILA PARISHAD

The Pithoragarh Antarim Zila Parishad was created on April 1, 1961, under the U. P. Antarim Zila Parishads Act, 1958, but all the duties, functions and powers of the Antarim Zila parishad were vested in the district magistrate pending the creation of an elected board. The work of this body has been of a multifarious nature, its principal functions being the implementation of the Five-year Plan schemes, the utilization of funds allotted by government for this purpose in the spheres of agriculture, co-operatives, animal husbandry, education, public health and people's welfare, and the raising and expending of taxes levied by it for certain specific activities with which it is directly concerned. The utilization of funds allotted by government for this purpose in the spheres of agriculture, co-operative, animal husbandry, education, public health and people's welfare, and the raising and expending of taxes levied by it for certain specific activities with which it is directly concerned.

Finances—Its main sources of income are government grants, school fees and cattle pounds. The major items of expenditure are connected with general administration, the collection of dues, education, medical and public health, and public works. Its income and expenditure had been Rs 18,85,417 and Rs 19,03,801, respectively, during 1965-66. The income and expenditure figures for the last five years have been appended in the Statements II (a) and II (b) at the end of the chapter.

Public Health and Medical Services—This body maintained three allopathic dispensaries. A sum of Rs 30,729 was spent by the Parishad on medical and public health during 1965-66.

Education—The Antarim Zila Parishad was responsible for junior and senior Basic education in the district, a deputy inspector of schools and an assistant inspectress of girls' schools being in charge of boys' and girls' education, respectively. During 1964-65 it maintained 253 junior Basic schools for boys with 26,723 pupils (including 7,488 girls) on roll and 11 such schools for girls with 939 pupils (including 255 boys) on roll. The number of senior Basic schools for boys was 16 with, 1,873 pupils (including 195 girls) on roll and that for girls was one, with 19 girls on roll. The teachers employed were 772 men and 62 women in the junior Basic schools and 90 men and 4 women in senior Basic schools, the amount spent on education being Rs 7,85,450 which included the State government contribution as well.

The Antarim Zila Parishad also managed four Kumaon Shilpkar Sabha schools during 1964-65 the affairs of which were supervised by a sub deputy inspector of schools of the area. On March 31, 1965, there were four teachers and 164 pupils (including 43 girls) in these schools, the amount spent (during 1964-65) being Rs 2,520.

Public Works—The Antarim Zila Parishad maintained 363.71 km. of unmetalled roads in the district. It constructed 14 bridges in 1963-64 and spent Rs 1,95,811 on public works during 1965-66.

PANCHAYATS

Prior to 1960 there were 647 *gaon sabhas* and as many *gaon* panchayats, in the area covered by the present district of Pithoragarh, and all of them functioned under the U. P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1947. In 1961, the number of *gaon sabhas* was reduced to 575. A *gaon sabha* is constituted for a village or group of villages with a minimum population of 250 persons and all the adults of the village are its members. The *gaon* panchayat, which is the executive body of the *gaon sabha*, has a *pradhan* (president) and an *up-pradhan* (vice-president), the former and the members of the *gaon panchayat* being elected by the members of the *gaon sabha* for a term of 5 years. The members elect the *up-pradhan* for a term of one year from amongst themselves. The number of members of a *gaon* panchayat is fixed between 15 and 30, depending on the size of the *gaon sabha*. The powers and duties of the *gaon* panchayats relate to the construction, repairs, cleaning and lighting of public streets; medical relief; sanitation and prevention of epidemics; up-keep and supervision of public buildings or property belonging to the *gaon sabha*; registration of births, deaths and marriages; removal of encroachments on public streets and places; regulation of places for the disposal of the dead; regulation of markets and fairs; construction of junior Basic school buildings; establishment and management of common land and grazing grounds; assistance in the development of agriculture, commerce and industry; aid in fighting fires, maintenance of records relating to cattle and population censuses; maternity and child welfare; and allotment of places for the storage of manure.

