

HIS HIGHNESS' GOVERNMENT, JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

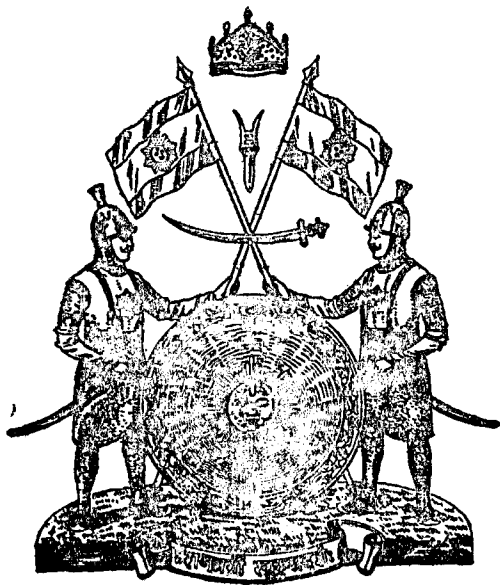
**ANNUAL
ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

OF THE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

FASLI YEAR 1994-95.



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**Government Review on the Annual Administration Report of the
Rural Development and Panchayat Department for 1994-95.**

The Panchayat Department was reorganised as a separate unit and started functioning as a Panchayat and Rural Development Department from the commencement of the year under review. It now comprehends all rural reconstruction activities within its sphere. The reorganisation has, as might be expected, resulted in a great increase in the activities of the Department.

2. Reliable information with regard to existing conditions in rural areas is a necessary prerequisite to the launching of improvement schemes with success. Village surveys were started for this purpose. During the year under review the surveys of 168 villages in the Jammu Province and 109 villages in the Kashmir Province were completed.

3. As a start a lump allotment of only Rs.40,000 was sanctioned by the Government for Rural Uplift Works. Among the works financed out of this grant were the making of village lanes and roads, the repairing of bridges and existing wells, the sinking of tube and other wells, the construction of water reservoirs, the cleaning, fencing and covering of springs and the provision of bathing places and latrines.

4. It is satisfactory to note that the villagers have contributed either in cash or in voluntary labour or both to the cost of important schemes carried out in their areas and that the Panchayats have willingly shouldered the responsibility for the proper maintenance and upkeep of the works constructed.

5. With a view to provide the villager with healthy amusement, entertainment and information and so to brighten his life, radio receiving sets were supplied to 24 centres and the Government are pleased to learn that these are very popular and greatly appreciated.

6. The vigorous campaigns for cleanliness and adult education were a feature of the department's activities. In this connection the assistance of the students of the Colleges at Jammu and Srinagar was enlisted. It is gratifying to record that the students who participated in this work displayed a true spirit of social service, and did excellent constructive work, by example and preaching, in bettering the sanitary, educational and economic conditions of the villages in which they worked and in rousing the rural inhabitants to a higher standard of individual and social life.

7. The Department distributed extensively pamphlets, posters, leaflets, hand-bills, magazines and bulletins. Visual education was provided by magic lanterns and cinema shows. Fairs and exhibitions were also arranged. Collection of rural songs and dramas was also undertaken and shows were staged in villages.

8. The Department also actively carried out preventive measures against malaria, cholera etc. in collaboration with the Medical Department.

9. During the Industrial Exhibition held at Srinagar in which the department participated, talks on various subjects regarding rural uplift were given to large audiences.

10. To assist the Panchayats in improvement schemes and other matters of common village welfare, Dehat Sudhar Committees which are mainly advisory bodies were set up. The total number of such committees at the end of the year was 24. Their influence has been of great help.

11. The number of panchayats at the end of the year was 117. The judicial work of these Panchayats rose enormously in volume. The institutions went up from 350 in the previous year to 4244 in the year under review. 3251 of the latter were disposed of and this coupled with the fact that the number of revision petitions filed was only 84 attests both the growing popularity of these village tribunals and the satisfaction they give to those who resort to them.

12. The record of the department during the year was good. In those who essay the task, rural uplift demands great patience, earnest enthusiasm, a spirit of real service to their countrymen living in the rural areas and a readiness

(ii)

to do hard work. Government note with appreciation that Rai Sahib Pandit Sham Sundar Lal has brought these qualities in a large measure to bear on his own work and that he has tried to inspire those working under him with the same spirit.

ANNUAL
ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1994-95.

The Rural Development Department was created in the beginning of the financial year 1994-95 and charge of the Department was held by Rai Sahib Pandit Sham Sunder Lal Dhar as Rural Development and Panchayat Officer throughout the year under report. The Department is under the administrative control of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and immediate direction of the Revenue Commissioner.

STAFF.

Previous to the creation of this Department the staff consisted of 1 Head Assistant and 2 clerks. The above establishment was supplemented later on by two more clerks, who were transferred from the Finance Department. During the later part of the year a post of compiler for making out the summaries of village surveys was also sanctioned.

