CHAPTER-II

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Himachal Pradesh was created in April 1948 by amalgamating thirty odd princely states of Shimla hill principalities. Politically these states were ruled by autocratic Rajput rulers, and economically, these states were poor. Agriculture which was the main economic stay of the state was highly primitive. Ownership of land was concentrated in a few hands. Relations of production were feudal and tenants and share-croppers had no security of tenure or share of produce. Jajmani system was prevalent in the village communities and there was no cash used in the economy. The state had no industry to back its economy.

However, once Himachal Pradesh became a separate state, the development of the state progressed faster. It took a leap forward in political and economic domains. This is despite the fact that political and constitutional development of the state was not very smooth. In fact, the whole process witnessed various setbacks and somersaults. Starting with the state being given the status of the Chief Commissioner’s province (1948-50), Himachal Pradesh became a Part ‘C’ state in 1950, which had a popular ministry responsible to the Legislative Assembly which was elected on the basis of Adult Franchise took office in 1952. However, in 1956, in partial modification of the recommendations of States Reorganization Commission, its status was downgraded to a Union.

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114 Ibid p 16
115 Under the jajmani system the kameen (person rendering the services) remains obliged to render the services throughout his life to a particular jajman (the person to whom the services are rendered) and the jajman in turn has the responsibility of hiring services of a kameen. The payments are made mainly in terms of goods and commodities. The kameen gets his necessities from the jajman in return of his services.
116 Thakur, Nawal, ‘Personal File’, A letter written to the President of India by the General Secretary, the Himachal Prant Sabha, Kullu, dated 16.08.1952.
117 Under the Constitution that came into force on January 26, 1950, there were three kinds of states — nine Part A states, eight Part B states and ten Part C states. Part A states were former governor’s provinces in British India. Part B states were the former princely states. Part C states included a few princely states as well as former provinces governed by chief commissioners.
Territory with a popularly elected Territorial Council which was to administer only three departments—education up to secondary level, health and public works. Rest of the departments were to be administered by the Lt. Governor who was assisted by the bureaucracy. Luckily, this set up did not last long and in 1963, the Central Government introduced a bill in the Parliament (14th amendment to the Constitution) to provide Himachal Pradesh with a democratic apparatus. Under this, Himachal Pradesh was given a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers. It was also proposed that the Administrator will preside over the meetings of the cabinet instead of the Chief Minister.

The popular government was restored on 1st July, 1963 in Himachal Pradesh under the Chief Minister ship of Dr. Y.S.Parmar which was welcomed by the people of Himachal Pradesh. Although the democratic set up was a boon for the Himachalis, yet the final goal still remained to be achieved. The hill people decided to continue their struggle for 'Vishal Himachal' and a separate independent entity.

Finally, the Parliament passed the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. As a result of this Act, the hilly areas of Punjab i.e. Kullu, Kangra, Shimla, Lahul & Spiti, Nalagarh, Una were merged with the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh.

The state saw unprecedented gaiety on the day of the integration. A mammoth public meeting was held at Shimla. Mrs. Satyavati Dang presided over the same and the meeting adopted a resolution demanding full fledged statehood for Himachal Pradesh. In view of the progress made by the Himachal Pradesh in various fields and the demand of the people, on July 31st, 1970, the then Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, made a declaration in the Parliament that Himachal Pradesh would be given Statehood. Hence, on December 18, 1970, the state of Himachal Pradesh Act (Act No. 53) was passed and the new state was inaugurated by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on January 25, 1971.
With this the protracted period of struggle for the attainment of separate identity and statehood, which began twenty two years back came to an end. It was a big leap forward towards the fulfillment of the aspirations of the people of the region.

**MERGER OF KULLU WITH HIMACHAL PRADESH**

When India got freedom on 15th August, 1947, the Princely states that existed at that time were integrated and merged to various states. But this merger was purely an ad-hoc arrangement, as it did not fulfill the lingual, social, cultural and other aspirations of the people which had been totally ignored by the British rulers. So a need for fresh re-organization was felt by the Government. The states which were multi-lingual were to be re-organized on unilingual basis.

The Indian National Congress at its Jaipur session in December, 1948, appointed a committee consisting of Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayia, popularly known as JVP Committee, to examine the issue of linguistic re-organization of the states. The JVP committee after its meetings dismissed the idea of linguistic re-organization of Indian States. As the committee had left a "Half-open door" there were agitations in many states for linguistic reorganization of provinces, which led to the creation of Andhra Pradesh.

The creation of the state of Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines led to similar demands from other parts of the country demanding the carving other linguistic states. On 22nd December, 1953, the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced that the Government is willing to appoint another Commission to consider the demand of linguistic states in various parts of the country. A Commission under the Chairmanship of Fazal Ali was formed, the other two members were Sardar K. M. Pannikar and Pandit H. N. Kunzru.
With the establishment of the Commission, demand for Punjabi Suba gathered momentum under the Akali leadership. The Praja Socialist Party of Punjab and some others suggested that there should be only one big state of Punjab, which should be divided into zones, one of which should consist of all the present hilly areas having the same language, culture and traditions.118

As the demand for Punjabi Suba gathered momentum, this gave an opportunity to the people of Kullu to demand the merger of their area with Himachal Pradesh. The people of Kullu perhaps had been spearheading a sustained agitation for its merger with Himachal Pradesh since 1948. That was the time when a slogan of 'Maha Punjab' was also raised. The people of Kullu feared that if they remained with Punjab, they would lose their identity. They were of the opinion that nothing had been done by the Punjab government to ameliorate their lot. Hence, they wanted the merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh which had the same culture.

With this idea, the 'Himachal Prant Sabha' was formed at Kullu to educate the people about the exploitation done by the Punjabis in the hills. The Sabha sought a meeting with the President of India in order to highlight the miseries of the people of Kullu. The Sabha wrote a letter to the President which stated : " The people of these tracts are facing a miserable life and are suffering hunger...... the management over here is not taking any interest in improving the lot of the people........"119

All Himalayan People's Association' was also formed in Kullu to attain the goal of merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh. The people of Kullu also took active part in the activities of 'All India Linguistic States Conference' which was founded in 1952. 'All Himalayan People's Association' and 'Himalayan Prant Sabha' took keen interest in mobilizing

119 Thakur, Nawal, op.cit., dated 16.08.1952.
the people of Kullu to demand their merger with Himachal Pradesh. A memorandum bearing signatures of the people of Kullu was launched and sent to Central government and the State’s Reorganisation Committee. The ‘Greater Himachal Pradesh Committee’ was at the fore front of this. The representatives from Kullu drew a very dismal picture of the condition of the people in the Kullu valley and accused the Punjab government of callousness towards the area.¹²⁰

To intensify their struggle, the Regional Committee of All India Linguistic States Conference met the Akali leaders on 6th June, 1955. The deputation urged the Akali leaders to intensify their struggle for Punjabi Suba so that the hills of Punjab could be merged with Himachal Pradesh.¹²¹

As the demands for Punjabi Suba and merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh were intensifying, the ‘Jana Sangh’ and ‘Maha Punjab Samiti’, opposed the demand of a ‘Greater Himachal’, fearing that the Hindus would be reduced to a minority in Punjab. During this period of struggle for a merger of Kullu with Himacal Pradesh, Dr. Y. S. Parmar, the then Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh played a very crucial role. Dr. Parmar met the Central leaders and pleaded before the S.R.C. to convince them of the necessity of merging Kullu along with other areas with Himachal Pradesh.

In 1955, in its report, the S.R.C recommended the merger of Himachal Pradesh with Punjab. This report came as a setback to the people and leadership of Himachal Pradesh. But Dr. Parmar met Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the Prime Minister and convinced him of keeping Himachal Pradesh as a separate identity. And on November 1. 1956, Himachal Pradesh became a Union Territory.