The permissive duties of the panchayats are the organization of a village force for watch and ward and other public purposes, distribution of loans to agriculturists and aid in liquidation of their debts, development of co-operatives, establishment of improved seed and implement stores, famine relief, maintenance of public libraries, reading-rooms, play grounds, public radio sets and gramophones, and promotion of social and communal harmony and good-will.

The main sources of the finances of the panchayats are government grants, voluntary contributions and the taxes raised by them. A statement pertaining to the taxes assessed and collected by the *gaon* panchayats of the district from 1963-64 to 1965-66 is given below:

Year	Tax assessed (in rupees)	Tax collected (in rupees)
1963-64	24,357.04	16,006.16
1964-65	27,311.11	30,215.60
1965-66	21,672.03	27,214.33

The following statement gives the achievements of the *gaon* panchayats of the district:

Works undertaken	Completed during Third Plan period
Drinking water projects (such as nullahs), etc.	281
School building	
Constructed	177
Repaired	31
Panchayat <i>ghars</i>	
Constructed	62
Repaired	13
Bridges/culverts	47
Unmetalled roads	
Constructed	666.27 km.
Repaired	268.76 km.
Metalled roads constructed	3.37 km.
Brick pavements	41.84 km.
Community orchards	39
Afforestation	36.62 ha.
Pastures	82.55 ha

STATEMENT I (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Pithoragarh

Reference Page No. 157

Year	Municipal rates and taxes	Realizations under special Acts	Revenue derived from municipal property etc., other than taxes	Grants and contributions	Miscellaneous	Other sources	Total receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1960-61	56,844	..	2,553	12,319	28,014	3,577	1,03,307
1961-62	57,660	..	6,366	25,559	1,150	4,413	95,148
1962-63	55,549	..	10,434	60,160	15,000	1,211	1,42,354
1963-64	65,382	565	6,182	33,408	..	3,864	1,09,401
1964-65	53,734	202	18,852	29,703	..	1,375	1,03,866
1965-66	75,114	737	32,643	8,712	..	780	1,17,986
1966-67	46,717	625	30,368	11,600	..	3,766	93,076

STATEMENT I (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Municipal Board, Pithoragarh

Reference Page No. 157

Year	General administration and collection charges	Public safety	Public health and sanitation	Miscellaneous	Other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1960-61	21,298	3,907	55,186	1,228	2,776	84,395
1961-62	20,132	3,845	17,261	305	1,747	43,290
1962-63	28,211	554	24,155	10,000	12,240	75,160
1963-64	24,192	2,718	4,799	4,468	92,189	1,28,366
1964-65	32,971	1,710	97,540	2,673	305	1,35,199
1965-66	26,534	9,412	1,03,137	4,620	6,421	1,50,124
1966-67	28,257	5,431	76,565	4,190	7,218	1,21,661

STATEMENT II (a)

Receipts (in Rupees), Antarim Zila Parishad, Pithoragarh

Reference page Mp.158

Year	Government grants	Education	Medical and public health	Cattle pound	Other sources	Total Receipts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961-62	6,08,607	21,561	33	773	35,113	6,66,087
1962-63	12,25,892	51,618	30	666	45,570	13,23,776
1963-64	12,82,759	1,36,314	5	132	29,832	14,49,042
1964-65	10,83,201	1,07,879	15	435	97,213	12,88,743
1965-66	17,32,801	60,685	18	215	91,698	18,85,417

STATEMENT II (b)

Expenditure (in Rupees), Antarim Zila Parishad, Pithoragarh

Reference Page No. 158

Year	General administration and collection charges	Education	Medical and public health	Public works	Other heads	Total expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1961-62	16,639	5,28,852	33,080	48,488	5,551	6,32,610
1962-63	25,275	6,23,737	25,105	60,901	20,944	7,55,962
1963-64	28,198	12,61,142	29,054	81,520	1,56,144	15,56,058
1964-65	27,766	10,17,965	28,946	1,54,569	74,632	13,03,878
1965-66	45,254	16,16,531	30,720	1,95,811	15,476	19,03,801