



Report on the working of
the Village Panchayats in
the Central Provinces and
Berar for the year 1932-33

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REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR 1932-33

This report deals with the period from 1st April 1932 to 31st March 1933. There was no Panchayat Officer during the years 1931 and 1932 and no reports for the years 1930-31 and 1931-32 were prepared. The post of the Village Panchayat Officer was revived in February 1933, and sanctioned in the first instance for one year. I took over charge on the 24th May 1933. The Village Panchayat Officer is not attached to any department but for his executive duties he is kept under the control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The duties assigned to him are as follows:—

- (1) To promote the establishment of new panchayats;
- (2) to inspect the existing panchayats;
- (3) to guide and advise them in the discharge of their duties by constant touring.

GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT

2. The number of panchayats constituted since 1922 is as follows:—

1923	...	10
1924	...	9
1925	...	30
1926-27	...	32
1927-28	...	49
1928-29	...	135
1929-30	...	159
1930-31	...	110
1931-32	...	73
1932-33	...	197
Total		804

The statement (Appendix V) will show that the number of panchayats rose from 603 to 800 in the year. In the four districts of Berar the number rose by 167 and in the 15 districts of the Central Provinces it rose by 30. One panchayat in Berar and 3 panchayats in the Central Provinces were disestablished in the year under report.

3. Berar Division.—There has been a sudden rise in the number of panchayats in Yeotmal district where the number of panchayats rose from 67 to 224 in one year. Owing to this

large increase the task of carrying out elections, training panchas and supervising their work has become a burden beyond the capacity of those at present available to deal with it. It would appear that the villages selected have not always been suitable, and it may become necessary to retrace the steps taken in places in order to consolidate the position. The district council, Yeotmal, has decided to provide means to educate the panchas in their administrative duties and to bring the existing panchayats into proper working order. Where the people do not genuinely want a panchayat, there should be no hesitation in recommending disestablishment, but every effort should be made to find out the real cause of trouble. I visited this district in July last and inspected about 30 panchayats there. Most of them are doing only judicial work. They do not understand these duties properly and the local revenue officers will have to visit these panchayats as often as they can to train the panchas. The district council, Yeotmal, has sanctioned the appointment of five inspectors and one superintendent. If this agency is properly trained and utilized, the majority of these panchayats will, it is hoped, begin to work satisfactorily within a short period. I have arranged to get their weekly diaries for scrutiny. At present the attention of the panchayats of this district is exclusively devoted to court work, and administrative work is almost entirely neglected by them. I suggest that as administrative work is the primary duty of the panchayat, the investiture with judicial powers should be made conditional on the prior performance of administrative duties for twelve months. Further expansion in this district would for the present be inadvisable.

The remaining Berar districts have contributed an increase of only 10 panchayats, and most of them are not doing administrative duties. Thus in the Akola district 17 panchayats held no meeting in the year under report, and in four cases individual panchas were removed for non-attendance.

4. Jubbulpore Division.—In this division 11 new panchayats were established and 2 disestablished, the number of panchayats rising from 146 to 155. In Nimar the number is stationary, and the Deputy Commissioner considers it inadvisable to increase them in the malguzari tract until he is satisfied that existing panchayats are functioning properly. A good example was set in that district by establishing one panchayat in the ryotwari tract. In fact every developed ryotwari village of a large size should have a panchayat. In Jubbulpore district the number of panchayats rose from 45 to 48. In this district some panchayats are keeping village libraries. The district council is unable or unwilling to pay for the touring of its office-bearers, to enable them to keep in touch with the panchayats, and the office-bearers are

said to have no time to supervise the panchayats. In these circumstances some check can be maintained if the secretary carefully examines the diaries submitted by the local board inspectors. I am arranging to get the diaries here for scrutiny. In Hoshangabad district the number rose from 45 to 49 and one panchayat was disestablished in the year on account of factions in the village. In Saugor district the number rose from 21 to 23. The elections were keenly contested in this district. At Patharia in the Saugor district two institutions, viz., a sanitation panchayat and a village panchayat, are working together with the sanction of the Local Government. The members are common to both institutions. The former deals with the village administration and the latter looks after the judicial functions. When I visit the place I shall see if it is necessary to have the same body of persons working under two different Acts. In Mandla the number rose from 11 to 12.

5. Chhattisgarh Division.—In this division the number rose from 78 to 90. In Raipur district the number rose from 12 to 13. This is a district where no sub-committee exists for the organization and supervision of panchayats. In Bhandara district the number rose from 3 to 5. The district council reduced the taxes of three panchayats by half on account of financial depression. Attempts are being made to establish more panchayats in this district. In Drug district the number rose from 17 to 19. Eight panchayats have levied taxation. In Bilaspur district the number rose from 35 to 42. Only five panchayats have levied taxation in this district. In Balaghat district the number remained stationary but on account of the efforts of some honorary workers, new panchayats are being formed and the movement has received a further stimulus by the election of a new body with a retired Deputy Director of Agriculture at its helm.

6. Nagpur Division.—In this division the number of panchayats rose from 133 to 142. In Wardha district the number was increased by one, but on account of party factions the constitution cannot be completed in two panchayats. Party feelings appear to run high in this district and the selection of villages demands special care. It has been suggested that the ballot system should be introduced to obviate complaints against the presiding officers. This is a dangerous step in my opinion. In the rural area, panchayat elections should be as simple and economical as possible and they should not take the shape of council elections. The suggestion also appears to be impracticable on account of the large number of panchayats in the province. In Chanda, the number of panchayats rose from 22 to 24 and considerable expansion is anticipated. It should be borne in mind, however, that the district council is mainly responsible for the supervision and control of the administrative duties and until

this body takes up this task seriously it would be unwise to increase the number rapidly. The movement is passing through the "teething stage" and its growth should be always in proportion to the amount of interest taken by the district council in supervision and control. In Nagpur district the number has remained stationary but some cases are pending for new elections. The sub-committee has not been able to control its panchayats as 15 panchayats failed to submit their annual returns and reports in spite of repeated reminders. In Betul district the number rose from 25 to 30. In Chhindwara district the number rose from 49 to 50. The district council, Seoni, failed to supply a consolidated statement of receipts and expenditure as prescribed by rule 36. The panchayats in Seoni sub-division are not reported to be functioning satisfactorily.

7. Ten villages were added to 3 panchayats in the Nimar district, thus making group panchayats in 4 places of the Nimar district as under—

- (i) Boregaon buzruk group panchayat.
- (ii) Khalwa buzruk group panchayat.
- (iii) Jaswadi buzruk group panchayat.
- (iv) Rustampur buzruk group panchayat.

The working of the group system requires to be watched further, as past experience shows that the panchas do not pull on smoothly in such combinations.

8. During the year the Deputy Commissioners received 253 applications for new panchayats and as a result of these, 197 new panchayats were formed. Inquiries are still pending with Sub-Divisional Officers and district councils regarding new panchayats.

9. Two sanitation panchayats in Betul district were converted into village panchayats and one village under the Mukkadam rules (Handya in Hoshangabad district) was converted into a village panchayat. Four village panchayats were disestablished during the year under review.

RE-ELECTIONS

10. Re-elections were held in 159 panchayat villages as detailed in Appendix VII.

11. For future development I recommend that the panchayat sub-committee should be reminded of their duties by the Deputy Commissioner and every Deputy Commissioner should prepare a programme of work for the district for a year in consultation with the district council. At places where district councils take up propaganda work independently, they may select villages at a joint meeting of the members of the panchayat sub-committee appointed for the district, the Deputy

Commissioner and the Sub-Divisional Officers, so that there may be no difference of opinion as regards the suitability of a particular village when the proposals reach the Deputy Commissioner. The district councils should appoint an honorary organizer for propaganda work. So far only the district council, Amraoti, has appointed an honorary organizer (Mr. Abdul Quadir of Pimpalkhuta) but he was not sent out on regular tour in any tahsil of that district during the year under report.

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

12. For fear of incurring public odium for imposing taxes very few panchayats have taken up administrative work. The levying of taxes is not absolutely necessary for discharging administrative functions. Every district council ought to point out to the panchayats the possibility of taking up matters in the first instance which can be done without incurring any expenditure, such as (1) asking house-owners to construct latrines, (2) prohibiting defecation within prescribed limits, (3) prohibiting dumping of sweepings and cow-dung within houses and regulating their removal, (4) requiring villagers to remove rank vegetation, (5) prohibiting skinning of animals within 200 yards, (6) prohibiting steeping of hemp in streams, etc. The sub-committee formed under rule 24 can look to these things. These things can also be explained to the panchayats at the time of inspections, in conferences, and in panchayat rallies. Taxation should not be the only criterion for judging the utility of these small institutions in the rural area. With an organization already in existence it is easy to start village uplift work also at these centres. Every panchayat village should therefore, in consultation with the "Tahsil Village Uplift Committee," start uplift work, concentrating their attention on improvement of roads, digging of manure pits, breeding of cattle, storage of medicines for the poor and cattle, adult education, regular vaccination, etc. The Nimar district is the only district where haisiyat tax has been levied in all panchayats, while in other districts attempts are being made to levy taxation. The general tendency is to evade taxation on the plea of economic depression. In the Berar division, two panchayats in the Amraoti district, four in Akola, 22 in Yeotmal, and twelve in Buldana have taken up administrative work, which is confined to conseryancy and water-supply. Only in those villages which were under the operation of the Sanitation and Public Management Act is attention being paid to improvement of roads, lighting of the village, management of bazar and supply of medicines. The district council, Yeotmal, should consolidate the work already taken in hand, should resuscitate the languishing panchayats and get rid of those which are past all hopes of redemption; so that the panchayat movement in this

district will be placed on a sound and healthy basis. The district council, Yeotmal, is giving substantial monetary assistance to panchayats by contributing a portion of the cattle-pound income. Buldana district has started this system in certain villages. In one year the district council, Yeotmal, paid Rs. 1,686, and the district council, Buldana, paid Rs. 853. In Yeotmal district out of 224, only 29 panchayats have levied assessment, and in Buldana 3 out of 64 panchayats have levied assessment. In the other districts of Berar the progress is slow and steady, but there also it is noted that the amount of effort put into works of village improvement compares very unfavourably with the energy expended over court work. The movement received a set-back generally on account of the civil disobedience movement in 1930-31 and in Buldana it was greatly retarded by party factions. In Amraoti, where the progress is very slow, no amount was paid from cattle-pound income as the pound income is reported to be below the expenditure. This is an advanced district in Berar, but only two out of 67 panchayats have levied assessment. The district council, Amraoti, will have to take special measures to see that the panchayats in that district perform their administrative duties properly. The district council has decided to appoint panchayat inspectors and is considering the question of appointing a superintendent. It is also thinking of creating a "Village Panchayat Bureau" for the supervision and control of the panchayats in the district.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

13. The total receipts of panchayats during the year were Rs. 1,63,363-0-10½ and the expenditure Rs. 1,04,289-11-2½, leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 59,073-5-8 as against Rs. 55,984-0-0 for the preceding year. The income from taxes, fees and fines amounted to Rs. 82,819-3-10½. Many panchayats have raised subscriptions amongst panchas themselves and some have collected donations locally to start work. The expenditure on the construction of tanks and wells amounted to Rs. 313-5-6 and that on repairs of the same to Rs. 2,609-9-3. A sum of Rs. 1,256-7-2 was spent on other improvements to water supplies and Rs. 777-3-10 on drainage. Rs. 8,710-1-0 was spent on roads and Rs. 79,227-7-0½ on conservancy and other miscellaneous items. It will be seen that the expenditure on the construction and repairs to roads is increasing gradually.

Under section 16, requisitions for recovery of taxes, tolls and fees were submitted to the Deputy Commissioner in 224 cases.

CONTROL BY DISTRICT COUNCIL

14. Almost all the district councils except those at Raipur and Bhandara have delegated their powers of supervision and

control to the local board and office-bearers, but nowhere have the local board members made a tour of inspection. Sub-committees, as suggested by Government, have been constituted everywhere except in Raipur, Jubbulpore and Bhandara, but the members have done very little by way of organization and supervision. In Hoshangabad, the district council has appointed a sub-committee for each tahsil. Very few office-bearers of district councils have made inspections of panchayats. The joint inspections by the office-bearers of district councils and Sub-Divisional Officers have proved to be very useful in Nimar district. This system is worth a trial in other districts. The tendency to keep large balances of money with the panchas or their relations still continues; the Shahpur panchayat in the Burhanpur tahsil of Nimar and the Bemetara panchayat in the Drug district are bad instances. They are keeping over Rs. 1,000 each with the panchas and their relations. The district councils are now taking steps to deposit the balances in the nearest banks.

TAXATION

15. The income from taxes, fees and fines has been shown together in Appendix III. No detailed information is available about the nature and extent of taxes and about realization and arrears. In future these details should be shown in the annual report.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

16. A provision for Rs. 10,000 was made for initial grants in the year under report. A sum of Rs. 8,575 was spent and Rs. 1,425 surrendered by the Commissioners to Government. The grants were mostly spent in purchasing registers, furniture and manuals for the panchayats.

17. No special work was entrusted to any panchayats by the district councils.

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS

18. C class forests.—The following forest land has been transferred for management to the panchayats in Berar :—

Serial No.	Description of forest lands assigned.	Area.	Village community to whom assigned.
1	The C class forest of mauza Ramgaon, taluq Darwha, district Yeotmal.	A. g. 494 10	Mauza Ramgaon.
2	The C class forest of mauza Manikwada, taluq Darwha, district Yeotmal.	200 12	Mauza Manikwada.
3	The C class forest of mauza Pimpalkhuta, taluq Morsi, district Amraoti.	146 36	Mauza Pimpalkhuta.

Rules have been framed under Notification No. 592-413-XV, dated the 16th August 1932, regulating the management of the village forests which have been assigned in Yeotmal district to the village communities. On the 15th of October in each year the panchayat has to pay into the Government treasury the following amounts representing half the average annual grazing revenue of the three years preceding the creation of the village forest :—

	Rs.
The panchayat of Ramgaon	... 226
The panchayat of Manikwada	... 95
The panchayat of Pimpalkhuta	... 138

All members of each of the said panchayats are appointed forest officers *ex-officio* and they are deemed to be equal in rank to a Ranger for the purposes of section 53 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927), as applied to Berar. They cannot however effect arrests without warrant under section 64. It is too early to pronounce a definite opinion on the result of the transfer of the management of C class forests to the panchayats.

VILLAGE UPLIFT

19. A few panchayats in the Nimar district have interested themselves in the village uplift movement and attention has been concentrated there upon general conservancy of the village, trenching of the night-soil, improvement of roads, digging of manure pits, breeding of cattle, supply of ordinary medicines, banana plantations, supply of verum cotton seed, adult education, regular vaccination of children, regular castration of young bulls, supply of medicines for cattle diseases and regular permanganation of drinking water. This systematic endeavour to push the campaign of village uplift through the village panchayats has been undertaken by the tahsil committee of Khandwa with the whole-hearted co-operation of the local officers of that district. In Betul the Deputy Commissioner succeeded in inducing village panchayats to identify themselves with the village uplift work. The district council sub-committee there did very useful work under his guidance. In this district night classes have been started in many panchayat centres and the panchayat Mahadgaon has opened a semi-co-operative dairy which supplies milk to Betul.

ACCOUNTS AND RETURNS

20. The district councils in the Central Provinces have received reports of administrative work from most of the panchayats. About 68 panchayats in Yeotmal and 15 in Nagpur failed to send their reports and returns to the district council. The newly formed panchayats in Yeotmal district had no training in

the preparation of their annual returns; still with the efforts of the secretary, district council, annual reports and returns could be secured in time from 156 panchayats. In other divisions, the district councils, Drug, Wardha, Seoni and Raipur, had to make special efforts to get these reports from the panchayats in their charge. Annual reports from one division were received by me in the fourth week of September 1933. The necessity for the punctual submission of district annual reports on the working of village panchayats has been brought to the notice of district officers, and it is hoped that in future special efforts will be made to ensure this so that the provincial report may not be unduly delayed.

JUDICIAL WORK

21. Village Benches.—During the year the number of village benches rose to 749. In Yeotmal district about 30 benches failed to send in their returns of work. The statistics for work are as follows:—

Total number of cases disposed of in—

1928-29	...	2,206
1929-30	...	3,704
1930-31	...	Not known.
1931-32	...	4,492
1932-33	...	4,950

The number of cases disposed of in 1932-33 is not proportional to the increase in the number of panchayats, because most of the benches and courts in Yeotmal district were established in the latter part of the year and several courts had not started work for want of registers. Out of the 4,950 cases disposed of, in 2,765 cases the accused were acquitted on compromise, in 1,128 they were acquitted, and in 163 discharged on admonition. In 55 benches, the village benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2) of the Central Provinces Panchayat Manual. Under section 29, 152 references were made to the Deputy Commissioners and under section 38, 1,272 execution certificates were sent, *vide* Appendix V. No magistrate or civil court made use of section 30 or section 40 for getting reports of local investigation or getting commissions executed through village benches or village courts. Reports of intricate cases, however, were made in 46 cases under section 48. The Deputy Commissioner had to be approached in 33 cases under section 44 for compelling the attendance of the accused before the village benches. The Deputy Commissioner was approached in 214 cases under section 62 (1) A, in 87 cases (1) B and in 78 cases under section 62 (1) C. In very few cases has the decision of the bench or court had to be quashed or modified. The tendency to prepare separate case-

files has not yet disappeared and instructions have been given from time to time to write all the proceedings in the court register. Out of these 409 cases pending only 212 criminal cases were pending over one month. Nimar is the only district which had no cases pending at the end of the year. There were no complaints of excessive fines.

22. Village Courts.—During the year the number of village courts rose to 753. 48 village courts received enhanced powers under section 32 (2), and five panchayats in Amraoti district and three in Wardha received powers under section 54 to try suits above one year. The statistics of work are as follows :—

Total number of cases disposed of in—

1928-29	...	3,460
1929-30	...	6,571
1930-31	...	Not known.
1931-32	...	9,227
1932-33	...	9,395

Out of the total for 1932-33 the number of contested cases is 2,385, i.e., 22 per cent, and the remaining 7,010 were uncontested cases. Out of 780 pending cases only 345 cases were pending over two months. Nimar is the only district which had no cases pending at the end of the year.

