CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Early History

THE history of local self-government in the district may be traced back to 1864 when the first Municipal Committee was set up. The municipal committee established in the district headquarter town began to tackle for the first time the civic problems of the area. This was later on extended to taluk headquarter towns and some of the villages. In these municipal committees, several influential men with experience began earnestly to attend to the several problems concerning local self-government. Several branches of the official hierarchy were represented on the committees and the number so nominated did at no time exceed one-third of the total number of members. The State Government introduced, as and when necessary, proper regulations to conduct the day-to-day affairs of these civic bodies. In the rural areas where some practical difficulties existed in the way of forming regular Municipal Boards, the regulations were applied and enforced through the revenue officers. The next stage in the development of local self-government institutions was the allocation of funds. The income from *Mohatarfa* in Chitradurga town was assigned to the Committee. In order to further augment the resources of the Municipal Boards, the levy of a tax on individual houses from those who were exempted from the ordinary *Mohatarfa* was introduced. In 1879, the system of municipal taxation was revised and only a single tax was ordered to be levied on all residential houses except those exclusively used for religious and charitable purposes.

In the post-rendition period, that is, after 1881, the Government, as a matter of policy, set about reforming the pattern and structure of Municipal Boards in the State. Later, in 1914, a committee was appointed to suggest various improvements. Immediately after this, a second committee was set up to assess the financial implications of the projected improvements. The reports of these two committees were published in 1915 and in the wake of these important reports, a Local Board conference was held in June 1915 to discuss the whole question of reforms. As a result of these deliberations, the Government passed orders effecting

certain changes in the municipal administration. All non-regulation municipalities were converted into several classified local self-governing bodies called City, Town and Minor Municipalities according to population and importance. The introduction of an elected majority in major municipalities and an increased elected element in other municipalities formed a particular feature of the reforms. Gradually, the control on primary education was transferred to local bodies. In 1918, the number of elected seats on the Town Municipal Councils was increased from one-third to one-half of the entire strength. The strength of *ex-officio* councillors on the Town Councils was reduced as years went by. The amended Municipal Regulations of 1918 gave more powers to the elected councils.

District Boards

Originally, the administration of local funds was entrusted to the District Fund Circle in the district. The Board which manned the Circle was presided over by the highest revenue officer, and consisted of seven non-official members and several officers. As a measure of improvement, the Mysore Local Boards Regulation of 1902 was ushered in, superseding all previous orders. Under this regulation, Taluk Boards were set up in all the nine taluks of the district. In the same year, another local self-governing institution called the District Board was also constituted, consisting of elected representatives from the taluks. In the early years, 76 per cent of the local cess on *abkari*, forest and other items except land revenue constituted the finances of the local funds. This was reduced to 67 per cent in 1903. The District Boards ran schools and dispensaries and looked after the roads in the interior. The sanitation and public health needs of the district, except in areas where municipalities existed, were attended to by the District Board. By another regulation in 1921, called the Mysore Local Boards and Village Panchayats Amending Regulation, the development of the economic condition of the district with particular attention to education, agriculture and industries was included in the administrative purview of the District Board. This empowered the District Board to levy an education cess not exceeding one anna in the rupee on all items of revenue. The District Board was, however, dissolved in November 1959.

Prior to the constitution of a village panchayat in every village or group of villages, Improvement Committees were in existence for sometime. Each panchayat consisted of not less than five and not more than 12 members, half of whom were elected by popular vote. In the earlier stages, the panchayat chairman was nominated by the Government. Later on, when the panchayats were well-established, the right of electing a chairman was conceded. The obligatory functions of the panchayats were village sanitation, communications and general welfare of the rural population. This, in brief, is the early history of local self-government in the district.

There are 12 municipal councils in the district, *viz.*, the City Municipal Council, Davangere and Town Municipal Councils at Chitradurga, Challakere, Harihar, Hiriyur, Molakalmuru, Mayakonda, Turuvanur, Hosadurga, Holalkere, Jagalur and Nayakanahatti. In the next few pages, a description of the organisation and structure, powers and duties, financial resources and special achievements of these institutions is given.

