

CHAPTER XIV.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIFE .

Labour Welfare.

Labour Organisation .

The office of the labour Officer, Dhanbad, was established in 1948 to see to the working of the various labour laws. At first there was only one labour officer. There are now (1963) one labour Superintendent and two Labour officers under the Labour Officers there are three labour Inspectors, two of them posted at Dhanbad and one at Chas. They assist the Labour officers. And the Inspecting Officers in their work. These Officers see to the working of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Bihar shops and Establishments Act, 1953, Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961, etc. One of them has to act as the Conciliation officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Commissioner, Dhanbad, has also employed two Labour Officers for the welfare of the labourers. There are hospitals and labour welfare Centers under the Central Government in the District. The details have been discussed in the Industries' chapter.

CLASSIFICATION OF LABOURERS.

The Labourers of the District may be broadly classified into three categories, namely, industrial, Agricultural and Commercial. The labourers in this district as in other parts of the State cannot be absolutely categorised excepting the technical labour employed in the industrial units. An agricultural labourer may change his occupation in to that of a cartman or he may be employed in some oil or rice mill when he has no employment in the field .

Industrial Workers.

In this district there are 402 factories running with power and 15 factories running without power according to the figure of 1959 registered under the Factories Act. About 22,349 persons are working in this district in the registered factories details registering the workers in the coal mines and factories and the welfare centers have been discussed in the 'industries' chapter.

Agriculture Labourers .

Agriculture labourers are mobile and have no obligation to work in a particular zone or for a particular wage unless they are of the category of tied labourers having received earlier some land or cash advances. Females and children also help in agricultural operations.

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Wages are more or less fixed and usually in cash or some doles along with cash. Hours are not fixed and employment also is not assured. The labourers are usually employed for particular agricultural operations and on the average they get employment only for 6 to 8 months in the year. Their wages are much less than that of the industrial labour. Their economic condition is poor and their standard of life unless they have some lands of their own, is definitely poorer than that of the average industrial labourer.

On an enquiry regarding the rates of wages in Bihar it was found :- In Bihar in August, 1951, the wage of field workers were between Rs.1-2-6 and Rs.1-10-0 in case of men and between Re. 0-12-0 and Rs. 1-8-4 in case of women,* These rates have some what gone up now.

THE MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 1948.

On 11 th April 1946, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the then labour member in the Government of India introduced a Minimum Wage Bill, but the passage of the bill was considerably delayed by the constitutional change in India. It was passed in march 1948, and is known as the minimum wages Act of 1948. the aim of the Act is to fix minimum wages in certain employments. Agricultural workers are covered on part II of the schedule of the Act and it was enforced in Dhanbad in 1955. the Labour Inspectors for looking after the provisions of the minimum Wages Act, 1948, being carried out in the district of Dhanbad. The following minimum rates of wages have been fixed for agricultural labourers engaged in different agricultural operations:-

- (1) 3 seers 12 chattaks of paddy and 4 chattaks of rice or chura or murhi or sattu Per day for plantation of paddy and also for ploughing. this rate of wages is only given to adult employees.
- (2) 2 seers 4 charttaks of paddy and 4 chattaks of rice or chhura, or murhi, or Sattoo per day is given to child employees for plantation of paddy and also for ploughing.

During the years 1960, 1961 and 1962 (up to October) 70, 19,. And 5 complaints were respectively field to the Inspecting Officer, Dhanbad which were disposed of. The Labour Inspectors are making efforts to make the rural agricultural labourers conscious of their rights by making propaganda through canvassing and by distributing pamphlets indicating the fixed minimum rates of wages. It cannot however, be said that the prescribed minimum rates are

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always said. The rates may also go short supply of labourers. There is a lot of mutual agreement between the employer and the agricultural labourers.

So far as *the* agricultural labourers are concerned, the population of landless labourers in the district is roughly calculated to be about 4,000. Out of this category about 1,000 are tied labourers and the rest are what may be described as casual labourers. Practically no amenities are provided for the agricultural labourers. Usually they are drawn from the villages in the neighborhood and they go back to their villages in the evening after work. The bonded or tied laborers are usually provided with a hut of very poor quality for residence and are given occasional extra *doles* of grains.

COMMERCIAL LABOURERS.

So far as the commercial labourers are concerned, it is roughly calculated to be about 55,000 workers. They are engaged in cloth shops, hotels, cinema houses, *pan bin* shops, sweetmeat shops, etc. According to the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953, the shops have to be registered. Up to 1961, 11,924 shops were registered. The commercial sector labourers are mostly located at Dhanbad, Jharia, Sindri, Gomoh, Katras and Govindpur. They have one holiday in a week and work for a fixed period of time. No amenities as such are provided for this type of labourers. They are not given housing accommodation nor are they normally given any tea or tiffin. Such facilities are, however, given only to workers of bigger establishments, such as a cinema, house or a big canteen.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS ACT, 1961.

Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961. has been enforced in the district of Dhanbad with effect from 1st March, 1962. The Act applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more motor transport workers. Motor transport undertaking will include a private carrier; motor transport worker includes drivers, conductors, cleaners, station staff, line checking staff, booking clerks, cash clerks, depot clerks, time-keepers, watchmen or attendants. For the implementation of the Act the State Government has been authorised to appoint a duly qualified person to be the Chief Inspector and some Inspectors. These appointments have not yet been made and the Labour Officers posted at Dhanbad are expected to see to this work as well.

Facilities to be provided.

The Act provides for rest room, canteen, uniforms, rain coats, and an allowance for washing of uniforms. There are also rules for medical facilities, working hours, etc. The Act prohibits the employment of children in any capacity. Under the Act a worker is entitled for a prescribed period of leave with wages.

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An investigation made at Dhanbad suggests that the amenities are not being implemented to any appreciable degree although the number of motor transport undertakings in this district is quite large and the volume of work done is not inconsiderable.

EASTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' WELFARE OFFICE, DHANBAD.