GENERAL

23. The total number of Muhammadan panchas in the panchayats of the Central Provinces and Berar is 369, of panchas belonging to the depressed classes 358, the remaining 7,616 being Hindus of various castes. The representation of the Muhammadans and the depressed classes is very low.

During the year the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers made inspections as follows :—

Division.	By Deputy Commissioners.	By Sub-Divisional Officers.
1. Berar	14	139
2. Jubbulpore	23	61
3. Chhattisgarh	25	41
4. Nagpur	22	53
Total	84	294

The district council, Yeotmal, has sent very incomplete information as 68 panchayats did not send their statements. I am requesting the district councils to obtain all the statements in

time in future. The district council, Akola, deserves congratulations for the timely submission of a complete report. The Deputy Commissioner, Wardha, recommends holding of an annual refresher course for the panchas at the district headquarters. The attendance would be larger if such classes were held at tahsil headquarters. The Deputy Commissioner, Betul, thinks that some administrative control could be exercised over panchayats by a scrutiny of their budgets. There is no compulsory provision for the preparation of budgets and most of the panchayats do not even prepare a budget as very few have taken up administrative work. The suggestion that a budget should accompany the assessment list is a sound one but this will add to the clerical work of the panchayats. The district councils might ask for such budgets from those panchayats which have engaged clerks. The form of the budget should be very simple. The district council, Buldana, has framed rules and the panchayat fund account books are required to be sent to the local board office in the months of August and September. Panchayats in that district have shown resentment at this rule. It would be more convenient, in my opinion, if the accounts were audited at the panchayat centres by some agency.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

24. The following panchayats worked satisfactorily :—

Name of division.	Name of district.	Name of panchayat villages.
Berar	Yeatmal	Arni, Kayar, Mardi and Vidul.
	Amraoti	Pimpalkhuta, Mozari, Assegeon, Chamak, Asara, Itki and Ramtirth.
	Akola	Keliveli, Karla, Hinganwada, Dahewarangli, Roundal, Moregaon, Rajanda and Ugwa
	Buldana	Pahurjira, Sutala, Sajoda, Dhonora, Wankheda, Wad, Singai, Fatte-kherda, Panjarkheda, Shendurhana, Rohankheda, Datola, Ancharwada, Shegaon Atol, Ambola, Mera Buzruk and Pimpalgaon.
Jubbulpore	Nimar	Boregaon, Bedea and Harsud.
	Jubbulpore	Badgaon, Barawara, Amgaon and Mohad.
	Saugor	Hindora, Jabora, Patharia, Sitanagar, Drugsar and Baroda.
Chhattisgarh	Drug	Balod, Nawagad, Sahaspur, Lohara and Patan.
	Balaghat	Arambha.
Nagpur	Betul	Mahadgaon.

Amongst the non-officials who took pains to promote the growth of the movement, special mention must be made of

Rao Sahib Uttam Rao Patil, Secretary, Berar Village Panchayat Board, Itki. Mr. D. Y. Mahagaonkar, Secretary, district council, Yeotmal, is doing his best in Yeotmal to put the panchayats into proper working order. His fortnightly paper called "Yeotmal District Gazette" is a useful addition to the panchayat literature.

R. B. CHAUBAL,
Village Panchayat Officer,
Central Provinces and Berar.

NAGPUR :

The 30th September 1933.

APPENDICES

APPEN

Statement showing the result of civil work done by Village
ending 31st

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of village courts on 31st March 1933.	Pending from the last year.	Number of suits instituted during the year.	Total for disposal.
1	2	3	4	5	6
					<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ...	224	75	1,522	1,597
2	Amraoti ...	67	71	986	1,057
3	Akola ...	58	73	704	777
4	Buldana ...	64	47	526	573
	Total ...	413	266	3,738	4,004
					<i>Jubbulpore</i>
5	Jubbulpore ...	48	23	466	489
6	Saugor ...	23	25	657	682
7	Mandla ...	12	34	314	348
8	Hoshangabad ...	48	40	905	945
9	Nimar ...	24	16	289	305
	Total ...	155	138	2,631	2,769
					<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
10	Raipur ...	13	38	273	311
11	Drug ...	19	12	191	203
12	Bilaspur ...	42	72	597	669
13	Bhandara ...	5	4	25	29
14	Balaghat ...	11	3	45	48
	Total ...	90	129	1,131	1,260
					<i>Nagpur</i>
15	Nagpur ...	14	9	53	62
16	Wardha ...	11	38	213	251
17	Betul ...	29	51	588	639
18	Chanda ...	22	36	650	686
19	Chhindwara ...	19	19	485	504
	Total ...	95	153	1,989	2,142
	GRAND TOTAL ...	753	686	9,489	10,175

DIX I

Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year March 1933.

Disposals.			Pending at the close of the year.	Pending over two months.	Remarks.
Uncon- tested cases.	Con- tested cases.	Total disposed of			
7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Division</i>					
1,076	398	1,474	123	17	62 courts did not submit their returns. Eight courts did not submit their returns. Seven courts did not submit their returns. Powers were withdrawn in one case.
612	360	972	85	27	
631	106	737	40	15	
270	249	519	54	20	
2,589	1,113	3,702	302	79	
<i>Division</i>					
414	42	456	33	28	Two panchayats are not empowered to try civil suits.
455	182	637	45	18	
272	54	326	22	3	
735	138	873	72	25	
252	34	286	19	...	
2,128	450	2,578	191	74	
<i>Division</i>					
169	117	286	25	13	
100	91	191	12	11	
517	84	601	68	16	
22	5	27	2	2	
40	5	45	3	1	
848	301	1,150	110	43	
<i>Division</i>					
42	6	48	14	5	
180	46	226	25	18	
325	247	572	67	32	
526	119	645	41	78	
372	102	474	30	16	
1,445	520	1,965	177	149	
7,010	2,385	9,395	780	345	

*Statement showing the criminal work done by Village Benches
31st March*

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of village benches.	Pending from the last year.	Number of cases instituted during the year.
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Berar</i>				
1	Yeotmal ...	224	18	836
2	Amraoti ...	67	23	143
3	Akola ...	58	16	324
4	Buldana ...	64	31	376
	Total ...	413	88	1,979
<i>Jubbulpore</i>				
5	Jubbulpore ...	48	23	283
6	Saugor ...	23	18	282
7	Mandla ...	12	15	197
8	Hoshangabad ...	48	33	481
9	Nimar ...	24	8	292
	Total ...	155	97	1,535
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>				
10	Raipur ...	13	18	162
11	Drug ...	19	8	95
12	Bilaspur ...	42	16	259
13	Bhandara ...	5	2	25
14	Balaghat ...	11	2	48
	Total ...	90	46	589
<i>Nagpur</i>				
15	Nagpur ...	14	5	35
16	Wardha ...	8	8	89
17	Betul ...	29	19	343
18	Chanda ...	22	19	311
19	Chhindwara ...	18	13	183
	Total ...	91	64	961
	GRAND TOTAL ...	749	295	5,064

DIX II

in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 1933.

Total for disposal.	Total disposed of	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending over one month.	Remarks.
6	7	8	9	10
<i>Division</i>				
854	807	47	32	80 bench courts did not submit their returns. Seven bench courts did not submit their returns. In the case of one panchayat powers were withdrawn.
466	434	32	13	
340	328	12	4	
407	377	30	7	
2,067	1,946	111	56	
<i>Division</i>				
305	289	17	3	Powers were withdrawn in one case.
300	275	25	13	
212	177	35	34	
514	482	32	19	
300	287	13	...	
1,632	1,510	122	69	
<i>Division</i>				
186	168	12	2	
103	82	21	7	
275	254	21	4	
27	16	11	10	
50	37	13	...	
635	557	78	23	
<i>Division</i>				
40	32	8	8	
97	77	20	15	
362	329	33	29	
330	316	14	9	
196	183	13	3	
1,025	937	88	64	
5,359	4,950	409	212	

APPEN

Statement showing the receipts of Village Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district.	Opening balance on 1st April 1932.	Re	
			Taxes, fees and fines.	
1	2	3	4	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
			Berar	
1	Yeotmal	6,156 15 0	7,185 6 9	
2	Amraoti	6,720 1 1	2,253 3 0	
3	Akola	3,764 11 8	1,677 4 9	
4	Buldana	4,430 0 4	3,028 1 3	
	Total	21,071 12 1	14,143 15 9	
			Jubbulpore	
5	*Jubbulpore	...	Statement	
6	Saugor	2,361 12 10	1,399 14 6	
7	Mandla	1,305 10 8	4,318 6 3	
8	Hoshangabad	5,425 1 4	4,171 15 0	
9	Nimar	8,567 0 11	15,809 15 9	
	Total	17,659 9 9	25,700 3 6	
			Chhattisgarh	
10	Raipur	1,340 1 4	4,476 11 6	
11	Drug	1,518 0 0	4,539 0 0	
12	Bilaspur	3,180 13 11	2,650 15 9	
13	Bhandara	186 15 9	1,858 0 3	
14	Balaghat	823 10 11	253 14 3	
	Total	7,049 9 11	13,778 9 9	
			Nagpur	
15	Nagpur	2,277 6 1	6,914 10 7	
16	Wardha	1,171 3 0	2,320 2 8½	
17	Betul	3,075 3 0	7,061 2 4	
18	Chanda	3,141 6 4	12,113 4 3	
19	*Chhindwara	528 8 8	787 3 0	
	Total	10,193 11 1	29,196 6 10½	
	GRAND TOTAL	55,974 10 10	82,819 3 10½	

DIX III

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1933.

Receipts.			Remarks.
Grants from Government, local authorities or private persons.	Other receipts.	Total.	
5	6	7	8
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division</i>			
2,885 3 3	2,467 2 9	18,694 11 9	Statements from 63 panchayats not received.
502 9 6	551 7 6	10,027 5 1	
523 5 9	488 14 0	6,454 4 2	
1,349 5 3	1,236 14 6	10,044 5 4	
5,260 7 9	4,744 6 9	45,220 10 4	
<i>Division</i>			
not received.			*Statement not received for 48 panchayats in Jubbulpore Division.
224 12 0	374 3 2	4,360 10 6	
414 11 0	926 4 0	6,964 15 11	
385 5 0	1,492 0 9	11,474 6 1	
140 14 6	2,211 15 6	26,729 14 8	
1,165 10 6	5,004 7 5	49,529 15 2	
<i>Division</i>			
50 0 0	409 1 3	6,275 14 1	
300 0 0	299 0 0	6,656 0 0	
350 0 0	529 2 0	6,710 15 8	
32 8 0	...	2,077 8 0	
...	89 0 0	1,166 9 2	
732 8 0	1,326 3 3	22,886 14 11	
<i>Division</i>			
180 4 9	509 2 10	9,881 8 3	15 panchayats did not send their statements.
200 4 0	420 10 3	4,112 3 11	
450 0 0	2,011 8 0	12,597 13 4	
182 0 0	1,491 3 6	16,927 14 1	
449 0 0	441 5 2	2,206 0 10	* A consolidated statement for 42 panchayats in Seoni tahsil not received.
1,461 8 9	4,873 13 9	45,725 8 5	
8,620 3 0	15,943 15 2	1,63,363 0 10	This statement does not contain account of 173 panchayats in Central Provinces and Berar. 68+48+15+42=173 panchayats.

Statement showing the expenditure of Village Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district.	Expend					
		Construction of		Repairs of		Other improvements to water-supply.	Clearing village sites.
		Tanks.	Wells.	Tanks.	Wells.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
							<i>Berar</i>
1	*Yeotmal ...	...	...	...	221 0 0	432 11 3	626 15 10
2	Amraoti ...	...	...	...	52 12 0	78 15 0	388 11 9
3	Akola ...	...	...	218 6 6	30 0 0	35 8 0	208 8 6
4	Buldana ...	...	...	...	30 0 0	313 14 0	206 6 6
	Total ...	...	...	218 6 6	333 12 0	861 0 3	1,430 10 7
							<i>Jubbulpore</i>
5	*Jubbulpore						Statement not
6	Saugor ...	...	...	16 0 0	15 12 0	44 13 0	564 10 1
7	Mandla ...	...	...	24 9 0	69 3 9	178 13 9	636 0 3
8	Hoshangabad ...	16 0 0	68 11 6	146 7 9	206 6 0	20 15 0	695 3 0
9	Nimar ...	...	...	33 6 9	392 6 3	...	...
	Total ...	16 0 0	68 11 6	220 7 6	683 12 0	244 9 9	1,895 13 4
							<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
10	Raipur ...	...	...	7 0 0	34 12 3	56 11 5	1,968 11 5
11	Drug ...	...	...	11 0 0	6 0 0	23 0 0	1,849 0 0
12	Bilaspur ...	25 1 0	...	121 9 3	29 6 3	20 3 6	510 2 9
13	Bhandara ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Dalaghat ...	...	...	...	...	...	6 2 0
	Total ...	25 1 0	...	139 9 3	70 2 6	99 14 11	4,334 0 2
							<i>Nagpur</i>
15	*Nagpur ...	...	...	...	...	41 14 3	387 0 9
16	Wardha ...	...	...	...	...	6 0 0	923 5 6
17	Betul ...	...	...	...	623 13 0	...	2,072 4 6
18	Chanda ...	...	203 9 0	...	112 14 0	3 0 0	11 15 0
19	*Chhindwara ...	...	...	...	206 12 6	...	340 7 6
	Total ...	...	203 9 0	...	943 7 6	50 14 3	3,735 1 3
	GRAND TOTAL	41 1 0	272 4 6	578 7 3	2,031 2 0	1,256 7 2	11,395 9 4

DIX IV

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1933.

iture.					Remarks.
Drainage.	Roads.	Conser- vancy and miscel- laneous.	Total.	Closing balance.	
9	10	11	12	13	14
Rs. n. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division</i>					
26 4 6	1,756 15 3	7,738 10 6	10,802 9 4	7,592 2 5	*Statements from 68 panchayats not received.
32 0 3	96 14 0	3,266 11 1	3,916 9 1	6,111 5 0	
19 7 0	264 13 6	1,820 5 3	2,597 0 9	3,857 3 5	
23 9 6	490 11 6	4,165 3 1	5,229 12 7	4,814 8 9	
101 5 3	2,609 6 3	16,990 13 11	2,5245 6 9	22,675 3 7	
<i>Division</i>					
received.					*Statements not received for 48 panchayats in Jubbulpore Division.
2 4 0	273 0 3	722 0 7	1,638 7 11	2,722 2 7	
51 9 0	617 12 6	3,994 11 7	5,572 11 10	1,392 4 1	
40 10 6	175 0 3	5,391 12 9	6,761 2 9	4,713 3 4	
180 15 0	684 8 9	16,326 2 2	17,617 6 11	9,112 7 9	
275 6 6	1,750 5 9	26,434 11 1	31,589 13 5	17,940 1 9	
<i>Division</i>					
96 1 6	376 2 3	2,256 7 10	4,795 14 8	1,479 15 5	
14 0 0	137 0 0	2,776 0 0	4,816 0 0	1,840 0 0	
30 11 9	269 10 6	3,156 8 6	4,163 5 6	2,547 10 2	
...	...	2,063 6 3	2,063 6 3	14 1 9	
...	70 9 6	260 7 9	337 3 3	829 5 11	
140 13 3	853 6 3	10,512 14 4	16,175 13 8	6,711 1 3	
<i>Division</i>					
1 7 6	218 14 7	6,760 7 8	7,409 12 9	2,471 11 6	*15 panchayats did not send their statements.
...	381 0 6	1,305 3 8½	2,615 9 8½	1,496 10 3	
72 15 10	815 7 9	5,384 8 6	8,969 1 7	3,628 11 9	
121 2 3	2,020 11 6	10,950 0 9	13,423 4 6	3,504 9 7	
64 1 3	0 2 6	888 11 1	1,560 12 10	645 4 0	*A consolidated statement for 42 panchayats in Seoni tahsil not received.
259 10 10	3,496 14 10	25,288 15 8½	33,978 9 4½	11,746 15 1	
777 3 10	8,710 1 1	79,227 7 ¼	1,04,289 11 2½	59,073 5 8	This statement does not contain account of 173 panchayats in Central Provinces and Berar, 68+48+15+42 panchayats.