Davangere City Municipality

The City Municipal Council at Davangere was constituted under the provisions of the Mysore City Municipalities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time. The total municipal area is 7.5 sq. miles or 19.4 sq. kilometres and the population, according to the 1961 census, was 78,124. The city is divided into 11 equal divisions, each division electing three councillors. Before presenting a picture of the civic activities of this growing town, it is worth-while mentioning the developmental activities which transformed it into a busy industrial area on the Poona—Bangalore highway. The city has been divided into two parts by the metre gauge railway line, the old town lying to the east and the new town springing up on the west. In the old days, the Anekonda village at the southern extremity of the town was only a slum, with no roads, sanitation or water supply. Now, the area has grown into an important industrial region with big textile mills, agricultural godowns and offices. Towards the west of the railway line and in close proximity to the High School, a beautiful residential extension has grown which is named after H.H. Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar. According to the figures available in the 1961 census reports, there were 13,900 occupied houses in the city.

Elections are held once in four years under the City Municipalities Act and the 33 councillors choose their president and vice-president. The day-to-day administration of the Municipality is handled by a Commissioner drawn usually from the senior ranks of the Revenue Department. There is an engineer and a health officer exclusively for the Municipality.

Finances.—The total receipts of the Municipality during 1964-65 were Rs. 23,39,851 as against Rs. 13,31,793 in 1957-58. The total expenditure was Rs. 24,89,194 as against Rs. 12,33,787 in 1957-58. The closing balance at the end of the year 1964-65 remained at Rs. 1,82,810. The following table indicates the demand, collection and balance of revenue under several heads for the years 1964-65 :—

Particulars	Arrears	Demand	Total	Collection	Balance
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mohatarfa ..	4,31,289	4,84,498	9,15,787	3,74,129	5,41,664
Professional tax.	33,456	35,158	68,614	33,879	34,741
Water tax ..	1,10,468	75,729	1,86,195	66,713	1,19,482
Miscellaneous	59,505	1,25,590	1,85,095	1,26,297	58,798
Tolls ..	8,265	21,910	30,175	21,910	8,265
Octroi ..	..	9,09,995	9,09,995	9,09,995	..
Vehicle tax	..	12,975	12,975	12,975	..

It is seen from the above table that there was a considerable amount of balance. However, vigorous attempts were being made to collect the outstanding dues.

A total sum of Rs. 4,79,475 was spent by the Municipality on public works in 1964-65. For public safety measures like street lighting and rewards for destruction of wild animals and snakes, a sum of Rs. 52,946 was earmarked. Public health measures formed an important part of the day-to-day administration of the Municipality for which Rs. 76,746 were spent during 1964-65. Education of children was the accepted policy of the Municipality and a sum of Rs. 35,630 were spent for the purpose. The public debt portion claimed Rs. 7,46,935 during 1964-65. The total amount of expenditure on all these civic activities came to Rs. 24,89,194 during the year.

Water Supply

The supply of pure drinking water to the inhabitants of the city has been a major achievement of the civic body. Formerly, water from the Tungabhadra river flowing at Harihar, which is at a distance of nine miles, was being pumped through nine-inch pipes. This main was converted into 16 inches so as to provide more water to the growing population of the city. The daily supply which was between five and six lakhs of gallons was felt to be very inadequate and recently the provision was increased to 9 lakhs of gallons. During 1964-65, a sum of Rs. 2,70,996 was spent for the maintenance of water supply as against Rs. 2,79,705 in the previous year.

Drainage

In the absence of a comprehensive underground drainage system, the night soil collected from several parts of the city was being conveyed to three compost yards located in different areas on the outskirts of the city. Compost manure was prepared out of this night soil and was sold in public auction. A comprehensive scheme of underground drainage costing Rs. 10.23 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government in November 1954. The entire execution of the work was entrusted to the Executive Engineer,

No. 3 Sanitary Division, Davangere. This scheme is being carried out in a phased manner. A part of the old city and the Jayachamaraja Extension have already been provided with underground drainage. The rest of the city has conservable latrines provided with roofs and trap doors. The personnel of the conservancy and sanitation wing consist of one Health Officer, eight Inspectors, 777 sweepers and 84 scavengers, lorry drivers and loaders. Street rubbish is removed by means of carts and 22 carts are engaged daily for this purpose. The removal of night soil from the trap door latrines is done through night soil carts which are eight in number.

The health authorities have recently started an intensive cleaning campaign, in order to remove accumulation of old heaps of rubbish and silt and to keep the city clean and tidy. The campaign is conducted every week in different wards according to a planned programme in which all the sweeping staff is engaged. Special attention is being given to slum areas.