In addition to the executive staff of the Panchayat Office which consisted of 4 Rural Reconstruction Assistants and one Propaganda Assistant the following staff was sanctioned by the Government in order to accelerate the activities of this Department :—

For Jammu.

1 Rural Assistant,
1 Radio Mistri,
26 Surveyors and
1 Supervisor.

For Kashmir.

20 Surveyors and
1 Supervisor.

VILLAGE ECONOMIC SURVEY.

In order to ameliorate the economic and social condition of the rural folk by formulating rural development schemes it was considered prime essential to make an enquiry into the present conditions of rural areas in different districts of the State and thereby gauge the nature and scope of the improvements required in those areas. With this object in view a comprehensive Questionnaire consisting of 26 chapters dealing with various subjects like public health, education, cattle, industries, soils, indebtedness, agriculture etc. was prepared, and supplied to Surveyors for conducting village surveys in different Tehsils in both the Provinces of Jammu and Kashmir.

At first 15 Survey Centres consisting of 173 villages were selected in Tehsils of Jammu and Sri Ranbirsinghpura. The centres were selected after consulting with the Revenue authorities and also keeping in view the density of population, nature of soil and climatic conditions.

In employing surveyors efforts were made to recruit, as far as possible, candidates who appeared to be inspired by high motives and self-sacrifice and imbued with a missionary spirit.

The first batch of surveyors was composed of 4 Rural Reconstruction Assistants of the Department, 7 Naib Tehsildari candidates, 2 Patwaries and 2 Girdawars of the Revenue Department.

Prior to their deputation in different centres, the surveyors were properly trained up. Classes were held for about a fortnight by the Rural Development

Officer, Health Officer, Director Land Records and State Statistician and lectures were delivered on agriculture, co-operation, rural industries and other rural problems.

Various Government Departments such as Revenue, Co-operative, Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical and Education etc. were approached to make available the co-operation of their rural staff to the surveyors of this Department.

Besides conducting the economic survey the surveyors were also instructed :—

- (a) to explore the possibilities of improving the general condition of every village they survey and to suggest improvement schemes in this direction for the consideration of the Government.
- (b) to conduct the necessary propaganda for bringing home to the zamindars the activities of this Department and also inculcate in them the spirit of self help.
- (c) to associate with zamindars and impart education on sanitation, health, simple economics of every day life, rules of morality, agriculture, co-operation and other allied subjects.

The survey operations were later on extended to the Districts of Kathua and Mirpur in Jammu Province and to 4 Tehsils—Badgam, Pulwama, Baramulla and Khas—of Kashmir Province.

The following table gives the number of villages covered by survey centres in different Tehsils of both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir :—

Name of Tehsil.	No. of survey centres.	No. of villages included.
<i>Jammu Province.</i>		
Jammu	8	64
Sri Ranbirsinghpura	7	109
Jasmergarh	3	31
Kathua	3	22
Bhimber	3	15
Mirpur	6	47
<i>Kashmir Province.</i>		
Badgam	5	33
Pulwama	5	39
Baramulla	6	44
Khas	5	33
Total	51	437

The District Inspectors were placed in charge of different districts. They are required—

- (i) to see that the survey work is conducted efficiently and within the time prescribed for a particular village.
- (ii) to adopt measures for securing speedy co-operation from other Government Departments and local Revenue officials.

- (iii) to remove all difficulties of a Surveyor which might arise in the smooth conduct of survey operations.
- (iv) to check and verify weekly diaries of the work done by surveyors.
- (v) to check and correct the survey reports prepared by surveyors.
- (vi) to chalk out and submit improvement schemes for villages surveyed.
- (vii) to conduct extensive propaganda work in order to educate the peasant and disseminate useful information and general knowledge to masses.

In the month of April last the survey and rural reconstruction work of the Jammu Province was placed under the control of the Rural Assistant for Jammu Province.

168 villages were surveyed in Jammu Province and 109 in Kashmir Province during the year under report.

PANCHAYATS AND DEHAT SUDHAR COMMITTEES.

In order to develop a permanent machine for the administration of villages and successfully carrying out the programmes of the Rural Reconstruction in those localities Panchayats, consisting of 5 to 7 members, were established in the year under report and total number of Panchayats in both the Provinces is 117.

Besides settling of petty civil and criminal cases under the Panchayat Regulation the Panchayats were instructed to devise out and suggest ways and means for the up-lift movement. Dehat Sudhar Committees have been established consisting of members of the Panchayats and respectable, sympathetic and influential people of the localities.

The total number of Panchayats in existence during the year rose from 92 to 117. In all 26 Panchayats were established of which twenty-four were entirely new and the remaining two were old Panchayats reconstituted.

Numerous applications were received from different villages for the establishment of Panchayats but for the paucity of supervising staff a limited number could be granted. New Panchayats were generally established at places where survey operations have been started and rural reconstruction work begun.