APPEN

Statement giving detailed information about the
for the year ending

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1932.	Number of Panchayats on 31st March 1933.	Total number of panchas.			Number of cases in which action was taken by panchayats under section		
				Moslems.	Depressed classes.	Others.	16	29	38
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Berur</i>									
1	Yeotmal ...	67	224	52	51	2,059	12	4	93
2	Amraoti ...	64	67	32	16	599	6	...	47
3	Akola ...	53	58	26	36	594	...	14	102
4	Buldana ...	62	64	44	13	619	1	17	65
	Total ...	246	413	154	116	3,871	19	35	307
<i>Jubbulpore</i>									
5	Jubbulpore ...	45	48	12	40	453	...	...	130
6	Saugor ...	21	23	5	9	198	...	...	62
7	Mandla ...	11	12	7	3	111	33	21	31
8	Hoshangabad ...	45	48	12	20	523	2	24	157
9	Nimar ...	24	24	28	4	255	28	3	80
	Total ...	146	155	64	76	1,540	63	47	460
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>									
10	Raipur ...	12	13	13	6	111	...	16	20
11	Drug ...	17	19	15	57	129	...	...	1
12	Bilaspur ...	35	42	24	17	413	...	7	130
13	Bhandara ...	3	5	3	...	42	...	...	...
14	Balaghat ...	11	11	2	4	120	...	...	2
	Total ...	78	90	57	84	815	...	23	153
<i>Nagpur</i>									
15	Nappur ...	27	27	14	16	271	10	2	37
16	Wardha ...	10	11	7	2	94	2	...	58
17	Betul ...	25	30	13	29	294	22	26	124
18	Chanda ...	22	24	1	22	247	63	3	113
19	Chhindwara ...	49	50	45	13	484	45	16	...
	Total ...	133	142	94	82	1,390	142	47	352
	GRAND TOTAL ...	603	800	369	338	7,616	224	152	1,272

DIX V

*Panchayats in the Central Provinces and Berar
31st March 1933.*

Number of cases in which action was taken under section			Number of refer- ences made under section				Inspection of panchayats.		Remarks.	
62 (1) A.	62 (1) B.	62 (1) C.	30	40	44	48	By Deputy Commis- sioner.	By Sub-Divi- sional Officer.		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
										20
Division										One panchayat was disestablished.
66	49	4	...	...	...	6	7	68		
29	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	36		
23	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	12		
2	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	23		
120	51	5	...	...	9	14	14	139		
Division										*One panchayat was disestablished.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	22		
...	...	6	...	...	1	3	1	6		
...	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	3		
10	...	...	...	...	6	6	7	*15		
1	7	5	...	...	...	...	8	*15		
11	8	13	...	...	7	9	23	61		
Division										One panchayat was disestablished.
...	...	2	...	...	4	4	4	8		
11	...	...	...	...	1	1	14	14		
6	8	41	...	...	4	...	5	13		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6		
17	8	43	...	...	7	9	25	41		
Division										
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	10		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2		
11	5	11	...	...	3	6	12	4		
55	...	...	...	...	5	7	3	12		
...	15	2	...	...	2	1	4	25		
66	2	17	...	...	10	14	22	53		
214	87	78	...	...	33	46	84	294		

APPEN

Statement showing details of criminal work done by
for the year ending

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of cases instituted.	Cases ending in acquittal on compromise or absence of complainants.	Cases ending in acquittal after trial.
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ...	836	520	229
2	Amraoti ...	443	225	116
3	Akola ...	324	184	44
4	Buldana ...	376	221	76
	Total ...	1,979	1,150	465
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
5	Jubbulpore ...	283	166	109
6	Saugor ...	282	175	59
7	Mandla ...	197	73	26
8	Hoshangabad ...	481	290	91
9	Nimar ...	292	233	45
	Total ...	1,535	942	330
				<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
10	Raipur ...	162	77	81
11	Drug ...	85	47	32
12	Bilaspur ...	269	118	33
13	Bhandara ...	25	4	3
14	Balaghat ...	48	11	6
	Total ...	589	257	155
				<i>Nagpur</i>
15	Nagpur ...	35	25	7
16	Wardha ...	89	47	4
17	Betul ...	343	110	64
18	Chanda ...	311	155	53
19	Chhindwara ...	183	79	50
	Total ...	961	416	178
	GRAND TOTAL ...	5,064	2,765	1,128

DIX VI

Village Benches of the Central Provinces and Berar
31st March 1933.

Discharged under section 25 of the Village Panchayat Manual.	How many village benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2),	How many village courts were given enhanced powers under section 32 (2),	Remarks.
6	7	8	9
<i>Division</i>			
61	12	12	
40	6	6	
10	7	7	
4	4	3	
115	29	28	
<i>Division</i>			
5	...	...	
3	...	...	
5	6	6	
...	...	...	
5	2	2	
...	...	...	
18	8	8	
<i>Division</i>			
7	5	...	
2	...	...	
4	...	...	
...	...	...	
...	...	...	
13	5	...	
<i>Division</i>			
...	...	...	
11	...	...	
3	1	1	
2	9	9	
1	3	2	
17	13	12	
163	55	48	

Statement showing constitution of Panchayats of the Central

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of panchayats.	Number of applications for new panchayats.	Number of sanitation panchayats converted into village panchayats.
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Berar</i>				
1	Yectinal ...	224	118	...
2	Amraoti ...	67	13	...
3	Akola ...	53	12	...
4	Buldana ...	64	16	...
	Total ...	413	159	...
<i>Jubbulpore</i>				
5	Jubbulpore ...	48	9	...
6	Saugor ...	23	...	...
7	Mandla ...	12	...	...
8	Hoshangabad ...	48	2	...
9	Nimar ...	24	1	...
	Total ...	155	12	...
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>				
10	Raipur ...	13	1	...
11	Drug ...	19	2	...
12	Bilaspur ...	42	15	...
13	Bhandara ...	5	9	...
14	Balaghat ...	11	...	...
	Total ...	90	23	...
<i>Nagpur</i>				
15	Nagpur ...	27	12	...
16	Wardha ...	11	...	...
17	Betul ...	30	...	2
18	Chanda ...	24	45	...
19	Chhindwara ...	50	2	...
	Total ...	142	59	2
	GRAND TOTAL ...	800	253	2

DIX VII

Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1933.

Number of villages under Mukadam rules converted into village panchayats.	How many re-elections of panchayats held during the year.	Number of village courts and benches disestablished.	Number of panchayats disestablished.	Remarks.
6	7	8	9	10
<i>Division</i>				
...	11	...	...	
...	12	...	...	
...	21	...	...	
...	17	1	1	
...	61		1	
<i>Division</i>				
...	4	...	...	
...	...	...	...	
...	1	...	...	
1	16	1	1	
...	4	1	1	
1	25	2	2	
<i>Division</i>				
...	6	...	...	
...	3	...	...	
...	8	1	1	
...	...	...	...	
...	9	...	...	
...	26	1	1	
<i>Division</i>				
...	13	...	...	
...	...	...	...	
...	12	...	...	
...	11	...	...	
...	11	1	...	
...	47	1	...	
1	159	5	4	



Report on the working of
the Village Panchayats in
the Central Provinces and
Berar for the year ending
31st March 1934

* *

*

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 1934

INTRODUCTORY

1. The post of the Village Panchayat Officer, which had remained vacant since 1931, was revived on the 24th May 1933, when I took over charge of it. I held the post during the rest of the year.

GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT

2. The number of panchayats constituted during the period from 1922 to 1933 was 796. During the year under review 65 new panchayats were established raising their total number to 861. 41 of these were in Berar, the Yeotmal district alone being responsible for 23. In spite of the note of warning against too rapid an expansion of panchayats a comparatively large number was established in this district as the result of proposals which had been pending already. The election work of the large number of panchayats in Yeotmal is proving too heavy an addition to the work of the revenue officers, and the Deputy Commissioner, Yeotmal, suggests that it should be transferred to the district council panchayat—Inspectors or the Revenue Inspectors. I, however, feel that such a step would be premature.

3. Jubbulpore Division.—In this division 3 (11) new panchayats were established, two in the Jubbulpore district and one in the Hoshangabad district. A village panchayat sub-committee was formed at Mandla.

4. Chhattisgarh Division.—In this division the number of panchayats rose by 9 (12) to 98. The increase was contributed by all the districts, except Raipur and Bhandara. As a result of propaganda done by me, nine applications were sent to the Deputy Commissioner in the Bhandara district. On account of heavy work, however, the enquiry was delayed and this damped the enthusiasm of the people. The district council has been asked to form a village panchayat sub-committee for the prompt disposal of such applications. The Raipur district council appointed a village panchayat sub-committee. I myself sent four proposals to the Deputy Commissioner, Raipur.

5. Nagpur Division.—In this division the number of panchayats rose from 142 to 154, the Chanda district contributing the largest number. No new panchayat was established in the

districts of Wardha and Betul. I expect a rise in the number of panchayats in the Wardha district shortly, but the panchayats in Betul, which are not functioning properly, seem to have been neglected by the district council.

GROUP PANCHAYATS

6. The number of such panchayats remained unaltered. The working of the group system in the Central Provinces and Berar has not been very promising so far, as the panchas, drawn from several villages, show a lack of cohesion. The system requires careful watching.

7. The Deputy Commissioners received 119 applications for new panchayats and 65 new panchayats were formed. This increase is not unsatisfactory in view of the fact that recent events have shown that the movement is more in need of consolidation than expansion at present. Yeotmal is still eager to have more panchayats, but the wiser course would be to consolidate the large number established during the last two years.

8. No sanitation panchayats and villages under *mukaddam* rules were converted into village panchayats. In some villages in the Raipur and Saugor districts, village panchayats and panchayats under the Sanitation and Public Management Act co-exist. So far they have been functioning satisfactorily.

9. Two village panchayats were disestablished during the year under review for party factions and persistent neglect of duty.

RE-ELECTIONS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PANCHAYATS

10. Re-elections were held in 139 (159) panchayat villages as detailed in Appendix VII. A marked feature of re-elections in Berar was that they were contested keenly. In some places a tendency to exploit panchayats for party purposes has been in evidence. As a sign of healthy rivalry for public service this is perhaps not unwelcome; but care must be taken to prevent the panchayat being made into a battle ground for the furtherance of party feuds to the neglect of the interest of the village community.

11. As regards future development, the district councils should make sustained efforts to train the panchayats in their administrative duties, and the sub-committees, the formation of which was recommended in 1928 should be organized everywhere and should meet more frequently and undertake intensive work in selected villages in collaboration with the revenue officers and public spirited local leaders. They should also appoint honorary

officers for the supervision and organization of panchayats. While on tour I have been impressing on the district councils the desirability of appointing such officers. So far adequate arrangements for the supervision of panchayats have been made by the district councils of Yeotmal and Amraoti in Berar, and Jubbulpore and Bilaspur in the Central Provinces.

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

12. In Berar only 93 out of 452 panchayats have undertaken some kind of administrative duties. In the Buldana district, the panchayat at Pimpalgaon Sarai has accepted manual labour in lieu of payment of taxes. This system is open to objection on financial grounds and is also open to abuse in the absence of constant and strict supervision which cannot be expected from honorary workers. They may be allowed remuneration for such services which should be paid in cash by the panchayat. The recipients should then credit the amounts towards the taxes due by them, the full details of the two sets of transactions being entered in the respective registers. Much of the so-called administrative work in the Yeotmal district has been undertaken out of the initial grants made by the Government to new panchayats and unless this work is continued by raising the necessary funds by taxation the money spent would prove a waste. From the diaries of the local board inspectors of that district it, however, appears that the panchayats are being trained gradually in the art of rural self-government and it may be hoped that after some time many of them will begin to function satisfactorily. It is interesting to note that the district council, Yeotmal, has repeated the suggestion that the grant of judicial powers to a panchayat should be made conditional on its successful performance of administrative duties for a period of three years. The Commissioner, Nagpur division, has also made a somewhat similar suggestion. Out of 69 panchayats in the Amraoti district, 11 incurred expenditure on water supply, 41 on drainage and 12 on road repairs. The Deputy Commissioner reports, however, that he found only two panchayats showing real interest in village administration. This district council has now engaged a panchayat superintendent whose activities are likely to effect some improvement. Many panchayats in Berar districts are accumulating large balances although there is ample scope for useful expenditure. A well-thought-out programme of village improvements, carried out systematically and gradually, is the main justification for taxation and such failure to utilize funds must therefore be deprecated. In two districts in Berar such accumulated money in the custody of the panchas or sarpanchas was being used for advancing loans to panchas themselves. I have

noticed that one panchayat of 12 members in the Buldana district has 10 treasurers! All concerned must set their face against such misuse of public funds. In the Jubbulpore division, little progress has been made on the administrative side. On account of party factions the Nainpur and Pindrai panchayats are not doing any useful work and hardly half the demand was collected during the year. In the Chhattisgarh division, the Deputy Commissioner, Drug, has found the panchayats doing their duties properly and the district council is also taking interest in the movement. In the Nagpur division a few panchayats in the Chanda district are doing useful work mainly under the watchful supervision of the revenue officers. In Seoni the panchas have assessed themselves at ridiculously low rates. Out of 154 panchayats in the Nagpur division, 36 are reported to be doing administrative work.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

13. The total receipts of panchayats were Rs. 1,95,585-0-4 (Rs. 1,63,363-0-10) and the expenditure, Rs. 1,24,225-13-6 (Rs. 1,04,289-11-2), leaving a balance of Rs. 71,359-2-10 (Rs. 59,073-5-8). The income from taxes, fees and fines amounted to Rs. 97,658-15-1. The expenditure on the construction of tanks and wells was Rs. 4,117-1-9, on water supply Rs. 1,322-0-1, on drainage Rs. 1,342-15-5, on roads Rs. 14,633-4-3 and on conservancy and other miscellaneous items Rs. 88,326-15-4.

Requisition for the recovery of taxes, tolls and fees was submitted to the Deputy Commissioners under section 16 in 307 cases (224).

CONTROL BY DISTRICT COUNCILS

14. As already stated, very few district councils have arranged for the audit of panchayat accounts with the result that several panchas are using the funds for their own purposes and passing promissory notes in favour of the panchayats. In the Buldana district the sarpanch of Undri has burnt the panchayat records. The tendency to keep large balances with panchas must be checked by the district councils. According to rule 21, only the sarpanchas can keep panchayat funds up to the maximum limit of Rs. 25. I am examining the question of framing a rule to the effect that any panch or sarpanch who is in possession of panchayat funds in contravention of rule 21 and fails to refund them when called upon to do so, shall be automatically disqualified to continue as such.

TAXATION

15. In spite of the suggestion made last year the district council reports do not contain detailed information about the

nature and extent of taxation and about recoveries and arrears. The district councils should supply blank forms to panchayats with suitable columns. The income from taxes, fees and fines has been shown in lump in Appendix III. The Nimar district stands first in the matter of taxation as 90 per cent of its panchayats have levied the haisiyat tax. Chanda comes second best with 57 per cent. In Berar, the Yeotmal district shows 18 per cent; while in the remaining districts hardly 6 per cent of the panchayats have levied the haisiyat tax.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

16. A provision of Rs. 8,000 was made for initial grants in the year under report. A sum of Rs. 4,880 was utilized and Rs. 3,120 were surrendered. No separate account has been maintained by several panchayats and in the Saugor district two panchayats have been asked to refund the money in part as the initial grant was not spent for legitimate purposes.

JUDICIAL WORK

17. Village benches.—During the year the number of village benches rose from 749 to 842, *i.e.*, by 93. The discrepancy between this and the increase in the number of panchayats is explained by the fact that some panchayats established in the latter part of 1932-33 were granted judicial powers in 1933-34. Out of 6,162 cases disposed of, the accused were acquitted on compromise in 3,513, acquitted after trial in 1,409 and discharged on admonition under section 25 in 145. In the majority of the last class of cases the accused were not juveniles and were thus discharged wrongly. The irregularity is being brought to the notice of the panchas at inspections. 31 benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2) of the Act. 146 references were made to the Deputy Commissioner under section 29 and 1,229 execution certificates were issued under section 38 (Appendix V). No use was made of sections 30 and 40 by magistrates or civil courts. 34 intricate cases were referred to the Deputy Commissioner under section 48. The Deputy Commissioner had to be approached under sections 62 (1) A, 62 (1) B, and 62 (1) C in 158, 77 and 142 cases, respectively. In one district in the Nagpur division, as the Commissioner has pointed out, this section was freely, and I am afraid, wrongly, used and the orders of panchayats were modified in contravention of the rules. Out of 476 pending cases, 300 cases were pending over one month.

18. Village courts.—During the year, the number of village courts rose from 753 to 840. 22 village courts received enhanced powers under section 32 (2). The number of panchayats

trying suits above one year under section 54 remains stationary. The total number of cases disposed of was 10,203 (9,395). The number of contested cases was 3,230 (3,282), i.e., 31 per cent.

The judicial powers of all panchayats were raised to Rs. 100. This accounts for the increase in contested cases. Out of the 617 pending cases 289 were pending over two months.

GENERAL

19. The total number of Muhammadan panchas in the panchayats of the Central Provinces and Berar is 474, of panchas belonging to the depressed classes 527 and the remaining 8,521 are Hindus of various castes.

The inspections made by the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers were as follows :—

<i>Division.</i>	<i>By D. Cs.</i>	<i>By S. D. Os.</i>
1. Berar ..	34	79
2. Jubbulpore ..	24	38
3. Chhattisgarh ..	15	41
4. Nagpur ..	29	38
Total ..	102 (84).	196 (294)

I inspected 119 panchayats in 7 districts and toured for 168 days during the 10 months. I also did propaganda work in 13 villages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

20. I consider that the following gentlemen should receive special mention for their good work during the year :—

Rao Sahib Uttam Rao Patil, Secretary, Vidarbha Panchayat Sangh, Itki.

Mr. Narayan Rao Balaji Patil, Chairman, District Council, Yeotmal.

Mr. D. Y. Mahagaonkar, Secretary, District Council, Yeotmal.

Mr. Shambhu Prasad Misra, Chairman, District Council, Nimar.

Mr. W. Y. Konher, Chairman, District Council, Bilaspur.

Mr. N. R. Bhat, Secretary, District Council, Bhandara.

Mr. R. P. Dube, Chairman, District Council, Chanda.

Mr. Dadarao Kashirao Deshmukh, Sarpanch, Wadner Gangai.

R. B. CHAOBAL,

Village Panchayat Officer,

Central Provinces and Berar.

NAGPUR :

Th 15th January 1935.