But the people and the leadership were not happy with this new set up and decided to continue their efforts to achieve ‘Vishal Himachal’ on the

¹²⁰ The Tribune, dated 24.2.1954
¹²¹ Ibid., dated 7th June, 1955
Map showing administrative changes from 1948 to 1971

**HIMACHAL PRADESH**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES**

(1948-1971)

POSITION OF HIMACHAL AT THE TIME OF EVOLUTION

(25870 Sq. KM - Districts - 4)

AREA ADDED IN 1952
(Total - 38712 Sq. KM - Districts - 7+1 (1961))

AREA ADDED IN 1966
(Total - 65613 Sq. KM - Districts - 10)

WHERE THE DISTRICT OR TOWN DIFFERS FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS:
TOWN NAME, THE NUMBER HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN BRACKET
E POCKET FOR KASOL
S POCKET FOR SHALJAN

50
one hand and democratic set up on the other hand. Dr. Y.S. Parmar aptly remarked at that time: 'All the hill people have to sink or swim together and reactionary forces, however powerful they might appear will not be able to resist their union.'  

The hill people got an opportunity to realize their aspiration of ‘Vishal Himachal’ when in 1965, the Union Government decided to reconsider the demand for the Punjabi Suba on linguistic basis. The Union Government constituted a Cabinet Committee and a Parliamentary Committee to go into the whole matter so that an amicable solution could be arrived at and the people of Punjab hills who had been longing for many years to join Himachal Pradesh could realize their hopes.

In 1965, the Kullu Students Association at Punjab University, Chandigarh invited Lal Chand Prarthi, MLA Punjab Legislative Assembly, representing Kullu constituency, in a function organized by them. They urged him to support the merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh in the committee.  

The Parliament finally passed the Punjab Reorganization Act of 1966. As a result of this Act, the hill areas of Punjab including Kullu were merged with Himachal Pradesh and a hard fought battle was won.

**POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS**

When Himachal Pradesh came into being there were no political parties, not even pressure or interest groups except the various Praja Mandals with some degree of amorphous character, which was formed in 1939.

In January, 1946, all these Praja Mandals were united with the support of the Indian National Congress into 'Himalayan Hill States Regional Council'. In 1948, the Himalayan Hill States Regional Council

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became the 'Provincial Congress Committee' and the various Praja Mandals became the 'District Congress Committees'. In due course, other political parties like the Kisan Mazdoor Party and the Scheduled Caste Federation of India also struck roots in the Pradesh. During the 1950s Jana Sangh and Communist Party of India also came on the scene. Later, Lokraj Party and Vishal Himachal Party were also set up. The Swatantra Party also gained a foothold in the state. However, it was only Jana Sangh that could sustain its hold in the state. The other political parties gradually weekend. 124

For the two all-India parties, the Indian National Congress and the Jana Sangh the other parties were mere non-entities and had very little, if any, influence in the State's body politics. The Indian National Congress was the biggest political party with the membership of more than 80,000. The other major party, the Jana Sangh had a membership of not more than 9000. The membership of the other political parties was limited to a few hundred each, whose ineffectiveness can be attributed to their meager membership and weak ground organization.

Elections

An era of popular participation began in Himachal Pradesh with the grant of Universal Adult Franchise under the Constitution of India. The grant of adult franchise to people who had for centuries been ruled by the feudal lords, the Rajas and Ranas, constituted not only a significant step forward in the march of democracy in the Himachal Pradesh, but also resulted in the political activation of the masses. The prospects of the First General Elections (1951-1952) encouraged the neo-political leaders to use the democratic institutions as an outlet for their aspirations for power and status. As many as 173 candidates jumped into the political arena for the 36 seats of the Legislative Assembly. The voters though unorganized, illiterate and politically not very conscious, showed more enthusiasm than expected.

124 Ibid., p 233.
In the first three general elections of 1952, 1957, 1962, the Indian National Congress Party clearly won the mandate leaving other parties far behind in terms of votes polled and seats won.  

However, this position gradually changed after 1966 due to the change in the demographic profile of the state, on account of the merger of new areas. The new areas which were added in 1966 were quite different from the old areas not only politically but also economically. They had been part of Punjab province since its annexation in the British Empire during the mid-19th Century. Consequently, they had limited but continuous experience of emerging democratic institutions during the British rule and more so after 1947. The level of political consciousness of the people of the ‘new areas’ was much higher than the people of the ‘old areas’. Several leaders of the ‘new areas’ had played a very important role in the freedom movement under the auspices of the Indian National Congress. Although the two areas could be said to be culturally similar, their political culture was quite dissimilar. Also, there developed some tension between the political leadership of the two areas over the representation in the Assembly.

It also created gradual emergence of a two-party system in the Himachal Pradesh. The contest for power in the state has been only between the Indian National Congress and the Bhartiya Janata Party, which split from the main stream of Jana Sangh in 1979, with the former drawing its support base from old areas and the latter from the new areas which were merged in 1966.

The emergence of the two-party system reduced the contest for power to the Indian National Congress and the Bhartiya Janata Party. Although both of them were all-India parties, they had developed a localized

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125 Ibid, p 235.
character. There was no regional party and the third parties had only a very nominal existence.

The politics in Kullu district was not untouched from what was happening in the politics at the centre as well as at the state level. As a result of the reorganization of the composite Punjab in 1966, Kullu district was transferred to Himachal Pradesh. Consequently the elected members from district Kullu to the Punjab Legislative Assembly in the third general elections in 1962 were transferred to and became members of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

**First General Elections, 1952**

Till the general elections of 1967, Kullu district was a part of Kangra constituency, which was part of Punjab Legislative Assembly. After Independence of India in 1947, the first general elections, in the country, were held in Punjab in 1952. The elections represented a bold experiment in democracy, because for the first time the franchise was given to every adult who had completed the age of twenty one as prescribed in the Constitution of India.

**Lok Sabha**

There was one constituency from Kangra district for the Lok Sabha namely; Kangra Parliamentary Constituency. The winning candidate secured 1,02,669 votes out of 1,59,053 total valid votes polled. The winning candidate was Hemraj who belonged to the Congress Party. 126

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126 Janart in T.C., 2000, Himachal Pradesh District Gazetteer: Kullu, Shimla: Controller, Printing and Stationary Department, p 293.
Vidhan Sabha

For the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, from Kullu district there were only two constituencies namely Kullu and Seraj having one seat each. The details of election results are given below.

**TABLE 2.1: The result for the Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections, 1952.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Constituency</th>
<th>Total Number of votes</th>
<th>Total Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Percentage of Col. 3 to 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>40.134</td>
<td>13,477</td>
<td>33.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seraj</td>
<td>39.803</td>
<td>13,101</td>
<td>32.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by, Chief Electoral Officer, 1952.

It may be of some interest to note that both the constituencies returned independent candidates. The number of votes polled by each of the contesting parties was as follows.

**TABLE 2.2: Election results of Lok Sabha elections, 1952**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>8,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>2,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>15,845</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1952.

**Second General Elections, 1957** – The second general elections were held in 1957, for the parliamentary election and also for the assembly elections.
Lok Sabha

During the Lok Sabha elections of 1957, the Kangra seat was won by the Indian National Congress and the candidate who won the elections was again Hemraj. In these elections the Indian National Congress secured 24.9 per cent of valid votes polled.

Vidhan Sabha

For the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Kullu formed a double member constituency in 1957. As many as fifteen candidates contested of whom ten were Independents, while the remaining two were sponsored by the Congress Party, two by Jana Sangh Party and one by the Communist Party of India. Both the candidates belonging to the Congress Party were returned elected. The following table gives the breakup of the total number of votes, valid votes and name of contesting parties.