The following figures show the number of Panchayats established in different districts of the State :—

Kashmir South	...	...	43
Kashmir North	...	...	29
Muzaffarabad	...	...	14
Mirpur	...	...	17
Jammu	...	...	14
	Total	...	117

Constitution of Panchayats.—As a rule the majority of Panchayats consist of 5 members only. In big villages or thickly populated areas Panchayats with seven members have also been established. The majority of Panches consist of nominated members. Nominations are usually made to secure literate members or to secure the representation of minorities. The total number of villages covered by the Panchayats is 489 and the total number of Panches is 616.

Elections.—Elections to the Panchayats were keenly contested and a large number of people offered themselves for election as members of the Panchayats. During the current year 58 seats were open for election for which as many as 386 candidates contested. That is, for one seat open for election there were as many as six candidates.

Voters also took a good deal of interest in election and took care to secure the return of their choicest candidates. Votes were freely exercised and usually votes were given for the fit candidates.

The two main functions performed by the Panchayats are judicial and administrative.

Judicial Work.—There has been a welcome increase in the number of cases instituted in the Panchayats. During the year under report 4,244 cases were instituted in the Panchayats compared with 350 cases instituted last year. The following statement gives the details of the case work :—

Nature of cases.	Cases instituted.	Cases decided.	Cases pending.
Criminal	955	792	163
Civil	3,289	2,459	830
Total	4,244	3,251	993

This increase in the number of cases is a strong testimony that villagers are beginning to repose confidence in the Panchayats, which is really a healthy sign for the growth of the bodies.

Copies of the judgments announced by the Panchayats are submitted to the Head Office for inspection and from a perusal of these it has been found that the decisions are generally sound and based on facts. The presiding Panches seem to realize the great responsibility that has been conferred on them by the Panchayat Regulation. In cases where the Panchayat decision had to be revised in the Head Office, it was noticed that the errors committed were more due to a lack of understanding of the law rather than its deliberate infringement. With proper and timely guidance these errors, it is hoped, will also be eliminated.

During the year under report 84 Revision Applications were filed against the decisions of the Panchayats.

Compared with the total number of cases decided by the Panchayats (3250) the number of these petitions is insignificant (about 2.5 per cent.). The small number of Revision Petitions filed against Panchayat decisions testifies that the people at large are generally satisfied with the decisions of Panchayats.

The total receipts on account of fees and fines during the current year amounted to Rs. 1,258/4/-.

Administrative work.—Under sections 66 and 73 of the Regulation, Panchayats are given powers to deal with matters concerning education, sanitation, water ways, village roads and miscellaneous other matters concerning the good of the villages under their jurisdiction.

A number of Panchayats in Kashmir Province and a few Panchayats in Jammu Province celebrated cleanliness weeks when intensive propaganda for cleaning villages, houses, compounds, lanes, springs, wells, cattle and men was launched. As a result of these many villages were cleaned up. The following are the details of the work done by the Panchayats in the sphere of sanitation and rural up-lift :—

1. In 70 Panchayat villages regular propaganda for cleanliness was launched and all the villages were cleaned twice a month.
2. A good number of latrines and bath rooms constructed.
3. Several thousand feet of village lanes and streets were repaired.
4. More than 2,000 feet of drains constructed.
5. 1,500 manure pits were dug.
6. About 150 springs, wells and ponds were cleaned.
7. At a number of places ventilators were opened in houses.
8. About 10 miles of roads were constructed.

Funds.—The total receipts of the Panchayats amounted to Rs. 1,258/4/- and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 451. Cash in hand at the end of Assuj 1995 was Rs. 807/4/-. Details of expenditure are given below :—

	Rs.
Stationery, stamps, books for Panchayat Libraries and magazines and news papers	325
Improvement schemes	126

Conclusion.—On the whole the Panchayats have good deal of work to their credit but all the Panchayats do not show a uniform rate of progress nor do all Panchayats evince equal zeal in doing their work. Panchayats in Kashmir Province have taken more interest both in judicial and non-judicial work, than those situated in Jammu Province.

Left to themselves Panchayats seem to relapse into inaction but strong supervision and constant enquiries made have begun to bear fruit. In the closing few months of the year more than half a dozen circular orders were issued and monthly progress reports were called for from each Panchayat with the result that all Panchayats have begun to take to their work seriously. As a rule it has been the experience that Panchayats show better work if there is adequate supervision, frequent inspections and timely guidance.

DEHAT SUDHAR COMMITTEES.

To provide the villages with permanent bodies for pushing forward the rural up-lift campaign and to give them a training in organization, Dehat Sudhar Committees were established in a large number of villages in both the Provinces. At some places these bodies were established to help the existing Panchayats in the discharge of their work regarding village uplift, where, as at other places, they themselves were made responsible for village improvements and sanitation. These committees are established on the principle of self-help and voluntary organization and their work generally consists of persuading the villagers to take small improvements in hand and also to inculcate among the peasantry more clean and sanitary habits.

The total number of these Committees at the end of the year under report was 24.