APPENDIX I

APPEN

*Statement showing the result of civil work done by Village
ending 31st*

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of village courts on 31st March 1934.	Pending from the last year.	Number of suits instituted during the year.	Total for disposal.
1	2	3	4	5	6
					<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ..	245	175	1,941	2,116
2	Amraoti ..	69	64	866	930
3	Akola ..	69	40	669	709
4	Buldana ..	69	54	735	789
	Total ..	452	333	4,211	4,544
					<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
5	Raipur ..	11	25	392	417
6	Drug ..	21	12	151	163
7	Bilaspur ..	43	68	640	708
8	Bhandara ..	..	..	..	..
9	Balaghat ..	14	3	92	95
	Total ..	89	108	1,275	1,383
					<i>Nagpur</i>
10	Nagpur ..	25	5	55	60
11	Wardha ..	11	28	217	245
12	Betul ..	30	77	697	774
13	Chanda ..	30	41	548	589
14	Chhindwara ..	52	47	842	889
	Total ..	148	198	2,359	2,557
					<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore ..	48	33	398	431
16	Saugor ..	22	44	686	730
17	Mandla ..	11	22	317	339
18	Hoshangabad ..	46	72	502	574
19	Nimar ..	24	19	243	262
	Total ..	151	190	2,146	2,336
	GRAND TOTAL ..	840	829	9,991	10,820

DIX I

*Courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year
March 1934.*

Uncon- tested cases.	Con- tested cases.	Total disposed of.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending over two months.	Remarks.
7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Division.</i>					
1,252	770	2,022	94	26	
460	406	866	64	13	
503	186	689	20	8	
407	314	721	68	42	
2,622	1,676	4,298	246	89	
<i>Division.</i>					
367	50	417	..	..	
98	57	155	8	3	
470	190	660	48	24	
.. 66	.. 23	.. 89	.. 6	..	Statements due.
1,001	320	1,321	62	27	
<i>Division.</i>					
49	9	58	2	2	
179	51	230	15	6	
426	309	735	39	32	
363	155	518	71	67	
636	197	833	56	16	
1,653	721	2,374	183	123	
<i>Division.</i>					
347	63	410	21	9	
521	183	704	26	17	
183	139	322	17	2	
424	101	525	49	20	
222	27	249	13	2	
1,697	513	2,210	126	50	
6,973	3,230	10,203	617	289	

APPEN

Statement showing the result of criminal work done by Village
ending 31st

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of village benches.	Pending from the last year.	Number of cases instituted during the year.
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ..	245	105	1,215
2	Amraoti ..	69	32	418
3	Akola ..	69	12	294
4	Buldana ..	69	30	489
	Total ..	452	179	2,416
				<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
5	Raipur ..	13	12	185
6	Drug ..	21	11	99
7	Bilaspur ..	43	21	260
8	Bhandara ..	..	..	..
9	Balaghat ..	14	12	74
	Total ..	91	56	618
				<i>Nagpur</i>
10	Nagpur ..	25	5	57
11	Wardha ..	11	19	100
12	Betul ..	30	46	400
13	Chanda ..	30	13	298
14	Chhindwara ..	52	28	539
	Total ..	148	111	1,434
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore ..	48	17	336
16	Saugor ..	22	23	354
17	Mandla ..	11	35	299
18	Hoshangabad ..	46	32	472
19	Nimar ..	24	13	243
	Total ..	151	120	1,704
	GRAND TOTAL ..	842	466	6,172

DIX II

*Benchies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year
March 1934.*

Total for disposal.	Total disposed of.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending over one month.	Remarks.
6	7	8	9	10
<i>Division.</i>				
1,320	1,228	92	16	
450	412	38	11	
305	294	12	8	
519	482	37	23	
2,595	2,416	179	58	
<i>Division.</i>				
197	191	6	2	
110	104	6	5	
281	252	29	6	
.. 86	.. 81	.. 5	..	Statements due.
674	628	6	13	
<i>Division.</i>				
62	44	18	13	
119	111	8	8	
486	455	31	26	
311	282	29	10	
567	508	59	17	
1,545	1,400	15	74	
<i>Division.</i>				
353	334	19	3	
377	347	30	19	
334	320	14	7	
504	470	34	26	
256	247	9	..	
1,824	1,718	106	55	
6,638	6,162	476	200	

APPEN

Statement showing the receipts of Village Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district.	Opening balance on 1st April 1934.	Re	
			Taxes, fees and fines.	
1	2	3	4	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
			<i>Berar</i>	
1	Yeotmal ..	9,272 4 11	13,542	12 1
2	Amraoti ..	6,035 11 0	1,795	9 4
3	Akola ..	4,475 3 7	2,857	0 0
4	Buldana ..	5,077 6 4	2,855	1 3
	Total ..	24,860 9 10	21,050	6 8
			<i>Chhattisgarh</i>	
5	Raipur ..	1,180 2 9	4,901	8 3
6	Drug ..	1,840 0 0	4,612	0 0
7	Bilaspur ..	2,440 0 4	3,380	6 9
8	Bhandara ..	..	..	..
9	Balaghat ..	771 2 5	281	11 9
	Total ..	6,231 5 6	13,175	10 9
			<i>Nagpur</i>	
10	Nagpur ..	1,831 8 3	4,810	9 3
11	Wardha ..	1,493 6 8	2,565	5 3
12	Betul ..	3,814 5 2	7,554	7 6
13	Chanda ..	3,427 11 1	12,747	14 6
14	Chhindwara ..	3,129 11 8	6,256	8 4
	Total ..	13,696 11 7	33,934	12 10
			<i>Jubbulpore</i>	
15	Jubbulpore ..	3,429 0 0	4,286	11 2
16	Saugor ..	2,592 3 4	2,071	12 9
17	Mandla ..	1,392 4 1	4,074	12 0
18	Hoshangabad ..	4,712 12 7	4,116	8 6
19	Nimar ..	8,095 1 3	14,948	4 5
	Total ..	20,221 5 3	29,498	0 10
	GRAND TOTAL ..	65,010 0 2	97,658	15 1

DIX III

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1934

Receipts.			Remarks.
Grants from Government, local authorities or private persons.	Other receipts.	Total.	
5	6	7	8
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division.</i>			
6,186 2 0	4,260 6 0	33,261 9 0	Statements from 22 panchayats were due.
320 5 0	570 2 4	8,721 11 8	
494 4 0	475 2 0	8,301 9 7	
1,436 13 11	1,756 7 9	11,125 13 3	
8,437 8 11	7,062 2 1	61,410 11 6	
<i>Division.</i>			
Nil	446 5 10	6,528 0 10	Statements due.
150 0 0	408 0 0	7,010 0 0	
294 4 0	619 5 0	6,734 0 1	
130 0 0	69 7 4	1,252 5 6	
574 4 0	1,543 2 2	21,524 6 5	
<i>Division.</i>			
176 15 0	382 4 0	7,201 4 6	20 Panchayats did not send information.
33 0 0	390 5 9	4,482 1 8	
102 1 8	4,128 3 8	15,599 2 0	
336 10 0	690 1 3	17,202 5 7	
1,038 8 0	613 1 9	11,037 13 9	
1,687 2 8	6,204 0 5	55,522 11 6	
<i>Division.</i>			
84 6 0	258 3 6	8,058 4 8	
75 0 0	127 13 4	4,866 13 5	
587 15 0	1,033 8 0	7,088 7 1	
106 1 6	1,490 7 11	10,425 14 6	
50 0 0	3,594 5 7	26,687 11 3	
903 6 6	6,504 6 4	57,127 2 11	
11,602 6 1	21,313 11 0	1,95,585 0 4	

Statement showing the expenditure of Village Panchayats in th

Serial No.	Name of district.	Expendi											
		Construction of				Repairs of				Other improvements to water-supply.	Clearing village sites.		
		Tanks.	Wells.			Tanks.	Wells.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.						
Berar													
1	Yeotmal ..	2 0 0	420 12 9	25 13 0	311 10 0	74 15 3	540 4 9						
2	Amraoti ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	23 8 0	68 7 0	174 13 0						
3	Akola ..	176 11 0	120 12 6	86 3 0	61 7 0	113 10 0	424 14 3						
4	Buldana ..	.. ..	1 12 6	.. ..	20 8 3	235 14 0	583 7 6						
	Total ..	178 11 0	543 5 9	112 0 0	417 1 3	492 14 3	1,723 7 6						
Chhattisgarh													
5	Raipur ..	.. ..	.. ..	2 0 0	41 1 3	7 8 0	998 2 0						
6	Drug ..	.. ..	.. ..	11 0 0	17 0 0	17 0 0	1,896 9 0						
7	Bilaspur ..	.. ..	144 0 0	85 2 6	42 11 3	26 9 0	544 15 0						
8	Bhandara ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..						
9	Balaghat ..	.. ..	.. ..	40 6 6	.. ..	2 11 4	10 4 0						
	Total ..	.. ..	144 0 0	138 9 0	100 12 6	53 12 4	3,449 14 0						
Nagpur													
10	Nagpur ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	17 0 0	.. ..	8 0 0						
11	Wardha ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	9 1 0	5 0 0	894 9 0						
12	Betul ..	.. ..	169 5 3	2 7 0	264 0 9	1 15 0	2,409 15 11						
13	Chanda ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	110 1 6	63 13 6	1,423 15 9						
14	Chhindwara ..	.. ..	439 0 6	50 12 0	162 14 0	78 15 0	1,450 6 6						
	Total ..	.. ..	608 5 9	53 3 0	563 1 3	149 11 6	6,186 15 2						
Jubbulpore													
15	Jubbulpore ..	.. ..	.. ..	11 15 0	3 4 0	334 11 3	402 12 6						
16	Saugor ..	.. ..	144 14 0	284 11 0	89 0 0	25 12 6	615 4 3						
17	Mandla ..	.. ..	.. ..	57 4 6	24 14 6	142 10 0	230 5 3						
18	Hoshangabad ..	12 8 3	26 9 3	39 8 0	24 6 0	72 8 3	1,869 14 0						
19	Nimar ..	.. ..	37 14 0	27 6 6	473 13 3	50 0 0	5 0 0						
	Total ..	12 8 3	209 5 3	420 13 0	615 5 9	625 10 0	3,123 4 0						
GRAND TOTAL ..		191 3 3	1,505 0 9	724 9 0	1,696 4 9	1,322 0 1	14,483 8 8						

DIX IV

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1931.

Expenditure.					Remarks.
Drainage.	Roads.	Conser- vancy and miscel- laneous.	Total.	Closing balance.	
9	10	11	12	13	14
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division.</i>					
118 12 2	3,308 7 3	15,277 2 0	19,079 13 2	14,181 11 10	Statements from 22 panchayats were due.
16 0 0	209 3 9	2,695 8 3	3,187 8 0	5,534 3 8	
43 4 6	659 12 9	2,297 9 4	3,984 4 4	4,317 5 3	
65 14 0	523 14 3	4,019 14 2	5,451 4 8	5,674 8 7	
243 14 8	3,701 6 0	24,290 1 9	31,702 14 2	29,707 13 4	
<i>Division.</i>					
67 5 9	339 14 3	2,960 3 6	4,416 2 9	2,111 14 1	Statements due.
9 0 0	199 0 0	2,892 0 0	5,041 9 0	1,968 7 0	
48 10 3	210 15 6	2,758 1 1	3,861 0 7	2,872 15 6	
14 10 0	..	295 8 3	363 8 1	888 13 5	
139 10 0	749 13 9	8,905 12 10	13,682 4 5	7,842 2 0	
<i>Division.</i>					
..	326 12 9	4,769 4 6	5,121 1 3	2,080 3 3	20 panchayats did not send information.
1 4 0	683 3 3	1,863 3 3	3,456 4 6	1,025 13 2	
96 9 6	1,832 4 3	7,109 14 5	11,886 8 1	3,712 9 11	
236 15 3	2,499 7 9	9,528 6 3	13,862 12 0	3,339 9 7	
62 7 0	1,181 0 6	4,139 13 4	7,565 4 10	3,472 8 11	
397 3 9	6,522 12 6	27,410 9 9	41,891 14 8	13,630 12 10	
<i>Division.</i>					
39 12 0	930 0 3	2,999 6 1	4,721 13 1	3,336 7 7	
3 14 0	635 9 3	986 8 5	2,785 9 5	2,081 4 0	
57 14 3	605 14 0	4,748 12 4	5,867 10 10	1,220 12 3	
29 6 3	159 3 6	3,478 10 7	5,712 10 1	4,713 4 5	
431 4 6	1,328 9 0	15,507 1 7	17,861 0 10	8,826 10 5	
562 3 0	3,659 4 0	27,720 7 0	36,948 12 3	20,178 6 8	
342 15 5	14,633 4 3	88,326 15 4	1,24,225 13 6	71,359 2 10	

Statement giving detailed information about the Panchayats in th

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1933.	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1934.	Total number of panchas.			Number of cases in which action was taken by panchayats under section		
				Muslims.	Depressed classes.	Others.	16	29	38
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
									<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal	222	245	94	92	2,176	45	10	103
2	Amraoti	67	69	34	20	605	..	..	71
3	Akola	58	69	40	55	794	..	22	105
4	Buldana	64	69	59	15	711	5	16	38
	Total	411	452	227	182	4,286	50	48	317
									<i>Chhattisgarh.</i>
5	Raipur	13	13	11	4	115	17	..	11
6	Drug	19	21	22	63	152	2	5	16
7	Bilaspur	41	45	23	22	566	..	3	34
8	Bhandara	5	5	6	2	41	..	..	..
9	Balaghat	11	14	4	3	151	..	..	3
	Total	89	98	66	94	1,025	19	8	64
									<i>Nagpur</i>
10	Nagpur	27	30	18	25	281	2	1	24
11	Wardha	11	11	8	3	92	..	..	8
12	Betul	30	30	13	40	286	34	21	133
13	Chanda	24	31	17	34	320	138	3	172
14	Chhindwara	50	52	60	113	387	11	13	101
	Total	142	154	116	215	1,366	185	38	438
									<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore	48	50	13	1	489	..	..	93
16	Saugor	22	22	6	8	204	..	..	124
17	Mandla	12	12	5	3	112	27	27	50
18	Hoshangabad	48	49	10	20	517	2	25	93
19	Nimar	24	24	31	4	522	24	..	50
	Total	154	157	65	36	1,844	53	52	410
	GRAND TOTAL	796	861	474	527	8,521	307	146	1,229

VOIX V

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1934.

Number of cases in which action was taken under section			Number of references made under section				Inspection of panchayats.		Remarks.
62 (I) A.	62 (I) B.	62 (I) C.	30	40	44	48	By Deputy Commissioners.	By Sub-Divisional Officers.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Division.</i>									
51	30	..	..	..	1	13	12	29	
5	4	4	..	..	1	3	7	20	
19	1	16	..	..	1	3	7	16	
4	1	..	..	..	4	..	8	14	
79	36	20	..	..	7	19	34	79	
<i>Division.</i>									
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	
7	..	..	..	..	..	2	13	13	
1	6	25	..	..	..	..	..	9	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	
8	6	25	..	..	..	2	15	41	
<i>Division.</i>									
..	..	6	..	..	2	..	3	7	
..	2	3	..	..	4	1	2	6	
34	..	28	..	..	..	..	7	4	
15	15	15	..	..	10	11	10	11	
8	17	27	..	..	6	1	7	10	
57	34	79	..	..	22	13	29	38	
<i>Division.</i>									
..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	10	
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	
1	1	10	..	..	2	..	8	6	
..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	8	
..	..	6	..	..	1	..	9	11	
14	1	18	..	..	5	..	24	38	
158	77	142	..	..	34	34	102	196	

APPENDIX

Statement showing details of criminal work done by Village Benches of the

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of cases instituted.	Cases ending in acquittal on compromise or absence of complainants.	Cases ending in acquittal after trial.
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ..	1,215	650	222
2	Amraoti ..	418	268	72
3	Akola ..	294	140	65
4	Buldana ..	489	311	99
	Total ..	2,416	1,369	458
				<i>Chhatisgarh</i>
5	Raipur ..	185	82	103
6	Drug ..	99	37	61
7	Bilaspur ..	260	172	82
8	Bhandara ..	..	..	..
9	Balaghat ..	74	19	57
	Total ..	618	310	303
				<i>Nagpur</i>
10	Nagpur ..	57	28	7
11	Wardha ..	100	55	20
12	Betul ..	440	209	109
13	Chanda ..	298	191	72
14	Chhindwara ..	539	362	143
	Total ..	1,434	845	351
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore ..	336	152	68
16	Saugor ..	354	209	77
17	Mandla ..	299	173	67
18	Hoshangabad ..	472	310	57
19	Nimar ..	243	145	28
	Total ..	1,704	989	297
	GRAND TOTAL ..	6,172	3,513	1,409

VI

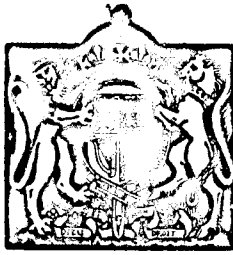
Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1934.

Discharged under section 25 of the Village Panchayat Manual.	How many village benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2).	How many village courts were given enhanced powers under section 32 (2).	Remarks.
6	7	8	9
<i>Division.</i>			
44	3	3	
22	8	13	
..	..	..	
16	3	3	
82	14	19	
<i>Division.</i>			
5	13	..	
3	..	..	
2	..	..	
..	..	..	
..	..	..	
10	13	..	
<i>Division.</i>			
..	..	..	
1	..	..	
16	..	..	
7	..	..	
14	4	2	
38	4	2	
<i>Division.</i>			
3	..	..	
2	..	..	
2	..	..	
3	..	..	1
5	..	..	
15	..	1	
145	31	22	

APPENDIX

Statement showing constitution of Panchayats of the

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of panchayats.	Number of applications for new panchayats.	Number of sanitation panchayats converted into village panchayats.
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Yeotmal ..	245	14	..
2	Amraoti ..	69	3	..
3	Akola ..	69	62	..
4	Buldana ..	69	2	..
	Total ..	452	81	..
				<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
5	Raipur ..	13	2	..
6	Drug ..	21	1	..
7	Bilaspur ..	45	1	..
8	Bhandara ..	5	5	..
9	Balaghat ..	14	6	..
	Total ..	98	15	..
				<i>Nagpur</i>
10	Nagpur ..	30	4	..
11	Wardha ..	11	4	..
12	Betul ..	30	..	..
13	Chanda ..	31	3	..
14	Chhindwara ..	52	..	..
	Total ..	154	11	..
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore ..	50	4	..
16	Saugor ..	22	1	..
17	Mandla ..	12	4	..
18	Hoshangabad ..	49	3	..
19	Nimar ..	24	..	..
	Total ..	157	12	..
	GRAND TOTAL ..	861	119	..



Report on the working of
the Village Panchayats in
the Central Provinces and
Berar for the year ending
31st March 1935

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REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31st MARCH 1935

Mr. R. B. Chaubal held charge of the post of Village Panchayat Officer throughout the year.

2. Growth of the movement.—The total number of panchayats in the province at the commencement of the year was 861. It increased to 917 at the close of the year, 29 being contributed by Berar and 27 by the Central Provinces. The largest number of panchayats was established in Akola (19) and Drug (12) districts.

Two district councils in Berar, viz., Akola and Buldana have their honorary panchayat officers.