**TABLE 2.3: Election Results of Vidhan Sabha -1957**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of Seats</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>86,298</td>
<td>64,118</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>23,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>3,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>34,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>2,889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1957.
Third General Elections, 1962

The task of holding simultaneous general elections in 1962 to the Lok Sabha and Punjab Vidhan Sabha was completed throughout the state of Punjab except in Kullu and Seraj on account of the area being snow bound and inaccessible during winter. The poll was deferred and was held later towards the end of April. A major improvement was the shortening of the poll schedule. While it took about 19 days to complete the polls during the second general elections, the poll in 1962 was held and completed in a single day. The old ballot system was abandoned and new marking system of voting was adopted. Under this system, the voter was given two ballot papers one pink for the Assembly and another white for the Parliamentary elections, which bore the names of the contesting candidates and the facsimile of the symbol allotted to each of them. The voter was required to go a small voting compartment, put a mark on each of the ballot papers with an inked rubber stamp, which was supplied at the polling station on or near the symbol of the candidate of his or her choice, fold the ballot paper and drop it in single box kept in front of a polling officer. Unlike the second general elections, the ballot papers varied in size as well as in contest from constituency to constituency according to the number of the contesting candidates. As a result of this change, the expenditure incurred by the government on conducting the elections was reduced and was approximately thirteen paisa per voter, as compared to the expenditure of twenty seven paisa per voter during the second general elections.\(^{127}\)

Lok Sabha

In the third general elections of 1962 also there was only one parliamentary constituency of Kangra. The winning candidate polled 75,342 valid votes out of the 1, 83,727 valid votes and belonged to Congress (I) party. This time also the winning candidate was Hemraj.

\(^{127}\) Ibid, p 298.
Consequently upon the Reorganisation of Punjab with effect from November 1, 1966, the hilly areas of Kangra, Kullu, Lahul-Spiti and Shimla districts were transferred to Himachal Pradesh and the number of constituencies in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly was raised from forty three to fifty six. Thirteen sitting members of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha became the members of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha. They were deemed to have been elected to fill the seat in the Legislative Assembly of the Himachal Pradesh by virtue of the Punjab Reorganization Act, of 1966.

**Vidhan Sabha**

In 1962, Kullu sub-division returned two members to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, one from Kullu and one from Seraj constituency. Seraj was reserved for scheduled caste candidates. Three candidates contested the Seraj seat and from Kullu constituency five candidates were in the field. There were in all eight persons out of whom two were from Indian National Congress Party and the rest six were independents. One independent candidate, after winning the seat, joined Indian National Congress Party.

128The following table gives the constituency wise details of the votes, number of contesting candidates, votes polled and total number of votes.

**TABLE 2.4: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1962**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of seats</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>52,270</td>
<td>20,773</td>
<td>Independents Congress (I)</td>
<td>13,911 6,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seraj</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49,053</td>
<td>10,641</td>
<td>Independents Congress (I)</td>
<td>6,712 3,929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1962.

128 Ibid, p 299.
Fourth General Elections, 1967

Lok Sabha

Kullu was merged with Himachal Pradesh in 1966 and it was not represented as an independent constituency for Lok Sabha. Therefore it was tagged with Chamba parliamentary constituency. The winning Indian National Congress Party polled 39,363 votes out of total number of 1, 15,693 valid votes polled. The winning candidate from Chamba Parliamentary Constituency was Vikram Chand Mahajan.

Vidhan Sabha

As per recommendation of the Delimitation Commission, Kullu district was divided into three constituencies namely: Kullu, Inner Seraj and Outer Seraj. Out of these, Outer Seraj constituency was reserved for the members of the scheduled castes. Two candidates contested for the reserved seat. For the remaining two constituencies, as many as fourteen candidates were in the field. The Congress (I) party captured all the seats. The following chart will reveal the outcome of the elections.

**TABLE 2.5: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of seats</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10,455</td>
<td>24,657</td>
<td>Congress (I)</td>
<td>4756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>1244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>4455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Seraj</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>27,031</td>
<td>Congress (I)</td>
<td>4327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>8890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outer Seraj</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,628</td>
<td>26,397</td>
<td>Congress (I)</td>
<td>6,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source:* Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1967.
Fifth General Elections (Mid-term Poll, 1971)

Lok Sabha

Himachal Pradesh was given statehood in January 1971, therefore the term of the 1967 general elections, which was to end in 1972, the Parliament was dissolved and fresh elections were conducted a year earlier in 1971. In these elections Kullu district was tagged with the Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. The winning candidate was Virbhadra Singh who belonged to the Indian National Congress. The party polled 1, 14,957 votes out of the 1, 59,764 valid votes polled.

Fifth General Elections, 1972

Vidhan Sabha

As in 1967, there were three constituencies namely; Kullu, Inner Seraj and Outer Seraj in the district. Outer Seraj constituency was reserved for the candidates belonging to scheduled castes. Indian National Congress, Jan Sangh, Lok Raj Party and Communist Party of India along with the Independents put up their candidates for contesting the elections. All the three seats were captured by the Indian National Congress. The sub-joined table mirrors the picture of election results.

**TABLE 2.6: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1972**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>34,090</td>
<td>17,847</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>9,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Sangh</td>
<td>4,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lok Raj</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>2,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner Seraj</td>
<td>33,104</td>
<td>17,310</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>8,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lok Raj</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>9,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outer Seraj</td>
<td>32,755</td>
<td>12,018</td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lok Raj</td>
<td>1,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community party of India</td>
<td>3,213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1972*
An analysis of the above data shows that the Indian National Congress was able to win consecutively in the general elections of the years 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, and 1972 and rest of the parties except Jana Sangh, were losing their identity. Now the question is that why Congress had strong hold in the district? There are many reasons behind the success of the Congress. First of all, the Congress party played a very important role in bringing the independence to the country. Secondly, the launching of the five year plans enabled the party in power to spread its network of patronage to the remotest corners of the Pradesh. The heightened expectations of the people brought about in the wake of the establishment of the popular government and the awareness of better life cultivated in the wake of the implementation of the five year plans.129

At the time of 1971 Lok Sabha elections, there was a strong pro-Congress wave in Himachal Pradesh because in January 1971, Himachal Pradesh was accorded statehood. The popularity graph of the Indian National Congress further rose because of India’s role in the liberation of Bangladesh in late 1971.

The reason for Congress Party’s popularity in Kullu was because Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee had demanded the merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh. The then Chief Minister of the state Y. S. Parmar who belonged to the Congress party realized the determination and aspirations of the hill people and decided to protect their identity. Y. S. Parmar worked a lot in this direction. He called for the ‘Vishal Himachal’ and urged the leadership of the hills to unite for the accomplishment of the ‘Vishal Himachal’.

In 1965, Y. S. Parmar submitted a memorandum to The Hukam Chand Committee. He emphasized that the social and cultural lives of the people in the hilly areas, their folk songs, their folk dances, fairs, festivals, were different from people of Punjab and distinguish them from the people of the plains and more akin to Himachal Pradesh.

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129 Sharma, Ranbir, 1977, op.cit., p 236.
The parliament passed the Punjab Reorganisation Act of 1966. As a result of this act, the hill areas of Punjab were merged with the Himachal Pradesh. As the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Y. S. Parmar put a lot of effort in convincing the government for the merger of Kullu with Himachal Pradesh, people started having faith in the Party and its leadership. Y. S. Parmar also gained the popularity with the people of Kullu and he came to be recognized as a very prominent leader in shaping the present Himachal Pradesh.

Congress Party also worked towards the progress of the district. To make the economy of the district strong, the party supported and encouraged the horticulturists in the district. It gave various subsidies to the horticulturists and land ceiling reforms were introduced by the party. 50 per cent subsidy was given on fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides and on horticultural tools to the horticulturists. Five bigha of land was given free of cost to the landless people for planting various fruits.

All these reasons helped the Congress Party to make strong hold among the masses, which in turn helped them in winning the elections.

**Sixth General Elections, 1977**

Lok Sabha

For the purpose of the Lok Sabha elections, the district was included in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. The Janata Party captured the seat and the winning candidate was Durga Chand.