Constitution.—These bodies generally consist of 12 to 20 members—number varying according to local conditions. Each Committee has a chairman, two Vice Presidents, one Secretary, one Joint-Secretary and a Cashier. The Tehsildar of the Illaqa is invariably the ex-officio chairman of these committees.

Among the Committees who have done good work are those of Pampur, Tral, and Awantipura in Kashmir Province and Suchetgarh and Badhyal Brahamana in Jammu Province.

PROPAGANDA AND PUBLICITY.

In order to let the rural folk know the aims and objects of the Department and disseminate general knowledge amongst them propaganda was launched in the rural areas. The programme included free distribution of pamphlets, posters, leaflets, hand bills, magazines, bulletins etc. on subjects pertaining to rural up-lift movement and also visual education such as magic lantern shows and cinemas. Fairs and Exhibitions were also organized. Collection of rural songs and dramas was also undertaken and shows were staged in different villages.

The following literature was issued during the year under report :—

Bulletins on—

- (1) Village Surveys.
- (2) Causes of the zamindars' financial backwardness.
- (3) Rules of Health and Sanitation.
- (4) Removal of rubbish from the compounds of houses and village lanes and streets.
- (5) Physical exercise.
- (6) Crops.
- (7) Education.
- (8) Pits.

Pamphlets on—

- (1) Panchayats.
- (2) Health and Sanitation.
- (3) Malaria.
- (4) Aims and objects of the Dehat Sudhar Committees.

Public meetings were successfully conducted by the Rural Development and Panchayat Officer attended by villagers who were made to understand the

different methods by which they could ameliorate their present condition, social as well as economic. Large gatherings of zamindars were arranged by the Field Staff as well who delivered educative lectures on various subjects emphasizing particularly upon the problems of self help.

Steps were also taken to co-ordinate and intensify the activities of various Government Departments such as Revenue, Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical, Education, Co-operative and other Agencies working for the betterment of villages.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STALLS IN THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR EXHIBITION.

During the year under report a show was arranged in the Jammu and Kashmir Exhibition held at Srinagar in which the different activities of the Department were demonstrated.

The Exhibition stalls were divided into different sections *e. g.* Propaganda, Health and Sanitation, Cottage Industries, Rural Surveys and Village Improvements. Besides, models of bore-hole latrines, kitchen pits, manure pits etc. were also exhibited. These sections were placed in charge of the trained surveyors who took the visitors round the stalls, and explained to them the significance of the exhibits and utility of introducing the improvements suggested.

At a modest estimate it has been calculated that over 8,000 people were taken round the stalls of the Department. Handbills, bulletins, posters and pamphlets were freely distributed to all who felt interested. Besides, the people were entertained on Radio and Gramophone. Magic lantern shows and cinema films were also exhibited.

A novel feature in the Exhibition was introduced this year when the Department arranged to broadcast talks and songs on different aspects of rural uplift from the Band-stand.

By a special arrangement with the exhibition authorities the Department secured free admittance of members of Panchayats and Dehat Sudhar Committees into the Exhibition and took them round the stalls of the Rural Development as well as those of other beneficent Departments *e. g.*, Agriculture, Cottage Industries etc.

RADIO SETS.

In order to educate the villagers the supply of Battery Radio Sets for 24 important villages in the Provinces of Jammu and Kashmir was sanctioned by the Government.

The Radio Sets were sanctioned for the following places :—

Jammu Province.

Tehsil Ranbirsinghpura	...	{ 1. Badhyal Brahmana. 2. Suchetgarh. 3. Salerh.
Tehsil Jammu	...	{ 1. Gharota. 2. Kahna Chak. 3. Kotli Jhajar.
Tehsil Samba	...	{ 1. Ramgarh. 2. Bagla (Raya). 3. Reyain.

Kashmir Province.

Tehsil Khas	...	{ 1. Ganderbal. 2. Nishat.
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Tehsil Pulwama	...	{ 1. Pulwama. 2. Tral. 3. Pampur.
Tehsil Baramulla	...	{ 1. Singpora. 2. Sumbel. 3. Ferozepura. 4. Pattan.
Tehsil Uri	...	1. Uri.
Tehsil Kulgam	...	1. Kulgam.
Tehsil Badgam	...	1. Badgam.

Each set was provided with two 6 volt batteries one for use and the other for replacement purposes and one time switche to obviate the misuse of batteries.

Two gasonline generators were also provided for charging the exhausted batteries.

Rural programmes received from different stations in India are explained to zamindar listeners by surveyors of the Department, school masters, wherever available and literate members of the Panchayats. Panchayats and Dehat Sudhar Committees are held responsible for the proper maintenance of these sets. The sets are properly serviced by qualified Mistries of the Department; one being placed in charge of the sets supplied in Kashmir Province and the other in Jammu Province.

Well organized Anti-malaria, Adult Education and Health and Sanitation campaigns were launched and successfully conducted by the Department.

ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN.