3. Jubbulpore division.—In this division 4 (3) new panchayats were established, one in Jubbulpore district and three in Saugor district. All the district councils in this division have village panchayat sub-committees, but they have not been doing much useful work yet.

4. Chhattisgarh division.—In this division the number of panchayats rose by 18 (9) to 116. All the districts contributed to the increase, Drug district contributing the largest number i.e., 12. Bhandara district yet remains the lowest in the scale and has the least number of panchayats in the province. A village panchayat sub-committee was formed at Raipur.

5. Nagpur division.—In this division the number of panchayats rose from 154 to 159. All the districts except Wardha contributed to the expansion. Chhindwara and Nagpur districts have now their honorary panchayat officers.

6. Group panchayats.—There was not any material change in the number of group panchayats; but the district officers have continually to combat the indifference of the *ex-officio* mukkadams in the matter of attendance.

7. The Deputy Commissioners received 85 (119) applications for new panchayats and the fact that 50 (65) panchayats were established shows that the progress now is more cautious than the enquiries made are more thorough and propaganda more substantial. Yeotmal district appears to have accepted the soundness of the suggestion that there was greater need of consolidation than of expansion.

8. There was no conversion of any sanitation panchayat or village under mukkadams rules into a village panchayat during the year. The composite sanitation or public management committees and village panchayats which exist in some of the villages of Saugor and Raipur districts have been working harmoniously.

9. Twelve village panchayats were disestablished during the year under review; the causes being among others party factions and persistent neglect of duty.

10. Re-elections and future development of panchayats.—Triennial re-elections were held of 142 (139) village panchayats which had completed their normal term of office.

Several district reports speak of the growing interest shown by the voters at the polls.

The punctual carrying out of re-elections and of associating the representatives of the district council in the operation so far as the rules permit are matters which need to be commended to the notice of the district officers.

11. The further development of the movement depends on the extent to which district councils would identify themselves with it and realize that the main burden of propaganda, supervision, and instruction of panchayats on the administrative side falls on their shoulders.

So far 13 district councils have formed village panchayat sub-committees and in seven districts honorary panchayat officers have been appointed. In two districts, viz., Betul and Drug, proposals to appoint honorary panchayat officers are being seriously considered. The district council, Balaghat flatly refused to appoint an honorary panchayat officers in spite of the keen desire of the Deputy Commissioner to have one to push on the movement in that district. The attention of the district councils is drawn to the scheme for the better administration of panchayats contained in Local Self-Government letter No. 1988-1258-VIII, dated Nagpur the 26th April 1928, and it is commended to their notice as the best that has yet been devised.

In three districts, viz., Amraoti, Yeotmal and Bilaspur paid panchayat superintendents are working. They regularly send their diaries for my scrutiny.

The following table shows the number of panchayats doing administrative work in each division :—

Name of division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats doing administrative work
Berar	481	228
Nagpur	159	87
Chhattisgarh	116	33
Jubbulpore	161	49
Total	917	397

Thus 43 per cent of the panchayats are doing administrative work of one kind or another. This is an improvement over last year when it was reported that only 93 panchayats had undertaken some kind of administrative duties in Berar. The Commissioner, Nagpur division, points out that during the year under review the number of panchayats doing administrative work has risen from 36 to 87.

The following figures indicate the extent to which panchayats have imposed taxes :—

Name of division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats which imposed taxes
Berar	... 481	68
Nagpur	... 159	43
Chhattisgarh	... 116	23
Jubbulpore	... 161	49
Total	... 917	183

Thus 20 per cent of the panchayats levy taxes. This shows that for administrative work taxation is not a condition precedent, because there are a number of civic duties which a panchayat can perform without incurring any expenses.

Deputy Commissioners, Chanda and Bilaspur, have put life into some of the dormant panchayats by warning the mukkadam panchas that the establishment of a panchayat does not necessarily mean the abrogation of their power as mukkadam and of making use of the mukkadam rules after a fair warning to improve.

Several of the panchayats besides attending to conservancy, roads, drainage, water-supply are reported to have conducted night schools for adults, stocked and distributed medicines free of charge, permanganated wells, lighted and watered streets, held baby shows, given contributions to human dispensaries and supported "Akhadas" and run libraries.

It is satisfactory to see that district councils are gradually making up their mind to assist the panchayats financially by handing over to them a specific portion of the net income from pounds and bazar. The district council, Yeotmal, has been well advised to withdraw this help from those panchayats which have neglected the collection of taxes.

The system of rendering personal labour in lieu of tax is still reported to be current in some districts. In Betul district, for instance, four panchayats accepted labour in lieu of tax.

This is definitely in the spirit of village tradition and the practice will not be an innovation in village life. On the other hand it will tend to emphasize the importance and value of co-operative effort for the common good.

In Betul district Nahia panchayat raised Rs. 177-8-0 by private contribution and built a well while in Ranka in Drug district, a bull was purchased for improving the breed.

There yet remains much to be done to impress on the panchayats that a copy of their administrative proceedings should be sent to the Deputy Commissioner, that sarpanchas should not keep with them a larger amount than Rs. 25 for current expenses, that annual budgets should be prepared and that large balances should not be allowed to accumulate.

Some of the panchayats still show a disregard of the principles which should regulate the proper use of public money. For instance, the village panchayat at Mozar spent Rs. 51-3-0 from the panchayat fund to meet the deficit in the local branch post office; the accounts of the village panchayat at Sawangi were found to be in a muddle and it is turning a deaf ear to the warning of the council to put matters right and there was a case of embezzlement by the sarpanch of Sawar panchayat who has now been removed.

It is felt that section 60 of the Village Panchayat Act does not invest the district council with adequate and effective powers to enforce performance of their duties by panchayats and there is nothing at present under the Act by which panchas misusing panchayat fund money can be held personally responsible.

Proposals are therefore afoot to strengthen the hands of the district council in this respect and of making provision for the recovery of such mis-spent amounts from the panchas at fault.

12. Income and expenditure.—The total receipts of panchayats were Rs. 1,80,485-9-4 (Rs. 1,95,585-0-4) and the expenditure was Rs. 1,17,853-0-7 (Rs. 1,24,225-13-6) leaving balance of Rs. 62,632-8-9 (Rs. 71,359-2-10). The income from taxes, fees and fines amounted to Rs. 91,141-5-4 (Rs. 97,658-15-1).

The expenditure on the construction of tanks and wells was Rs. 1,786-2-5 (Rs. 4,117-1-9), on water-supply Rs. 1,985-14-0 (Rs. 1,322-0-1), on drainage Rs. 1,922-13-6 (Rs. 1,342-15-10), on roads Rs. 12,781-8-7 (Rs. 14,633-4-3), and on conservancy and other miscellaneous items Rs. 81,991-15-10 (Rs. 88,326-15-4). Requisitions for the recovery of taxes, tolls and fees were submitted to the Deputy Commissioner under section 16 in 592 (307) cases.

13. Taxation.—Appendix III gives the figures of income from taxes, fees and fines. Despite indifferent crops and depression the number of panchayats which is levying taxes has increased. In some districts it is seen that it is the district council which came in the way of imposition of taxes by the panchayats. For instance in Akola 16 panchayats submitted proposals for imposing taxes to the district council. Ten of these proposals were returned for supplying omissions and six were filed as they were not in proper order. This was rather unfortunate. Whatever the details of the proposals were the principle of taxation should have been accepted and the district council should have done everything in its power to put the proposals into proper shape and sanction them. If there is anything in the panchayat movement which should be encouraged rather than discouraged it is the imposition of taxation for administrative purposes. Some of the panchayats in semi-urban areas might with advantage undertake the management of private latrines with the same staff which they entertain at present for village sanitation.

14. Government grants.—A provision for Rs. 8,000 was made for initial grants in the year under report. A sum of Rs. 4,630 was utilized and Rs. 3,370 were surrendered.

15. Judicial work.—*Village Benches.*—During the year, the number of village benches rose from 842 to 905, i.e., by 63. As was pointed out last year the difference between this and the increase in the number of panchayats is explained by the fact

that some panchayats established in the latter part of the year 1933-34 were granted judicial powers in 1935-36. Out of 5,920 cases disposed of, accused persons were acquitted on compromise in 3,209 cases, after trial in 1,205 cases and discharged on admonition in 177 cases. The decrease in institutions shows that the panchas are now more alert in admitting cases to file while greater use has been made of the provision of section 25 of the Village Panchayat Act. This section has been liberally amended recently and this step is likely to reduce to the minimum the dissatisfaction created by fining the offenders in the first instance for petty offences. No use was made of section 30 and the stipendiary magistrates must be reminded of this useful provision. 34 intricate cases were referred to the Deputy Commissioner under section 48. The Deputy Commissioner had to be approached under section 62 (1) A, 62 (1) B, and 62 (1) C, in 126, 99 and 100 cases, respectively. Out of 545 cases pending, 257 cases were pending over one month. It is now time to invest a few good panchayats with powers to try theft cases in which the value of property involved exceeds Rs. 20.

Village courts.—During the year, the number of village courts rose from 840 to 905. 42 village courts received enhanced powers under section 32 (2). The number of panchayats trying suits above one year under section 54 remains stationary and it is now time that all deserving panchayats should be given those powers. No civil courts have made use of section 40 and the matter should be brought to the notice of the High Court, so that the judges concerned may be reminded of this provision. The total number of cases disposed of was 8,439 (10,203). The number of contested cases was 2,793 *i.e.* 36 per cent. Out of 724 pending cases, 295 were pending over two months.

The decrease in the total institutions under section 18 and section 32 also shows that panchas are now more careful in admitting cases to file.

16. Control by district council.—Although a larger number of district councils has now authorized cattle-pound inspectors, bazar superintendents and head clerks to audit accounts of panchayats, and generally instruct them in the administrative duties than last year, much yet remains to be done in this direction. The office bearers of most of the village panchayat sub-committees have not yet begun to take active interest in the matter of village panchayat administration and the inspection notes which are forwarded to the village panchayat officers show in the majority of cases that the inspecting agency needs training and instructions. All the district councils do not insist on panchayats under their control submitting to them a copy of their proceedings which is the only other means of keeping in touch with the doings of a panchayat and of imparting instructions in time. The majority of district councils have yet to fix dates for the submission of defaulters' lists by panchayats to them with a view to the realization of the arrears of taxes under rule 28 (8) of section 15.

17. General.—Of the 9,775 panchas, 548 are Mohammdans, 583 belong to the depressed classes and the rest are Hindus of various castes. The Moslem representation is not very

inadequate but ratably the representation of the depressed classes is materially short and it may be assumed that in open and free elections, 'Harijans', except where they are properly organized on a basis of unity and education, have little chance of securing proportionate representation on the village panchayat.

The following table exhibits the inspections done by the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers :—

Division.	By D. Cs.	By S. D. Os.
1. Berar ...	36	84
2. Jubbulpore ...	13	54
3. Chhattisgarh ...	12	21
4. Nagpur ...	16	63
Total ...	<u>77</u>	<u>222</u>

My predecessor, Mr. R. B. Chaubal, inspected 103 panchayats in 12 districts and toured for 199 days during the year under report. He also did propaganda work in 34 villages.

18. Acknowledgments.—Amongst the non-officials who took pains to promote the growth of the movement, special mention must be made of the following gentlemen :—

1. Rao Sahib Dinkerrao Yeshwantrao Rajurkar, M.L.C., Chairman, District Council, Akola.
2. Rao Sahib D. R. Dongre, B.A., Retired E.-A.C. and Honorary Panchayat Officer, Akola.
3. Mr. Ghanasham Singh Gupta, B.Sc., LL.B., M.L.A., Chairman, District Council, Drug.
4. Rao Sahib Uttamrao Patil, M.L.C., Berar Panchayat Board, Itki.
5. Mr. Kashi Prasad Pande, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., Chairman, District Council, Jubbulpore.
6. Mr. Narayanrao Balaji Patil, Chairman, District Council Yeotmal.
7. Mr. Ramprasad Dubey, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., Chairman, District Council, Chanda.
8. Mr. Dwarkanath Yeshwant Mohagaonkar, Secretary, District Council, Yeotmal.
9. Mr. R. R. Roday, Head Clerk, District Council, Nimar.
10. Mr. R. M. Borekar, Secretary, Village Panchayat Subcommittee, Nagpur.
11. Mr. G. S. Mooley, village panchayat clerk, District Council, Nagpur.

V. R. KHISTY,
Village Panchayat Officer,
Central Provinces and Berar.

NAGPUR :

The 15th February, 1936,

APPENDICES

APPENDIX

Statement showing the result of civil work done by village ending 31st

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of village courts on 31st March 1935	Pending from the last year	Number of suits instituted during the year	Total for disposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Berar</i>					
1	Amraoti	69	64	594	658
2	Akola	88	20	935	955
3	Bulda	73	68	560	628
4	Yeotmal	251	170	1,435	1,605
	Total	481	322	3,524	3,846
<i>Nagpur</i>					
5	Nagpur	30	27	193	220
6	Wardha	11	15	237	252
7	Betul	29	29	411	440
8	Chand	31	65	618	683
9	Chhindwara	53	55	718	773
	Total	154	191	2,177	2,358
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>					
10	Raipur	14	12	222	234
11	Drug	33	8	171	179
12	Bilaspur	47	24	479	503
13	Bhandara	6	10	63	73
14	Balaghat	15	6	78	84
	Total	115	60	1,013	1,073
<i>Jubbulpore</i>					
15	Jubbulpore	48	21	463	484
16	Saugor	25	26	483	509
17	Mandla	12	17	262	279
18	Hoshangabad	46	49	351	400
19	Nimar	24	13	191	204
	Total	155	126	1,750	1,876
	GRAND TOTAL	905	699	8,464	9,163

DIX I

*courts in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year
March 1935.*

Uncon- tested cases	Con- tested cases	Total disposed of	Pending at the close of the year	Pending over two months	Remarks
7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Division</i>					
279	326	586	72	39	
647	247	893	62	35	
313	273	586	42	7	
746	724	1,470	135	54	
1,985	1,570	3,535	311	135	
<i>Division</i>					
152	38	195	25	22	
160	66	226	26	12	
228	170	398	42	20	
421	246	624	59	30	
600	173	725	48	10	
1,561	693	2,168	200	94	
<i>Division</i>					
214	20	206	28	...	
120	52	172	7	...	
395	62	457	46	18	
82	27	59	14	2	
92	22	80	4	6	
853	183	974	59	26	
<i>Division</i>					
407	57	455	29	6	
352	120	472	37	6	
169	94	262	17	12	
321	64	385	15	5	
176	12	188	15	11	
1,425	347	1,762	114	40	
5,824	2,793	8,439	724	295	

APPEN

Statement showing the result of criminal work done by village
ending 31st

Serial No	Name of district	Number of village benches	Pending from the last year	Number of case instituted during the year
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Beras</i>
1	Amraoti	69	40	316
2	Akola	88	15	557
3	Buldana	73	37	444
4	Yeotmal	251	76	1,025
	Total	481	168	2,342
				<i>Nagpur</i>
5	Nagpur	30	10	166
6	Wardha	11	11	85
7	Betul	29	27	357
8	Chanda	31	27	380
9	Chhindwara	53	59	440
	Total	154	134	1,428
				<i>Chhattisgrah</i>
10	Raipur	14	6	157
11	Drug	33	6	124
12	Bilaspur	47	29	252
13	Bhandara	6	7	67
14	Balaghat	15	5	46
	Total	115	53	646
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore	48	16	443
16	Saugor	25	30	315
17	Mandla	12	14	219
18	Hoshangabad	46	34	396
19	Nimar	24	9	218
	Total	155	103	1,591
	GRAND TOTAL	905	458	6,007

DIX II

*benches in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year
March 1935.*

Total for disposal	Total disposed of	Pending at the close of the year	Pending over one month	Remarks
6	7	8	9	10
<i>Division</i>				
356	309	47	34	
572	546	26	20	
481	430	51	12	
1,101	1,017	84	24	
2,510	2,302	208	90	
<i>Division</i>				
176	147	29	78	
96	87	9	6	
384	352	32	20	
407	387	20	16	
499	467	32	7	
1,562	1,440	122	77	
<i>Division</i>				
163	140	23	19	
130	117	13	9	
281	250	31	15	
74	72	2		
51	45	6		
699	624	75	43	
<i>Division</i>				
459	435	24	4	
345	329	16	2	
233	212	21	12	
430	379	51	29	
227	199	28		
1,694	1,554	140	47	
6,465	5,920	545	257	

Statement showing the receipts of village panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Opening balance on 1st April 1934	Re	
			Taxes, fees and fines	
1	2	3	4	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
			<i>Berar</i>	
1	Amraoti	5,614 7 5	1,654	5 0
2	Akola	4,125 9 1	3,786	10 0
3	Buldana	4,311 10 0	2,542	0 6
4	Yeotmal	13,986 5 7	11,595	1 8
	Total	28,038 0 1	19,578	1 2
			<i>Nagpur</i>	
5	Nagpur	1,621 3 0	2,951	5 6
6	Wardha	1,005 13 2	2,599	9 0
7	Betul	3,707 13 3	9,173	6 5
8	Chanda	2,812 13 7	10,863	12 4
9	Chhindwara	3,384 14 8	6,565	4 8
	Total	12,532 9 8	32,153	5 11
			<i>Chhattisgarh</i>	
10	Raipur	1,418 2 5	5,771	8 6
11	Drug	2,033 0 0	5,376	0 0
12	Bilaspur	2,778 4 9	2,705	1 3
13	Bhandara	333 5 6	2,272	5 3
14	Balaghat	847 13 6	355	0 3
	Total	7,410 10 5	16,479	15 3
			<i>Jubbulpore</i>	
15	Jubbulpore	2,369 1 8	2,563	15 2
16	Saugor	2,111 2 0	2,038	0 0
17	Mandla	1,220 12 3	4,483	12 0
18	Hoshangabad	795 11 8	1,031	13 0
19	Nimar	8,747 5 9	12,812	0 10
	Total	15,244 1 4	22,929	15 0
	GRAND TOTAL	63,225 5 6	91,141	5 4

DIX III

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1935.