**Vidhan Sabha**

Elections were held in May, 1977. The district was divided in to three constituencies namely; Kullu, Banjar and Ani. Ani was reserved for scheduled castes. Of the three seats, two seats were captured by Janata Party and one by Congress Party. Detailed results of the elections are given below.
TABLE 2.7: ELECTION RESULTS OF VIDHAN SABHA -1977

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>39.037</td>
<td>22.651</td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>9,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress Party</td>
<td>6,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>6,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>36,344</td>
<td>19,873</td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>10,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress Party</td>
<td>6,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>36,524</td>
<td>14,327</td>
<td>Congress Party</td>
<td>5,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jana Sangh</td>
<td>4,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>4,268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1977.

Seventh Lok Sabha Elections (Mid-term, 1980)

Consequent upon the dissolution of the sixth Lok Sabha, polls took place in the month of January, 1980. The district as in the last elections was included in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. The Congress Party captured the seat and the winning candidate was Virbhadra Singh.

Seventh Vidhan Sabha Elections, 1982

In 1979 Jana Sangh split under the weight of internal dissentions, and Bhartiya Janata Party was able to walk away with most of the organisational network in the state. There were three assembly constituencies in the district viz; Kullu, Banjar and Ani. Ani constituency was reserved for the candidates belonging to scheduled castes. All the three
seats were captured by the Bhartiya Janta Party. One of the strategies used by Bhartiya Janata Party for its popularity in Kullu and other newly merged areas was that it projected itself as the dispenser of justice to the new areas, which, it argued, suffered discrimination at the hands of Congress Party. This strategy helped Bhartiya Janata Party in these elections. Details of the results are given below.

**TABLE 2.8: Election results of Vidhan Sabha - 1982**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Number of valid votes polled</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>45,451</td>
<td>32,677</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>14,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress (1)</td>
<td>13,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>4,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>43,321</td>
<td>31,786</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata Party</td>
<td>19,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress Party</td>
<td>11,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Janata Party</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>42,964</td>
<td>26,841</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata Party</td>
<td>14,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Congress (1)</td>
<td>11,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist party of India</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1982.

**Eighth Lok Sabha Elections, 1984**

During the eighth Lok Sabha elections also, Kullu district formed a part of the Mandi Parliamentary constituency. This time Bhartiya Janata Party was the winner and the winning candidate was Raja Maheshwar Singh.
Vidhan Sabha (Mid-term) Elections, 1985

Although the term of the seventh Vidhan Sabha was to expire in 1987, the Vidhan Sabha was dissolved due to the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1984 and fresh elections were held in March, 1985. As in the past, Kullu district had three constituencies, namely; Kullu, Banjar and Ani. All the three seats were captured by the Indian National Congress party. The details given below mirrors the picture of the elections result.

TABLE 2.9: Election results of Vidhan Sabha - 1985

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kulu</td>
<td>47,448</td>
<td>Congress (I) Party</td>
<td>20,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata Party</td>
<td>12,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>45,437</td>
<td>Congress (I) Party</td>
<td>17,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata Party</td>
<td>16,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>44,614</td>
<td>Congress (I) Party</td>
<td>16,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata Party</td>
<td>12,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1985.

Ninth General Elections, 1990

Lok Sabha

Elections were held in the month of November, 1989 the district formed a part of Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. This year also Bhartiya Janata Party won and the winning candidate was again Raja Maheshwar Singh.
Vidhan Sabha

The elections were held in the month of March, 1990. There was no change in the limits of assembly constituencies. As earlier the district had three constituencies, namely; Kulu, Banjar and Ani. Ani was reserved for scheduled castes. All the three seats were captured by the Bhartiya Janata Party. The details of the result are given below.

**TABLE 2.10: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1990**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kulu</td>
<td>64,408</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>20,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian National congress</td>
<td>20,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doordarshi Party</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India (M)</td>
<td>631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>3,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>59,382</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janta party</td>
<td>22,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>16,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doordarshi Party</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Congress (S) Party</td>
<td>3,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>55,575</td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>22,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>9,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>1,262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1990.

**Tenth General Elections (Mid-term), 1991**

**Lok Sabha**

The ninth Lok Sabha was dissolved just sixteen months after the formation of the Government at the centre due to the Mandal Commission. Therefore mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha were held in May, 1991.
The district of Kullu formed part of Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. The winning party was Indian National Congress, and the candidate who won was Sukhram.

**Vidhan Sabha Elections, 1993**

On 15\textsuperscript{th} December, 1992 President’s Rule was enforced in all Bhartiya Janata Party ruled states due to demolition of Babri Masjid and the Vidhan Sabha was dissolved. The elections to the assembly were held in November, 1993. No change was made in the number of constituencies. As in the past Ani was reserved for the scheduled castes. All the three seats were won by the Indian National Congress Party. Other details pertaining to the elections results are given below.

**TABLE 2.11: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1993**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kulu</td>
<td>70,806</td>
<td>Indian National congress (I)</td>
<td>29,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>20,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>64,922</td>
<td>Indian National Congress (I)</td>
<td>24,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janta party</td>
<td>22,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Janata Dal</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>61,417</td>
<td>Indian National Congress (I)</td>
<td>20,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>18,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1993.
Eleventh General Elections, 1996

Lok Sabha

The eleventh Lok Sabha elections were held in 1996. As earlier Kullu district formed the part of Mandi Constituency. The Congress Party again swept the poll and Sukhram won the elections.

Vidhan Sabha Elections, 1998

The elections to the assembly were held in 1998. This time also no change was made in the number of constituencies. Ani was reserved for the scheduled castes. Two seats were won by the Bhartiya Janta Party and one seat was won by Indian National Congress party. Other details pertaining to the elections results are given below.

TABLE 2.12: Election results of Vidhan Sabha -1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Assembly Constituency</th>
<th>Number of electors</th>
<th>Name of contesting parties</th>
<th>Number of votes polled by each party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kulu</td>
<td>85,410</td>
<td>Indian National congress (I)</td>
<td>20,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>29,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>5,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>6,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>8,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banjar</td>
<td>70,417</td>
<td>Indian National Congress (I)</td>
<td>19,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>25,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>4,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>3,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>2,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ani</td>
<td>64,789</td>
<td>Indian National Congress (I)</td>
<td>21,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhartiya Janata party</td>
<td>17,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Communist Party of India</td>
<td>3,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>5,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>2,991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Reports on Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha Elections. Published by Chief Electoral Officer, 1998.
Twelfth General Elections, 1998

Lok Sabha

In eleventh Lok Sabha elections, no clear cut majority was won by any political party at the centre. There was a Hung Parliament and there were two years of political instability in which three Prime Ministers namely Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I.K. Gujral and Deve Gowda, one by one tried to prove their majority in the Parliament. But all failed and fresh elections were held in 1998.

In the twelfth Lok Sabha elections that were held in 1998, Raja Maheshwar Singh who belonged to the Bhartiya Janata Party, won the elections from Mandi Constituency.

Thirteenth General elections, 1999

Lok Sabha

Atal Bihari Vajpayee formed a coalition Government in the centre in 1998. This Government remained in power for thirteen months. But in April 1999, thirteen months old Bhartiya Janata Party government was ousted by only one vote and lost confidence in Parliament. Therefore, in 1999, thirteenth Lok Sabha elections were held in India.

In the thirteenth Lok Sabha elections, which were held in Mandi Constituency, Raja Maheshwar Singh who belonged to Bhartiya Janata Party won the elections.

If we examine the above data, it is revealed that the political scene in the district has been dominated by a single party, the Congress, till the general elections of 1972. Later on the Janata Party won the general elections of 1977, and Bhartiya Janata Party won the elections of 1989, 1991 and then in 1998 and 1999. When we examine the reasons why
Janata Party suddenly became a very strong contender against the Congress Party, we come to know that during two and a half years of Janata rule after 1977, some public welfare schemes such as provision for potable drinking water were given top priority. There were villages where drinking water had to be brought from more than two kilometers and lot of time and energy of the women folk was spent in this. Therefore, people heaved a sigh of relief when drinking water began to flow in the water taps. Secondly, an Agricultural University was also set up during Janata Party rule in Palampur which raised the people’s expectation regarding increase in their agricultural production.