Malaria takes a heavy toll of life in the Jammu Province and it was, therefore, considered essential to combat the disease. An Anti-malaria campaign was chalked out and an amount of Rs. 738 was provided to save about 3000 people from this fell disease. To begin with, the campaign was launched in 4 worst effected survey centres in the following 4 Tehsils of Jammu Province :—

Name of Tehsil.	Name of survey centre.
1. Jammu	... Kahna Chak.
2. Sri Ranbirsinghpura	... Badhyal Brahmana.
3. Jasmergarh	... Marhesn
4. Kotli	... Parol.

The Rural Development party consisted of 10 selected surveyors and the District Inspector Kathua under the control of the Rural Assistant Jammu Province. The members of Panchayats and Dehat Sudhar Committees, village school boys, scouts, college students on vacation, retired Military officers, members of the Praja Sabha and the local Revenue officials rendered valuable help in making the campaign a success. The Scout Organizer did his best in the Anti-malarial operations by holding scout camps at all these places. His sympathetic treatment and the fact of his being a medical man won the confidence of public and attracted a large number of patients.

The campaign was organized for 4 days at each centre in the first fortnight of Sawan and then continued once a week for about a period of 2 months and a half.

As many as 25 processions of all workers were taken through the village streets and bazars. Anti-malaria propoganda was carried on by didactic songs, slogans, lectures and other demonstrations. Radio entertainments attracted a large number of people who listened to rural receptions.

10 magic lantern shows were held when slides pertaining to Anti-malaria measures were shown and explained to the audience who were much pleased to have these visual feasts many of them for the first time.

Village clean ups were held.

To check the growth of mosquitoes the party, with the help of boy scouts, managed to cut much of the un-necessary vegetation around villages which was replaced by Tulsi and Niaz Bhoj plants the seeds worth Rs. 20 of which were distributed free among the zamindars. The example was soon followed by the villagers who also made efforts to drain out the stagnant ponds.

To destroy the larvae of the malarial mosquitoes 18 tins of Kerosene oil worth Rs. 72 were sprinkled on stagnant waters and 20 lb. of Paris Green were sprayed on marshy lands. Ten wells were also disinfected with Potassium permanganate.

Quinine parades were held twice a week while quinine as a prophylactic measure was distributed free amongst the zamindars. 19 lbs. of quinine Howard (powder) worth Rs. 456 were supplied to about 3,000 persons.

Local Anti-malaria Committees consisting of respectable persons were constituted to carry on the campaign under the presidentship and guidance of the concerned Tehsildars.

Reports from the Rural Assistant and other quarters show that the former percentage of malaria patients has been reduced from 60 to 5 of the total population of the Illaqas which come under the jurisdiction of the Anti-malaria campaign.

Thanks are due to Education, Revenue and Medical Departments who accorded full co-operation in this campaign.

ADULT EDUCATION.

To combat illiteracy prevalent in the rural areas an Adult Education drive was organized in Jammu Province during the months of July, August, and September 1938 as was suggested by the Hon'ble Prime Minister while addressing the students on the occasion of last convocation of Prince of Wales College, Jammu, that they may profitably both to themselves and their country, utilise their free time in vacations in spreading education and doing uplift works in the villages.

Accordingly 20 students of the Prince of Wales College, Jammu, were selected in consultation with the Principal from among those who volunteered themselves to take up the work of spreading education during their Summer Vacations.

Classes were held for about a week by Assistant Director of Agriculture, Inspector Veterinary Farm, Rural Assistant, Surveyor Dumana etc. for indicating proper lines of work and for imparting necessary training to these students regarding elementary first aid, simple economics of every day life, principles of morality, rules of sanitation, health and hygiene, advantages of manure pits, use of better seeds and of co-operative societies and other allied subjects.

The students were then deputed to different centres to start their activities. The following table shows the names of volunteers and the centres of their activities :—

Name of volunteer.	Name of centre.	Tehsil.
1. Mr. Ahmed Din	... Chhamb	... Bhimber.
2. Mr. Ghulam Ahmed	... Malot	... ..

Name of volunteer.	Name of centre.	Tehsil.
3. Mr. Satya Pal	... Manawar	... Bhimber.
4. Mr. Girdhari Lal Gupta	... Kuleeth	... Akhnoor.
5. Mr. Kesri Singh	... Gharota	... Jammu.
6. Mr. Hans Raj	... Makwal	... „
7. Mr. Nazir Ahmed	... Sattowali	... Ranbirsinghpura.
8. Mr. Ghulam Qadir	... Suchetgarh	... „
9. Mr. Mohammed Din	... Chohala	... „
10. Mr. Jagdish Raj	... Chakrohi	... „
11. Mr. Harish Chandersingh	... Gurha Slathian	... Samba.
12. Mr. Purashottam Singh	... Badwal	... „
13. Mr. Amar Nath	... Kawa	... Udhampur.
14. Mr. Fakir Chand	... Beli	... „
15. Mr. Jwala Parshad	... Pathwal	... Jasmergarh.
16. Mr. Ram Das	... Balawar	... Basohli.
17. Mr. Charan Das	... Samwal	... Mirpur.
18. Mr. Yog Raj	... Pindi Sabarwal	... „

Two of the student volunteers did not attend to their work.