Sewage disposal is done through a septic tank located near Belthur road and the sewer water is used for growing vegetables and grass by the gardeners under lease basis. A Municipal Ayurvedic Vaidyashala is run at a cost of Rs. 6,745 a year. On an average 49,481 people came to this Vaidyashala for treatment annually.

The collection of vital statistics is done by a Sub-Registrar of Births and Deaths. The Medical Officers in charge of the several hospitals in the city report all cases of births and deaths relating to their institutions. During 1964-65, 2,760 births and 856 deaths were registered. The birth and death rates worked out to 31.4 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively for 1,000 population.

Davangere city was first electrified on 2nd April 1939. The Municipality was maintaining, in 1965, 1,293 street lights at a cost of Rs. 52,948 per annum. The main thoroughfares and squares of the city are well lit. Ornamental and mercury vapour lights are provided in important streets.

The Municipality is maintaining a full-fledged high school and is spending about Rs. 13,000 a year on it. There were 525 pupils on the rolls during 1964-65 as against 482 in the previous year. A sum of Rs. 11,590 was being realised as fees.

There are eight parks maintained out of municipal funds. Another park is maintained at the Davangere water works at Harihar. These parks serve as favourite evening resorts for the inhabitants. A total sum of Rs. 21,401 was incurred during 1964-65 for the maintenance of these parks.

The Municipality has been striving to provide increased amenities to the ratepayers of the city. New sources of revenue are being explored to improve and expand the civic services. Demands for new amenities are increasing and the old traditional sources of revenue, *viz.*, assessed taxes and octroi are not of a very elastic nature. However, the City Municipal Council is trying its best to increase its revenue by levying other taxes.

Town Municipalities

The eleven Town Municipal Councils in the district were constituted under the Mysore Town Municipalities Act, 1951. This Act was amended from time to time giving more powers to the Councils to provide increasing amenities to the ratepayers. The right of electing a non-official president was conceded to all the Town Municipalities. The following is a brief account of these Municipalities.

Chitradurga Town Municipality

The Chitradurga Town Municipal Council consisted of 20 members, all elected on the basis of adult franchise and the town was divided into 20 single-member constituencies for purposes of elections which were held once in four years as per the Town Municipalities Act, 1951. According to the 1961 census, the population was 33,336 and the municipal area was 2.50 square miles or 6.47 sq. kilometres. There were 5,328 dwelling houses in the municipal area.

The town has developed on the slopes at the foot of a hill and spread all over the area enclosed by the fort wall and the trench bordering it. The Chickpet Road running from south to north is on the foot of the hill. This road passes through the *Santhe Bagilu* (a fort gate) to join the main road at the junction of Holalkere Road and the Railway Station Road. Intersecting the Chickpet Road, another road called Dodpet Road runs from west to east and passes through *Rangaiyana Bagilu* (east fort gate). These two roads are lined with shops and form the centre of activity for traders. Inside the fort and forming a portion of the old town, is *Burujan hatti*, which is very crowded. Beyond the old town as described above, the town has expanded from the Santhe Bagilu Road, Holalkere Road and the Railway Station Road towards the east. Ever since the railway line was laid, the importance of Santhepet has grown. A new extension has sprung up beyond the Deputy Commissioner's quarters on the north side where a number of new residential houses have been built. The road junction at Santhepet where the Railway Station Road, Holalkere Road and the Santhe Bagilu Road meet, is an attractive square, adding grace to the town.

Receipts and Expenditure.—The total receipts under all heads for 1965-66 were Rs. 6,63,138.07 and the expenditure came to Rs. 6,65,059.10.

The incidence of taxation was Rs. 9.2 in 1964-65 as against Rs. 7.12 in 1957-58.

The Town Municipal Council is spending a considerable portion of its revenues on public safety measures like street lighting, and water supply and other items of special importance. A sum of Rs. 72,000 was spent in 1965-66 on these items. Public works carried out by the Municipality constituted yet another item of expenditure. A sum of Rs. 81,000 was spent on repairs of culverts, roads, drains, municipal fruit and flower stalls and the like during the year.

The Municipality is giving special attention to public conveniences, so as to keep the town as clean as possible. A sum of Rs. 1,05,116 was spent in 1965-66 in respect of sanitation, upkeep of burial grounds, disposal of night soil and general health of the population.