The Eastern Railway employees have been given a number of amenities. There are three Labour Inspectors of Eastern Railway in Dhanbad district to look after this work. Two Inspectors are posted at Dhanbad and one at Gomoh. They are under the Divisional Personnel Officer, Asansol. There is a 65 bedded Railway Hospital at Dhanbad for the benefit of railway employees. Besides, there are health units at Pathardih, Ka'trasgarh, Gomoh, Kusunda and Sindri. There is one M.B.,B.S. doctor in each of the health units. There are canteens at: Dhanbad, D. S. Office, Dhanbad Loco Shed, Gomoh and Pathardih. There are also 11 primary schools run by Eastern Railway, six are at Dhanbad, one each at Kusunda, Katrasgarh, Pathardih, Sindri and Gomoh. Besides, there are two English medium schools at Dhanbad and Gomoh and two Hindi and Bengali medium schools at Pathardih and one at Gomoh. For recreation purposes the Railway has six clubs and institutes in this district. Two are located at Dhanbad, two at Gomoh and one each at Katras and Pathardih. The Railway Institutes at Dhanbad and Gomoh show pictures. All the Railway Institutes subscribe newspapers and periodicals and offer facilities for various games. Three Railway *Mahila Samities* are functioning in this district, one each at Dhanbad, Gomoh and Pathardih. They are subsidised by Railway and offer a meeting ground for the ladies for social and recreational purposes.

PROHIBITION.

Prohibition is not being implemented by any statutory obligation. The district has quite a sizeable tribal population with whom drinking is almost a social tradition and any statutory imposition of prohibition is likely to lead to underground illicit traffic. *Mahua* trees are in abundance and the tribals and various other castemen grow *Tnahua* fruits and extract an alcoholic concoction. The tribals also make a rice-beer (*Pachwaye*) at home. Drinking is quite common among the colliery workers and the heavy workers of the factories. It is true; however, that a good percentage of their pay packet goes to the liquor shops and it is almost a social problem. The collieries, factories and some of the commercial concerns have a percentage of foreigners and Indians who are used to consume foreign liquor.

Any prohibition law promulgated in a district like Dhanbad will have many difficulties in its enforcement. The State, however, is trying to implement prohibition by the indirect method of raising

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the prices of the intoxicants, restricting the *granting* of licenses, curtailing the hours of the working of the liquor shops and occasional stopping of the sale of liquor on particular days. There has been an enormous increase in the price of even the country liquor* and whisky and other better type liquors produced by the Indian distilleries. The price of foreign liquor has become almost prohibitive. Bar licenses are very few in number. Oral consumption of opium has been restricted and opium is now sold only to those who have been properly certified medically.

The problem of prohibition offers an excellent field to the social workers.

ADVANCEMENT or BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES.

The term 'Backward Classes' is generally used to include Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Denotified Tribes and other Backward Classes. The Constitution mentions who are the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

Article 341 of the Constitution empowers the President after due consultation to notify the castes, races or tribes or parts or of groups within castes, races or tribes that are included. According to 1951 Census as mentioned on page 77 of the District Census Hand-Book (1956, page 77) the population of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes is as follows: —

	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Scheduled Castes ..	1,14,438	62,504	51,934
Scheduled Tribes .	1,14,529	57,137	57,392
Backward Classes . .	84,645	45,803	38,842

They are distributed in all over the district. According to the District Census Hand-Book, 1956, the distribution as per Census of 1951 is as follows :—

	Scheduled Castes.			
		Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Jharia Revenue Thana (excluding Jharia and Sindri towns).	Dhanbad,	24,976	20,893	45,869
2. Topehanchi Revenue Thana	..	16,785	11,691	28,476
. Gobindpur, Nirsa and Tundi Thana.	Revenue	17,117	13,890	31,007
4. All towns of Dhanbad district (Jharia and Sindri).	(Dhanbad,	3,626	5,560	9,181

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		Scheduled Tribes.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Jharia Revenue Thana (excluding Dhanbad, Jharia and Sindri towns).	12,141	12,726	24,867
2.	Topchanchi Revenue Thana . . .	6,481	5,951	12,432
3.	Gobindpur, Nirsa and Tundi Revenue Thana.	33,693	33,637	67,330
4.	All towns of Dhanbad district (Dhanbad, Jharia and Sindri).	4,822	5,078	9,900
		Backward Classes.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Jharia Revenue Thana (excluding Dhanbad Jharia and Sindri towns).	25,840	22,117	47,957
2.	Topchanchi Revenue Thana . . .	9,273	7,380	10,653
3.	Gobindpur, Nirsa and Tundi Revenue Thana.	6,936	4,872	11,808
4.	All towns of Dhanbad district (Dhanbad, Jharia and Sindri)	3,754	4,473	8,227

The total number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes taken together according to the census of 1951 comes to 3,13,612 persons as against the total population of 7,31,700 persons.

The following castes or groups of Dhanbad district were notified as Scheduled Castes under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950:—

(1) Bauri, (2) Bantar, (3) Bhogta, (4) Chamar, (5) Chaupal, (6) Dhohi, (7) Dom, (8) Dusadh (including Dhari or Dharhi), (9) Ghasi, (10) Halalkhor, (11) Han (including Mehtar), (12) Kanjar, (13) Kurariar, (14) Lalbegi, (15) Mochi, (16) Musahar, (17) Nat, (18) Pan, (19) Pasi, (20) Rajwar, (21) Turi.

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The following castes or groups of Dhanbad district were notified as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 :—

(1) Asur, (2) Baiga, (3) Bathudi, (4) Bedia, (5) Binjhia, (6) Birhor, (7) Birjia, (8) Chero, (9) Chik Baraik, (10) Gond, (11) Gorait, (12) Ho, (13) Karmali, (14) Kharia, (15) Kharwar, (16) Khond, (17) Kisan. (18) Kora, (19) Korwa, (20) Lohara, (21) Mahli, (22) Ma! Paharia, (23) Munda, (24) Oraon, (25) Parhaiya, (26) Santal, (27) Sauna Paharia, (28) Savar, (29) Bhumij.