An amount of Rs. 1,250 was provided to meet the expenses of allowances and T. A. for the stay of students and stationery for the use of students as well as free distribution amongst adults attending the classes such as Primers, Takhties, pens, papers and ink etc. In addition, the college authorities provided each of them with First Aid Medicine Box. Every volunteer was required to impart literacy to a minimum number of 20 adults. They did not confine their activities to mere teaching of Primers and giving of informative talks but practised what they taught and thus set an example for the villagers to observe the rules of Health and Hygiene etc.

As many as 376 adults were taught Urdu and Hindi First Primers. Some of them are reported to have made so much progress as to write a letter.

The number of patients treated by the students amount to 3,600. The success achieved by them in the treatment of sour eyes has been particularly remarkable. Appreciations were received regarding their work from official as well as non official quarters.

The number of ventilators installed, manure pits and kitchen pits reached to 556, 100 and 123 respectively, 10 water springs were got repaired.

At certain places village clean-ups, amounting to 14 in number, were organized by students which went a long way to zamindars' acquiring the habit of cleanliness. 3 wells were disinfected and 190 dust bins were dug up.

In some of the centres rural dramas were also staged by the volunteers with the help of the local schools. They did not confine the up-lift work to their centres alone but extended their activities to the adjoining villages. This movement has left behind a lasting impression in the minds of the villagers and created a keen desire for education.

HEALTH AND SANITATION CAMPAIGN.

In order to obviate the insanitary condition of villages and to inculcate into the minds of the rural folk a desire for observing the general rules of cleanliness and sanitation, the Department launched an organized 'Cleanliness and Sanitation Campaign'.

Fifteen students from Sri Partap College, Srinagar, who volunteered themselves for service in this connection, during the Amar Nath holidays, were sent out under the guidance of Departmental Surveyors, the District Inspector Baramulla and Professors of the College in different Tehsils of Shehr-i-Khas, Pulwama, and Badgam in 3 batches of 5 students each.

Prior to their deputation a class was held in the Sri Partap College when talks were given to these students by the Professors of the college, the Director of Education and the Rural Development and Panchayat Officer regarding carrying out of the cleanliness and sanitation propaganda. They were instructed not to confine themselves to mere lectures and talks but also to see that some solid work was done in the villages and the zamindars were actually shown the utility of self help. The students were provided with washing as well as toilet soap for free distribution amongst the poor and encouraging its use in the rural areas.

The students were also supplied with hand-bills and charts on health and hygiene and first aid medicine boxes containing ordinary medicines such as Tincture Iodine, Eye lotion, Vaseline, bandages, Methylated spirit etc. A sum of Rs. 250 was spent on allowances for students to defray food and travelling expenses, conveyance of tentage and purchase of the requisite articles.

Each batch of students stayed in a village for 3 days and made efforts to get village houses, lanes and springs etc. cleaned.

The college students managed to hold big gatherings of villagers in each of the villages where they carried on their activities. Short discourses were delivered on subjects such as sanitation, manure pits, ventilators, kitchen pits, indebtedness and its causes, improved agricultural methods and cattle rearing etc. Villagers were also entertained with music, recitation of folk songs and gramophone records pertaining to rural reconstruction programme. The following particular work was done by the students during their short stay in these villages :—

The number of persons to whom first aid medicine was supplied	...	2,227
The number of persons to whom soap was supplied	...	1,801
The number of pits dug	...	960
The number of houses and lanes cleaned	...	1,377
The number of clothes washed	...	892
The number of springs cleaned	...	6
The number of dead animal pits dug	...	9

The students also recorded their impressions about the economic and social life of the villagers in the Note books provided to them by the Department for this purpose. They deposited three Note books for record in the direction office of the Department.

The students actually practised what they preached in the villages in as much as they took the lead in washing clothes of the villagers, in sweeping lanes, compounds and other filthy places and digging of manure and kitchen pits. The success was all due to the spirit with which the students associated themselves with the villagers as advisors and fellow workers sympathised with their needs. The guidance of the principal and the staff of the college was mainly instrumental for the excellent work these young workers put in this campaign.

In addition to the above the following works were executed by the field

staff of the Department in both the Provinces :—

	Kashmir Province.	Jammu Province.
(1) The number of manure pits got dug ...	643	102
(2) The number of kitchen pits got dug ...	45	.....
(3) The number of ventilators installed ...	.....	622
(4) The number of lanes cleaned ...	65	.....
(5) The number of springs cleaned ...	28	.....
(6) The number of village clean ups held ...	.....	220
(7) The number of muck heaps removed from the village Abadi ...	80	.....

IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

Schemes for improving the general condition of villages where survey operations had been completed were submitted in the year under report by the Rural Development and Panchayat Officer and sanctioned by the Government. Construction works in such villages of both the Provinces for which funds were provided were completed under the supervision of the Department.

