CHAPTER 3

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN KERALA.

Kerala, one of the southern States in India, is well known in the country and abroad for its achievements in different areas like literacy, public health, public distribution, rural sanitation, etc and the State is also known for democratic governments, high magnitude of social and civic consciousness and land reforms. The State has also an illustrious system of local self-governments even from its very formation in 1956 as is evident from the functioning of a large number of Grama Panchayats in the State. However, the enactment of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act in 1992 has introduced a new system of local self-governments, with the three-tier panchayats replacing the traditional panchayats in the State. Therefore, it is significant to analyse the nature of the panchayati raj system introduced in Kerala prior to the adoption of the Act, and the initiatives made in this regard over the last four decades, to take up a discussion on the panchayati raj system in Kerala. In the present chapter, an attempt is also made to look into the functions and powers assigned to the panchayati raj institutions in the State.