Water Supply.—The water supply problem in the town is very acute. The Municipality is making strenuous efforts to relieve this distressing situation by installing pumps in the wells and bore-holes in Timmanayakanakere tank bed. Pending execution of the Vanivilas Sagar Water Works, there is a supply of only 6 to 7 lakh gallons per day and this is found to be insufficient. Suggestions were made from time to time to tap all bore-well resources in the fort area. At present, bore-holes in the Timmanayakanakere tank bed are the primary source of water supply to the town. A pumphouse has been built on the Chitradurga-Davangere road where the water is filtered through the jewel-filter method and stored in R.C.C. tanks, three in number, at the foot-hills and water is distributed to all parts of the town. As the supply is meagre, the distribution is staggered and some portions of the town get a very low supply in the early hours of the morning. The Municipality has to pay a heavy sum towards maintenance of this water supply system to the State Public Works Department.

Electric Lights.—The streets of the town are well lit by electric lights and there were 604 street lights in the town in 1966. The top of the Chitradurga hill has a beacon mercury vapour light adding beauty to the historic fort.

Conservancy.—The sanitary condition of the town has been improved by providing six night soil carts, one tractor and eight hand carts.

Drainage.—The town is partially under the modern underground drainage system. The Government have since sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs to complete the second stage of the drainage

scheme and the work was in progress. All the congested areas and lanes have been provided with surface drains.

Parks.—Four recreational parks are being maintained by the Municipality.

Hosadurga Town Municipality

The Hosadurga Town Municipality was established in 1917 introducing, for the first time, the election principle by which all the councillors were elected by popular vote. Up to 1951, the Municipality served the interests of the inhabitants as a Minor Municipality. Subsequently, the council was reconstituted as a Town Municipality under the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951. The town was divided into three divisions, returning in all 15 members on the basis of adult franchise. One seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The area of the municipality in 1961, was 1.9 square miles or 4.92 square kilometres and its population, 6,712.

Regarding amenities, the Council has implemented several schemes like those of protected water supply, street lighting and drainage facilities. The town is provided with Sylk pattern drains up to a length of 1,000 feet including the main drain called the "Ranoji Halla" leading to Ningappa tank.

Water Supply.—In the old days, the town depended for its water supply mainly on the drinking water wells which were 60 in number. These wells were fairly deep and went dry in summer, necessitating other sources of supply. In 1949, a new water supply scheme, involving a cost of four lakhs of rupees, was sanctioned and the execution of the works was completed in 1953 and it was named Sri Meenakshideviavara Water Works. The water is pumped from the Vedavathi river near Kellodu which is four miles away from the town and a daily supply of 60,000 gallons is assured through 200 private connections and public taps.

The town is rapidly expanding and to meet the demands of the ratepayers, new layouts have been proposed to be formed in the adjacent survey numbers of Goravinakal village. House sites are proposed to be formed in the locality to provide dwelling houses for the poor.

The municipal area is served by a Government of India-type health unit, including a maternity section maintained by the Health Services Department since 1965-66.

The Municipality has plans to form a public park behind the Municipal High School at a cost of Rs. 1,500.

The Municipality is running a high school, a nursery school and a Sanskrit Pathashala.

The receipts and expenditure of the Hosadurga Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 1,32,709 and Rs. 1,36,213 respectively.

Holalkere Town Municipality

The Holalkere Town Municipality was constituted as per the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951, with 15 members elected from 15 single-member constituencies. The term of the Council under the Act was of four years after which new elections were to be held. According to the 1961 census, the town had a population of 5,976 and an area of 0.20 square mile or 0.52 square kilometre.

Water supply to the town is provided by two bore-wells at the rate of 20,000 gallons per day. A new water supply scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. one lakh and odd was approved by the State Government and the work was nearing completion. With this, the water supply to the town was expected to increase from 20,000 gallons to 40,000 gallons per day. In 1965, the town had 80 private connections and 40 public taps.

There is no underground drainage system and refuse water is drained through cut drains.

As regards education, the Municipality is running a high school in the town. Medical facilities are provided through the Local Fund dispensary now converted into a primary health centre of the Government of India-type.

The Municipality is maintaining a recreation park with a radio, in front of the municipal office.

The revenues of the Municipality for 1964-65 amounted to Rs. 41,020 as against Rs. 24,000 in 1957-58. The expenditure was Rs. 44,806 during 1964-65.

