CHAPTER IV

POLITICS IN THE COMPOSITION AND WORKING OF THE CORPORATION
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The Kanpur Mahapalika is a truly democratic and elected body. For the purpose of the elections of Sabha sadas a general election takes place every five years. The city is divided into 36 wards and there is separate electoral roll for each ward. Each ward is a double-member constituency. The method of double-member constituency has been adopted so that the city area may not be divided into too many small units. Bigger wards help representation of population on a wider scale also.

The electoral registration officer prepares the electoral roll which is periodically revised. Every registered voter can vote for one ward only. Each voter is entitled to cast two votes, being a voter of double-member constituency. The vote is cast by the secret ballot system.

Each political party announces its candidate. There are independent candidates also. In the elections held so far, there was a good deal of politics in getting the party tickets. There was greater rush in getting party tickets in the Congress party than in any other party. Those who wished to contest the Mayoral Election, tried for getting tickets for their nominees. The high office of the Mayor had been mostly occupied by industrialist politicians. The industrialist political bosses study the election strategy and manipulate through many ways to secure votes for their nominees. The independent candidates also got patronage of these bosses. A list of Sabha sadas so elected for the first and second Nagar Mahapalika is appended.
Out of these 36 constituencies 72 Sabhasads are elected. The Sabhasads elect according to the system of proportional representation eight Vishist-a Sadasyas. The normal term of the Mahapalika is five years. The term of Sabhasads (Corporators) and Vishist-a Sadasyas is co-terminus with the term of Mahapalika. Any casual vacancy is filled up for the remainder of one's predecessor's term. The Sabhasads and Vishist-a Sadasyas so elected elect the Mayor, the Dy. Mayor, the Executive Committee and the Development Committee.

**Faction in the party in power**

The Congress enjoyed majority in the Corporation throughout the period under study. Therefore the party politics in Nagar Mahapalika cannot be discussed in isolation with the local Congress party politics, as the faction in city Congress Committee had direct impact on the politics and working of Nagar Mahapalika.

**Historical background of group rivalry**

In the earlier half of the twentieth century in Kanpur there were two clearly defined factions in the Congress, one led by the late Sri Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi being called the Pratap group, and the other was known as Rashtriya Vidyalaya (Nationalist School) group led by late Sri Guru Raghubar Dayal, Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon who led the faction in Nagar Mahapalika Kanpur, belonged to these two groups. Sri Shiv Narain Tandon joined the Pratap group which controlled the affairs of the city Congress throughout most of the Nationalist movement and also for some time after independence. Sri Ram Ratan
Gupta was a member of Rastriya Vidyalaya group. After the end of World War II Sri Shiv Narain Tandon emerged as the undisputed leader of the Kanpur Congress and was unanimously elected President of the City Congress Committee. During his two year's term from 1946-1948 he dominated the civic life of Kanpur. He controlled the most important local body the Development Board and brought the entire civic administration of Kanpur under his control. His power was so great that the leading mill-owners of the city, some willingly and the others reluctantly were forced to bow to his wishes. Under the regime of Sri Shiv Narain Tandon, a spindle tax was imposed upon the mill-owners of Kanpur at the rate of two annas per spindle as contribution to the City Congress funds. Two of the most important Textile Mill owners of Kanpur Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Jaipuria paid heavy penalties, for failing to cooperate with Sri Shiv Narain Tandon, by the strike carried on by the Congress labour leaders and boycott of their cloth by cloth dealers of the city.

Sri Ram Ratan Gupta the leader of the other group, joined the Congress about the same time as Shri Shiv Narain Tandon, but the former Sri Ram Ratan Gupta soon turned to industry and opposed the Congress. His revived interest in the Congress began in 1947 when his Laxmi Ratan concern was facing one of the bitterest strikes on the question of rationalization, which occurred during the regime of Shiv Narain Tandon who was the President of the City Congress. It taught Sri Ram Ratan Gupta the lesson that the City Congress Committee could be a very

dangerous weapon in the hands of his opponents and he immediately began to work for ousting Sri Shiv Narain Tandon and his friends from the control of the city Congress and to replace them with men of his own choice. It would be interesting and relevant to mention that, in this struggle between one of the richest cloth merchants of the city and a wealthy industrialist, men were bought and sold and money and jobs were available for the asking at Jwala Prasad Radha Krishna, the cloth firm of Sri Shiv Narain Tandon and in the many enterprises of Sri Ram Ratan Gupta. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta had so effectively consolidated his position in the city congress that Sri Shiv Narain Tandon and his followers were almost completely excluded from the new City Congress Committee election in 1958.²