In 1979, Bhartiya Janata Party got separated from the Janata Party. The Bhartiya Janata Party’s strength was due to intense factionalism in the Congress and absence of similar factionalism in the Bhartiya Janata Party. In this regard it may be recalled that right since the mid-sixties, Congress has been a divided house not only at the state level but even at the district and the grassroots level. Specially after the merger of hilly areas of the Punjab, Kullu, Kangra, Simla, Nalagarh, and Lahul-Spiti in 1966, there was a change in the complexion of the state politics. A regular tug of war began for political power and patronage. The members of the newly merged areas stressed that they must be given due representation in both the assembly and the Congress organization. The differences started cropping up between the old wing of the Congress and the new entrants from the erstwhile Punjab hill areas. Also the choice of the party leader was the immediate cause of the friction. Bhartiya Janata Party on the other hand was more disciplined and better united at that time.

130 Sharma, Ranbir, op.cit., p 41.
131 Gupta, K.D., 1976, ‘Himachal Pradesh-Politics of Split level Modernisation’, an article in ‘State Politics in India’, (e;i), Iqbal Narain, Meerut: Meenakshi Mudranalaya, p 120.
One may ask why Congress Party has been faction-ridden and Bhartiya Janata Party free from it. One reason perhaps is that while the Congress had been generally in power, the Bhartiya Janata Party had often been out of power. Therefore, the fight for loaves and fishes has always been there in the Congress and not in Bhartiya Janata Party.

All these above reasons helped Bhartiya Janata Party in maintaining its hold in the district as well as in the state for so many years.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF KULLU DISTRICT**

The administrative structure of Kullu during the British period was in keeping with the rest of the colonial administration. Kullu was a subdivision of district Kangra, which was under the general control of the Assistant Commissioner. There were three tehsils in the sub-division. The tehsil of Kullu was in the charge of a Tehsildar under him was the Naib Tehsildar. Lahul and Spiti area was attached to Kullu tehsil and a Tehsildar had all the revenue and executive powers. Seraj tehsil was in the charge of a Naib-Tehsildar, and was a sub-tehsil of Kullu. The revenue work of this tehsil was not under the Tehsildar of Kullu. The work of Banjar tehsil was under a Kanungo, who also managed the sub-treasury during those times. There were four kanungos who checked revenue records.

There were two police thanas at Kullu and Banjar, under the Superintendent of Police, Kangra. The Assistant Commissioner exercised a certain amount of informal control over the police.132

Before independence there was a semblance of Local-Self Government. The devaluation of power at local village level was to maintain irrigation channels, paths, temples and bridges collectively under a settled

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system. Municipal Committee Sultanpur (Kullu) was established vide Punjab Government Notification No. 3755- LG- 42/49178 on 12th September, 1942. Before Municipal Committee, there was a semi voluntary organization known as ‘Arhat Committee’ which looked after sanitation, watch and ward and lighting arrangements of the area, including its outlying areas and also of the market of Bhuntar. This Arhat Committee had an official patronage of Tehsildar as its ex-officio President. When did this committee come into existence, is not known. However, it raised funds for discharging its duties indegeniously. Brokerage fee, weightment charges etc. were levied on the articles brought into Kullu, “The right to collect”, these charges were farmed out at a fixed sum annually. The funds so realized were sufficient to defray the expenses incurred. The committee came to an end with the formation of Notified Area Committee.

There were four officials and three non official members of the Notified Area Committee with Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) as its official President. The official representation was reduced to three with the resultant rise in the strength of non-official members to four in 1946. The town was declared a small town under the Small Town Act in the year 1953 and a Small Town Committee worked up to 1st April 1955, when it was upgraded as a Municipal Committee Class III under the Punjab Municipal Act of 1954. In addition to the grant-in-aid, the committee raised income from profession tax, house tax, toll tax, loaded animals, octroi tax and license fee.

The Statement below indicates the income and expenditure of the committee from 1960 to 2001.

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133 Janarth, T.C., 2000, Himachal Pradesh District Gazetteer: Kullu, Shimla: Controller, Printing and Stationary Department, p 326.
134 Ibid, p 327.
TABLE: 2.13: Income and Expenditure of the Committee from 1960 to 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Income (in Rupees)</th>
<th>Expenditure (in Rupees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>67,294</td>
<td>65,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>81,142</td>
<td>1,27,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>3,83,784</td>
<td>3,26,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>41,16,261</td>
<td>34,15,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1,19,31,901</td>
<td>83,04,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,35,10,302</td>
<td>1,15,40,511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The income of Municipal Committee in 1960 was 67,294 and expenditure was 65,820. In 1965, the income of the committee was Rs. 81,142 and expenditure was Rs. 127307 and from 1975 onwards income of Municipal Committee started increasing and expenditure decreasing. In 1985, income of committee was Rs. 41,16,261 and expenditure was 34,15,310/- . In 2001 the income rose to Rs. 1,35,10,302/- and the expenditure rose to Rs 1,15,40,511/-. The committee had its own fire brigades. In addition, the committee looked after sanitation, municipal parks and street lighting.136

The Municipal Committee Class III had eight elected members. The strength was raised to nine afterwards with one seat reserved for scheduled caste. The president of the committee was elected by the elected members themselves, who functioned as the chief executive of the committee. The Assistant Surgeon, Kullu acted as a part time Medical Officer of the Committee. Sanitary Supervisor was responsible for the sanitation of the town.

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Two municipal parks one at Akhara Bazaar and the other at Dhalpur Maidan were maintained by Municipal Committee. It also ran a public library and a Female Social Education Centre in Kullu. ¹³⁷

The Municipal Committee had the following bye laws,

1. Bye-laws for the registration of dogs.
2. Bye-laws for the registration of sweepers.
5. Bye-laws regarding control over tank, ponds and wells.
8. Building Bye-laws
12. Water Supply bye-laws.¹³⁸

The name of Municipal Committee Sultanpur (Kullu) was changed to Municipal Committee Kullu during 1970-71. The strength of wards was raised to 13 in the year 1986. With the enactment of Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994, it became a full fledged Municipal Committee. Presently, the committee has eleven wards, and elected members. Out of the general wards, three are reserved for women; two wards are reserved for scheduled castes, which have one male and one female member. Thus in all there are four women members. The members of the committee elect their own President and Vice President. The Committee has its own Executive Officer: and Municipal Engineer.¹³⁹

¹³⁷ Ibid, p 127.
¹³⁸ Ibid, p 128.
¹³⁹ Ibid, p 329.
Nagar Panchyat, Manali

Manali and several villages around it were constituted as Notified Area Committee vide Punjab State Government Notification No. 1987-CI (3CI) -61/28318 dated 11th July 1961.

The names of the villages which became part of the Notified Area Committee were:-

1. Vashisht
2. Chajoga
3. Aleo
4. Manali
5. Dana Bazar
6. Dhungri
7. Sial
8. Nasogi
9. Balsari
10. Chial
11. Bholu Kot

However, all the villages except Dhungri were excluded from the limits of the Notified Area Committee in 1969, vide State Government Notification No. 7-37/67-LGS dated 6th June, 1969. The area of the Notified Area Committee as a result was reduced from about six square kilometers to three square kilometers.140

The Notified Area Committee consisted of eight nominated members out of which four were official and four were non-official. In 1976, the strength was raised to five. Deputy Commissioner, Kullu; Ex-Officio President; Executive Engineer, Public Works Department; Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Kullu; Director Mountaineering Institute and Allied

140 Ibid, p 330.
Sports Manali; and Medical Officer Manali were the nominated official members. Among Non-official members, one belonged to scheduled caste and one was a local woman. The term of the members was for three years.

The principal source of income of the committee was grant-in-aid from the state Government, house tax which was 10 percent on the annual rental value, toll tax and motor vehicles tax.