Challakere Town Municipality

Challakere town was divided into three divisions, each division returning five members. One seat was reserved in Division No. 1 for women and one seat in Division No. 3 for the Scheduled Castes. Elections were held once in four years under the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951. As per the 1961 census, the population of the town was 10,408 and the municipal area measured 0.40 square mile or 1.04 square kilometres.

The old town with its narrow streets and congested areas has expanded with the march of time. Extensions have been laid out on the Chitradurga Road and Bangalore Road. To meet the increasing needs of the growing population of this important commercial town, the Municipal Council decided to form new layouts on the Bangalore Road and nearly 300 sites had been disposed of. A decent colony was being built on the Chitradurga Road, the model houses constructed being given to the low-paid Government servants under the low income group housing scheme.

Water Supply.—Till recently, drinking water was being obtained from wells; though the number of wells, both public and private, was quite considerable, the source was not dependable in all seasons. Consequent on the efforts of the Municipal Council, the Government sanctioned a loan of Rs. 4 lakhs for a new water supply scheme in 1953. The scheme was completed and protected water was being distributed through mains at the rate of 15 gallons per head per day.

Drainage.—Drainage is another problem which is engaging the attention of the Municipal Council. New drains are being constructed as and when necessary and repairs are being carried out to old drains. A comprehensive drainage scheme has been drawn up.

Education.—Challakere Municipal Council was one of the pioneer councils which volunteered to establish Municipal High Schools in 1949. The high school at Challakere maintained by the Municipality is attracting students not only from the town but also from the interior of the taluk. The Council was spending about Rs. 10,000 a year for the maintenance of this high school. From the year 1965-66, XI Standard also has been opened. A nursery school for children is also being run since 1954.

Medical facilities.—The Council has contributed funds for opening a maternity section in the Local Fund Dispensary. In addition to this, the Council has been paying a contribution towards the maintenance of the maternity section. Apart from this, the municipality has donated a new building costing Rs. 50,000 for a new X-ray block. A new Ayurvedic dispensary has also been opened.

The Council has provided a children's corner in the well-laid-out municipal park. A community hall has been built and a tennis court, reading room and a library are attached to it.

The financial resources of the Municipality are very limited, octroi, toll and miscellaneous taxes being the major sources of income. The receipts and expenditure for 1964-65 were Rs. 2,01,510 and Rs. 1,96,512 respectively.

Jagalur Town Municipality

Formerly, Jagalur had a Minor Municipality which was converted into a Town Municipality in April 1952 under the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951. It had 15 councillors elected on the basis of adult franchise. One seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The election was held once in four years. The town had a population of 5,772 and its area was 1.80 square miles or 4.66 square kilometres.

The source of water supply to the town is from two bore wells, with a daily average of about 50,000 gallons.

The municipal area has box drains and V-shaped drains in all parts of the town.

The town was lit by electric lights which were 150 in number and the expenditure on these was Rs. 6,150 per annum.

A new extension called Sri Jayachamarajendra Extension has been laid out recently.

The Town Municipal Council is running a high school.

The revenue and expenditure figures of the Municipality for the year 1964-65 were Rs. 84,869 and Rs. 94,417, respectively.

Hiriyur Town Municipality

The Hiriyur Municipal Council was constituted in accordance with the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951 and it consisted of 15 elected members. One seat was reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The elections to the Council were held once in four years. The population of the town, as per the 1961 census, was 11,455 and its area was 2.02 square miles or 5.23 square kilometres.

Since September 1953, the town has a protected water supply system with a daily consumption of 1,00,000 gallons. The population of the town is on the increase and the supply of water is becoming insufficient. In order to meet the increased demand, a new water supply scheme costing Rs. 3 lakhs was under execution.

The Municipality is maintaining a high school, a nursery school, a public library and a reading room.

A new vegetable market has been opened recently.

There are two municipal parks in the town, with community radio sets.

The revenue and expenditure figures of the Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 1,98,970 and Rs. 2,92,993, respectively.

Harihar Town Municipality

The Town Municipal Council at Harihar had 20 elected members including two Scheduled Caste members. Elections were held once in four years on the adult franchise system under the Town Municipalities Act, 1951. The population of the town, as per the 1961 census, was 22,829 and the area was 2.70 square miles or 6.99 square kilometres.

To the south of the old town, a new lay-out has been formed for providing sites at cheap rates. Water supply, at the rate of 15 to 20 gallons per head per day. is provided from the Tungabhadra river. There are two high schools and one nursery school run by the Municipality. Regarding medical facilities, the town has one combined dispensary and its maintenance charges are met out of the municipal funds. Two recreation parks are also maintained by the Municipality. The income of the Municipality was Rs. 6,38,073 and the expenditure was 6,41,214 in 1964-65.