Party Politics in Nagar Mahapalika

The struggle between Shri Shiv Narain Tandon and Sri Ram Ratan Gupta was not confined only to the City Congress Committee but it was shifted to the Mahapalika and the first election of the Mahapalika was held with this background of the factional politics. Although the Congress lacked a clear majority in the Kanpur Corporation at first, it emerged from the civic elections as the largest party in the Corporation, faced with a totally fragmented opposition. In addition it could count upon the support of a number of independent and opposition Sabhasads. The only important division in the Mahapalika was within the Congress party, between the Gupta and the Tandon groups. There

². Brass, P.R. - Factional politics in an Indian State 1966.
was a majority of supporters of Sri Ram Ratan Gupta within the congress party in Mahapalika. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta's majority in the party was so clear that Sri Shiv Narain Tandon did not contest against him personally.

Politics in the Election of Mayor and Dy. Mayor

It is thus clear that the city politics had been dominated by industrialist politicians. All the Mayors with one or two exceptions had been industrialist politicians. Later in this chapter the method which they had adopted to gain favour and consolidate their position has also been elaborated.

The Mahapalika was constituted for the first time on the 1st February 1960. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta who had clearly planned for before-hand for the election of Mayor's post, got the prize position. His term as first Mayor expired on the 31st January 1961. Sri Ram Ratan contested for the 2nd term of Mayorship and he was re-elected Mayor on the 23rd January 1961 for the second term. As the Tandon group was against Sri Ram Ratan Gupta, and voted for Sardar Inder Singh, also a congress candidate for the Mayor's post, who was defeated by one vote. One of Sri Tandon group's corporator Sri Nand Lal filed an election petition on January 30, 1961 in the Court of District Judge Kanpur and prayed that the election of Sri Ram Ratan Gupta as Mayor for the second term be declared void. The petition alleged that Mr. Gupta and his supporters spent huge sums of money on several of the corporation members for getting their votes and indulged in other forms of corrupt practice. May be such cases
were true, but it is difficult to get evidence for the court in such cases. In the absence of evidence the petition was rejected. With the defeat of Sri Tandon group, it was clear that Sri Ram Ratan Gupta’s group was in majority. Due to State Legislature and Parliament elections the term of the Mayor, Executive Committee and Development Committee was extended upto the 30th April 1962. Mr. Gupta wanted to field his own man for the Mayor’s Office. Dr. Dhirendra Nath Bannerji, an old Congressman, noninterfering and a "harmless" person was elected for the Mayor’s post with the help of Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and his followers. His term of office expired on the 30th April 1963. Sardar Inder Singh an industrialist was not active in city politics but he had been attached to freedom movement in the Punjab and had good relations with high ups in the Central Government Ministry. Sardarji use to help financially the city Congress Committee and was associated with Sri Shiv Narain Tandon. Sardar Inder Singh was elected Mayor on the 22nd April 1963 and took oath of the office on the 1st May 1963. Sardarji continued as Mayor upto the 30th April 1964. After this, Sri Ratan Lal Sharma, an industrialist, was elected as the Mayor of Kanpur. In April 1965 Sardar Inder Singh was again elected the Mayor of Kanpur. Sri Yadu Nath Singh who was attached to Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and who was defeated by Sardar Inder Singh in the Mayoral election filed an election petition challenging the Mayoral election. He also alleged corrupt practices and named certain councillors who as alleged, were paid Rs. 5000/- each to cast vote in favour of Sardar Inder Singh. Sri Yadu Nath Singh
had also applied for an amendment of the petition by which he wanted to name eight more councillors who were alleged to have received a price of Rs. 5000/- each for their votes. The decisions of the courts are based on evidence. Such charges of bribe are difficult to prove.

The elections of the Nagar Mahapalika were due in April 1966 but the State Government superseded the Mahapalika from the 1st May 1966 on the ground that the reports of the working of the Corporation were not satisfactory. The State of affairs in the Corporations had to be improved and as soon as this was done the election would be held. Sri K.K. Sharma, I.A.S. was appointed as administrator.