The annual income and expenditure of committee from 1970 to 2001 is given below.

**TABLE 2.14: Annual Income and Expenditure of the Nagar Panchayat, Manali from 1970 to 2001.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income (in Rupees)</th>
<th>Expenditure (in Rupees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1,82,118</td>
<td>1,41,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>13,19,310</td>
<td>11,50,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>35,13,621</td>
<td>32,18,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1,55,21,110</td>
<td>1,18,63,651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 2.14 shows the income and expenditure of Manali Municipal Committee. In 1970, the income was 1,82,118 lakh and expenditure was 1,41,715 lakh. From 1990 the income and expenditure started increasing quickly because in 1989 terrorism started in Jammu and Kashmir and in summers, tourists shifted to Manali. The committee started charging tax on every taxi or private vehicles that were coming to Manali from other states. The hotel industry also boosted up with the coming of tourists in Manali. The Committee also charged luxury tax, sales tax and value added tax from...
these hotels which increased the income of the committee.\textsuperscript{143} In 2001 the income of Municipal Committee was Rs. 1,55,21,110/- and their expenditure was Rs. 1,18,63,651.

**Nagar Panchyat, Bhuntar**

Bhuntar became a Notified Area Committee vide Notification No 7-4/71-LSG dated 1st August, 1974. The Committee consisted of five official and three non-official nominated members with Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kullu as its Ex-officio President. Its area was approximately two square kilometers. It became Nagar Panchayat after the passing of the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act of 1994. At present it has seven elected members. The house tax, sanitation tax, adda fee, rent from its shops and grant-in-aid are the main sources of income. Irrigation and Public Health Department provides drinking water to the town.\textsuperscript{144}

**TABLE: 2.15: Income and Expenditure of Nagar Panchayat, Bhuntar from 1994 to 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income (in Rupees)</th>
<th>Expenditure (in Rupees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>976,391</td>
<td>10,33,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>12,42,600</td>
<td>12,19,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>16,36,320</td>
<td>16,29,251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The income of Municipal Committee in 1994 was 9,76,391/- and expenditure was 10,33,565/-. In 2001, the income was 16,36,320/- and


\textsuperscript{144} Census of India, 1991, Himachal Pradesh, *Socio-Cultural Tables, Shimla*: Director Census Operations, p 14
expenditure was 16,29,251/-. Pacca Roads about 4 kilometres in length and 14 paved streets about 600 meters are looked after by the committee. It has open surface drains for sewerage. The drinking water is supplied through tap and bouri. Two public and 198 private water borne flush latrines have been provided for the public use. The assistance of fire fighting service is being taken from Kullu at a distance of 11 kms. In the case of electricity, this Notified Area Committee has 1,224 domestic, 43 industrial, 545 commercial and 62 road lighting electric connections.

**Nagar Panchayat, Banjar**

Notified Area Committee, Banjar was constituted vide No LSGA (4) (5)/87 dated to the February, 1989. The committee has nominated members with sub-divisional magistrate civil as its ex-officio President. Presently, it has seven elected members. The Nagar Panchayat’s jurisdiction is spread over 1.55 square Kilometers.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment to the constitution has given more rights, power and activities to Urban Local Bodies. According to census 2001, there are 57 towns in the state. To provide civic amenities to general people, these areas are placed under different local bodies. There are 49 Urban Local Bodies (Nagar Parishad/ Nagar Panchayats) including Shimla Municipal Cooperation besides seven Cantonment Boards functioning in the state. Due to limited resources of Urban Local Bodies, a sum of Rs. 1849.01 Lakhs was provided in 2001-02.

Under the *Environment Improvement of Urban Slums and National Slum Development Scheme*, Rs. 258.03 lakhs were provided to all the Urban

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145 Ibid., p 16
Local Bodies. The funds under the scheme provided basic amenities and night shelters to avoid further environmental degradation of the town.\textsuperscript{148}

Two centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented in the Urban local bodies viz. Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town (IDSMT). Under Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana scheme, there is a campaign to identify urban poor families and then help them in starting self employment ventures. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 12.12 lakhs as state share and 32.58 lakhs as central share were provided during 2001-02 to benefit the Identified Urban Poor Families.\textsuperscript{149} Under Integrated Development of Small and Medium town (IDSMT), 21 towns had been covered and Kullu is one them. Under this scheme a sum of Rs. 130.42 lakhs as state share and Rs. 28.00 lakhs as central share were released during year 2001-02 for the implementation of scheme. Under this scheme, construction of community latrines under low cost sanitation was also implemented.\textsuperscript{150}

**TOWN PLANNING**

Kullu has assumed significant importance in the national and international map of tourism. For this planned development of the whole area became imperative. Town planning was started for preserving landscapes and scenic beauty.\textsuperscript{151} Town and Country Planning Act, 1977 was extended to Kullu Valley. Kullu Valley Planning Committee was constituted in June 1995. Kullu valley planning areas extended from Bajaura to Solang Kothi. Existing land use has been frozen under Section 15-A of the Act in July 1995 and planning permission for change of land use is being granted under the provision of Section 15 (A) (2). All types of

\textsuperscript{148} Ibid, p 64
\textsuperscript{149} Ibid, p 65
\textsuperscript{150} Ibid, p 66
development activities are supposed to provide and conserve natural beauty and to improve the health and socio-economic condition of the people, under the provisions of this Act.\textsuperscript{152}

The functions of the Planning Committee are preparation of Regional Development Plan, Sectoral Plan, Town Planning Schemes and their proper implementation. Advisory service in terms of preparation of various development schemes on the district level is also provided.\textsuperscript{153}

**PANCHAYAT SYSTEM**

Panchayats as local administrative bodies at village level existed in Kullu from a very long time. Every head of the household was member of the village body.\textsuperscript{154} The villagers had their own customary laws and system of administration which were included in “Riwaji-A-am and “Wazib-ul-Arz” prepared during Settlement, 1913. The Panchayat system was almost faded away with the passage of time during British Rule. The revival of the Panchayat system was again undertaken in 1939 in Punjab. However the new Panchayat lacked emotional bond which united the earlier village body.\textsuperscript{155}

Hardly any attention was paid to the development of rural areas during the British period and as such their progress remained stagnant. The Panchayats in the district were constituted in 1940-41 under the Punjab Village Panchayat Act, 1939. By 1945, the entire area of Kullu was covered and there were as many as ninety nine Panchayats\textsuperscript{156}.

In the absence of adequate grant-in-aid, Panchayats remained non-performers. The Punjab Village Panchayat Act, 1939 was later repealed by

\textsuperscript{152} Ibid, p 42
\textsuperscript{153} Ibid, 5 44
\textsuperscript{154} 'Fina Settlement Report of the Kulu Sub Division, District Kangra', 1913, op.cit., p 66
\textsuperscript{156} Grover, Verinder and Ranjana Arora (eds.), 1996, op.cit., p 82.
the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and the Panchayat already working were considered as established under the later Act. A three tier system was established in April 20, 1961 with the enforcement of the Punjab Panchayat Smitis and Zila Parishad Act, 1961. It provided for the establishment of Panchayats at village levels, Panchayat Samitis at block level and Zila Parishads at district level.\(^{157}\)

The objective of giving power at the local level could not be achieved because of financial constraints. The Panchayats practically mobilized free labour for the execution of development schemes which included repairs of Paths and Kuhls.\(^{158}\)

With the merger of Kullu district in 1966 with Himachal Pradesh, the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 was replaced by the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1968 which was also replaced by the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.