The following castes and groups of Dhanbad district have been classified as Backward Classes:—

(1) Ban, (2) Banpar. (3) Beldar, (4) Bhatiara, (Muslim),(5) Bherihar, (6) Bhuiya, (7) Bind, (8) Chik (Muslim), (9) Dafali (Muslim), (10) Dhanuk, (11) Dhunia (Muslim), (12) Gorhi (including Chhabi), (13) Hajjarn, (14) Kahar, (15) Kasab (Kasai-Muslim), (16) Kewat (Kut), (16A) Khatik, (17) Mali (Malakar), (18) Mallah (including Suraihiya), (19) Madari (Muslim),(20) Miriasin (Muslim), (21) Nat (Muslim), (22) Noniya, (23) Pamania (Muslim), (24) Sheikhra, (25) Tantis (Tatwas), (26) Turha, (27) Bagdi, (28)Bhar,(29) Bhuinhar, (30) Dhanwar, (31) Gulgulia, (32) Kaibartta, (33) Kanwar, (34) Khetauri, (35) Majhwar, (36) Malar (Maihor), (37) Maulik, (38) Pradhan, (39) Pahira, (40) Tamania, (41) Kurmi (Mahto), (42) Dhobi (Muslim), (43) Halalkhor (Muslim), (44) Lalbegi (Muslim), (45) Mehtar (Muslim).

As a Welfare State the Government of Bihar has taken up the amelioration of these people as a matter of policy. A separate department at Government level known as the Welfare Department has been created. There is a District Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Dhanbad to implement the Government policy through various welfare measures the entire expenditure of which is met by the State Government. The District Welfare Officer has an Assistant District Welfare Officer, 7 Welfare Inspectors and 22 *Kalyan Gram Sevaks*. The District Welfare Officer has multifarious duties. His main functions relate to the remove) of disabilities of Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes, spread of education, provision of hostels for them, arrangements for loan and subsidies, medical aid, running of granolas, sinking of wells, etc. He has to be a live wire and a person of imagination, initiative and sympathy to be doing his duty properly.

Economic Welfare.

Economic indebtedness due to poverty had made most of such people very poor. The *Mahajans* used to take interest at very high rate and realise the money at harvest-time which left very little margin to them to pull through the rest of the year.

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GRAIN-golas.

Twenty-seven *grain-goias* have been established in this district till October, 1962, to give seed on credit and also grain for food in time of scarcity. These *grain-golas* supply seed at 25 per cent rate of interest for the first year and thereafter 6 per cent compound interest for each succeeding year. Previously, this facility was for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes only but due to subsequent amendment in the grain-goia rules. Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes will also get the benefit of these *golas*. The Block Development Officers or Circle Officers have been authorised to sanction the quantity of grain to be granted to the petitioner and usually from 2 to 10 maunds of grain is sanctioned according to the need of the individual and availability of grain in the stock. A good deal of useful work could be done through these *grain-goias*. The list of the twenty-seven grain-golas is given below:—

Name of the place where grain-gola is situated. started.	Year in which
1. Maharaj Ganj (Tundi P.-S.) .‘.	1956-57.
2. Raghunathpur (Tundi P.-S.) .	Ditto.
3. Maniadih (Tundi P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
4. Tundi (Tundi P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
5. Goacola (Tundi P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
6. Latani (Tundi P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
7. Pokharia (Tundi P.-S.) .	Ditto.
8. Jhinaki iTundi P.-S.) .	Ditto.
9. Baliapur (Baliapur P.S.) ..	1957-58.
10. Kola Kusura (Dhanbad P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
11. Raj Ganj (Raj Ganj P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
12. Topchanchi (Topchanchi P.-S.) .. .	Ditto.
13. Dumra (Baghmara P.-S.) ..	1958-59.
14. Tehnocho (Baghmara P.S.) .	Ditto.
15. Chas (Chas P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
16. Pindrajore (Chas P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
17. Chandankeari (Chandankeari P.-S.) ..	Ditto.
18. Baramasia (Chandankeari P.-S.)	Ditto

These *grain-golas* have become popular and are rendering useful service.

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AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDY.**

The agricultural subsidy granted to the agriculturists belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes from 1957-58 to 1961-62 is as follows:— Year.

Year					Scheduled Tribes.	Scheduled Castes.	Backward Classes.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	..	..	..	..	8,000	Not available	1,289
1958-59	..	..	.	..	8,000	12,500	1,289
1959-60	.	..	..	..	9,468	6,500	4,000
1960-61	..	..	..	..	6,800	10,000	2,000
1961-62	..	..	..	..	3,100	10,000	Not available.

The agricultural subsidy is meant for the purchase of bullocks, manure and seed. In view of the large percentage of their population and their poor condition, the amount of agricultural subsidy granted is small.

HOUSING SCHEME.

In order to give a proper roof over the head the poor *Harijans*,* most of whom are without a house, housing scheme was introduced. Time construction of houses is sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,250 per house, out of which the Government's contribution is Rs. 937.50, i.e., 75 per cent per house. Generally, the beneficiary contributes the remaining portion in form of labour, materials, etc. In the district of Dhanbad 148 houses under State and Central sponsored schemes have been constructed and 68 houses are under construction (1962).

The chart below shows the location of the houses which have been constructed or are under construction:—

Under Central Plan for Scheduled Castes.

Year of construction.	Name of the village.		No. of houses.		
1957-58 .-	Dhobani :.	..		..	28
1958-59 ..	Radhanagar	..	Baghmara	..	19
1959-60 ..	Koria ..	..	Chandankiari		16 (Under cons traction.)
1960-61	Bamandarika	..	has	..	2
1960-61 ..	Kesidih	Timdi	..	14 (Under cons. traction).
1961-62 .-	Dafar Tupra	..	Chas	..	6 (Under construction.)

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Under Central Plan for Scheduled Tribes.

Year of construction,		Nsme o[the village	Under which Block,	No. of houses.
1958-59	..	Paloobra	Tundi ,	.. 15
1958-59	..	Kahaya	Tundi.	.. 15
1959-60	•.	Bholatend .. -. ..	Govindpur	.. 18
1960-61	..	Santhal loghela	Chandankeari	25 (Under construction.)
Under the State-sponsored scheme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes				
Year of construction,		Nsme o[the village	Under which Block,	No. of houses.
			Anchal.	
1954-55	..	Mantand	Topchanchi ..	13
1954.55	..	Hariltarpur ..	Topchanchi ..	5
1055-56	..	Singhdth -. ..	Topchanchi ..	7
1958-59	..	Maliud	Baghmara ..	6
1959-60	..	Bajnardarika	Chas	20
1060-61	..	Kesidih	Tundi	7
				(Under construction.)

The houses constructed are in occupation. But considering the vast population these few houses are far too inadequate.