The Second Mahapalika was constituted on the 1st July 1968. Sri Bhagwat Prasad Tewari a landlord and businessman, who had no political background but developed relationship with high ups in the Congress and the Government and was elected the first Mayor of the Second Mahapalika. The election of Sri Tewari as Mayor was challenged by Sri Manohar Lal which was later an vacated. Sri Tewari remained Mayor upto the 30th June 1969 when his term of Mayorship expired. Sri Rameshwar Tatia an industrialist and for some time the treasurer of All India Congress Committee was the elected Mayor. He had no active connections with local politics as he was an outsider. Sri Tatia occupied the chair on July 1, 1969 and remained on the post for full term upto the 30th June 1970.

Civic Affairs July 1971.
Thus since the establishment of Nagar Mahapalika the industrialists and businessmen had been working as Mayor. A section of Congress workers led by Sri Jata Dhar Bajpai therefore started alleging that "the capitalists dominated the administration and party politics deprived the poor citizens of their primary necessities". They demanded that the chance of Mayorship should be given to the ordinary citizens. It was a fact, as per details given in this chapter, that Mayorship had remained in the hands of industrialists and big businessmen. As a result of party workers and their agitation, next time the Congress gave ticket for Mayorship to a non-industrialist. Sri Jata Dhar Bajpai, who was advocating that there should be ordinary people for Mayorship, and who had the backing of Sri Tandon group, was elected the first non-capitalist Mayor of Kanpur on the 1st July 1970. Sri Ratan Lal Sharma who was Mayor in 1964-65 and at the time of the Mayor's election he was holding the Dy. Mayorship was elected the Mayor. Sri Sharma by now had consolidated good support from Mahapalika councillors and had a good reputation among the citizens because of his work done in the Mahapalika during this tenure as Dy. Mayor. He took over on the 27th July 1971 and successfully carried on upto the 30th June 1972 when his term of Mayorship expired. This time again a non-industrialist and a congress worker Sri Jageshwar Prasad Trivedi was elected Mayor and he took over the office of the Mayor on the 1st July 1972 from Sri Ratan Lal Sharma. Sri Trivedi remained in office upto the 30th June 1973. The five years term of Nagar Mahapalika expired on the 30th June 1973 when the State
Government vide G.O. No. (2836A) 11-N.P. KABAL/72 dated 30.6.1973 declared that "as the term of Mahapalika has expired and the Government has not decided to extend the period therefore under U.P. Nagar Mahapalika Act 1959, Sect. 8(Ka) and its sub section (Kha) the State Government appointed Sri P. R. B. Bhiman as administrator with effect from the 1st July 1973."

**Dy. Mayor**

It has already been stated that there was factional rivalry between two leaders Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon. Sri Gupta had a majority of his followers in the Mahapalika and he became the Mayor. Due to various reasons he was forced to accept Sri Shiv Narain Tandon as Dy. Mayor. Though an attempt was made to bring about reconcile between the Mayor and the Dy. Mayor, yet it soon became clear that such peaceful coexistence between two top leaders was impossible. In Mahapalika politics, the stage was set for the battle on the occasion of passing the budget. The rejection of the budget made the people laugh and each group blamed the other for the result. For the next two months the two groups maneuvered in the congress corporation party and in the Corporation as a whole seeking a majority for a censure motion against the Mayor or Dy. Mayor. Sri Shiv Narain Tandon never wanted to face censure motion. The propaganda of censure motion was just a threatening. On the re-election of Sri Ram Ratan Gupta as Mayor on January 23, 1961, Sri Shiv Narain Tandon the Dy. Mayor resigned on January 24, 1961 from the office of the Dy. Mayor. As a result a fresh election of
Dy. Mayor was held on the 15th April 1961 and Sri Devi Sahaya Bajpai a man of Sri Gupta's group was declared elected as Dy. Mayor. Sri Devi Sahaya Bajpai remained Dy. Mayor until the Mahapalika was dissolved in 1966.

