CHAPTER - II

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF RURAL LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ANCIENT INDIA

Manu, the sagacious law-giver of ancient India distinguishes three types of settlements village (gram), town (pura) and city (nagara). According to him, village was the fundamental unit of administration. The village headman who used to be the village leader, was generally nominated by the king or in other case hereditary or elected.¹

In olden days each village was a republic which was governed by the Panchayat or the village council. Three or five persons were appointed to look after the welfare of the village and this association was referred to as Panchayat.² As described by the Greek Ambassador Magasthenes, who visited the court of Chandragupta Maurya in 303 BC, village communities are rural units and little independent republics aptly said to be self contained and self governed.³

In Tamil Nadu, during the Tamil Sangam period (3rd Century BC - 4th Century AD), the residents of a village (oor) met and transacted local government affairs through the village assembly called mantram or avai. The sangam system survived the Kalabhra Interregnum (3rd -
6th Century AD) and was revived during the Pallava - Pandya period (6th to 9th Century AD). The local government developed into an integrated system during the golden age of the Cholas (9th - 13th Century AD). Such a vibrant local government declined under the Muslim and the Vijayanagar rule (14th - 17th Century AD).

During the Chola Period, the Central feature of rural organisation was the formation of government by means of primary assemblies comprising the adult males of each village. A number of self-governing villages constituted a Kurram or Nadu or Kottam as it was known in different parts of the country. A big village which is large enough to form a Kurram by itself have been often described as a taniyur (A town apart). A number of Kurrams formed a Valanadu, which was often known as nadu in the areas where the smaller division was called Kottam. Above Valanadu, there was the mandalam which was the largest division of administration. There were about eight or nine of these mandalams or provinces including in Chola kingdom.

For selecting persons for several committees which governed the village alongside the Mahasabha and the general body of the adult males belonging to the Brahmin community, the regulations were laid down by the Uttiramerur inscriptions (AD 919). The selection was done in rotation so that the same persons or their relatives will not be the committee members continuously. There were thirty Kudumbus (wards) and in each of these wards, the people concerned came together and wrote more than one forth nilam of taxable land, resided
in houses on their own land, were below seventy and above thirty five years old, know the mantra brahmana and experienced, were competent in one veda and possessed experience and had material and spiritual purity. A person who had done the variyam before and failed to show accounts and his relatives should not have their names written on the tickets. Those names can be included only after they perform the expiation.

Excluding all the above specified persons, names should be written on tickets in all the thirty wards and in these twelve series, attaching separate covering tickets (Vayalai) for each ward, and the tickets of the thirty wards should be separately bundled and put into the pot. When these tickets were drawn, all the members of the Mahasabha, whether young or old should be assembled there and the temple priest (Nambimar), who happened to be in town on that day should be seated in the inner Mandapa (Pavilion) with the Mahasabha. The elderly priest among them should stand up holding the pot and looking upwards so that all the people could see that.

A small boy who could not even understand what is happening there should be asked to take the bundle of one ward and mix if with another pot and take out one ticket and place it in the hands of the madhyastha. He should read it aloud and it should be read aloud by the temple priests in the inner pavilion, and that name should be written down. Likewise, one name should be selected from each of the thirty wards. Among the Madhyasthas, only a person having material purity
should write the accounts and he should not maintain any other accounts. He should submit the maintained accounts to the Accounts Committee of the Sabha and then he was declared pure.

The duties of the revenue officers included many other responsibilities besides their designation. They were often found regulating the receipts and expenditure of temples and helping the local authorities to do the audit and accounts of temples. Theft, adultery and forgery were considered serious offence and people who committed any crimes were excluded from the village committees of Uttiramerur. People who had ridden upon donkeys were also excluded because this form of punishment for other offences were only fines, and that even murder had the punishment of maintaining a perpetual lamp burning in the nearest temple.