Mayakonda Town Municipality

Originally, Mayakonda had a Minor Municipality and this was converted into a Town Municipality in accordance with the provisions of the Mysore Town Municipalities Act, 1951. The Council consists of 15 elected members. One seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes. Elections were held once in four years. The town had a population of 3,211 and an area of 0.08 square mile or 0.21 square kilometre, according to the 1961 census.

A new lay-out called *Jayadeva Badavane* has been recently formed by the Municipality. The town has no protected water supply and drinking water is drawn from wells.

The revenue and expenditure of the Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 9,116.34 and Rs. 8,978.37, respectively.

Nayakanahatti Town Municipality

The Nayakanahatti Town Municipal Council was constituted under the Mysore Town Municipalities Act of 1951 with 15 elected members drawn from three divisions. Elections were held once in four years. The population of the town, as per the 1961 census, was 2,777 and the area was 0.01 square mile or 0.03 square kilometre. A new water supply scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 1,05,260 has been sanctioned. Two bore-wells also have been sunk. A drainage scheme is under way under the local development scheme executed by the Public Works Department. For recreational purposes, the Council has provided a radio and a loud speaker in the Town Hall. The receipts and expenditure of the Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 28,865 and Rs. 24,255, respectively.

Molakalmuru Town Municipality

The Molakalmuru Town Municipal Council had 15 members elected from 15 wards on the basis of adult franchise under the Town Municipalities Act, 1951. The town has sprung up in a tract surrounded by hills and is bounded on the north, east and west by hillocks, of which the northern portion is a range. The town has grown from the foot of the hill and has spread on the rugged area for some distance, being limited on the southern side by the Rayadurga-Bellary Road. As per the 1961 census the town had a population of 4,853 and its area was 0.20 square mile or 0.52 square kilometre.

Water supply to the town is drawn from a tank on the top of the hill. This is supplemented by a number of wells inside the town, having copious supply of water.

The receipts and expenditure figures of the Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 39,532 and Rs. 38,334, respectively.

Turuvanur Town Municipality

The Turuvanur Town Municipality had an area of one square mile in extent and served a population of 4,706, according to the 1961 Census. The Municipal Council had 15 members elected on the basis of adult franchise under the Town Municipalities Act, 1951. The total mileage of roads vested in the Municipality was three and it was of the unmetalled variety. There were 110 electric street lights within the confines of the town. Drinking water was being supplied to the ratepayers through two bore-wells. The receipts and expenditure of the Municipality for 1964-65 were Rs. 19,914-75 and Rs. 18,011-92, respectively.

In order to bring about uniformity throughout the new Mysore State in respect of municipal administration, a new Act called the Mysore Municipalities Act, 1964 (Mysore Act XXII of 1964), was adopted by the State Legislature and it came into force with effect from 1st April 1965. Elections, however, have not yet been held and the Municipal Councils reconstituted under the provisions of the new Act. The following statement shows the number of members the Municipal Councils will be having when reconstituted under the new Act :—

Population Range	*No. of members*
Municipality with a population not exceeding 20,000.	15
Municipality with a population exceeding 20,000 but not exceeding 30,000.	19
Municipality with a population exceeding 30,000 but not exceeding 40,000.	23
Municipality with a population exceeding 40,000 but not exceeding 50,000.	27
Municipality with a population exceeding 50,000 but not exceeding 1,00,000.	31
Municipality with a population exceeding 1,00,000.	35

Democratic Decentralisation

The State launched a new scheme of democratic decentralisation on 1st November 1959. The basis for this new system is the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959, which received the assent of the President of India on the 16th July 1959. This new legislation aims at organising a democratic structure of administration within the district, in which village panchayats are organically linked with popular organisations at

a higher level, namely the Taluk Board and the District Development Council. The re-organised panchayats represent the social and political wing of village democracy while the service co-operatives form the economic wing. The objective of the new measure is to usher in a Panchayat Raj as visualised by the Father of the Nation. The three tiers of the decentralised district administration are the Village Panchayats, the Taluk Development Boards and the District Development Council. Several provisions of the new measure are in consonance with the recommendations of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee and also of the report of the Working Group on Panchayats.