At present the members of the Gram Panchayats in the Kullu district are 181.\(^{159}\) In December, 1995, the first election was held under Panchayati Raj Act, 1994. Under this system every Gram Sabha elects the executive body namely, the Gram Panchayat. The system of election is based on adult franchise, the number of members not being less than seven and more than fifteen, including Pradhan and Up-Pradhan.\(^{160}\)

As per the provision contained in the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, the meeting of the Gram Panchayat is required to be held at least once a month at the office of Gram Panchayat. The Pradhan, when required, in writing by a majority of members, calls a meeting with in three days, failing which the members of the Panchayat with the previous approval of the prescribed authority are entitled to call a meeting after

\(^{157}\) Ibid, p 67
\(^{158}\) Ibid, p 68
\(^{159}\) Janartha, T.C., 2000, p 339.
giving a notice of one week to the Pradhan and other members. One half of the members of the Gram Panchayat form a quorum, decisions are made by a majority of votes. There is a secretary for group of Gram Panchayats, who is appointed by the director of Panchayati Raj.

The main source of income of these Panchayats is the grant-in-aid from the government. Apart from this, the Himachal Pradesh Government has also been advancing loans to Panchayats for raising of orchards, construction of stalls etc, under the scheme of creation of remunerative assets. The other source of income of these Panchayats is collection of donation fees, taxes etc.

**PANCHAYAT SAMITIS**

Panchayat Samitis were constituted under the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 for every block in the district. Every Panchayat Samiti works for five years from the date it is appointed, or from its first meeting.

Every Samiti consists of:

- a) The directly elected members from territorial constituencies as determined under the Act.
- b) The members of the House of the people and the members of the Legislative Assembly of the state representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the Panchayat Samiti area.
- c) One fifth of the Pradhans of Gram Panchayats in the Panchayat Samiti area, by rotation, for such period as the prescribed authority may determine by lot.

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161 Ibid, p 85.
162 Ibid, p 86.
163 Ibid, p 87.
164 Janaretha, T. C., 2000, p 341.
Provided that a Pradhan was a member under this clause for one term shall not be eligible to become member for a second term during the remainder of his term of office as Pradhan.

The function of the Panchayat Samiti is to make provision of funds for the following matters:


b) Provision of emergency relief in cases of distress caused by Fires, Floods, Drought, Earthquake, Scarcity, Swarms, Epidemics and other Natural calamities.

c) Arrangements in connection with Local Pilgrimage and Festivals.

d) Management of Public Ferries.


f) Any other function with the approval of the State Government or Zila Parishad.

There are at present five Panchayat Samitis in the district, namely Kullu, Nagar, Banjar, Nirmand and Ani. 165

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ZILA PARISHAD

Zila Parishad is constituted for every district. Every Zila Parishad consists of:

a) Directly elected members from territorial constituencies in the district as determined under the Panchayati Raj Acts.

b) The member of the House of the People and the members of the State Legislative Assembly representing a part or whole of the district whose constituencies lie within the district.

c) The chairman of all Panchayat Samitis in the district.\(^{166}\)

According to the provisions of Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 it is the duty of Zila Parishad to:

1. Control, co-ordinate and guide the Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat with in the district.

2. Co-ordinate and consolidate the Panchayat Samitis plans.

3. Co-ordinate the demands for grants for special purpose received from the Panchayat Samiti and forward them to the state government.

4. Secure the execution of the plans, projects, schemes, or other works common to two or more Panchayat Samitis in the district.

5. Advise the state government in the development activities, social forestry, family welfare, welfare of disabled, destitute, women youth and children and sports.

6. Exercise and perform such other powers and function as the state government may confer on or entrust to it.

There is one Zila Parishad in the district and its election was held in December, 1995. Its term is for five years.

\(^{166}\) Ibid, p 116.
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

Rural development and poverty alleviation have been the major areas of concern and thrust for the nation since independence. The Community Development Programme consisting of various sets of schemes was launched on 2nd October, 1952 throughout the country with the objective of overall development of rural areas with the active participation of the community. Development Blocks were created and considered pivotal for planning and implementation of various rural development schemes. Up to the year 1999 self-employment schemes such as IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme), TRYSEM (Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment), DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas), MWS (Million Wells Scheme) were being implemented, but w.e.f. 1.4.99 these schemes were merged into SGSY (Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana).167

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana: “Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana” (SGSY) has been launched during the year 1999-2000.

This yojana lays emphasis on cluster approach instead of individual beneficiary approach which would enable the beneficiaries to start with viable projects in a joint manner which can bring, higher incomes. This approach will also improve the skills of the poor through an in-built training component, up-gradation of technology, providing adequate backward and forward linkages, availability of adequate infrastructure and better marketing arrangements.

In order to create additional gainful wage employment to the weaker sections of the society, employment generation programme Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been launched during the year 2002-2003. The scheme focuses on the creation of the rural infrastructure for more sustained wage employment and rural development, besides, ensuring food security to the weaker sections of the society.168

Panchayati Raj Institutions at various levels are being involved in the planning and execution of poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes so that it is ensured that the benefits under these programmes reach the right person. The Development Block is pivotal for the implementation of various Rural Development Programmes and overall development of families living below the poverty line in the rural areas.

Detail of block units in Kullu district is as under:
1. Kullu
2. Banjar
3. Ani
4. Nirmand
5. Nagar-Katrain

Administrative Structure of Rural Development Department

For the implementation of different rural development programmes, Rural Development Department has following administrative structure at various levels.

District Level

At district level, DRDAs (District Rural Development Agencies) are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of all Rural

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Development Programmes. The Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chief Executive Officer of the DRDA is assisted by the Project Director, Project Officer, Assistant Project Officer (SE), Assistant Project Officer(Women), Assistant Project Officer (Watershed), Project Economist, Superintendent, Statistical Investigator, Senior Assistant, Clerks and Pecn DRDA in the execution of various developmental activities. Besides this, at district level there is a Governing body of DRDA under the Chairmanship of Zila Parishad. This body is responsible for monitoring of various Rural Development Programmes.\(^{169}\)

**Block Level**

At the Block level, the Block Development Officer is the main catalyst with the following administrative set up:-

1. Superintendent
2. Junior Engineers
3. Lady Social Education Organisers (Mukhiya Sevika)
4. Social Education & Block Planning Officer
5. Senior Assistant
6. Clerk/Stento Typist
7. Gram Panchayat Avam Vikas Adhikaris
8. Lady Village Development Coordinator
9. Driver
10. Peons
11. Frash / Chowkidar

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

This Yojana is a holistic package covering all aspects of self employment such as organization of poor into self help groups, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The beneficiaries under this scheme are called "Swarozgaris". This scheme is a credit-cum-subsidy programme. Subsidy under SGSY is uniform at 30 percent of the project cost. The maximum limit is Rs. 7500. In respect of SCs/STs and disabled persons, however, this will be 50 percent and Rs.10,000 respectively SGSY will particularly focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly the SCs/STs will account for 50 percent of Swarozgaris, women for 40 percent and the disabled for 3 percent. This Scheme is being implemented by Central and State Governments on 75:25 sharing basis.\(^{170}\)

Table 2.16: The financial progress of SGSY during the year 2003-04 in Kullu District is as under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Target of credit mobilisation</th>
<th>Credit disbursed to</th>
<th>Subsidy disbursed to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SHGs</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>89.60</td>
<td>40.37</td>
<td>25.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Rs in Lakhs
• SHG: Self Help Groups


The above table shows the financial progress made by SGSY in the year 2003-2004. The target of credit mobilization by SGSY was 89.60 lakhs. 40.37 lakhs rupees were given to the group of Swarozgaris. And to the individuals, 25.50 lakhs rupees were given. Subsidy of 12.40 lakhs was

given to the group of Swarozgaris, and subsidy of 5.53 lakhs was given to the individuals. Number of groups of swarozgaris and number of individuals assisted under SGSY scheme is given in the table below.

Table 2.17: The physical progress of SGSY during the year 2003-04 in Kullu District is as under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>No. of SHGs formed</th>
<th>SHGs taken up economic activity</th>
<th>No. of members in SHGs</th>
<th>Individual swarozgaris assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>111 112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>ST</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rs in Lakhs
- SHG: Self Help Groups

**Source:** Annual Administrative Report GOI Schemes Year: 2003-2004, Department Of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

The above data shows that there are five SHGs formed in the Kullu district and they have taken up 24 economic activities to help the people. There are total 244 members in these five SHGs, out of which there are 111 members belong to SC, one member belongs to ST and there are 112 women members in these SHGs. Under the SGSY schemes, 90 individual Swarozgaris have been assisted, out of which 53 Swarozgaris belong to SC category, 9 Swarozgaris belong to ST, and 28 Swarozgaris are women.