**BRITISH RULE AND DECLINE OF RURAL SELF GOVERNANCE**

Upto the establishment of the rule of East India company, the rural self governing village systems were permitted to function independently by rulers. Even the Moghal kings did not disturb the village structures. The Village Panchayats managed the affairs of the village. They collected land revenue and paid it to the state. Most of the disputes within the villagers were settled by the Village Panchayats. The common property resources of the village like irrigation systems, grazing lands, fisheries and forests were managed
by the Panchayat. People did not have any direct interaction with the state.

Establishment of British rule in India was a great set back to the self governing village Panchayats. Particularly the land revenue policies of the East India company contributed to the decline of Village Panchayats. In 1793 Lord Camwalis, then Governor General of India introduced permanent land revenue settlement. This policy bring an end to the traditional village management system. It introduced a system of direct collection of land revenue by the government. All the common property resources were taken over by the state. State established courts to settle disputes. Revenue department was established and district collectors became the rulers. The role of village Panchayats was greatly undermined by this process.¹²

**Local Government in British India**

The British government wanted to establish a municipal administration in places like Madras, Bombay and Calcutta to provides good civic facilities to the European Community. In 1688, the first municipal corporation was established with a Mayor and 12 aldermen. Most of them were Europeans. The municipal corporation attended works related to construction of town halls, schools and maintenance of streets and drainages.
**Lord Mayo’s Resolution of 1870**

A resolution was passed by Lord Mayo’s government local self government as a conscious process of administrative devolution and political education may be said to be initiated by the scheme of financial decentralization. This seems to be the first attempt to develop local self government in rural areas. The management of funds devoted to education, sanitation, medical relief and local public works. The operation of this resolution in its full meaning and integrity will afford opportunities for the development of self government for decentralization of powers to bring about administrative efficiency in meeting the demands of the people and the fiscal compulsion also. The Local Bodies Act of 1885 reflects the validity of Ripon’s policy which actually paved the way for decentralized local self governing institutions down to the village level.

**Lord Ripon’s Resolution (1882)**

Lord Ripon’s resolution with the recommendation that the subdivision taluka or the tehsil which is the smallest administrative unit to be placed under a local board with two thirds of its membership composed of the elected representatives. The provincial governments could create the district boards above the local boards, with powers of coordination or control. It was a rotation system for a term of two years and compulsory retirement. The local bodies act of 1885 reflects the validity of Ripon’s policy which actually paved the way for
decentralized local self-governing institutions down to the village level.15

**Royals Commission Report (1909)**

In 1909, the Royal Commission on Decentralization analysed the working of the local and the district boards in various provinces of the country and came to a conclusion that, mainly due to their unrepresentative character and inadequate powers, these bodies had not succeeded in creating an electorate consisting of the members of the village Panchayats, the provision for an elected majority on all boards and due representation to minorities on all boards through nomination. It was also recommended to form Village Panchayats and reconstitute the local boards where they had been abolished so that the local government could be built up from the base.

**Montague Chelmsford Report (1918)**

The Montague Chelmsford Report (1918) placed the local self government under the domain of Indian ministers in the provinces. The report came with the suggestion that there should be complete popular control in local bodies so that the local self government will be fully representative and responsible.

In 1918 the Government of India passed a resolution accepting the principle of substantial elected majorities on all the boards. By the demonstration of the local electorate, the elective principle was to be reinforced and by retaining nomination rather than by introducing
some system of communal or proportional representation, the representation of minorities was to be secured.\textsuperscript{16}

DEVELOPMENT OF PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM AFTER 1947

As India was a predominantly rural country, Mahatma Gandhi viewed Panchayats as a Swadeshi institution and he was of the opinion that village organisation meant the organisation of the whole of India. After the independence, the main question that was discussed in the constituent assembly was whether this institution should have a place in the new constitution or not.

The Constituent Assembly debates present the dual picture of the importance of the Panchayat in the Constitution. Panchayats were regarded as schools of democracy and as an instrument for village upliftment by those who favoured Panchayats and those who opposed them displayed contempt for villages and village democracy. The overall feeling of the members were to include village Panchayats in Article 40 under the Directive principles of the Constitution. The Directive Principles were only persuasive and did not compel the state to take steps to promote Panchayats. The Article reads, “The state shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of local self government”.