The Second Mahapalika was constituted on July 1, 1968. Sri Ratan Lal Sharma a Vishist-a Sadasya was elected as Dy. Mayor. It is interesting to note that Sri Bhagwat Prasad Tewari, Mayor and Sri Ratan Lal Sharma the Dy. Mayor happened to be relatives. Sri Ratan Lal Sharma, the Dy. Mayor was elected Mayor on the 1st July 1971. He vacated the Dy. Mayorship. Sri Hari Prakash Mudgal a Vishist-a Sadasya was elected as Dy. Mayor on the 14th September 1971. Sri Hari Prakash Mudgal remained Dy. Mayor until June 30, 1973 when the Mahapalika was dissolved.

Committees

There are two Statutory committees of the Mahapalika; the Executive Committee and the Development Committee. The Executive and the Development Committees further constitute subcommittees. Some of the committees are more important than others. The members of the Executive and Development committees try to have their own men in the important committees. The Mayor and the Dy. Mayor influence the members to have persons of their choice. The committees work under the influence of the Mayor and the Dy. Mayors.

The politics and working of allotment committee (flats and plots) detailed below is illustrative of how the committees had been working in Nagar Mahapalika Kanpur. In fact so far no
allotment committee of the Corporation has been able to resist pressures from the successive Mayors. The members of the allotment committees had been divided in their loyalties to the present and preceding occupiers of the Mayoral Chair, with the result that the needy and the genuine applicants for allotment of civic flats had failed to secure justice. There had been much grumbling among the citizens with regard to the allotment of hire purchase civic flats at Kidwai Nagar, where there were 112 flats constructed under the middle income group housing scheme and another 200 flats constructed under the low income group housing scheme. Five different allotment committees had tackled the job of allotting of these flats with each committee making allotments to different applicants. It is noteworthy that the allotment committees changed each year as a sequel to the change in the membership of the executive committee, following annual election of new members. In 1962-63 the applications were invited with Rs.2000/- and Rs.4000/- as earnest money deposits for the low income group flats and the middle income group flats, respectively. As there were very few applicants then, allotment orders were issued to all. Later the allotments were stayed following the reconstitution of the Executive Committee in January 1963. When Sardar Inder Singh stepped into the Mayoral office in 1963-64, a new allotment committee was promptly constituted. This allotment committee invited fresh applications for the flats and made new allotments but no orders were issued to the applicants. In January 1964 following changes in the membership of the Mahapalika Executive
Committee the allotment committee was constituted de novo. This committee also stayed the allotments made by the earlier committee. Shortly after the election of Mr. Ratan Lal Sharma as Mayor for the 1964-65 term another allotment committee was constituted and it also made fresh allotments. Some new applicants were accommodated, though no fresh applications were entertained without the deposit of earnest money. A new Executive Committee once again with different membership, was formed in January 1965 when Sardar Inder Singh stepped in as Mayor for his second term. Again a new Allotment Committee was constituted. It made fresh allotments and delivered possession of the flats constructed by the Corporation at Ashoknagar. This allotment business proved to be still more scandalous. Twenty five flats were constructed for Mahapatika Mahila Degree College and for the emergency staff of the Corporation. The matter was badly bungled by the Executive Committee, which decided to sell them away to the needy amongst the category of Corporation employees. The actual cost of construction of flats was not taken into consideration which comes to about Rs. 25000/- per flat. The three proposals were tabled by the Executive Committee allowing its members ample scope to accommodate their friends, relatives and recommendees of influential persons. One proposal was to sell the flats out right at the rate of Rs. 9,100/- which sum was much lower than the actual valuation of each flat. The second proposal was to give out flats on nominal monthly rent of Rs. 71/-. The third proposal which was ultimately approved was to give the flats to the needy amongst the applicants under hire purchase agreements.
for which a sum of Rs. 50/- per month was to be payable for a period of 30 years fetching the civic body about Rs.18,000 in all for a single flat. The first allotment committee in 1964 allotted nine flats to teachers of Mahapalika Degree College and 16 flats were allotted to persons from among the other applicants. These allotments were made during Sri Ratan Lal Sharma's term as Mayor in 1964-65. With the constitution of new Executive Committee in January 1965 with a different membership and the appointment of a new Allotment Committee by it, the alignments of allotment committee members also changed. In the meantime, Sardar Inder Singh took over as Mayor and the Allotment Committee made allotment orders in favour of entirely new persons whose applications were somehow included without the requisite deposit of Rs.100/- as earnest money being asked for. The allotment orders of the previous applicants were cancelled and fresh applications were considered and allotments were made. It was only a month later the Allotment Committee regularised the matter and asked the fresh allottees to deposit earnest money.