Receipts			Remarks
Grants from Government, local authorities or private persons	Other receipts	Total	
5	6	7	
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division</i>			
577 10 0	544 15 2	8,391 5 7	
683 2 6	464 9 0	9,059 14 7	
1,316 4 6	879 9 10	9,049 8 10	
1,491 3 3	4,652 7 4	31,725 1 10	
4,068 4 3	6,541 9 4	58,225 14 10	
<i>Division</i>			
345 8 6	2,236 2 6	7,154 3 6	
65 0 0	349 4 3	4,019 10 5	
50 0 0	1,874 14 5	14,806 2 1	
100 0 0	1,375 5 1	15,151 15 0	
540 0 0	798 3 9	11,288 7 1	
1,100 8 6	6,633 14 0	52,420 6 1	
<i>Division</i>			
100 0 0	436 10 4	7,726 5 3	
750 0 0	314 0 0	8,473 0 0	
149 0 0	422 2 9	6,054 8 9	
...	155 14 6	2,761 9 3	
241 11 0	67 0 4	1,511 9 4	
1,240 11 0	1,395 11 11	26,527 0 7	
<i>Division</i>			
...	79 4 10	5,012 5 8	
299 2 0	346 11 2	4,794 15 2	
283 8 0	1,034 11 8	7,022 11 11	
230 0 0	197 5 0	2,254 13 8	
100 0 0	2,567 8 10	24,227 5 5	
912 10 0	4,225 9 6	43,312 3 10	
7,322 1 9	18,796 12 9	180,485 9 4	

Statement showing the expenditure of village panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Expenditure					
		Construction of		Repairs of		Other improvements to water-supply	Clearing village sites
		Tank	Wells	Tanks	Wells		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
							Bera
1	Amraoti ...	...	...	...	10 0 0	161 13 6	227 3 3
2	Akola ...	...	...	4 0 0	22 0 6	24 9 0	306 7 6
3	Buldana ...	...	55 14 6	...	107 10 0	149 7 0	475 13 9
4	Yeotmal ...	57 15 0	145 4 0	15 4 0	287 10 6	548 6 0	1,556 0 3
	Total ...	57 15 0	201 2 6	19 4 0	427 5 0	884 3 6	2,565 8 9
							Nagpur
5	Nagpur ...	...	68 8 0	...	15 10 6	45 5 0	482 11 0
6	Wardha ...	...	...	...	10 0 0	...	916 9 0
7	Betul ...	...	441 15 0	...	510 7 9	32 5 0	1,790 6 3
8	Chanda ...	...	...	...	68 7 0	26 10 0	2,027 11 0
9	Chhindwara...	97 5 9	493 4 9	15 0 0	123 12 6	68 7 0	1,517 9 0
	Total ...	97 5 9	1,003 11 9	15 0 0	728 5 9	172 11 0	6,794 14 3
							Chhattisgarh
10	Raipur ...	...	...	15 0 0	14 12 0	137 7 9	2,095 10 9
11	Drug ...	...	...	10 0 0	107 0 0	22 0 0	1,529 0 0
12	Bilaspur ...	...	14 12 3	39 0 3	91 4 0	82 8 3	562 7 9
13	Bhandara ...	...	13 0 0	...	...	...	169 0 3
14	Balaghat ...	21 12 0	50 6 2	18 10 6	11 13 6	15 0 0	6 0 0
	Total ...	21 12 0	78 2 5	82 10 9	224 13 6	257 0 0	4,362 2 9
							Jubbulpore
15	Jubbulpore...	119 15 0	...	8 7 0	50 15 3	82 11 0	659 5 9
16	Saugor ...	...	206 2 0	8 4 6	73 0 0	93 5 6	505 14 3
17	Mandla ...	...	...	44 2 0	199 14 0	216 3 3	61 13 0
18	Hoshangabad ...	...	...	7 6 0	14 3 9	16 9 3	205 2 6
19	Nimar ...	...	...	50 0 6	250 1 0	263 2 6	26 0 0
	Total ...	119 15 0	206 2 0	118 4 0	588 2 0	671 15 6	1,458 3 6
GRAND TOTAL	...	296 15 9	1,489 2 8	235 2 9	1,968 10 3	1,985 14 0	15,180 13 3

DIX IV

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1935.

ture.					Remarks
Drainage	Roads	Conser- vancy and miscel- laneous	Total	Closing balance	
9	10	11	12	13	
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
<i>Division</i>					
33 14 3	184 8 0	2,889 9 2	3,507 0 2	4,884 5 5	
31 0 0	285 6 0	2,309 8 0	2,982 15 0	6,076 15 7	
10 9 0	623 14 9	3,176 1 9	4,699 6 9	4,450 2 1	
77 5 3	2,993 6 3	11,421 1 10	17,102 5 1	14,622 12 9	
152 12 6	4,087 3 0	19,796 4 9	28,191 11 0	33,034 3 10	
<i>Division</i>					
79 7 6	387 12 9	4,169 4 9	5,248 11 6	1,905 8 0	
5 15 0	516 8 9	1,850 7 0	3,299 7 9	720 2 8	
155 9 3	1,068 15 7	8,210 14 1	12,210 8 11	2,595 9 2	
230 6 6	1,930 2 0	7,858 12 6	12,142 1 0	3,009 14 0	
81 13 0	1,203 6 3	3,953 9 11	7,614 4 2	3,674 2 11	
553 3 3	5,106 13 4	26,043 0 3	40,515 1 4	11,905 4 9	
<i>Division</i>					
10 0 0	59 3 3	4,395 13 0	6,827 14 9	898 6 6	
9 0 0	223 0 0	3,737 0 0	5,637 0 0	2,836 0 0	
48 15 0	152 14 3	2,096 4 2	3,088 1 11	2,966 6 10	
...	194 9 3	2,083 9 6	2,459 15 0	301 10 3	
16 9 3	195 12 0	256 14 6	592 13 11	918 11 5	
84 8 3	925 2 9	12,569 9 2	18,605 13 7	7,921 3 0	
<i>Division</i>					
657 6 3	17 13 9	1,213 6 1	2,810 0 1	2,202 5 7	
19 13 9	366 13 3	1,119 4 9	2,392 10 0	2,402 5 2	
25 6 6	590 4 3	4,576 13 2	5,714 8 2	1,308 3 9	
...	119 6 6	850 0 9	1,212 12 9	1,042 0 11	
429 11 0	1,567 15 9	15,823 8 11	18,410 7 8	5,816 13 9	
1,132 5 6	2,662 5 6	23,583 1 8	30,540 6 8	12,771 13 2	
1,922 13 6	12,781 8 7	81,991 15 10	1,17,853 0 7	62,632 8 9	

Statement giving detailed information about the panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1934	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1935	Total number of panchas			Number of cases in which action was taken by panchayats under section		
				Muslims	Depressed classes	Others	16	29	38
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Berar</i>									
1	Amraoti	69	69	28	35	740	...	10	43
2	Akola	69	88	47	64	985	1	104	190
3	Buldana	69	73	62	23	647	6	6	50
4	Yeotmal	245	251	110	96	2,159	82	13	88
	Total	452	481	247	218	4,531	89	133	371
<i>Nagpur</i>									
5	Nagpur	30	34	18	30	334	39	9	41
6	Wardha	11	11	12	3	88	60	...	6
7	Betul	30	30	15	6	291	17	13	72
8	Chanda	31	31	17	26	324	13	...	120
9	Chhindwara	52	53	95	171	443	4	12	60
	Total	154	159	157	236	1,480	133	34	299
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>									
10	Raipur	13	15	15	15	107	6	...	16
11	Drug	21	33	28	32	360	7	...	27
12	Bilaspur	45	46	22	32	485	10	13	49
13	Bhandara	5	6	7	9	42	...	1	...
14	Balaghat	14	16	3	7	150	1	...	38
	Total	98	116	75	95	1,053	24	14	130
<i>Jubbulpore</i>									
15	Jubbulpore	50	51	14	2	517	...	...	...
16	Saugor	22	25	9	6	233	...	...	116
17	Mandla	12	12	9	2	121	38	14	31
18	Hoshangabad	49	49	9	17	499	204	12	59
19	Nimar	24	24	28	7	216	4	...	13
	Total	157	161	69	34	1,586	246	26	219
	GRAND TOTAL	861	917	548	583	8,656	492	207	1,019

DIX V

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1935.

Number of cases in which action was taken under section			Number of references made under section				Inspection of panchayats		Remarks
62 (1) A	62 (1) B	62 (1) C	30	40	44	48	By Deputy Commissioners	By Sub-Divisional Officers	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Division									
...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	10	
...	...	22	...	...	...	3	15	26	
1	13	14	...	...	1	...	14	19	
91	62	1	1	...	11	8	7	29	
92	75	38	1	...	14	11	36	84	
Division									
...	...	21	...	...	2	...	...	2	
...	1	1	...	...	2	1	3	3	
13	1	3	...	...	...	...	5	16	
...	8	...	...	...	5	6	5	24	
6	7	4	...	...	11	12	3	18	
19	17	29	...	...	20	19	16	63	
Division									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	
7	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	6	
...	4	24	...	...	2	1	2	3	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	
7	4	24	...	...	3	3	12	21	
Division									
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	
5	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	7	
3	3	3	...	...	1	1	4	11	
...	...	2	...	...	2	...	1	19	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	14	
8	3	9	...	...	3	1	13	54	
126	99	100	1	...	40	34	77	222	

APPEN

Statement showing details of criminal work done by village benches

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of cases instituted	Cases ending in acquittal on compromise or absence of complainants	Cases ending in acquittal after trial
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Amraoti ...	316	211	44
2	Akola ...	557	266	102
3	Buldana ...	444	262	100
4	Yeotmal ...	1,025	575	164
	Total ...	2,342	1,314	410
				<i>Nagpur</i>
5	Nagpur ...	166	90	27
6	Wardha ...	85	52	16
7	Betul ...	357	195	116
8	Chanda ...	380	192	72
9	Chhindwara ...	440	221	120
	Total ...	1,428	750	351
				<i>Chhattisgrah</i>
10	Raipur ...	157	66	48
11	Drug ...	124	39	59
12	Bilaspur ...	252	103	43
13	Bhandara ...	67	24	13
14	Balaghat ...	46	16	9
	Total ...	646	248	172
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore ...	443	213	66
16	Saugor ...	315	181	59
17	Mandla ...	219	105	56
18	Hoshangabad ...	396	255	51
19	Nimar ...	218	143	40
	Total ...	1,591	897	272
	GRAND TOTAL	6,007	3,209	1,205

DIX VI

of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1935

Discharged under section 25 of the Village Panchayat Manual	How many village benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2)	How many village courts were given enhanced powers under section 32 (2)	Remarks
6	7	8	9
Division			
31	7	7	
5	6		
21	4	...	4
20	...	...	
77	17	11	
Division			
5	...	...	
...	1	...	
4	...	...	
2	14	...	14
6	4	2	2
17	19	16	
Division			
26	4	...	
11	...	...	
13	...	...	
6	...	...	
4	...	...	
60	4	...	
Division			
5	1	2	
5	6	...	
3	...	...	
2	13	3	
8	9	10	
23	29	15	
177	69	42	

Statement showing constitution of panchayats of the Central

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of panchayats	Number of applications for new panchayats	Number of sanitation panchayats converted into village panchayats
1	2	3	4	5
				<i>Berar</i>
1	Amraoti	69	4	...
2	Akola	88	45	...
3	Buldana	73	...	...
4	Yeatmal	251	...	...
	Total	481	49	...
				<i>Nagpur</i>
5	Nagpur	34		...
6	Wardha	11	7	...
7	Betul	30	3	...
8	Chanda	31	...	...
9	Chhindwara	53	3	...
	Total	159	13	...
				<i>Chhattisgarh</i>
10	Raipur	15	2	...
11	Drug	33	...	...
12	Bilaspur	46	...	...
13	Bhandara	6	...	...
15	Balaghat	16	4	...
	Total	116	6	...
				<i>Jubbulpore</i>
15	Jubbulpore	51	11	...
16	Saugor	25	5	...
17	Mandla	12	...	...
18	Hoshangabad	49	...	...
19	Nimar	24	1	...
	Total	161	17	...
	GTAND TOTAL	917	85	...

DIX VII

Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31 March 1935.

Number of villages under Mukkadam Rules converted into village panchayats	How many re-elections of panchayats held during the year	Number of village courts and benches disestablished	Number of village panchayats disestablished	Remarks
6	7	8	9	10
<i>Division</i>				
...	15	...	...	
...	8	...	1	
...	18	1	1	
...	19	1	1	
...	60	2	3	
<i>Division</i>				
...	6	...	...	
...	...	...	...	
...	5	2	2	
...	3	...	...	
...	...	...	...	
...	14	2	2	
<i>Division</i>				
...	2	1	...	
...	14	...	...	
...	18	...	...	
...	2	...	1	
...	...	...	...	
...	36	1	1	
<i>Division</i>				
...	6	3	3	
...	...	1	1	
...	1	...	...	
...	11	2	2	
...	14	...	...	
...	32	6	6	
...	142	11	12	

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31st MARCH 1936

Mr. R. B. Chaubal held charge of the post of Village Panchayat Officer till the 9th May 1935 when he proceeded on leave. I joined as Village Panchayat Officer on the 15th September 1935 and remained in charge till the end of the year. The post remained vacant from the 9th May to the 14th September 1935.

2. Growth of the movement.—The total number of panchayats in the province increased from 906 to 930. In Berar the largest number of panchayats was established in the Amraoti district (6) and in the Central Provinces in the Chanda district (4).

3. Berar division.—(a) Eight (29) new panchayats were established, 6 in Amraoti and 2 in Buldana districts. All the district councils have formed village panchayat sub-committees and Akola and Buldana districts have honorary panchayat officers.

Jubbulpore division.—(b) In this division 10 (4) new panchayats were established, 1 in the Jubbulpore district, 3 in the Saugor district, 3 in the Mandla district, 1 in the Hoshangabad district and 2 in the Nimar district. All the district councils in this division have appointed village panchayat sub-committees.

Chhattisgarh division.—(c) The number of panchayats rose by 3 to 117. Two panchayats were established in the Raipur district and 1 in the Balaghat district. A village panchayat sub-committee was formed at Balaghat and honorary panchayat officers were appointed for Balaghat and Bhandara during the year.

Nagpur division.—(d) The number of panchayats rose from 157 to 165. The Nagpur district contributed 1, Wardha 1, Chanda 4, Chhindwara 1 and Betul 1. All the district councils except Wardha have now village panchayat sub-committees and honorary panchayat officers.

(e) All the honorary village panchayat officers have received training. The village panchayat sub-committees

are generally inactive. Attempts were made to rouse them to action and as a consequence programmes of inspections and propaganda have been framed by several. The Nagpur village panchayat sub-committee deserves special mention for its all round useful activities.

4. Group panchayats.—The number of group panchayats remained the same. Some of them are unwieldy and require to be re-organized. Attendance of *ex officio* mukaddam panchas continues to be unsatisfactory and calls for greater attention from the revenue officers. Section 11 of the Village Panchayat Act is being amended to enable disciplinary action being taken against defaulting mukaddams.

5. The Deputy Commissioners received 54 (85) applications for new panchayats. There is a decrease in the number of new applications but a welcome rise in the proportion of panchayats established to applications made. This indicates that the right kind of propaganda is being made and panchayats are being organised on sound lines. There is yet much room for avoiding delay in making enquiries by the revenue officers on applications. It is also not generally realized that a report to the Local Government by the Deputy Commissioner is necessary where he does not agree with the district council in regard to the establishment of a panchayat in a particular village.

6. No sanitation panchayat was converted into a village panchayat during the year; but one village under mukaddam rules was so converted in the Mandla district. The composite village and sanitation panchayat committees in Saugor and Raipur districts continue to work in harmony.

7. Seven (12) village panchayats were disestablished during the year. Party factions account for most of the failures. Most of these panchayats were situated in the interior, away from beaten tracks and languished for want of instruction and guidance. The most potent causes leading to the formation of rival factions are (a) that sarpanchas arrogate to themselves powers which they do not possess and (b) that the panchas do not quite understand the principle of the majority rule.

8. Re-elections and future development of panchayats.—Re-elections of 282 (142) panchayats were held. At some places elections were keenly contested and voters generally showed much interest in the proceedings

There is appreciable improvement in the punctual holding of the re-elections and in order to secure co-operation between Deputy Commissioners and district councils in the matter, orders have been issued by the Local Government directing that a copy of the re-election programme should be sent to the latter as soon as it is ready.

9. It is encouraging to notice the district councils realizing, though somewhat tardily, their responsibilities in regard to the supervision of the existing panchayats and the spread of the movement.

Eighteen (15) district councils have now village panchayat sub-committees and 9 (7) districts have appointed honorary panchayat officers. Proposals to appoint honorary panchayat officers are maturing in Yeotmal, Amraoti, Jubbulpore, Drug and Hoshangabad.

Fifteen district councils have made arrangements for the periodical audit of panchayat accounts and for imparting instructions on administrative matters through the cattle-pound inspectors, bazar superintendents and head clerks of local boards. Most of these officials have received training in the work they have to do and all of them submit copies of their inspection notes to the Village Panchayat Officer, Nagpur, for scrutiny.

The following table exhibits the number of panchayats doing administrative work in each division.

Name of division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats doing administrative work
Berar	.. 484	309 (228)
Nagpur	.. 165	115 (87)
Chhattisgarh	.. 117	46 (33)
Jubbulpore	.. 164	100 (49)
	930	570 (397)

It is gratifying to note that the percentage of panchayats doing administrative work of one kind or another has risen from 43 to 61.

The system of rendering voluntary labour and granting free materials in lieu of the tax is gradually spreading and is reported to be current in the districts of Amraoti, Wardha, Betul, Chhindwara and Nagpur. To mention a concrete instance, the Bori panchayat in Nagpur district has constructed a "pucca" motorable road about half a mile in length to join the village with the Nagpur-Wardha road.