**Installation of Hydrams under Wastelands Development Programme**

The government of India has approved a project for installation of 200 hydrams under wastelands and marginal lands through application of appropriate technology, extension and training in district Kullu and Shimla. With a total Project Cost of Rs. 564.94 lakhs which is a 100% centrally sponsored project to be financed by the Government of India fully.
Upto December, 2003, 175 sites have been selected and 185 Hydrams have been procured out of which 92 Hydrams have been installed and Rs. 274.25 lakhs have been spent. 171

**Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)**

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was announced by the Honourable Prime Minister on 15th August, 2001. The objectives of the SGRY are to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, alongside the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure development in these areas. The programme is self-targeting in nature and would be available for all the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and are willing to take up manual work. Priority would be directed towards provision of wage employment to the poorest amongst the poor, women, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and parents of child labour withdrawn hazardous occupations.

The scheme is being implemented under two streams. Out of the total allocation made under this scheme 50 per cent funds are allocated under 1st stream and 50 per cent under the 2nd stream. The funds released under 1st stream are distributed between the Zila Parishad and the Panchayat Samitis in the ratio of 40:60. 172

**Table 2.18: Physical and financial progress of SGRY stream-I during the year 2003-04 is as under.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Mandays generated (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Expenditure (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Foodgrains Distributed (in mts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>162.01</td>
<td>1346.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Annual Administrative Report GOI Schemes Year: 2003-2004, Department of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

172 Ibid., p 11
Table 2.19: Physical and financial progress of SGRY stream-II during the year 2003-04 is as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Mandays generated (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Expenditure (in lakhs)</th>
<th>Foodgrains Distributed (in meters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>140.28</td>
<td>1223.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Under the scheme, 5 kgs of food grains (in kind) is being distributed as part of wages per man-day. The remaining wages are being paid in cash to ensure notified minimum wages every week. The scheme is being implemented on cost sharing basis between centre and the state in the ratio of 75:25 of the cash component. The food grains are free of cost.

**Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)**

Indira Awas Yojana is a Centrally Sponsored scheme. Under this scheme an assistance of Rs.22000 per beneficiary is being given to BPL (Below Poverty Line) families for the construction of new houses. Gram Sabha does the selection of beneficiaries under this scheme. This scheme is being financed by Centre and State Government on 75:25 sharing basis. Besides, a financial assistance of Rs. 10000 per beneficiary is provided for the conversion/upgradation of kutcha houses into semi pucca/ pucca houses to the BPL families.

Table 2.20: Physical and financial progress of Indira Awas Yojana during the year 2003-04 is as under.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Achievement (no. of houses)</th>
<th>Expenditure (Rs. In lakhs)</th>
<th>Houses under construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Cons.</td>
<td>Upgradation</td>
<td>New Cons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>23.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Administrative Report GOI Schemes Year: 2003-2004, Department of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

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173 Ibid, p 12

91
The above table shows the physical and financial progress made under Indira Awas Yojana in the Kullu district. Till now under this scheme, 95 new houses have been constructed, and 65 houses have been upgraded from kutchha houses to pucca/semi-pucca houses. 23.35 lakh rupees have been spent on constructing new houses. And 6.75 lakh rupees have been spent on upgrading the old houses. The work under this scheme is also under progress. There are 69 houses under construction and 13 houses are being upgraded.

### National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)

In case of the death of a breadwinner of a family living below the poverty line a financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- per family is provided to bereaved family.\(^{174}\)

**Table 2.21: Physical and financial progress of National Family Benefit Scheme during the year 2003-04 is as under**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Families assisted</th>
<th>Amount disbursed (Rs. in lacs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>11.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Annual Administrative Report GOI Schemes Year: 2003-2004, Department of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

Under National Family Benefit Scheme, 115 families have been assisted with the financial assistance of 10,000 Rs in Kullu district and 11.50 lakh rupees have been spent by the Government in assisting these families.

### Innovative Rural Housing Project (IRHP)

Presently the following Innovative Rural Housing Project is being implemented in the district.

Innovative Rural Housing Project district Kullu

Year of sanction = 2001-02
Project period = Two years
Total Project cost = 37.41 lakhs
Funds released by GOI = 1st Instt. 18.70 lakhs
Total funds received = 18.70 lakhs

Approved activity-wise details are as under.
(i) Construction of 51 houses
(ii) Construction of 51 tandoor
(iii) Construction of 51 latrines.
(iv) Construction of street pavements
(v) Construction of tool irrigation kuhls
(vi) Construction of community centre
(vii) Construction of school building
(viii) Construction of Mahila Mandal Bhawan
(ix) Construction of Street lighting
(x) Construction of playground and Stadium

Expenditure = 16.28 lakhs

Mahila Mandals

A project titled “Environmental Conservation through Mahila Mandals is being implemented in 3 districts viz Hamirpur, Kullu & Solan. The total project cost is Rs. 162.17 lakhs.

The main objectives of this project are as under.

1 To create awareness among the Mahila Mandals selected, in the fields of Environment Conservation and concept of Self Help Groups.

2 Conservation of the environment to be undertaken by the Mahila Mandals in the following:-

- Afforestation and Protection of Forests
- Conservation of traditional water sources
- Solic Waste Management and promotion of Organic Farming
- Alternate fuel and fodder

3 To activate and empower Mahila Mandals to form Self Help Groups and with the help of Micro-Credit, indulge them in income generation activities.

All the Mahila Mandals to be incorporated in the project would have to fulfil the following basic criteria.

a. Mahila Mandal should be registered under the Societies Registration Act.

b. Mahila Mandal should have a good track record of at least two years.

c. Mahila Mandal should not be involved in any anti national, anti social activities.\textsuperscript{176}

Mahila Mandals in District Kullu

Upto March, 2004, in district Kullu the identification and orientation of 50 Mahila Mandals has been done. So far 5 orientation camps have been held. In these camps, about 887 members of Mahila Mandals participated. An amount of Rs. 51.18 lakhs has been spent on organisation of orientation camps/ training programme.

Rajiv Gandhi Awaas Yojana (RGAY)

With a view to provide housing facilities to more and more people in the state, the state government has launched a new housing scheme “Rajiv Gandhi Awaas Yojana”.

\textsuperscript{176} Ibid, \textsuperscript{16}
Table 2.22: Physical and financial progress of Rajiv Gandhi Awaas Yojana during the year 2003-04 is as under

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Target (No of houses)</th>
<th>Houses constructed</th>
<th>Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)</th>
<th>Houses under construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18.20</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Administrative Report GOI Schemes Year: 2003-2004, Department of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla

The above table shows the progress made by the government under the scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Aawas Yojana". The government has a target of providing 104 houses to the people. 20 houses have been constructed by 2004. 81 houses are under construction, and Rs 18.20 lakhs have been spent on this.

From the time, Himachal Pradesh was separated from Punjab people of Himachal Pradesh have looked forward to a developed and prosperous state. If we look at the Kullu district before 1966, it was considered a backward area. After 1966, many initiatives were taken by the Government and many schemes were launched to make it a progressive district. Roads were built through the district thus opening up the interiors to others, parks, markets, street lightning were maintained, Identified Urban Poor Families were helped, many schemes were launched for the welfare of women, and children. Schemes like Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana were launched to provide employment to the poors.

With the replacement of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act of 1952 with the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act of 1968 and again its replacement with Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act of 1994, the funds started coming in the of form of Grant-in-aid from the central Government, and the income of the Samiti increased. Funds were also raised through other sources like adda fees, taxes etc. These funds were utilized for further development of the district.