Educational facilities.

As far as the educational facilities of the Scheduled Castes are concerned the Cent'al Government ns well as the State Government are interested. The Central Government has a fund for giving scholarships for post-graduate study to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes. Post-metric scholarships for them from the Central level are awarded by the State Government under authority delegated to them. The State Government also gives stipends, awards and book-grants to students from the school to the college stage.

During 1960-61, Rs. 3,72,533.38 was distributed among 3,397 students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes as stipends, book-grants or awards. Besides, 25 thousand rupees were paid to two colleges for reimbursement of loss in

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fee income. In 1961-62, R.s. 6,13,174 were distributed among 4,611 students of the same categories.

HOSTEL.

The following Harijan and Adivasi hostels are now running in the district: —

	No. of boarders (1962)
(1) Welfare Hostel, Dhanbad	10
(2) Adivasi Hostel, Tundi	25
(3) Adivasi Hostel, Nirsa	22
(4) Adivasi Hostel, Gobindpur	30
(5) Adivasi Hostel, Rajnagar	30

The house-rent and the cost of utensils are borne by the State Government. No seat-rent is charged from the students. Every hoarder who belongs to the backward Classes also gets a grant of Rs, 20. If seats are available after providing the boys for whom the hostels are meant, students of other castes are also admitted but they are required to pay some fees. At present (1962) there are no such students in these hostels. As a matter of fact the hostels should cater for students of other classes as well so that Harijans and Adivasi boys do not feel and suffer 'from a feeling segregation and inferiority complex.

DRINKING FACILITIES.

The Welfare Department, Dhanbad, has constructed wells for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for their drinking facilities. Such wells are usually sunk in their colonies which did not have proper wells. Now they can use the other wells of the villages as well.

The statement given below shows the number of wells constructed and 'the amount spent:—

Year.	Scheduled Tribes			
Amount spent.	No. of wells completed,	Amount spent.	No. of wells completed.	
	Rs.		Rs.	
1953-54	1,200	3	1,200	3
1954-55	3,000	5	3,000	5
1955-56	3,000	4	3,050	3
1956-57	21,000	8	34,000	12
1957-58	9,000	7	17,000	10
1958-59	9,500	13	15,000	10
1959-60	4,200	Not available	26,612	Not available.
1960-61	8,100	Ditto	14,790	Ditto.
1961-62	5,300	Ditto	11,835	Ditto.

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The Government contributes 75 per cent of the estimated cost and the villagers are required to contribute the remaining portion by giving labor. It is rather unfortunate that the District Welfare Office could not supply the number of wells sunk although they have got the figures of money spent. They also could not give details regarding their location. This is for the recent years.

HILL PATHWAYS AND VILLAGE ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The following roads, bridges and culverts have been constructed by the Welfare Department for the benefit of the Advises and Haridans: —

Year.	Name of the roads, bridges and culverts.	No. of Miles	Amount Spent
1957-58 ..	(1) Sadhubad to Maniadih ..	Not available	31,925
	(2) Bhuribinose to Bhojudih	8	22,000
1958-59 ..	(1) Beguoria to Dongapani ..	12	12,500
	(2) Dongapani to Tundi	2	6,000
1959-60 ..	(1) Paimo-Domanpur road'	4	4,300
	(2) Behaechia-Paliuo road ..	3	10,000
	(3) Tindi-Dongapani road ..	2	3,500
	(4) Construction of three big <i>nala</i>		600
	(5) Construction of five culverts in Beg- noria-Dongapani road.		5,000
	(6) Construction of six culverts, on Tundi Dongapani road.		6,000
1960-61 ..	(1) Construction of one bridge on Begno- ria-Bahechia road.		7,000
	(2) Construction of four causeways on Begnoria-Bahechia road.		7,400
	(3) Construction of two causeways on Tundi-Dongapani road.		2,500

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIFE. MEDICAL FACILITIES.

The *Welfare* Department gives aid for medical treatment to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The statement below supplied by the Welfare office gives details:—

Year	Scheduled		Scheduled Tribes.		Backward Classes.	
	Rupees spent.	No. of persons benefited,	Rupees spent.	No. of persons benefited,	Rupees spent.	No. of persons benefited,
1958-59	140	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1959-00	825	14	500	7	200	3
1960-61	825	15	500	8	200	6
1961-62	2,000	31	2,100	38	Not available	Not available

As it was doubtful. if the scheme was working properly this has since been dropped for the Backward Classes.

INDUSTRIAL SUBSIDY.

During 1959-60 Rs. 2,095, in 1960-61 Rs. 1,900 and in 1961-62 Rs. 2,000 was given' to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for starting cottage industries like basket-making, rope-making, leather work, etc. This scheme on Investigation did not look to be working well. The amount given are also very small and cannot help to start any cottage industry on a sizeable scale.

CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS.

The following is the list of the Hindu Religious Trusts existing in the district:—

- (1) Hindu *Mandir Samiti* Saharpura, P. O. Sindri, Dhanbad.
- (2) Sri Peyare Das Lakshmi Narayan *Mandir*, Rasa, P. O. Rasa (West Bengal).
- (3) Sri Jugal Kishore Daripa, Trustee, Chandil Durgasthan, P. O. Chandil, Dhanbad.
- (4) Sri Radha Pati Chatterjee, Trustee, Lalpui Temple, P. O. Lalpur, Burdwârl (West Bengal).
- (5) Shri K. P. Lal, Trustee, village Kharkhari, P. O. Nawagarh, Dhanbad.

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No detailed information of these Trusts could be had from the President of Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts, Patna. It appears the *Trusts are for maintaining some temples.*

There is a Religious Trust of the Surini sect of the Muslims known as Sheikh Chunnu and Sheikh Modi. The Trust maintains a mosque at Jharia. It has been registered in the office of the Bihar *Subai Sunni Majlis-e-Waqf*, Gulabbagh, Patna-4. Previously there was only a mosque which was looked after by the Trust. Since there was no income from the mosque six shop rooms at Katras, were constructed in the *parti* land by raising loans which is being paid gradually by the trustees.

Sree Sree Lakshmi Narain Trust.

This Trust was founded in 1945 by Shri Harishankar Worth of Dhanbad. The Trust has been assigned a colliery (East Kumardhubi Colliery). The colliery raises coal to the tune of 1,00,000 tons a year and its entire income is applied to public charities particularly for education and unethical aid.