Some of the district councils have extended monetary assistance to the panchayats despite financial depression. For instance, the Saugor district council has transferred some of the public markets to the panchayats, the Mandla district council pays a specific share of the net surplus income from the markets to the panchayats, whilst the Nimar, Buldana and Yeotmal district councils pay a certain share of the net income from the poundage fees to the panchayats. The Independent Mining Local Board in Chhindwara district made a grant of Rs. 400 to the Jamai panchayat for improvement of sanitation.

Taluq panchayat associations have been formed in two taluqs of the Buldana district and Ramtek tahsil of the Nagpur district has now its "snagha".

The Bhandak panchayat in Chanda district, and the Paradsinga and Jalalkheda panchayats in the Nagpur district have constructed buildings for housing their offices at a cost of Rs. 1,050, Rs. 250, and Rs. 200 respectively.

A large number of panchayats has begun to take an interest in such works as the training of dais, maintenance of pedigree bulls, encouragement of the formation of seed-unions and crop-protection societies and stocking of medicines. Free distribution of medicines and periodical disinfection of the sources of drinking water are also engaging greater attention of the panchayats and it is reported from the Drug district that in panchayat villages cholera did not appear and where it did, it was nipped in the bud. Much medical relief was provided in the rural areas of Berar by the panchayats.

10. Income and expenditure.—The total receipts of the panchayats were Rs. 2,06,190 (Rs. 1,80,486) and the expenditure was Rs. 1,37,076 (Rs. 1,17,853). The income from taxes, fees and fines amounted to Rs. 1,08,752 (Rs. 91,141).

The expenditure on the construction and repairs of tanks and wells was Rs. 4,005 (Rs. 3,990), on other improvements of water-supply Rs. 2,358 (Rs. 1,986), on clearing of village sites Rs. 19,791 (Rs. 15,181), on drainage Rs. 2,096 (Rs. 1,923), on roads Rs. 13,184 (Rs. 12,781), and on conservancy and other miscellaneous items Rs. 95,643 (Rs. 81,992).

Requisitions for the recovery of taxes, tolls and fees under section 16 were submitted to the Deputy Commissioner in 531 (492) cases.

**Correction slip to Report on the Working of Village Panchayat.
in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the
31st March 1936**

PAGE 8

No. 1, dated Nagpur, the 14th July 1937.

Against serial No. 5 in paragraph 16 for "Rao Sahib" read
"Rai Sahib".

PAGE 14

Against serial No. 14 under side head Jubbulpore division
for "Betul" read "Nimar".

K. RADHAKRISHNAN,
*Under Secy. to Govt., C. P. and Berar,
Local Self-Government Department.*

The increase in the income of panchayats is partly due to fresh taxation and partly to better recovery of arrears.

Despite the fact that the expenditure also shows considerable increase, several panchayats have in their hands large balances which are lying idle. Some of the panchayats appear to think that the criterion of good administration is to show a fat balance, while some do not really know how to spend their income for the betterment of their circles. The latter class of panchayats need the advice of district councils as to how best to spend their surplus funds for the good of their circles.

11. Taxation.—Appendix III gives the income from taxes and other kindred sources.

The number of panchayats levying taxes stood as follows :—

Name of division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats which imposed taxes
Berar	.. 484	51 (66)
Nagpur	.. 165	64 (43)
Chhattisgarh	.. 117	25 (23)
Jubbulpore	.. 164	56 (49)
	930	196 (183)

Fifty-three panchayats of the Yeotmal district have not submitted their administrative returns and hence the above information for the Berar division is incomplete. All other divisions show an increase in the number of panchayats which imposed taxes during the year. The percentage of panchayats which levies taxes is 21 (20) for the province. Among the divisions, the percentage of panchayats levying taxes is the lowest in Berar, although in the matter of administrative works, they are in no way behind-hand of other divisions.

Had it not been for the financial depression many more panchayats would have imposed taxes. Seven proposals for imposing taxes were turned down by the Akola district council and two by the Amraoti district council.

12. Government grants.—A provision of Rs. 6,000 was made for initial grants in the year under report. A sum of Rs. 3,090 was utilized, while Rs. 2,910 had to be surrendered.

13. Judicial work.—*Village Benches.*—During the year the number of village benches rose from 905 to 920.

The difference between the number of panchayats and village benches is due partly to the fact that the panchayats established towards the end of the year 1935-36 were invested with powers in 1936-37 and partly to the withdrawal of judicial powers of some of the panchayats on account of misuse.

Out of 6,820 cases disposed of, accused persons were acquitted on compromise in 3,272 cases, after trial in 1,254 cases and discharged on admonition in 203 cases.

The slight rise in institutions is primarily due to institution of cases under the Central Provinces Primary Education Act and the Vaccination Act.

Practically no use of section 30 was made and the stipendiary magistrates must again be reminded of its useful provision. 27 intricate cases were referred to the Deputy Commissioners under section 48.

The Deputy Commissioners had to be approached under sections 62 (1) A, 62 (1) B and 62 (1) C, in 84, 144 and 76 cases, respectively. 109 village benches exercised higher powers during the year.

Out of 558 cases pending at the close of the year 280 were pending over one month.

Village Courts.—During the year the number of village courts rose by 15 to 920. 91 village courts exercised enhanced powers under section 32 (2) and 10 under section 54 (1). The total number of cases disposed of was 8,156. The number of contested cases was 2,488 or 28 per cent. Out of 865 cases pending at the close of the year 451 were pending over two months. The decrease in institutions shows that the panchas are now more alert in admitting cases to file.

The duration of contested civil and criminal cases shows a tendency to rise. Less resort to legal formalities and greater use of commonsense and local knowledge ought to prevent these simple cases dragging on.

14. Control by district councils.—Most of the district councils have delegated their powers to local boards in regard to the supervision, inspection and control of the panchayats under them and this has resulted in more expeditious disposal of business.

The district councils would be well advised to scrutinize carefully the administrative proceedings of panchayats and thus to exercise more effective control over the activities of these bodies. At present these proceedings receive scant attention in the majority of district council offices.

Insistence by several district councils on the submission of annual budgets along with the revised assessment lists is a step in the right direction. The importance of the association of leading members of each community in the village with the budget committee cannot be too strongly emphasized. This inspires villagers with confidence and ensures even treatment.

The decision of the Buldana district council to earmark the financial assistance given to panchayats for specific purposes and as far as possible to extend such help on a contributory basis is commended to other district councils.

The growing tendency amongst the panchayats to incur debts from private individuals needs to be checked. Such loans cannot be incurred except with the permission of the Local Government under the Local Authorities' Loans Act.

Much yet remains to be done in keeping down the arrears of taxes. Many district councils do not yet carry out this duty of calling for quarterly defaulters' lists regularly and fixing dates for their submission by panchayats under rule 28 (8) of section 15.

The complaint that some of the panchayats do not submit the annual statements and returns punctually should disappear, if more liberal use of section 60 were made.

15. General.—Of the 10,820 panchas, 636 were Muhammadans, 625 belonged to the depressed classes and the rest were Hindus of various castes. The representation of the depressed classes increased by 1.07 per cent during the year. This is a welcome sign. The Muhammadan representation is not inadequate.

The following table exhibits the inspections done by the Deputy Commissioners and their assistants.

Division	By the Deputy Com- missioners-	By Sub-Divi- sional Officers, Tahsildars and fully-empower- ed Naib- Tahsildars
Nagpur	.. 16	68
Jubbulpore	.. 13	49
Chhattisgarh	.. 6	91
Berar	.. 37	89
	72	297

No touring was done by my predecessor during the year. During the half year I was in charge, I toured for 87 days, inspected 60 panchayats in 6 districts, did propaganda work at 10 centres and was in charge of the Village Uplift classes held at Drug and Hoshangabad.

16. Acknowledgments.—Special mention must be made of the following gentlemen who have rendered valuable service in the cause of the panchayat movement :—

1. Rao Bahadur Uttamrao Patil, M.L.C., Chairman, Panchayat Board, Itki, and Chairman, District Council, Amraoti.
2. Rao Sahib D. R. Dongre, B.A., LL.B., retired Extra-Assistant Commissioner, Honorary Panchayat Officer, Akola.
3. Rao Sahib D. R. Rajurkar, M.L.C., Chairman, District Council, Akola.
4. Rao Sahib R. S. Satarkar, B.A., LL.B., Vice-Chairman, District Council, Akola.
5. Rao Sahib Mehetabsingh, Chairman, District Council, Nimar.
6. Mr. S. N. Pande, Sirpur, Akola.
7. Mr. R. M. Borekar, Honorary Magistrate, and Secretary, Village Panchayat Sub-committee, Nagpur.
8. Mr. R. M. Harode, Chairman, Village Panchayat Sub-committee, Nagpur.
9. Pandit Govindrao Naseri, Malguzar, Honorary Panchayat Officer, Betul.
10. Mr. Narainrao Balaji Patil, Chairman, District Council, Yeotmal.
11. Mr. G. R. Pradhan, B.A., LL.B., Chairman, District Council, Nagpur.
12. Tapaswi Babasahib Paranjpe, Nagpur.

V. R. KHISTY,

*Village Panchayat Officer,
Central Provinces and Berar.*

NAGPUR :

The 9th February 1937.

APPENDICES

Statement showing the result of civil work done by Village Courts in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of village courts on 31st March 1936	Pending from the last year	Number of suits instituted during the year	Total for disposal
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Berar Division					
1	Akola ..	85	61	940	1,001
2	Amraoti ..	75	72	701	773
3	Buldana ..	75	42	812	854
4	Yeotmal ..	248	108	988	1,096
	Total ..	<u>483</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>3,441</u>	<u>3,724</u>
Nagpur Division					
5	Nagpur ..	31	22	310	332
6	Wardha ..	12	26	214	240
7	Chanda ..	34	56	659	715
8	Chhindwara ..	54	34	473	507
9	Betul ..	29	41	508	549
	Total ..	<u>160</u>	<u>179</u>	<u>2,164</u>	<u>2,343</u>
Jubbulpore Division					
10	Jubbulpore ..	49	29	535	564
11	Saugor ..	26	37	421	458
12	Mandla ..	15	17	183	200
13	Hoshangabad ..	45	14	360	374
14	Nimar ..	26	16	308	324
	Total ..	<u>161</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1,807</u>	<u>1,920</u>
Chhattisgarh Division					
15	Raipur ..	16	28	171	199
16	Bilaspur ..	46	46	409	455
17	Drug ..	33	7	171	178
18	Bhandara ..	6	14	72	86
19	Balaghat ..	15	4	112	116
	Total ..	<u>116</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>1,034</u>
	Grand Total ..	<u>920</u>	<u>674</u>	<u>8,347</u>	<u>9,021</u>

X I

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Uncontested cases	Contested cases	Total disposed of	Pending at the close of the year	Pending over two months	Remarks
(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
765	161	926	75	32	
..	..	644	129	..	
424	428	752	102	17	
554	542	991	105	39	
<u>1,743</u>	<u>1,131</u>	<u>3,313</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>88</u>	
247	53	287	45	26	
79	115	194	46	51	
543	172	647	68	49	
339	166	472	35	8	
275	213	488	61	37	
<u>1,483</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>2,088</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>151</u>	
355	60	537	27	11	
254	182	436	22	9	
97	60	190	10	2	
258	95	353	21	3	
272	27	299	25	13	
<u>1,236</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>1,815</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>38</u>	
158	20	178	21	..	
293	47	420	35	13	
90	63	153	25	7	
33	47	79	7	6	
73	37	110	6	5	
<u>647</u>	<u>214</u>	<u>940</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>31</u>	
<u>5,119</u>	<u>2,488</u>	<u>8,156</u>	<u>865</u>	<u>451</u>	

Statement showing the result of criminal work done by Village Benches in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of village benches	Pending from the last year	Number of cases instituted during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Berar Division				
1	Akola ..	85	26	628
2	Amraoti ..	75	47	400
3	Buldana ..	75	51	602
4	Yeatmal ..	248	59	705
	Total ..	<u>483</u>	<u>183</u>	<u>2,335</u>
Nagpur Division				
5	Nagpur ..	31	17	226
6	Wardha ..	12	9	99
7	Chanda ..	34	20	398
8	Chhindwara ..	54	23	324
9	Betul ..	29	31	419
	Total ..	<u>160</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>1,466</u>
Jubbulpore Division				
10	Jubbulpore ..	49	26	371
11	Saugor ..	26	16	396
12	Mandla ..	15	21	156
13	Hoshangabad ..	45	49	383
14	Nimar ..	26	14	279
	Total ..	<u>161</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>1,585</u>
Chhattisgarh Division				
15	Raipur ..	16	23	194
16	Bilaspur ..	46	31	368
17	Drug ..	33	13	174
18	Bhandara ..	6	2	133
19	Balaghat ..	15	3	84
	Total ..	<u>116</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>953</u>
	Grand Total ..	<u>920</u>	<u>481</u>	<u>6,339</u>

DIX II

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Total for disposal	Total disposed of	Pending at the close of the year	Pending over one month	Remarks
(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
654	629	25	12	
447	386	61	39	
653	597	56	28	
764	724	40	6	
<u>2,518</u>	<u>2,336</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>85</u>	
243	207	36	23	
108	91	17	10	
418	398	20	13	
347	322	25	17	
450	393	57	35	
<u>1,566</u>	<u>1,411</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>98</u>	
397	360	37	24	
412	378	34	4	
177	167	10	8	
432	398	34	18	
293	267	26	11	
<u>1,711</u>	<u>1,570</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>65</u>	
217	206	11	5	
399	366	33	21	
187	161	26	5	
135	131	4	1	
87	81	6	..	
<u>1,025</u>	<u>945</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>32</u>	
<u>6,820</u>	<u>6,262</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>280</u>	

Statement showing the receipts of Village Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Opening balance on 1st April 1935	Receipts
			Taxes fees and fines
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Berar Division	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Akola ..	6,423 7 10	4,056 0 7
2	Amraoti ..	4,884 5 2	2,763 13 8
3	Buldana ..	5,809 13 4	4,521 10 6
4	Yeotmal ..	12,023 3 11	8,476 5 8
	Total ..	29,140 14 3	19,817 14 5
	Nagpur Division		
5	Nagpur ..	2,286 2 9	8,013 0 6
6	Wardha ..	720 2 8	2,418 4 9
7	Chanda ..	4,025 5 8	13,717 14 7
8	Chhindwara ..	3,759 3 6	6,889 1 4
9	Betul ..	3,594 1 2	9,599 0 10
	Total ..	14,384 15 9	40,637 6 0
	Jubbulpore Division		
10	Jubbulpore ..	2,659 11 2	3,432 10 11
11	Saugor ..	2,385 3 5	2,362 4 3
12	Mandla ..	1,308 3 9	4,719 0 1
13	Hoshangabad ..	3,865 5 10	4,145 14 8
14	Betul ..	5,920 12 10	16,136 8 6
	Total ..	16,139 5 0	30,796 6 5
	Chhattisgarh Division		
15	Raipur ..	1,835 15 9	6,561 13 0
16	Bilaspur ..	1,925 5 11	2,146 2 0
17	Drug ..	2,836 0 0	5,319 0 0
18	Bhandara ..	301 8 6	3,068 4 9
19	Balaghat ..	754 3 0	405 7 11
	Total ..	7,653 1 2	17,509 11 8
	Grand Total ..	67,308 4 2	1,08,752 6 6

DIX III

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Grants from Government local authorities or private persons	Receipts		Remarks
	Other receipts	Total	
(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
2,337 5 6	1,043 2 5	13,860 0 4	
332 8 9	552 6 7	8,583 2 2	
1,821 2 7	2,606 1 10	14,758 12 3	
1,271 14 9	3,303 1 6	25,074 9 10	
<u>5,812 15 7</u>	<u>7,504 12 4</u>	<u>62,276 8 7</u>	
455 12 6	2,515 1 0	13,270 0 9	
..	338 15 3	3,477 6 8	
200 0 0	1,529 4 6	19,472 8 9	
533 0 0	683 3 3	11,864 8 1	
50 0 0	1,441 3 4	14,684 5 4	
<u>1,238 12 6</u>	<u>6,507 11 4</u>	<u>62,768 13 7</u>	
236 11 3	89 6 5	6,418 7 9	
315 12 0	165 6 7	5,228 10 3	
805 4 0	1,050 5 2	7,882 13 0	
331 0 0	2,442 0 7	10,784 5 1	
130 0 0	1,669 11 4	23,857 0 8	
<u>1,818 11 3</u>	<u>5,416 14 1</u>	<u>54,171 4 9</u>	
100 0 0	400 12 9	8,898 9 6	
200 8 0	93 3 6	4,365 3 5	
260 0 0	359 0 0	8,774 0 0	
90 0 0	100 1 3	3,560 7 6	
55 0 0	170 15 0	1,385 9 11	
<u>705 8 0</u>	<u>1,124 9 6</u>	<u>26,983 14 4</u>	
<u>9,575 15 4</u>	<u>20,553 15 3</u>	<u>2,06,190 9 3</u>	

Statement showing the expenditure of Village Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Expen									
		Construction of		Repairs of				Other improvements to water supply			
		Tanks	Wells	Tanks	Wells	Tanks	Wells	Tanks	Wells	Tanks	Wells
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Berar Division											
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Akola ..	40 12 0	81 4 0	97 15 0	21 5 0	465 11 6					
2	Amraoti ..	..	..	..	78 3 9	114 4 6					
3	Buldana ..	..	..	..	13 5 0	222 15 9					
4	Yeotmal ..	91 6 6	132 9 6	70 14 6	591 11 3	290 12 3					
	Total ..	132 2 6	213 13 6	168 13 6	704 9 0	1,093 12 0					
Nagpur Division											
5	Nagpur ..	..	..	..	22 7 9	59 12 6					
6	Wardha ..	..	..	..	2 5 0						
7	Chanda ..	..	225 0 0	11 3 0	18 12 0	29 13 0					
8	Chhindwara ..	..	72 0 0	7 4 0	341 2 9	332 15 3					
9	Betul ..	..	567 5 3	109 1 0	103 1 0	51 7 6					
	Total ..	..	854 5 3	127 8 0	487 12 6	474 0 3					
Jubbulpore Division											
10	Jubbulpore ..	151 5 6	10 5 0	5 2 0	26 6 0	75 5 3					
11	Saugor ..	..	45 0 0	5 14 6	36 9 9	6 0 0					
12	Mandla ..	..	..	2 12 0	43 4 6	193 12 9					
13	Hoshangabad ..	..	17 8 0	37 7 0	221 13 6	46 1 9					
14	Nimar ..	83 13 6	..	43 11 0	261 3 3	57 12 6					
	Total ..	235 3 0	72 13 0	94 14 6	589 5 0	379 0 3					
Chhattisgarh Division											
15	Raipur ..	..	..	..	7 14 0	317 13 9					
16	Bilaspur ..	..	79 8 0	57 10 0	40 0 6	49 2 3					
17	Drug ..	..	1 0 0	1 0 0	37 0 0	18 0 0					
18	Bhandara ..	..	25 0 0	..	50 0 0	1 6 0					
19	Balaghat ..	..	10 0 0	..	5 0 0	24 14 9					
	Total ..	..	115 8 0	58 10 0	139 14 6	411 4 9					
	Grand Total ..	367 5 6	1,266 7 9	449 14 0	1,921 5 0	2,358 1 3					