A comprehensive programme for rural development namely community development programme was launched by the Government
of India in 1952, which encompassed almost all activities of rural developments. This programme could not fulfill the dreams of the rural masses. The Government of India constituted a high power committee headed by Balwantrai Mehta, a Member of Parliament to examine the causes for the failure of community development programme. This committee found that the failure of the programme was due to the absence of people’s participation and suggested that a set of institutional arrangements would have to be created to make people’s participation meaningful and effective.

The Committee recommended the establishment of a three tier Panchayati Raj System with Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and the Zilla Parishad at the district level. There should be a genuine transfer of power and responsibility to these bodies and they should be given powers for planning and development activities.\textsuperscript{18}

The second tier, the Panchayat Samiti should be the executive body while the Zilla Parishad with the District Collector as Chairperson should be the advisory, coordinating and supervisory body. A system should be evolved with adequate resources to enable them to discharge their functions and effect furthered evolution of authority in future. A few states in the country passed Panchayat Acts in 1959 and in 1960s Panchayats were established in all states of India, with states like Rajasthan having a three-tier system, whereas Tamil Nadu adopted a two-tier system. Some states even had Nyaya
Panchayats or judicial Panchayats with powers to deal with petty, civil and criminal cases.19

Jawaharlal Nehru, then Prime Minister of India, supported the Panchayati Raj Movement in India. He could influence state governments in different states of India to pass legislations for the establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions. He created a separate Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the Government of India and appointed S.K.Dey, a well known expert in rural development, as the Minister for Panchayati Raj. In most of the states powers were devolved to Panchayats and Panchayats could emerge as instruments of development at the grassroots. After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, Panchayats could not get political support and after 1964 Panchayats started declining.

64th Amendment Bill

After Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India in 1984, he could revive interest in Panchayati Raj, he wanted to regenerate Panchayats as instruments of development at the grassroots. He introduced a Constitutional Amendment Act in the Indian Parliament to give constitutional status to Panchayats and devolve powers to Panchayats.

The Rajiv Gandhi government introduced the 64th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Parliament in July 1989 to constitutionalise the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Although the Lok Sabha passed the Bill, the Rajya Sabha did not approve it. Regional parties vehemently
opposed the Bill on the ground that it sought to strengthen centralization and reduce the power of the state governments.\textsuperscript{20}

\textbf{Narasimha Rao Government}

The government under the Prime Ministership of P.V. Narasimha Rao once again considered the constitutionalization of Panchayati Raj Institutions. It modified the proposals to delete the controversial aspects of 64\textsuperscript{th} amendment bill. It introduced the 73\textsuperscript{rd} Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha in September 1991. The Lok Sabha passed it on December 22, 1992 and by the Rajya Sabha passed it on December 23, 1992. It was approved by the 17 state assemblies and received the assent of the President of India on 20\textsuperscript{th} April 1993. Thus it 73\textsuperscript{rd} Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 came into force on 24\textsuperscript{th} April 1993.

\textbf{The 73\textsuperscript{rd} Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992}

73\textsuperscript{rd} Constitutional Amendment Act added Part - XI of the Constitution of India. It is entitled ‘The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from articles 243 to 243-0. The Act has added the Eleventh Schedule to the constitution. It contains 29 functions to the Panchayats and deals with Article 243G. The Act has given effect to Article 40 of the Constitution, which says that, “The State shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self government”. This article is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy. 73\textsuperscript{rd} Constitutional Amendment Act gives Constitutional
status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. It has brought them under the justifiable part of the constitution. The state governments are under a constitutional obligation to create the Panchayati Raj System. Neither the establishment of Panchayats nor the holding of elections at regular intervals depends on the will of the state government any more.