Village Panchayats

As regards the constitution of the panchayats, the new Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959 provides for the establishment of a panchayat in every revenue village or a group of revenue villages having a population of not less than 1,500 but not more than 10,000. The membership of the panchayats is not less than 11 and not more than 19 with reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in proportion to their population. In every panchayat, an obligation is cast on the voters to elect not less than two women members. The revenue village or group of villages is divided into constituencies and members are chosen for each constituency on the basis of adult franchise.

Under the new Act, panchayats have a significant role to play in the development of villages. All the plan schemes of the village are to be implemented by the panchayat administration. Construction, repair and maintenance of village roads, drains, bunds and bridges, public wells, ponds and tanks, lighting and sanitation are some of the responsibilities entrusted to the panchayats. They are also expected to carry out various other duties in the sphere of co-operation, improvement of economic conditions of the people with special reference to agriculture and cottage industries, establishment and maintenance of dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centres. The day-to-day administration of these panchayats is conducted by trained secretaries who are appointed by Government. A generous portion of the land revenue, *viz.*, 30 per cent of the collections in the jurisdiction of the panchayats in addition to five per cent of the State's total land revenue collections, is assigned to the panchayats.

During 1964-65, there were, in all, 392 village panchayats in the district established as per the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959. The financial resources were tapped, as far as possible, and budgets were prepared. These were approved by the Deputy Commissioner. The opening balance of the panchayats in the district as on 1st April 1964 was Rs. 7,54,345-08. The receipts during 1964-65 were Rs. 10,40,315-87, while the expenditure for the same year came to Rs. 11,09,935-56.

During 1964-65, a sum of Rs. 4,38,795 was received by the panchayats in the district by way of Government grants under land revenue assignments. Under the demand, collection and balance of revenue of village panchayats, a sum of Rs. 4,86,986 was realised against a total demand of Rs. 13,50,290. Formation of new roads was a prominent activity of the panchayats and a sum of Rs. 36,961-51 was spent for the purpose in 1964-65. As regards other activities, mention may be made of the social education programme, which included organisation of village volunteer force and the setting up of defence labour banks. During 1964-65, Dalapathi training camps were conducted in all the panchayats. This training programme was a first step undertaken in organising the village volunteer force. Under the mass education programme, radio rural forums were organised in 53 panchayats and the rural population evinced keen interest in listening to forum programmes through the community receiving sets. Organisation of *Balawadis* was a particular feature of the activities of the panchayats. There were, during 1964-65, 30 *Balawadis* working in various villages under the direct control of the village panchayats.

Under the Panchayat Production Programme, almost all the village panchayats of the district, have formulated their own plans. Nine taluk-level seminars and one district level seminar were conducted to assess the progress of the various plan schemes. Necessary help was given by the panchayats for organising youth welfare activities, rural libraries and adult education classes. The panchayats received the help of Government technical personnel in dealing with subjects such as improved agricultural practices, animal husbandry, education and village defence.

Taluk Development Boards

Nine Taluk Development Boards, having jurisdiction over the nine revenue taluks, constituted as per section 96 of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959 have been functioning in the district since 1st November 1959. The taluk boards covered a rural population of 9,04,125.

The main functions of the Taluk Development Boards comprise construction, repair and maintenance of public roads and primary school buildings, management of minor irrigation works, which irrigate an area not exceeding 10 acres, establishment, maintenance and inspection of hospitals, dispensaries, veterinary institutions, markets, travellers' bungalows and such other public institutions. They have also to guide and generally supervise the activities of the village panchayats in their respective jurisdictions. For these and other various activities, the Taluk Boards get 20 per cent of the land revenue collected within the taluk and five per cent of the entire land revenue of the State. In addition the entire local cess on land revenue and the water rate, levied and

collected in the area, are given to these Boards and they may also levy other duties, taxes and fees as per the provisions of the Act.

The nine Taluk Boards had formed 55 committees to attend to various aspects of their work ; 125 people were employed in the several Boards and an expenditure of Rs. 1,08,729-70 was incurred towards their pay and allowances during 1964-65.

There were in all 197-5 miles of roads, 14 causeways, culverts and small bridges maintained by the Boards. A sum of Rs. 54,725-58 was spent on the maintenance of the roads during 1964-65. In addition, the Boards took up construction of new roads of a length of 50 miles and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 47,183-86.