The first important endeavour of the Trust in the field of education started with the establishment of Sree Sree Lakshmi Narain Trust Girls' High School at Dhanbad in 1956-57. A number of buildings were constructed at a reported cost of Rs. 3,50,000. In 1958 the high school was handed over to the State Government of Bihar.

The Trust purchased a plot of land for Rs. 50,000 and a building for Rs. 1,45,000 at Dhanbad for Sree Sree Lakshmi Narain Trust Mahila Mahavidyalaya. An existing Girls' College was taken over. The Trust wants to construct a new building for the Girls' College.

In 1961 the Trust established a Maternity Home with 28 beds at Dhanbad at the cost of rupees four lakhs. There is a medical staff. The patients are admitted in the Home at the charge of Rs. 5 per bed per day. Poor patients are treated free. The Trust has constructed one Science Block at Kumardhubi High School in 1961. at a cost of Rs. 50,000. Some of the other institutions which have been recipients of financial aid from this trust are Raja Shiba Prasad College, Jharia, Anugrah Narain Sinha College, Barb, Jharia Gujarati School, Jharia, D. A. V. College, Ambala City and Shri Kanya Gurukul, Hardwar, etc.

A REVIEW.

Regarding social services in the district it may be mentioned that it is only after the Independence in 1947 that the character of the State has been changed into that of a Welfare State and social work for the people has been taken up as one of the responsibilities

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of the State. As we have now a socialistic pattern of Government in view there has to be necessarily more concentration on social work to uplift the vast sections of people who are extremely poor and have suffered grievously in the past from the ill effects of caste system, poverty, want of education and other disabilities. The Constitution has laid down a list of tribes and castes who come in this category of the really down-trodden people and they are described as Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. In the past, i.e., before Independence very little work had been actively done to upgrade them. Such work was mostly sponsored by the Christian Missionaries and a few other voluntary social organisations like Ram Krishna Mission, etc. But it is the Christian Missionaries who had penetrated into inaccessible parts of the district and had opened schools and dispensaries. It is correct that the Christian Missionaries had also the object of spreading Christianity to the masses and particularly to the people who were treated as outside the pale of Hindu religion more because of their caste disabilities or economic condition. The Christian Missionaries have done quite a lot of such work in the district. As a matter of fact, some of the earliest schools and well run hospitals and dispensaries are sponsored by them. Their magnificent social work should not be belittled because of their zeal to spread Christianity.

It is unfortunate that the upper classes or castes among the Hindus practically did so little for such tribes or castes. It is only now that some organisations have been set up but they mostly depend on State help for carrying on their work. There are also some complaints as to whether they have been able to do what could have been done because of the great financial aid. It will not be incorrect to state that for the financial aid received from the State many of such organisations would stop working. It is found that there are some old Trusts but they are mostly meant only to run temples or charitable institutions entirely connected with a particular religion.

Social work has been described as the process of helping people with the aid of appropriate social services, to resolve or mitigate a wide range of personal and social problems which they are unable to meet successfully without such help. This kind of help is nothing new in the district as there had always been some good neighbours or doctors or teachers and a few philanthropists to help the people in need. But there has been very little of a properly organised system through which a voluntary guild could do social work which also requires a certain amount of training and experience. A spasmodic emergency like an earthquake or an epidemic stands on a different footing and such emergencies will probably, necessitate even inexperienced men to join up for rendering social service. But if there has to be a sustained 'twelve months' work with fixed objectives, there has got to be a system that can only be properly worked through experience and knowledge. Social worker

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like occupational therapists, health visitors, etc. cannot be obtained just for asking. It is because of the want of such properly trained men who have taken up humanitarian work as their mission that the most of the present-day social service organisations are not working properly.

Another peculiar aspect of the social service organisations that are found within the district is that they are all more or less concentrated in the urban or semi-urban areas and as mentioned before, more or less, entirely depend on Government help. They have also an extremely limited scope of work. Even in the district headquarters there are no Women's Voluntary Service, no Citizens' Advice Bureau, hardly any institutions to do moral welfare work or look after people without homes or to help the sick and disabled. There is no institution to help the children deprived of normal home life or to protect children from ill-treatment or neglect. There are no institutions to look after 'the convicts after their discharge. No one worries about the handicapped or incapacitated young or old people or the delinquents. Old age problems are never thought of. The educational institutions also have very little activities on these lines. The problems of the students are certainly not given that much of thought that they deserve. Giving a few stipends is the least that can be done.

The idea of the State offering social security to the country is also a very recent idea. During the British regime this was not one of the main objectives to be followed by the administration. Even now after Independence and even with a Welfare State based on socialistic pattern, there has not been much of growth of social security provisions, in comparison to Great Britain it may be said that here the people are just at the very initial stage. To start with, there is no Poor Law in the country. There is no system of National Insurance. There are no Acts like Family Allowances Act, 1945 of Great Britain. There has been nationalisation of life insurance and the people have to go a long way yet before they get anything like the National Insurance Act of Great Britain. It may be that the people are economically or educationally not so much advanced that there could be a statutory obligation for every person of working age, i.e., between 16 and retirement at or after minimum pension age, whatever his or her income or position of life, is legally bound to take part in 'the scheme. People have got the very beginning of an insurance system for the factory workers. But there are no statutory obligations on 'the people or on the State to offer sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, maternity benefit, retirement pension or death grant as it is in Great Britain. Industrial Injuries Insurance is now covered but the number of hospitals and dispensaries for the industrial workers are still very few.

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So far as 'the newspapers published from *this* district are concerned, it has already been dealt in 'the chapter on Education and Culture.