In our country the Act is a significant landmark in the evolution of grassroots democratic institutions. It transforms representative democracy into participatory democracy. It is revolutionary concept to build democracy at the grassroots level in the country. The Salient Features of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act explained hereunder.

**Three Tier System**

The Act provides a three tier structure for Panchayati Raj in all states. Village Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and District Panchayats have been created. The Act has brought about uniformity in the structure of Panchayati Raj throughout the country. However, a state having a population not exceeding 20 lakhs may not constitute Panchayats at the intermediate level.

**Gram Sabha**

The Act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of Panchayati Raj System. It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village within the area of a Panchayat. It is a village assembly consisting of all the registered voters in the area of a
Village Panchayat. It shall exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the legislature of a state determines.

**Election Procedure**

The members of Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people. The Chairpersons of Panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected indirectly by and from amongst the elected members. The Chairperson of a Panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines.

**Reservation of Seats**

The Act provides for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat (i.e., at all the three levels) according to their population in proportion to the total population in the Panchayat areas. Further, the state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairpersons in the Panchayat at the village or any other level for the SCs and STs.

The Act provides for the reservation of not less than one third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the SCs and the STs). Further, not less than one third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women.
State Election Commission

The Act provides for an independent state election commission. It consists of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall also be determined by the Governor. He shall not be removed from the office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a judge of the state high court, and his conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Duration of Panchayats

The Act provides for a five year term of office to the Panchayat at every level. However, a Panchayat can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Fresh election to constitute a Panchayat shall be completed before the expiry of its duration of five years, or in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution.

Powers and Functions

The State Legislature may give the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of Self-Government. Such a scheme may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and functions upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice. The implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be
entrusted to them, including those in relation to the 29 matters listed in the eleventh schedule.

**Finances**

The State Legislature may

i) Authorize a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate taxes duties, tolls and fees;

ii) Assign to a Panchayat taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied and collected by State Government;

iii) Provide for making grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State; and

iv) Provide for constitution of funds for crediting all moneys of the Panchayats.

**Finance Commission**

The Governor of a state shall, after every five years, constitute a Finance Commission to review the financial position of the Panchayats. The commission shall make the following recommendations to the Governor: The principles, which should govern: (a) The distribution between the state and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees levied by the State, (b) The determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees, which may be assigned to the Panchayats. (c) The grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State.
1) The measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats.

2) Any other matter referred to the Finance Commission by the Governor in the interests of sound finance of Panchayats.

The state legislature may provide for the composition of the commission, the required qualifications of its members and the manner of their selection. The Governor shall place the recommendations of the Commission along with the action taken report before the State Legislature. The Central Finance Commissioner shall also suggest the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the States (on the basis of the recommendations made by the finance commission of the state).

Audit of Accounts

The State Legislature may make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by Municipalities and the auditing of such accounts.

Continuance of Existing Laws and Panchayats

All the state laws relating to Panchayats shall continue to be inforce until the expiry of one year from the commencement of this Act. In other words, the states have to adopt the New Panchayati Raj System based on this act within the maximum period of one year from 24th April 1993, which is the date of the commencement of this Act.
However, all the Panchayats existing immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue till the expiry of their term, unless dissolved by the state legislature sooner. Consequently, the majority of states passed the Panchayati Raj Acts in 1993 and 1994 to adopt the new system in accordance with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992.

Eleventh Schedule

The Eleventh Schedule, added to the constitution by the Act, contains the following 29 functional items placed within the purview of Panchayats:

1. Agriculture, including agricultural extension.

2. Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation.

3. Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development.

4. Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.

5. Fisheries

6. Social forestry and farm forestry

7. Minor forest produce

8. Small scale industries, including food processing industries.
9. Khadi, village and cottage industries
10. Rural housing
11. Drinking water
12. Fuel and fodder
13. Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of communication.
14. Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.
15. Non-conventional energy sources.
17. Education, including primary and secondary schools.
18. Technical training and vocational education.
19. Adult and non-formal education.
20. Libraries
21. Cultural activities
22. Markets and fairs.
23. Health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries.
24. Family welfare
25. Women and child development.
26. Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded.

27. Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes.

28. Public distribution system.

29. Maintenance of community assets.

The 73rd amendment to the constitution of India not only confers a constitutional status to the Panchayats, it also provides uniformity and formal structure to these institutions of self governance for the sake of their effective functioning.

Tamil Nadu New Panchayati Raj Act 1994

On the basis of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, in Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act was enacted in 1994. This Act has given effect to the frame work laid down in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. The main purpose of this act is to bring about all round development in the rural areas. Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act has been enacted to confirm the legal framework framed by the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India.22

There are certain features of the Act:

Gram Sabha

The Gram Sabha is the nucleus of the New Panchayati Raj System. All the registered voters of the Village Panchayat are members
of the Gram Sabha. The President of the Village Panchayat is the Presiding Officer of the meetings of the Gram Sabha. The quorum for transacting business in the Gram Sabha is one third of the total membership. It has to meet at least four times a year, the government has now made it mandatory for Gram Sabha to be conducted in every Village Panchayat on fixed days like Republic Day, May 1st, Independency Day and Gandhi Jayanthi. The functions of the Gram Sabha, it would meet to approve the village plan, the annual village budget and also to review the progress of the implementation of schemes entrusted to the Village Panchayat (Sec.3 sub section 3(a)). An amendment to this subsection has been made that it is the Gram Sabha’s responsibility to approve the audit report of the Village Panchayat’s previous years’ accounts. Gram Sabha approves the list of beneficiaries selected and the location of community facilities identified by the Village Panchayat, review the works executed by the Village Panchayat in the previous year, scrutinize the list of works to be undertaken in the current year, and mobilize voluntary labour and cash and other contributions for the welfare of the Panchayat. The above said functions, the Gram Sabha under the New Panchayati Raj System in Tamil Nadu is intended to be an important instrument of participatory decision making.

Village Panchayat

Village Panchayat is constituted for a minimum population of five hundred. The membership of the Village Panchayat Council
ranges from a minimum of five to a maximum of fifteen. The President and the Ward Members of the Village Panchayat Council are elected directly by the voters. The Vice-President is elected indirectly from among the elected Ward Members. The Village Panchayat has to look after the following subjects:

(a) Construction, repair and maintenance of Village Panchayat roads;

(b) Lighting of public roads and public places;

(c) Providing drainage facilities;

(d) Cleaning of streets;

(e) Providing public latrines;

(f) Providing burial and burning grounds;

(g) Providing water for washing and bathing purposes and

(h) Such other duties notified by the Government then and there.

In order to enable the Village Panchayat to perform its functions, the following decisions have been taken and notified through government orders:

(a) All Village Panchayats will get financial resources from the Government directly without any intermediary. Panchayati Union or Block Panchayat will not interfere in the process;
(b) Gram Panchayat Presidents have been designated as Executive Heads and they have been entrusted with powers and responsibilities;

(c) Village Panchayat roads can be taken up for works with the resolution of the Panchayats;

(d) Facilities like street light, water supply can be maintained and attended to if there is any disrepair;

(e) Part time clerks can be appointed by the Panchayat president;

(f) House construction plan approval has to be given by the Village Panchayats;

(g) Beneficiaries for the government schemes and programmes have to be selected by the Gram Panchayat in the Gram Sabha;

(h) Library and information centre in the villages has to be established by the Village Panchayat.

**Panchayati Union**

Panchayat Union is formed for every block. Each Panchayat Union has a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson elected indirectly by the members of the Panchayat Union Councils. The Panchayat Union Council members are elected directly by the people, at the rate of one member for every 5000 population. Members of Parliament and of the
Legislative Assembly elected from that area are ex-officio members of the Panchayat Union Council.