The above example shows that with the change of the Mayorship, Executive Committee and the subcommittees the loyalty and party affiliation also get changed. The Mayor expects from the Executive and Development Committees to act in accordance with his wishes and the Executive Committee and Development Committee expect its subcommittee to act according to their wishes. Thus while selecting the members in different committees particular groups become active. The group in power keeps most of the positions under its control. Such positions help the group to
get support of other corporators by obliging them in the manner detailed above.

The example of the plot allotment committee is only one example explained here. There are several other such examples. Due to this rivalry, though the Congress party was in majority, it continued to be sharply divided among at least three groups. It could not set up its official candidates for the Executive and Development Committees for which the annual elections were held on January 19, 1965.4

Some of the corporators who were having independent views, or defected from Tandon or Gupta group formed another group under the leadership of Sri Chhail Behari Dixit "Kantak". This group was very small but enlightened. This group could not provide money and jobs to their followers whereas this facility was being provided by other groups so 'Kantak' group could not flourish.

The strength of political parties in the first and the second Mahapolika was as under:

First Mahapolika

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<th>Seats</th>
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<td>Congress</td>
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<td>Jan Sangh</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.S.P.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P.I. (R)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialist</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Second Mahapalika

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Sangh</td>
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<tr>
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<td>B.K.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mayors elected in the first and the second Mahapalika:

2. Dr. Dhirendra Nath Banerji 1962-63
5. Sri Bhagwat Prasad Tewari 1968-69
6. Sri Rameshwar Tantia 1969-70
7. Sri Jata Dhar Bajpai 1970-71
8. Sri Jageshwar Prasad Trivedi

Dy. Mayors

1. Sri Shiv Narain Tandon
2. Sri Devi Sahai Bajpai
3. Sri Ratan Lal Sharma
4. Sri Hari Prakash Mudgal
Vishist-a Sadasyas

I Mahapalika

1. Sri Devi Sahai Bajpai
2. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta
3. Sri Shiv Narain Tandon
4. Sri Hazi Mohammad Sami
5. Sri Srikrishna Agrawal
6. Sri Babu Lal Misra
7. Sri P.D. Singhania
8. Sri Shasi Bhusan Singh

II Mahapalika

1. Sri H.P. Mudgal
2. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta
3. Sri Jugal Kishore
4. Sri Gopi Krishna Tewari
5. Sri Nazar Mohammad
6. Sri Mohammad Sami
7. Sri Ratan Lal Sharma
8. Sri Baburam Shukla

CRITICAL OBSERVATION ON THE POLITICS OF THE CORPORATION DURING THE PERIOD

In the preceding pages it has been made clear that from the very beginning of the Mahapalika there was group politics in the Congress party which was a majority political party in the Mahapalika. It seems that either there was no control of
the Congress party over the Mahapalika Congress party or it avoided intervention as it was a tussle between two industrialist politicians. Whatever it may be, the behaviour of the Congress party, whether it is on the Corporation level or on the city or state level, had been irresponsible. This is unfortunate that it had not been realized by the congressmen while this situation was pointed out by the non-congress corporators. Sri Manohar Lal a corporator remarked in the Mahapalika meeting dated 25th September 1968 that:

"कृषि तभि भाषा में तड़ रहे है इसमे हम लोगों को बदनामी हो रहो है | बजट को लेकर कृषि पार्टी में जो दलबन्द है, उसले कृषि का नाम कस्ट किया होगा। कार्यकारिणी समिति में जो दलबन्द है, उसका नाम आज सदन के सामने दिखाई दे रहा है।"

The Congress corporators are quarreling among themselves and we are getting defamed. The Congress will get a bad name for faction in the Congress party on account of the budget. The faction in the Executive Committee is visible today in the house.

The faction in the Congress party had not only spoiled the image of the party but the administration of the Mahapalika was also effected and this had influenced the officers and the employees of the Mahapalika alike. This was stated in the Mahapalika meeting on the 12th November 1964 by a corporator Sri Ramesh Chandra Gupta Kelawala in the following:

"नगर कृषि पार्टी के अन्दर रच्य पार्टी बनीने ने नगर महापालिका के सबसे बड़े कृषि उस में फूट पेना कर हो है और इसका प्रभाव प्रशासन रच्य अधिकारियों पर पड़ो है।"
The internal group rivalry in the city Congress Committee has created faction in the largest Congress party in the Mahapalika and it has influenced the administration and officers.