As the improvement work is in its initial stages only the most pressing needs of villagers were attended to. The rural folk have warmly welcomed the schemes and have evinced lively enthusiasm by making liberal contributions in way of cash and free manual labour towards the cost of improvement works. Persons placed well in society like retired military officers, well-to-do landlords and others have been working side by side for the amelioration of the lot of their villages.

It is gratifying to note that some villages are, led by the example of those where reconstruction works have been executed by the Government, taking by themselves the initiative of such works.

The following improvement works were executed in both the Provinces during the year under report :—

JAMMU PROVINCE

Tehsil Jammu.

1. *Gharota village*.—The village is situated in the Kandi Illaqa and had no arrangement for the supply of drinking water. A sum of Rs. 1,000 has been spent by the Government on the completion of a well the excavation of which was started about 12 years ago by a Brahmin who after 10 years' hard labour succeeded in reaching the water level. The total cost of masonry work has roughly been estimated at Rs. 29,000 out of which a sum of Rs. 1,900 has been contributed by the villagers.

(b) A sum of Rs. 150 has been spent in the same village for constructing crates to save the village land from being corroded by a Nala (Khad).

2. *Village Amb*.—A sum of Rs. 200 has been spent by Government and Rs. 185 contributed by villagers to meet the cost of excavating a well in the village situated in Kandi Illaqa.

3. *Plaura*.—The village has a pond as the only source of supplying drinking water. It was being constantly filled up by stones, pebbles and silt going in through the inlet drain. To obviate this difficulty the drain has been made pacca. Out of total expenditure of Rs. 244 a sum of Rs. 44 was contributed by the villagers and the rest spent by the Government.

4. *Ser Rakwalan*.—A sum of Rs. 153 was spent for the construction of a pacca platform around the well in the village which includes the contribution by the villagers amounting to Rs. 100.

Tehsil Ranbirsinghpura.

1. *Suchetgarh village*.—A sum of Rs. 384 was spent on the following works :—

- (a) Boring of 2 tube wells one in the village common and the other in the Christian Mohalla.
- (b) Construction of a pacca platform in the village Diara.
- (c) Repairs to Palkhu bridge.
- (d) Rural library.
- (e) Construction of a gate in cement concrete for the Suchetgarh Panchayat road.

The villagers have contributed the cost of a road about a mile long and also Rs. 99 in cash.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister was pleased to pay a visit to this village for performing the opening ceremony of a tube well and installation of a Radio set for which funds were provided by the Government.

A good number of houses were inspected by the Premier while going round the village. He impressed upon the villagers the advantages of better living, better farming, and sanitation and asked the Rural Development Officer to submit further schemes for the improvement of the village which included plantation of trees along side the roads, culverts, pacca drains, and use of cocanial germs for destruction of harmful vegetation.

A demonstration for deciding the cases was given by the local Panchayat.

As desired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Revenue Commissioner explained to the zamindars in their own dialect the advantages of Panchayats, their duties and the ideal of self help which, the Premier said, was the keynote of rural development.

Prizes were distributed for the cleanest houses, cleanest babies, and best manure pits. Sweets were distributed to the boys.

2. *Chak Mohammad Yar*.—A sum of Rs. 109 out of which Rs. 20 were contributed by the villagers, were spent on—

- (a) Installation of a water hand pump.
- (b) Laying out of a hume pipe 12" in diameter and 12' long.

3. *Tale*.—A water hand pump has been installed at a cost of Rs. 72 out of which Rs. 17 were contributed by the villagers.

4. *Tiba Bhin*, (5) *Bokhari* and (6) *Singyal*.—In each of the three villages a water hand pump has been installed at a cost of Rs. 72 out of which Rs. 17 were contributed by the villagers in each case.

7. *Mohra Tanda*.—A water hand pump has been installed at a cost of Rs. 72 out of which Rs. 17 were contributed by the villagers.

8. *Baga Zaina*.—A platform round the village water pump was constructed.

Tehsil Kathua.

1. *Budhi village*.—The village has been linked with the main Jammu-Kathua road by constructing a fair-weather road 4 miles long at a cost of Rs. 565 out of which a sum of Rs. 315 has been contributed by the villagers.

Tehsil Bhimber.

Bharing village.—A sum of Rs. 1,100 has been spent by a retired Military Officer on sinking a well which remained incomplete since his death. The Department completed the well at a cost of Rs. 423/7/- out of which a sum of Rs. 123/7/- was contributed by the villagers.

KASHMIR PROVINCE.

Tehsil Pulwama.

1. *Pampur village.*—The villagers had no source of drinking water supply except the river water which is at a distance of about a mile away from the village. Much inconvenience was felt by the zamindars and their women folk to fetch water from such a long distance especially in winter months and rainy season.

A sum of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned for the construction of a water Reservoir and an electric motor pump to supply drinking water in the interior of the village about quarter of a mile from the water source. This grant has been supplemented by voluntary contribution of Rs. 300 in cash and free manual labour by the villagers.