The Panchayat Union has the following duties and responsibilities:

(a) Construction, repair and maintenance of Public roads;
(b) Establishment and maintenance of dispensaries;
(c) Construction and maintenance of elementary schools;
(d) Preventive and remedial measures connected with any epidemic;
(e) Conduct of fairs and festivals;
(f) Veterinary relief;
(g) Opening and maintenance of Panchayat Union markets;
(h) Extension of village sites and regulation of buildings;
(i) Maintenance of statistics related to births and deaths;
(j) Improvement of agriculture and agriculture stock;
(k) Promotion and encouragement of cottage industries;
(l) Other duties and responsibilities entrusted to Panchayati Union by the Government through Government notification.
In order to enable the Panchayat Union to perform its duties, the Government of Tamil Nadu has, by notification, identified the following activities:

(a) Construction and maintaining Panchayat Union roads, irrigation tanks, and lakes, initiating family welfare activities, executing noon meal schemes and implementing schemes for Adi Dravidas;

(b) works have to be identified from Employment Assurance schemes and they are to be executed;

(c) Draught relief works have to be identified and executed;

(d) M.P. and M.L.A area development schemes akin to union have to be executed;

(e) Panchayat union buildings have to be maintained by the union itself;

(f) Panchayat union can supervise the activities in the domain of public health, primary education, drinking water supply, roads, small culverts, khadi and village industries works, technical training education, libraries, rural electricity and non conventional energy.

District Panchayat

The District Panchayat is constituted with directly elected members. For a population of 50,000 one member is elected. A
Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected from among the members of the district Panchayats. Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly of that area are the Ex-officio Members of the District Panchayat Council. The District Panchayat Council has to perform the following functions:

(a) Advise the government in all matters concerning Panchayati Raj institutions particularly on services and development programmes;

(b) Watching the progress of the measures undertaken by the government, Village Panchayats and Panchayat Union councils in the districts as under the administrative control of the districts;

(c) Classification of markets, fairs and public roads in Panchayati Raj institutions, and

(d) Collection of data, publication of statistics, demanding any information from Village Panchayats and Panchayati Union Councils.

**Reservations**

In 1994 Act has provided the reservation of seats in Panchayats for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in accordance with the provisions prescribed in the 73rd Amendment Act. While the reservation for women was one third of seats, for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the reservation is in proportion to their population.
Election and Finance Commission

An Election Commission headed by the State Election Commissioner appointed by the Governor to conduct the local body elections is mandatory. The Election Commissioner enjoys powers and privileges and status of a judge of the High Court. The tenure of office of the election commissioner is two years. However, the Commissioner can be given extension for four more years. In Tamil Nadu elections are conducted on party lines for District Panchayats and Panchayat Union. Elections for Village Panchayats are not on party lines.

There will be a Finance Commission Constituted for every five years to review financial positions of the Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor as to fix the principles to govern the distribution between the state and Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the Government. Further to identify the logistics for making grants in aid to the Panchayats from the consolidated fond of the state and the measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats. The Finance Commission shall consist of a chairman and four other members.

District Planning Committee

Government of Tamil Nadu shall constitute in every district a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by the District Panchayat, Panchayat Union Councils, Village Panchayats, Municipal Councils, and Municipal Corporations in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. The
Committee shall consist of the Collector of the District, members of the House of people who represent whole or part of the district, members of the council of states, Members of Legislative Assembly whose constituencies lie within the district, Mayor of the city Municipal Corporation and all Chairpersons of the Municipalities of the District, Chairperson of the District Panchayat, one fifth of the total number of Chairpersons of Town Panchayats and Panchayat Union notified by the government every year by rotation, and such number of persons not less than four fifth of the total number of the committee as specified by the government elected from among the Members of District Panchayat, Town Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Corporations in the District in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas. The District Panchayat President is the Chairperson.

References


6. Ibid.


9. Ibid, p.73.

10. Ibid, pp.74-75.


22. All the details about the structure and functions have been critiqued by G.Palanithurai. For more details see. G.Palanithurai, B.R. Dwaraki and S.Narayanasamy (eds), Major Issues in New Panchayati Raj System, New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers and Distributors, 1997, pp.3-9.