There are several English dailies published from elsewhere that have got a good circulation in this district. They are the *Indran Nation* and the *Searchlight* published from *Patna* and the *Statesman*, the *Hindustan Standard* and the *Arnrta Bazar Patrika* published from Calcutta. Among the English weeklies and periodicals published from elsewhere that have some circulation mention may be made of *Bihar Herald* (*Patna*, *Blitz* (*Bombay*), the *Illustrated Weekly* (*Bombay*) and *Link* (*Delhi*). The *Aryavarta*, the *Pradeep* the *Vishvmitra* and the *Navarashtra*, the 'four Hindi dailies published from *Patna* have also a fair circulation in the district. The Bengali dailies of Calcutta, *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Yugantar* have a wide circulation. The three Urdu dailies of *Patna*, *Sada-e-Aam*, *Sangam* and *Sathi* have a small circulation in this district. Some Hindi periodicals published from elsewhere, namely, *Dharmayug*, *Hindustan*, *Maya* and *Man orma* have also some sale. The district having a larger urban population and a good percentage of literate and educated people, the incidence of reading public is quite large. The newspapers and the periodicals in the libraries are read by a large number of people. In the rural libraries also, language newspapers are in fair demand. The newspapers have a considerable influence in shaping public life.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES.

A number of institutions have recently been sponsored in Dhanbad district with the object of doing social services. They are more or less, dependent on Government help or on the aid given by the Central Social Welfare Board, *B karat Sevak Samaj* and such other institutions who also depend for aid by the Centre or the State, Voluntary Philanthropic institutions like the Servants of India Society of Poona or the Ram Krishna Mission are very few. The zamindars some of whom had social institutions themselves and discharged their social obligations in an appreciable manner have given up their philanthropic activities, after zamindari has been abolished, The schools, colleges, dispensaries, etc, sponsored by them have either been languishing or have been taken up by the State. It is very unfortunate that there has been a tendency since recent years to start a voluntary social institution and quickly run for Government aid. Another unfortunate feature is that in case of a great calamity like floods or famines or epidemics, very few of voluntary social service institutions now come forward to serve the suffering humanity as they used to do in the past. People have been now looking more and more to the State in all such emergencies.

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Harijan Sevak Sangh.

A branch of the All-India *Harijan. Sevak Sangh* was started in Dhanbad in 1945. The institution is more concerned with amusing public consciousness regarding the condition of the ilarijan and publishes brochures, etc., and also arranges meetings.

The *Sangh* has two centres, one at Sarai Dhela, P.-S. Dhanbad and the other at LambikuJhi, P.-S. Chas. It has also started a cooperative society and advances loans at a- nominal rate of interest.

Arya. Samaj.

The *Arya Sama; Mandir* was established in 1933 at Dhanbad. Essentially a religiOu institution the *Arya Snmaj* 1)ranches associate themselves with various social service work like widow-marriage, inter-caste marriage, rehabilitating the helpless and the abandoned women and children, etc. The *Arya Samaj* also runs the D. A. V. Higher Secondary School and B. A. V. Middle School at Dhanbad and has branches at Sindri, Jharia and Katras.

Bhoodan Movement.

The Bhoodan Movement was started in 1951 by Sri Vinoba Bhave. It seeks to bring about a peaceful agrarian revolution in the country. The movement consists of the collection of land from big land-owners as gift and the distribution of the same to the landless persons. Bhoodan movement appeals for voluntary donation of one-sixth of the !and for redistribution mong the landless and the distribution takes place at village meetings at which villagers decide whose need is the greatest.

The Bhoodan Committee Office was established in 1957 at Dhanbad. Up to August, 1962, 7,625 acres of land was collected as gift out f which 1,872 acres of land was distributed among 1,17 landless persons. Out of 1,175 beneficiaries, 390 are Scheduled Tribes, 438 Scheduled Castes and 344 beneficiaries belong to Backward classes.

Rain KrsIma Vivekanand Society,Dhanbad.

This Society was estabEished in 1936. The building was donated by Sri B. N. Chakravarty. There is a Committee with a President, Secretary and some members who run the institution.

A library and free reading room, a homoco charitable dispensary and an allopathic charitable dispensary are run by this Society. The institution is well supported by Dhanbad Rotary Club, Municipality, etc. Very useful work is being done by the Society.

Dhanbad Blind Relief Society.

Established in 1956 at. Dhanbacl, the Society has opened a Blind School at Bhuli in 1 960. This Society is affiliated with the National Association for the Blind, Bombay. The institution receives aid from the State Government In 1962 there are 25 students who are

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given free boarding and lodge. The school has also a library, and music room. At present (1962) education is given up to middle standard. The inmates are also given training in handicrafts and music .

Bharat Sevak Samaj

The district branch of Bharat Sevak Samaj, an All India organisation was organized in 1953. This institution has a regular office at Jharia. The Samaj runs a library and some night schools and has also intereted itself in fighting corruption in Government offices and among the public.

Coal field Muslim Yatimkhana, Dhanbad,

Started in 1946 for the orphan Muslim boys, the institution is run by the contribution of the public and from the income of its landed property. In 1962, there are 75 students. There is a hostel of 5 students at present (1962). Education is imparted free and the hostel-boys are also given free board and lodge.

Anand Marg Pracharak Sangh.

This religious instiution has its headquarters at Monghyr . There are branches at Dhanbad, Kumardhubi, chirkunda, Nirsa, Gobindpur, Rajganj, Topchanchi, Mohuda, Sindri, Lodna and Jharia. The main function of this Sangh is to spread religion and spiritual techings of the great Indian Philosophers among the people.

There are library and a charitable dispensary attached to the office at Dhanbad. This Sangh is run by the contribution of public and has helped the spread of simple religious ideas among the people.

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION OF 1952.

The First General Election after India became independent was held in 1952. The unique feature of this General Election was that for the first time it was held on the basis of adult franchise. In pre-independence period there had been elections to the legislatures both at the Provinccial level and at the Imperial Government level but the franchise for the Local Bodies, Provincial Assembly or Council or the Central Legislatures was based on qualifications of property, incidence of payment of revenue, rent or taxes, educational qualifications, communal representations, etc. All this accounted for a low percentage of voter. Adult franchise from 1952 General Election Provides equal opportunities for men and women of all classes, caste and creeds to exercise their right of vote. It was a great experiment.

Legislative Assembly, 1952.