The personal differences between Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon prevented the enforcement of any programme whatsoever and engaged the Corporation in the fruitless struggle which led no where and benefitted no one. Due to differences between the two leaders the Corporation was divided into two or three groups. After Sri Ram Ratan Gupta left for Delhi and Sri Tandon resigned from Dy. Mayorship, a power vacuum existed in the Corporation and it helped those who were so inclined to have entered into opportunistic alliances with one another to exploit the Corporation. Though both Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon had an ambitious programme for the city welfare yet could not do anything as a result of the division in the party. Had both the groups taken a agreement when both the leaders were in an active positions in the Corporation politics, it might have done some good to the city. In the absence of these leaders the understanding and agreement between a handful of persons from both the groups was being used not to help in the betterment of the lot of the city, but to secure what benefits individuals and groups could at the cost of the city and as it were to have a share in the loot. Meanwhile two other industrialists Sri Ratan Lal Sharma and Sardar Inder Singh entered into the Corporation politics. Sardarji enjoyed two terms of Mayorship and Sri Ratan Lal Sharma was more involved in the Mahapalika politics than Sardar Inder Singh.

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5. Citizen Sept. 29, 1962
The Mahapalika party politics had been a plaything in the hands of industrialists and it was controlled through money, jobs and other business tactics. This idea was in conformity with the opinion expressed by late Sri Jata Dhar Bajpai who was Mayor in 1970-71. He said that "The capitalist dominated administration and party politics deprived the poor citizens of their primary necessities to meet their selfish ends. They indulged in horse trading at the time of election of the Mayor, the Dy. Mayor, members of Executive Council and Vikas Samiti". To get support from those who were not in a particular group, money and some other sources had been used. It is clear from the statement given by Sri Ramesh Chandra Gupta Kelawala in the Mahapalika meeting on July 5, 1968 that:

...... इसी कारण संयुक्त लोकसेवक पार्टी ने आम के चुनाव का विभाजन करने का फैसला किया है। कार्यकारिणी और विकास समिति के चुनाव में भी पैसा डेकर चोट बरोबर गये है। इसीलिए हम लोग इसमें मान नहीं लेंगे।"

(The S.S.P. had decided to boycott the elections of the Executive and the Development Committee because votes have been purchased on payment of money)

Though petitions were filed against the Mayor's elections in the Judicial Courts charging corrupt practices followed in their elections which were vacated due to lack of evidence yet, since it had not been proved in the court it cannot be ruled out. In this connection one of the examples of Sri Babulal, a corporator who disclosed in the Mahapalika meeting dated 16th December 1970 and which is reproduced below, is meaningful.
"I want to tell that some people wanted to bribe me but when I did not agree, all the work in my area is being hampered. I was serving on a salary of Rs.150/- I was influenced to vote for a particular person when I did not do so my services were terminated.

The Nagar Mahapalika, the Executive Committee, the Development Committee and the subcommittees had been working on group basis. The members of these committees worked only for those who helped them in their group politics. The development plans and other civic work had been done in the constituencies of their group people. In this connection let us see what a corporator Sri Virendra Singh Kushwaha said in the Corporation meeting on the 15th May 1970:

"I took the list, it is unfortunate. The members of the Executive Committee have kept enough money for their areas and other areas have been left.

It has been a general complaint that Executive Committee had not been fair and just in distributing the civic constructions in the city. This work should not be based on personal influence and position of the Corporators. Such charges were
made by a corporator Sri Liaquat Hussain, in the Mahapalika meeting on the 5th April 1969 who said:

"40% of the work has been kept for the members of the Executive Committee and the remaining 60% for the others"

Such charges on the subject had not only been made by Sri Hussain but other prominent corporators also expressed similar opinions. Dr. Shashi Bhal Agnihotri while discussing the budget for 1969-70 said:

"From the work list it is clear that there has been favourtism.