Excepting in Harihar taluk, there are no ferries in the district. The Harihar Taluk Board was managing eight ferries, both small and big, which served as a means of communication across the Tungabhadra river. A sum of Rs. 5,801 was realised during 1964-65 by the auctioning of ferry rights.

Except Harihar and Davangere, the other Taluk Boards maintained in all 18 Travellers' Bungalows, Musafirkhanas and Rest Houses. A sum of Rs. 6,399 was realised from them during 1964-65 by way of rent.

There were two vaccinators and nine health inspectors working under the control of the Taluk Boards. The staff conducted 10,086 vaccinations against small-pox during 1964-65. All the Taluk Boards in the district took preventive measures in villages to check the spread of cholera and other epidemic diseases.

The Taluk Boards of Challakere, Hiriyur, Jagalur and Hosadurga also conducted *Jatras* and cattle fairs at several places. There was a receipt of Rs. 787 against an expenditure of Rs. 3,114 during 1964-65 on the organisation and sanitation of these *Jatras* and fairs. There were in all 32 shandies managed by Taluk Boards and a sum of Rs. 23,482 was realised from them in 1964-65.

During 1964-65, the Taluk Boards took up the construction of five primary school buildings at a cost of about Rs. 5,000.

Fifty-four allopathic dispensaries functioning in the district, received maintenance contributions from the Taluk Boards. Twenty-four Ayurvedic dispensaries were also managed by the nine Taluk Boards and an expenditure of Rs. 52,936 was incurred on these institutions during 1964-65.

Five district board high schools were transferred to the control of the taluk boards. Including these, there were six high schools

under the management of the Taluk Boards. The expenditure incurred on these high schools during 1964-65 was Rs. 1,25,513.

Under section 127 of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act, 1959, all the taluk boards in the district have constituted committees to deal with matters relating to the amelioration of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and the work done under this head greatly helped the under-privileged population.

A sum of Rs. 58,748 was earmarked under Plan and non-Plan schemes for the maintenance of women's welfare centres. Mid-day meal facilities were provided to the children of the schools attached to these centres. Training in tailoring, knitting and embroidery was also provided to women in these centres.

To improve the economic conditions of women belonging to the depressed classes, particularly destitute and deserted women, tailoring classes were conducted at Chitradurga and Challakere at a cost of Rs. 11,000. A sum of Rs. 17,672 was spent during 1964-65, for giving subsidies to the families of nomadic tribes.

The following statement shows the income and expenditure and closing balance of the nine Taluk Boards for the year 1964-65.

Sl. No.	*Name of Taluk Board.*	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Closing Balance*
		Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1.	Chitradurga ..	96,754-75	1,33,559-33	80,191-15
2.	Challakere ..	1,24,395-39	92,757-70	11,792-56
3.	Molakalmuru ..	30,966-18	36,152-23	28,216-61
4.	Hiriyur ..	1,20,797-98	1,03,556-38	64,522-35
5.	Davangere ..	1,30,425-00	1,09,590-00	31,605-00
6.	Harihar ..	1,12,481-35	77,150-36	43,747-43
7.	Holalkere ..	1,10,787-74	75,497-90	80,846-61
8.	Hosadurga ..	91,583-31	1,16,038-88	35,151-58
9.	Jagalur ..	56,221-42	62,954-73	2,711-69
	Total ..	8,74,413-12	8,07,257-51	3,78,784-98

District Development Council

In accordance with section 187 of the Mysore Village Panchayats and Local Boards Act of 1959, the Government constituted a District Development Council for the revenue district of Chitradurga from 1st April 1960. There were 39 members on the Council. Of these, 15 were the members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, the State Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. One member represented the Scheduled Castes and Tribes; there was a women's representative; Presidents of the nine Taluk Boards and 13 district officers, including the Deputy Commissioner, were the other members of the Council.

While the panchayats and taluk boards are local authorities, which actively administer rural development work in their respective areas, the District Development Council reviews and co-ordinates the work done by these bodies, especially that of the taluk boards. It is also in charge of planning developmental activities for the entire district as a unit. This body meets generally once in three months, passes the budgets of the taluk boards and gives them guidance. While the Deputy Commissioner of the district is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council, the District Development Assistant functions as its Secretary.

The Council met four times during 1964-65 to transact business such as review of the working of N.E.S. and C.D. Blocks, allotment of funds under Plan and non-Plan schemes to the several Taluk Boards, approving of the budgets of Taluk Boards and review of the progress of Rural Man Power Project.