The election was held for the Legislative Assembly and Parliament from the 4th June, 1952. It has to be remembered that in 1952 the present district of Dhanbad was a sub-district and

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a part and parcel of Manbhum district. In 1952 there were five constituencies in the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) including the combined constituency of Para-Chas. Para is now in Purulia district of West Bengal since 1956. There were two plural constituencies, viz. Tundi-com-Nirsa, Para-cum-chas and the rest were single constituencies excepting Para area. The other areas of the constituency in 1952 Assembly election are . The other areas of the constituency in 1952 Assembly election are now in the present Dhanbad district. The number of voters in 1952 election was 3,69,446. This number, of course, included a population of Para as well. Several political parties had set up their candidates for contesting the election for seven constituencies, There were also Independent candidates. The political parties that contested were the Congress, Janta, Socialist, Jharkhand, Praja, Forward Block (Marxist), Communist and Jansangh, The details of 1952 General Election for the Assmby seats have been discussed elsewhere.

Parliamentary Election.

There was no separate and independent constituency for the Parliamentary seats from Dhanbad. There were only two Parliamentary constituencies in Manbhum district, Manbhum North and Manbhum South-cum-Dhalbhum. Dhanbad came within Manbhum North constituency.

The political parties that contested were Congress , Lok Sewak Sangh, Kisan Mazdoor, Praja party, Janta and Forward Block(Marxist) . There was one independent candidate also. Out of the seven seats for the Legislative Assembly, four seats were won by the Congress, two seats went to the Independent candidates and one seat to a candidate run by Janta Paty. Topchanchi had a total number of electors of 47,726 and the number that voted was 18,283. The percentage of electors that exercised their franchise was rather poor. This constituency covers rural areas and that may be a reason for poor polling. There was an Independent candidate who polled 399 votes. In this constituency the elected candidate came from Janta Pary and polled 9,734 votes. The total number of electors for Katras constituency was 55,537 and 21,401 persons exercised their franchise. Here a lady who had contested as an Independent candidate was elected with 8,423 votes. The Independent candidates and a Communist candidate polled very few votes.

In Tundi-cum-Nirsa constituency out of 95,208 electors as many as 34,080 perso chose to exercise their franchise. In this constituency there were two seats out of which one was a re4served seat. The Congress candidates bagged both the seats and had polled 14,711 and 14,575 votes respectively. Two Jharkhand candidates came out third and fourth in the list with 8,627 and 7,859 votes respectively to their credit. In this constituency the Independent, Praja and Forward Block (Marxist) candidates did not get much support. Dhanbad constituency had 51,619 electors. In this

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urban constituency, however, only 18,788 voters exercised their franchise. The elected Congress candidate polled 10,253 votes and his nearest rival was a Jansangh candidate with 3,215 votes. There were as many as five Independent candidates who polled very few votes. Para-cum-Chas constituency had 1,19,366 electors. In this constituency 30,562 voters had exercised their franchise. Here an Independent candidate won the seat after polling 12,832 votes while his nearest rival congress candidate had polled 12,327 votes. The reserved seat went to a Congress candidate. So far as the Parliamentary Election for 1952 is concerned, out of 6,88,360 electors for Manbhum North constituency 2,17,562 was voted. There were two seats and one was reserved. Both the seats went to the Congress candidate. The Congress candidate for the open seat had polled 92,752 votes while his nearest rival, a candidate from Lok Sewak Sangh had polled 83,209 votes. Here also the Independent, Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party and Forward Block (Marxist) candidates did not do well.

Certain conclusion; may broadly be arrived at from the analysis of the election results. The Congress had polled a large number of votes and four of the seven seats had gone to the Congress candidates. This shows that the Congress had a good organisation. It is remarkable that Janta Party candidate had chosen to contest only one constituency (Topchanci) and the candidate had captured the seat. The Party did not want to go into any hazard and contested only in one constituency where the Party had a good hold. The Jharkhand had contested only one constituency Tundi-cum-Nirsa but could not succeed. Independent candidates as a class did not do well although one Independent candidate, a lady from Katras had won the seat. This was due to the local influence of the candidate. Only one constituency Katras had a Communist candidate who polled very few votes. Political parties like the Socialist, Praja and Forward Block (Marxist) and Jansangh had very poor results. This was probably due to the weakness of their organisation. The picture is clear that Congress was the most organised party which had influence in the rural areas as well.

SECOND GENERAL ELECTION OF 1957.

The Second General Election was held on the basis of the electoral rolls made in 1952 subject to modifications made in the course of the five years. The polling was staggered over a period of 16 days from the 25th February to the 12th March, 1957. It has to be remembered that before the election in 1957, Dhanbad had already become a full-fledged district. For Parliamentary seats there was only one constituency known as Dhanbad constituency.

Assembly Election.

In 1957 General Election the number of constituencies was five, namely, Topchanchi, Dhanbad, Nirsa, Chas and Tundi. Nirsa and Topchanchi were plural constituencies and the rest were single

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constituencies. It is remarkable that all the seven seats of the Assembly were captured by the Congress, but the voting analysis does not show that the Congress had polled the majority of votes in all the constituencies.

The fact that a large number of candidates had contested meant a division of votes and apparently the Congress candidates belonging to a well-organised party which had formed the Government after the last election had certain incidental advantages. In Chas constituency 20,145 electors exercised their franchise and the Congress had polled 5,123 votes. In Tundi constituency out of 18,884 voters that had exercised their franchise the Congress party had got the support of 5,889 voters. The solitary Parliamentary seat went to a Congress candidate who had polled 67,255 votes out of 1,39,612 votes cast.

The political parties other than the Congress that had contested were the Communist, Jharkhand, Janta and Praja Socialist. There were also a number of Independent candidates.

GENERAL ELECTION OF 1962.

In comparison to the last two General Elections, the third General Election took much less time in completing the poll and in announcing the election results. With the experience of the First and Second General Elections and of the bye-elections in the intervening period a significant change in the method of casting a vote was adopted this time to avoid all probable chance of using unfair means. Previously a voter was required to put the ballot paper in the ballot box of the candidate of his choice and there were as many separate ballot boxes (one for each contesting candidate) as the contesting candidates. In 1962 General Election there was only one common ballot box for all the contesting candidates of a constituency and the elector was to give the seal against the symbol and in the space provided in the ballot paper for the candidate in whose favour he wanted to exercise his franchise. The ballot contained all the symbols of the contesting candidates of a particular constituency and a space was provided against the symbol of each of the candidate for giving seal therein.

