

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTION

THE REPORTS ON THE WORKING OF DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

DURING THE YEAR

1918-19

Agpur

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Central Provinces Administration

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 21st January 1920.

READ—

Annual Reports of the District Councils in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1918-19.

Reviews of the Commissioners of Divisions on the above.

READ AGAIN—

This Administration's Resolution, Local and Municipal Department, No. 29/VIII, dated the 13th January 1919.

RESOLUTION.

The reports of the Commissioners on the working of the Local Self-Government Act in the Central Provinces and the Rural Boards Law in Berar were due on the 15th September; but the report of the Nagpur Division was over 10 weeks late, the delay being due to the late submission of their report by the Balaghat District Council office, the organisation and management of which is reported to be defective. The Berar report was not received till the 29th November, the delay being again attributed to the habitual unpunctuality of the District Boards.

2. There was no change in the number of Councils or Boards or in the sanctioned number of members. In the Nimar and Drug District Councils the official Chairmen were replaced by non-officials, and the official Secretary of the Bhandara District Council was succeeded by an honorary non-official Secretary. The reconstitution of the Local Boards and District Councils of the Nimar, Bhandara and Drug Districts was sanctioned for the period ending the 31st March, 1921, and that of the Balaghat Council and Boards for the period ending the 31st March, 1922.

3. All District Councils in the Central Provinces and District Boards in Berar held the prescribed number of meetings, but ^{Meetings, attendance and elections.} 11 Local Boards failed to do so. Out of a total of 147 meetings held by District Councils and District Boards, 14 proved abortive for want of a quorum, and out of the 660 meetings held by Local Boards 86 proved similarly abortive. The average non-official attendance was below 50 per cent in the case of 17 District Councils and the great majority of Local Boards, the highest percentage reached being 71 in the case of the Balaghat Local Board. The reports from all divisions complain of the poor attendance of non-official members. To a certain extent this may have been due to the peculiar circumstances of the year, and the presence of influenza, plague and cholera epidemics, but the complaint is an ever recurring one, even in prosperous and healthy years. The exhortations made from year to year have proved of little or no avail, and it is not likely that any of the various remedies which have been suggested, such as the grant of travelling allowance to members or the removal of members

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