The work list appended to budget gives details of the work that has to be taken up during the year in the city. In the public eyes those corporators who are able to get more civic amenities for their areas are considered to be more competent and are sure to get votes in new election. Therefore while preparing the budget and work list this idea is kept in mind. Sri Manohar Lal a corporator charged the Executive Committee in the Mahapalika meeting on the 18th December 1968 saying:

"The members of the Executive Committee have adopted the tendency of favourtism. The work is done in those areas whose..."
corporators are influential and in the other areas an attitude of indifference has been adopted. There should be equal treatment with all). A similar opinion was expressed by Sri Jugal Kishore Garg in the Mahapalika meeting dated 18.12.1968

"बाजट की वर्क पीस्ट में बोलते मार्ग सा व्यवहार किया गया है। सब बाज़ों में समानता का व्यवहार किया जाना चाहिये।"

(A step brotherly treatment has been adopted in work list attached to the budget. There should be equal treatment for all the wards).

Besides the work list other means to influence the corporators and Corporation employees had also been adopted. The Nagar Mahapalika used to give grants to voluntary organisation. The powers of the sanction of the grants had been used as a tool to influence the members of the Corporation to gain their favour for their group. This is evident from the charges levelled by a corporator Sri Mustafa Hussain Naiyar in the Corporation meeting dated 3rd April 1969 saying

"का यह सही नहीं है कि यह कहा जाता है कि अगर हमारा सद्व और तो बंट भिल सके।"

(Is it not true that it is told that grants can be sanctioned if they cooperate with ...). During the course of an interview it was revealed that some of the corporators had been trying to employ their own men in the Mahapalika offices. One of the corporators has his men in almost every department and could get anything done whether it was the Mayor's regime or that of the administrator. The staff of Mahapalika had been used in favour of groups. This idea has also been expressed by a corporator Sri Makbool Hussain Qureshi who charged the leaders saying:
"हमारे नेता जो भाषण देते हैं वह अधिकारियों पर दबाव डालते हैं कि वे एक गुप्त के लिए जमा करे।"

(Our leaders who deliver the lectures pressurise the officers to act for one group).

The analysis of the party politics in Kanpur Nagar Mahapalika and the opinions expressed by the corporators as detailed above prove that the Mahapalika activities have not been fair at all and they have not discharged the responsibility for which they were elected. The Kanpur Corporation took its birth in the party politics. The situation demanded that the Nagar Mahapalika in its infancy should be cautious and more care was needed to establish good precedents and conventions. This was the period when planning to improve the city could be made and civic amenities could be provided to the citizens. Though both Sri Ram Ratan Gupta the first Mayor and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon the first Dy. Mayor had plans to improve the city yet due to politics and group rivalry, no plan could be implemented. The roots of group politics were so deep rooted that even though both Sri Ram Ratan Gupta and Sri Shiv Narain Tandon retired from active politics of the Mahapalika, yet the groupism generated in their time continued, taking a different shape that has been explained above.

The period afforded a golden opportunity for civic leaders to improve the city of Kanpur as there had been Congress Government at the Centre and in the State and the Congress was the largest political party in the Mahapalika. The Mayors were also
influencial and had good relations with the Chief Ministers of the State and the Congress leadership. Sri Ram Ratan Gupta, Sri Ratan Lal Sharma, Sardar Inder Singh were all in a position to get maximum cooperation on the one hand from the Nagar Mahapalika and on the other from the State Government. It is unfortunate that they were not able to deliver the good for the city, Sri Ratan Lal Sharma as Mayor and as Dy. Mayor had tried to provide civic amenities. Two of the industrialist Mayors had misused their influences and powers for self interest in getting valuable plots of land at throw away price. The others had followed suit.

In the Mahapalika Congress party there was no discipline. At one time two Congressmen contested for the Mayoral post. The Congress candidates were opposed by Congressmen. The faction in the Congress party in the Mahapalika was known to state leaders but they could not bring about a compromise between the two. The corporators had been involved in group politics and making unholy alliances. Their working had not been fair and just. The working of plot allotment committee which has been detailed above sets a very bad example.

To conclude we may say that civic improvements of the city of Kanpur could not be made due to the fact that the elected representatives had been indulging in party politics. The Congress party which was in power was divided into groups and their activities were centred around their group. Whether it was allotment of residential flats or plots or construction
of schools or opening of a hospital or community development centre etc., it was all for the group and the people in general were not kept in view. The Corporation had been a battleground for power politics. Proper attention to utility services could not, therefore, be paid.