Note.—The Hon'ble Prime Minister was pleased to pay a visit to this village on the 25th of October 1938 at 3 P. M. for celebrating the opening ceremony of the Water Reservoir.

He was accompanied by the Hon'ble Home Minister, Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Hon'ble Hazur Minister, the Revenue Commissioner, Chief Engineer, P. W. D., Chief Engineer Electrical and Mechanical Department, Accountant-General and other officials.

The zamindars showed a great enthusiasm in making necessary arrangements for celebrating the occasion. The Hon'ble Prime Minister was pleased to deliver a speech in which he appreciated the rural uplift work done by the zamindars. He said that they had a ruler in His Highness Maharaja Bahadur whose sole concern was to see his people happy and prosperous. It was the ambition of His Highness' Government the Premier added, to see that the people of this country rise in the scales of human existence and achieving things which could really go to contribute to their uplift and amelioration. The only way that the villagers could be loyal and faithful to their benevolent ruler was to learn the principles of selfhelp. The Premier added that he was connected with similar rural uplift in British India, when he had a occasion to visit village after village. By experience he had gained two lessons which he wanted to impart to the villagers. Firstly that all the improvement schemes should be carried out on the zamindar's initiative and secondly that he should to the best of his capacity, try to contribute towards his own uplift and amelioration. The Premier also remarked that the work done by the Panchayats was commendable and the judgments passed by them had satisfied the parties as no appeals were instituted against their judgments. The decision of cases by the local Panchayat had, he said saved a lot of money to the villagers.

The Premier continued that the occasion was the first of its kind in the State when the people had realized the value of selfhelp and he wished that other villages not only in selected areas but throughout the State should follow the same example. In the end he thanked the zamindars and wished them all prosperity.

2. *Tral.*—A sum of Rs. 997/11/-, out of which Rs. 100 were contributed by the villagers has been spent on the following works :—

- (a) Linking of the village with the general Shikargah road.
- (b) Construction of 4 latrines.
- (c) Construction of 2 bath rooms.
- (d) Covering of water fountain.
- (e) Fencing of water spring and removal of silt from Kunjbal spring.

3. *Awantipura.*—A sum of Rs. 498/10/- has been spent on repairs and covering of a spring and construction of one latrine.

In addition to the above works all the lanes of the village have been levelled and dressed by the villagers.

4. *Geru.*—The following improvement works were executed at a cost of Rs. 636/8/- out of which an amount of Rs. 87/8/- was contributed by the villagers :—

- (a) Repairs to the road linking the village with the Anantnag trunk road.
- (b) Improvement of 2 water springs.
- (c) Construction of 3 bath-rooms.

Srinagar Khas.

Duderhama village.—A sum of Rs. 294 has been spent on :—

- (a) Repairs to a bridge.
- (b) Construction of latrines.
- (c) Construction of bath rooms.
- (d) Fencing of a grave yard.
- (e) Construction of wooden seats around chairs.
- (f) Construction of wooden ghat.
- (g) Laying out of a play-ground.
- (h) Widening and improving the village roads and foot paths etc.
- (i) Provision of a library.

A sum of Rs. 74 was contributed by the zamindars in addition to a sum of Rs. 70 spent on widening and levelling of village roads.

1. *Karalpura and (2) Dharambug villages.*—The following improvement works have been executed at a cost of Rs. 168/8/- out of which a sum of Rs. 38/10/- was contributed by the zamindars :—

- (a) Construction of a tank around the spring.
- (b) Repairs to roads in and between the villages.
- (c) Construction of a bathing ghat.
- (d) Park at Dharambug village.

3. *Chhatargam.*—A sum of Rs. 510 has been spent towards the cost of the following improvements :—

- (a) Levelling, dressing and widening of the road between Karalpura and Chhatargam.
- (b) Repairs to small wooden bridges on the above mentioned road.
- (c) Provisions of 2 latrines.
- (d) Provision of 2 bath rooms.
- (e) Laying out of 2 parks.
- (f) Provision of a library.

Tehsil Baramulla.

1. (*Tangmarg*) *Ferozpora village.*—A sum of Rs. 608/10/- has been spent on :—

- (a) Cutting of boulders and dressing of the road.
- (b) Construction of culverts.
- (c) Construction of one bath room.
- (d) Construction of one latrine.

A sum of Rs. 147 was contributed by the zamindars to meet the cost of the above works.

2. *Pattan village.*—A pacca drain 60' long was constructed at a cost of Rs. 39/6/6 to carry off the waste from a water tap which otherwise accumulated to form a pool and stagnate there.

The zamindars have filled up the stagnant pool.

3. *Sumbal.*—5 pacca wells have been constructed and Rotary hand pump installed at a cost of Rs. 910, out of which a sum of Rs. 375 has been contributed by the zamindars.

In conclusion it may be added that the entire establishment of this department have evinced great interest in the Rural Development work during the year under report and the various Panchayats and Dehat Sudhar Committees have also extended their hearty co-operation in making the Rural Development a success.