The other important change was brought in respect of the double member constituencies which were converted into single member constituencies. Generally a double member constituency was made reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

1962 Assembly Election.

In 1962 General Election there were 7 single member constituencies for Legislative Assembly out of which 4 seats were captured by the Congress and 3 by the Swatantra. The total number of electors in 1962 in Dhanbad for the Legislative Assembly was 5,14,881 as against 4,79,039 in 1957. Fifty candidates contested the election

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out of which seven belonged to the Congress, seven to Swatantra, seven to Jharkhand, six to Socialist, four to the Communist Party of India and three to the Praja Socialist Party. There were also 14 Independent candidates.

Parliamentary Election of 1962.

As in 1957 there was only one Parliamentary constituency. In 1962 Assembly

Election there were 73,970 electors in Topchanchi constituency out of which 36,043 or 48.7 per cent electors polled their votes. A candidate from the Swatantra Party was elected with 18,899 votes. His nearest rival was a Congress candidate who bagged only 9,260 votes. The Praja Socialist Party, Jharkhand and Independent candidates were badly defeated. The Independent candidates got the lowest votes. In Kenduadih constituency out of 71,610 electors only 31,322 or 44 per cent electors exercised their franchise. The Congress candidate with 15,685 votes was elected. Its nearest rival was a candidate from the Swatantra Party who bagged only 7,041 votes. The other candidates were from the Praja Socialist Party, Socialist Party, Jharkhand and the Communist Party of India. They all bagged very poor votes.

In Dhanbad constituency out of 70,846 electors only 34,890 or 49.5 per cent electors availed of their franchise. The Congress candidates of the Communist and Praja Socialist Parties also got very few from the Swatantra Party who bagged only 3,591 votes. The Independent and Jharkhand candidates got very few votes. The candidates of the Communist and Praja Socialist Parties also got very few votes but came off better than the Independents and the Jharkhand candidates. There was only one Jansangh candidate who polled 2,680 votes.

In Tundi constituency 16,834 votes were polled which meant 26.74 per cent of the electors had exercised their franchise. The Swatantra candidate with 10,931 votes captured the seat while the nearest rival was a Congress candidate with 1,834 votes. Here also the Independents, Socialist and Jharkhand candidates polled poorly. In Nirsa constituency the Congress candidate had won with 10,381 votes. The nearest rival was a Swatantra candidate with 8,997 votes while the Communist candidate came out third with 7,084 votes. The Socialist, and the Jharkhand candidates (one from each party) polled near about 1,000 votes each. In this constituency 30,127 electors or 41.2 per cent had cast their votes.

In Jorapokhar constituency 39,974 votes were polled which meant 48 per cent of the electors had exercised their franchise. The Congress candidates with, 14,931 votes captured the seat while the nearest candidate came out third and the Swatantra fourth with 6,749 and 3,840 votes respectively. The Jansangh and Socialist candidates

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(one from each party) polled near about 1,100 votes each. The Jharkhand candidate polled poorly. In Chas constituency Swatantra candidate was elected with 11,703 votes. The nearest rival was an Independent candidate with 6,756 votes while the Congress candidate came out third with 4,787 votes. The three other Independent candidates with 3,517, 2766 and 1,771 votes respectively came out fourth, fifth and sixth. The Socialist and Jharkhand candidates polled poorly. In 1962 Parliamentary Election there were 4,51,555 electors in Dhanbad constituency out of which 2,07,276 or 45.9 per cent electors availed of their Franchise. The Congress candidate with 75,170 votes was elected. The nearest rival was a Swatantra candidate with 50,964 votes while the Independent and Communist candidates with 34,405 and 22,742 votes came out third and fourth respectively. The Socialist, Jansangh and Independent candidates polled poorly.

The voting analysis and the other trends of 1962 elections indicate that the Swatantra Party had emerged as a powerful rival of the Congress. Out of the seven seats for the Assembly as many as three were captured by the Swatantra Party candidates while the Congress won the other four seats. The Swatantra Party is not a new party altogether so far as Bihar is concerned. The Janta Party with the Raja of Ramgarh in Hazaribagh district as its head had already made its influence felt particularly in Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas for sometime past. The Janta Party leaders joined the Swatantra Party which is an all India party and apparently the party had made inroads in other camps. The Jharkhand Party did not do well at all in any of the constituencies that it had contested. The decline of Jharkand Party as a political force is another remarkable feature in 1962 elections. The other parties of all-India stature like Jansangh or Socialist or the Communist did not do well at all.

The organisational character of the two parties, namely, the Congress and the Swatantra was on a sounder footing than that of the others. The fact that each of the constituencies was fought by a large number of candidates helped the candidates of these two parties. But this factor alone does not explain all the results. A lady candidate of the Congress Party had been elected from Topchanchi constituency in 1957 election and had polled 26,467 votes while the Jarita candidate had polled 21,487 votes. In 1962 election the same Janta Party candidate fought on Swatantra Party ticket and was elected with 18,899 votes, while the selfsame lady candidate of the Congress Party got only 9,260 votes. There is no doubt that the voters now like to be nursed and a successful candidate will have to serve and nurse his constituency for the next few years. The voting analysis, however, does not give a clear picture of the voters' mind. The Swatantra Party had come out very poorly in some of the constituencies. In Dhanbad, and Jorapokhar they got poor votes. As a

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Party the Socialist and the Praja Socialist Party with very little of ideological differences almost stand to loose their hold. The jharihand Party has also dwindled in its influence if the votes cast could be taken as an indication. The Communists appeared to have got good influence in certain pockets like Nirsa and Jorapokhar which are colliery areas. The Communist candidates got poor votes in Dhanbad, another colliery area as well as in Kenduadih. This will show that the voters do not always vote for the Party but occasionally for the man. This leads to the other conclusion that even a well organized party like the Congress or the Swatantra would have to select their candidates after considering various factors and the most important of which be the influence of the particular man chosen and the local circumstances. The 1957 elections had shown the Congress Party at its peak – this Party had captured all the seven Assembly seats and the solitary Parliamentary seat. It was almost like voting for the Party and not for the man selected but this was not the trend in 1962.*

* This text is based on-

(1) Report on the General Election under the Constitution of India in Bihar, 1951-52, pp. 39, 63-64

(2) Report on the Second General Election in Bihar, 1956-57, pp. 134, 181-182.

(3) Other Statistics and information gathered from the office of the chief Electoral Officer, Bihar, Patna.