DIX IV

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

diture

Clearing village sites	Drainage	Roads	Conservancy and miscellaneous	Total	Closing balance
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
642 11 3	276 13 0	610 3 3	4,421 8 5	6,658 3 5	7,201 12 11
345 0 0	3 8 0	113 5 0	2,589 5 2	3,243 10 5	5,339 7 9
819 14 9	108 8 3	639 9 0	6,501 2 4	8,305 7 1	6,453 5 2
997 7 9	358 9 3	2,675 12 6	8,629 8 9	13,838 12 3	11,235 13 7
2,805 1 9	747 6 6	4,038 13 9	22,141 8 8	32,046 1 2	30,230 7 5
447 11 6	53 6 0	698 0 3	10,494 3 0	11,775 9 0	1,494 7 9
623 2 6	..	358 0 0	1,973 5 9	2,956 13 3	520 9 5
2,337 3 9	348 7 3	2,028 8 3	9,609 11 11	14,608 11 2	4,863 13 7
2,680 4 6	471 9 3	633 1 9	3,541 2 5	8,079 7 11	3,785 0 2
968 11 9	283 6 6	1,239 2 3	7,671 11 8	10,993 14 11	3,690 6 5
7,057 2 0	1,156 13 0	4,956 12 6	33,290 2 9	48,414 4 3	14,354 5 4
754 15 6	9 8 0	416 12 0	2,134 9 8	3,584 4 11	2,834 2 10
542 11 9	7 4 6	395 9 6	1,561 14 9	2,601 0 9	2,627 9 6
430 11 9	30 4 0	1,034 5 3	4,838 9 9	6,573 12 0	1,309 1 0
3,150 6 9	24 0 6	298 13 9	3,116 6 11	6,912 10 2	3,871 10 11
180 0 0	43 8 0	1,026 9 0	16,405 11 10	18,102 5 1	5,754 11 7
5,058 13 9	114 9 0	3,172 1 6	28,057 4 11	37,774 0 11	16,397 3 10
2,294 10 3	41 11 6	527 6 7	3,335 6 3	6,524 14 4	2,373 11 2
31 2 3	15 0 0	44 7 6	2,186 3 6	2,503 2 0	1,862 1 5
1,992 0 0	9 0 0	178 0 0	3,866 0 0	6,102 0 0	2,672 0 0
408 5 0	..	183 13 3	2,490 11 9	3,159 4 0	401 3 6
143 7 9	11 1 0	82 10 0	275 11 6	552 13 0	832 12 11
4,869 9 3	76 12 6	1,016 5 4	12,154 1 0	18,842 1 4	8,141 13 0
19,790 10 9	2,095 9 0	13,184 1 1	95,643 1 4	1,37,076 7 8	69,114 1 7

Statement giving detailed information about the Panchayats in the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1935	Number of panchayats on 31st March 1936	Total number of panchas			Number of cases in which action was taken by panchayats under section		
				Muslims	Depressed classes	Others	16	29	38
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Berar Division									
1	Akola ..	88	86	47	77	968	86	46	131
2	Amraoti ..	69	75	45	43	800	..	85	49
3	Buldana ..	73	75	46	25	722	61	59	129
4	Yeotmal ..	251	248	198	109	2,548	56	7	33
Total ..		481	484	336	254	5,038	203	197	342
Nagpur Division									
5	Nagpur ..	34	35	21	31	349	45	8	30
6	Wardha ..	11	12	8	3	100	23	..	3
7	Chanda ..	31	35	16	31	396	12	..	131
8	Chhindwara ..	53	54	96	171	351	12	25	22
9	Betul ..	28	29	16	10	350	17	39	65
Total ..		157	165	157	246	1,546	109	72	251
Jubbulpore Division									
10	Jubbulpore ..	48	49	10	2	532	32	..	53
11	Saugor ..	23	26	9	1	263	31	..	19
12	Mandla ..	12	15	8	2	159	48	54	44
13	Hoshangabad ..	47	48	20	18	551	27	48	39
14	Nimar ..	24	26	29	7	238	32	12	11
Total ..		154	164	76	30	1,744	170	114	166
Chhattisgarh Division									
15	Raipur ..	14	16	13	8	155	45	16	..
16	Bilaspur ..	46	46	13	26	521	1	8	38
17	Drug ..	33	33	28	34	363	3	6	9
18	Bhandara ..	6	6	9	11	42	..	..	..
19	Balaghat ..	15	16	4	16	150	..	10	..
Total ..		114	117	67	95	1,231	49	40	47
Grand Total ..		906	930	636	625	9,559	531	423	806

DIX V

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Number of cases in which action was taken under section			Number of references made under section				Inspection of panchayats		Remark
62(1) A	62(1) B	62(1) C	30	40	44	48	By Deputy Commis- sioners	By Sub- Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and fully empowered Naib- Tahsildars	
(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)
..	24	19	..	..	..	..	8	22	
..	13	10	..	..	2	3	..	16	
5	..	9	..	..	1	..	13	33	
..	47	..	2	..	13	3	16	18	
5	84	38	2	..	16	6	37	89	
27	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	23	
..	1	2	..	..	1	1	2	6	
..	18	..	..	..	6	10	6	9	
14	10	12	..	..	..	..	5	19	
16	3	8	..	..	..	3	3	11	
57	37	22	..	..	8	14	16	68	
15	14	10	..	1	..	..	3	1	
3	..	1	..	..	3	2	2	16	
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	
..	1	..	..	..	3	..	1	10	
3	..	3	..	..	2	5	5	13	
22	16	14	..	1	8	7	13	49	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	14	
..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	28	
..	7	..	..	..	..	..	4	34	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	
..	7	2	..	..	..	..	6	91	
84	144	76	2	1	32	27	72	297	

Statement showing details of criminal work done by Village Benches of the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of cases instituted	Cases ending in acquittal on compromise or absence of complainants	Cases ending in acquittal after trial
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Berar Division				
1	Akola ..	628	301	128
2	Amraoti ..	400	208	35
3	Buldana ..	602	333	126
4	Yeotmal ..	705	343	109
	Total ..	<u>2,335</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>398</u>
Nagpur Division				
5	Nagpur ..	226	133	56
6	Wardha ..	99	49	13
7	Chanda ..	398	201	55
8	Chhindwara ..	324	142	55
9	Betul ..	419	231	86
		<u>1,466</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>265</u>
Jubbulpore Division				
10	Jubbulpore ..	371	158	76
11	Saugor ..	396	217	89
12	Mandla ..	156	77	19
13	Hoshangabad ..	383	265	57
14	Nimar ..	279	175	44
		<u>1,585</u>	<u>892</u>	<u>285</u>
Chhattisgarh Division				
15	Raipur ..	194	125	81
16	Bilaspur ..	368	146	101
17	Drug ..	174	79	68
18	Bhandara ..	133	40	27
19	Balaghat ..	84	49	29
	Total ..	<u>953</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>306</u>
	Grand Total ..	<u>9,339</u>	<u>3,272</u>	<u>1,254</u>

DIX VI

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Discharged under section 25 of the Village Panchayat Manual (6)	How many village benches were given enhanced powers under section 18 (2) (7)	How many village courts were given enhanced powers under section		Remarks (10)
		32 (2) (8)	54 (1) (9)	
5	6	..	..	
21	7	7	..	
20	5	5	1	
20	36	36	6	
66	54	48	7	
6	..	..	..	
1	1	..	..	
5	14	14	3	
14	4	2	..	
2	3	2	..	
28	22	18	3	
7	1	2	..	
27	6	6	..	
2	..	..	..	
7	13	7	..	
47	9	10	..	
90	29	25	..	
..	4	..	..	
5	..	..	..	
12	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
2	..	..	..	
19	4	..	..	
203	109	91	10	

Statement showing constitution of Panchayats of the

Serial No.	Name of district	Number of panchayats	Number of applications for new panchayats	Number of sanitation panchayats converted into village panchayats
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Berar Division				
1	Akola ..	86	3	..
2	Amraoti ..	75	3	..
3	Buldana ..	75	3	..
4	Yeotmal ..	248	..	..
	Total ..	484	9	..
Nagpur Division				
5	Nagpur ..	35	6	..
6	Wardha ..	12	2	..
7	Chanda ..	35	..	..
8	Chhindwara ..	54	4	..
9	Betul ..	29	4	..
	Total ..	165	16	..
Jubbulpore Division				
10	Jubbulpore ..	49	13	..
11	Saugor ..	26	1	..
12	Mandla ..	15	..	..
13	Hoshangabad ..	48	3	..
14	Nimar ..	26	1	..
	Total ..	164	18	..
Chhattisgarh Division				
15	Raipur ..	16	2	..
16	Bilaspur ..	46	2	..
17	Drug ..	33	2	..
18	Bhandara ..	6	..	..
19	Balaghat ..	16	5	..
	Total ..	117	11	..
	Grand Total ..	930	54	..

DIX VII

Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31st March 1936.

Number of villages under Mukkadam Rules converted into village panchayats (6)	How many re-elections of panchayats held during the year (7)	Number of village courts and benches disestablished (8)	Number village panchayats disestablished (9)	Remarks (10)
..	31	3	3	
..	10	..	..	
..	10	..	..	
..	124	3	3	
..	175	6	6	
..	10	..	..	
..	6	..	..	
..	13	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
..	15	..	..	
..	44	..	..	
..	..	..	..	
..	6	..	..	
1	5	1	1	
..	17	..	..	
..	7	..	..	
1	35	1	1	
..	6	..	..	
..	9	..	..	
..	3	..	..	
..	3	..	..	
..	7	..	..	
..	29	..	..	
1	282	7	7	

GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR



REPORT
ON THE WORKING OF THE
VILLAGE PANCHAYATS
IN THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE
31ST MARCH 1937

NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P. & BERAR
1938

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REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE VILLAGE
PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING
THE 31st MARCH 1937

I held charge of the post of Village Panchayat Officer throughout the year.

2. Growth of the movement.—The total number of panchayats in the province increased by 17 to 945. The largest number of panchayats was established in the Nagpur division 10 [8].

3. (a) Berar division.—Three [6] new panchayats were established in the Amraoti district. The sub-committees of all the district councils in the division showed greater interest in their work; so also did the honorary panchayat officers of Akola and Buldana. The special staff of five inspectors and one superintendent in Yeotmal was continued during the year and the Amraoti district council has now appointed one inspector for each taluk and two non-officials to supervise their work.

(b) Jubbulpore division.—In this division 3 [10] new panchayats were established, two in Hoshangabad and one in Mandla district. Except Saugor all the district councils have formed sub-committees for panchayat work. There are now honorary panchayat officers at Nimar and Mandla, and Saugor and Damoh are seriously contemplating the appointment of such an officer.

(c) Chhattisgarh division.—The number of panchayats increased by 4 to 120. Three panchayats were established in Drug and one in Raipur district. Two panchayats were transferred from this division to the province of Bihar and Orissa when a portion of the Bilaspur district was transferred to that province. All the district councils in the division have formed sub-committees except Bhandara. In all the districts of the division panchayat inspectors audit panchayat fund accounts. The honorary panchayat officers of Balaghat and Bhandara districts continued to work during the year.

(d) Nagpur division.—The number of panchayats rose from 165 to 175. The Wardha district contributed five, Chhindwara three and Nagpur two. Except Wardha

all the district councils have honorary panchayat officers and sub-committees. Panchayat inspectors have been appointed by all the district councils in the division for the audit and inspection of panchayat work.

(e) During the year the panchayat inspectors and honorary panchayat officers of twelve districts were trained by me. Despite efforts to rouse the sub-committees to action no results worth the name have so far been achieved. The honorary panchayat officers of Betul, Akola and Buldana did useful and selfless work. All the panchayat inspectors have shown zeal and activity in the discharge of their duties. The panchayat superintendent of Yeotmal and the panchayat inspectors of Buldana and Bilaspur did particularly good work.

4. **Group panchayats.**—It is getting increasingly clear that unless the *abadis* of the villages to be grouped are so contiguous as to present the common characteristics of a single village the grouping of bigger villages for administrative purposes is not desirable. The composition of such panchayats is loose and lacks cohesion and the more evident drawback is unsatisfactory attendance by outside members and this is invariably reflected in the dilatory disposal of business. It should be remembered that the system of clubbing is more for the benefit of the smaller villages which cannot have individual panchayats of their own and is not to be used for securing common judicial jurisdiction for which sections 18 (3) and 32 (4) should preferably be used.

5. The Deputy Commissioners received 73 [54] applications for new panchayats. This indicates that the propaganda by the district councils is becoming more effective, that more discrimination is now shown in the choice of villages and it is also an indication of the growing consciousness of the villagers to begin shouldering civic responsibilities. Mostly owing to the delay in dealing with the applications by the Revenue Officers and the district councils the increased demand for panchayats is not proportionately reflected in the expansion of the movement during the year.

6. No sanitation panchayat or village under the mukaddam rules was converted into a village panchayat the year.

The composite village and sanitation panchayat committees in Saugor and Raipur districts continued to work quite successfully. There is no desire on their part

to become full-fledged village panchayats ; firstly, because of official patronage, and, secondly, because they are apprehensive of district councils depriving them of their present sources of income although provision against such a contingency exists in section 65 (A) (2) of the Village Panchayat Act.

7. Only 1 [7] panchayat was disestablished during the year. Eighteen proposals for disestablishment were received from Deputy Commissioners mainly because no nomination papers were presented or that the number of nomination papers presented was inadequate or the villagers refused to have a panchayat in the village ; but after a visit by the village panchayat officer fifteen villages changed their decision and on his recommendation were given a fresh opportunity to establish panchayats. Most of these panchayats were situated in localities less frequented by touring officers and the trouble had its origin in some petty village squabble.

8. Re-elections of 188 [282] panchayats were held. There is in most of the district reports indication of the fact that these re-elections have been arousing greater and wider interest and with a few exceptions the majority of the elections were keenly contested. In most of the districts the complaint that these re-elections are held without the knowledge of the district council has disappeared but there are still instances where the orders of the Provincial Government that the Deputy Commissioner should send to the chairman, district council, a copy of the election programme as soon as it is ready are not being regularly followed.

9. It is refreshing to read the testimonies of some of the Deputy Commissioners in regard to the progress the panchayats are making in administrative work.

The Deputy Commissioner, Bilaspur, remarks that the future of the panchayats is hopeful and their usefulness has been established beyond question. The Deputy Commissioner, Hoshangabad, notes that the panchayats have a fair sense of responsibility and a good sense of proportion in exercising the powers conferred on them. In the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner, Akela, real effort has been made to rouse the village panchayats to do administrative work and they are getting alive to their responsibilities. The Deputy Commissioner, Balaghat, mentions that though

the panchayats have not a very spectacular record to show they are gradually coming to realize their duties and responsibilities and he would adopt the motto *festina lente* for the panchayats of his district.

The following table exhibits the number of panchayats doing administrative work in each division :—

Division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats doing admin- istrative work
Berar ..	486	275 [309]
Nagpur ..	175	143 [115]
Chhattisgarh ..	118	87 [46]
Jubbulpore ..	166	111 [100]
Total ..	945	598 [570]

The percentage of panchayats doing administrative work has thus risen from 61 to 63. The system of rendering voluntary labour in lieu of tax is again reported from Betul, Drug and Chanda districts.

The sarpanch of Keliveli has gifted one acre of land to the panchayat for constructing public latrines.

The Buldana district council has further extended its policy of giving grants on a contributory basis. The Yeotmal district council pays one-fifth of the net poundage fees to panchayats which maintain night classes for adults and allows the proceeds from the sale of manure to be appropriated by the panchayats. In the Nimar district, Shahapura and Harsud panchayats are paid the entire surplus income from bazars and the Bediya panchayat receives an annual grant of Rs. 50 from the district council whilst the Amarwada panchayat in Chhindwara district gets the full income of the market. The Mandla district council gives a share of its income from public markets to five panchayats and the entire income from pounds, cattle-registration and paraos to three panchayats.

The Gariaband panchayat in Raipur district has constructed its own office at a cost of Rs. 300.

The district reports *inter alia* make mention of the following works of importance as having been done by several of the panchayats :—

- (a) Fixing of boundaries beyond which the villagers should go for purposes of nature.
- (b) Dumping of rubbish and digging of manure pits.
- (c) Disposal of night-soil and maintenance of public latrines.
- (d) Periodical disinfection of the sources of drinking water.
- (e) Supporting of cattle-breeding centres.
- (f) Lighting of roads.
- (g) Free distribution of medicines.
- (h) Holding of baby-shows.
- (i) Night schools for adults.
- (j) Construction of feeder roads.
- (k) Contribution to dispensaries.
- (l) Training and supporting of *dais*.
- (m) Maintenance of libraries and subscription to newspapers.

As usual panchayats have rendered useful service in combating epidemics and in the Yeotmal district, panchayats have received the thanks of the Civil Surgeon for their work in this direction. In the Drug district six panchayats waged a successful crusade against drugging of children by opium.

The village panchayat board, Itki, continued to do useful work and the "Gramani Association" at Nagpur continued to issue its useful and instructive monthly Marathi magazine.

A district panchayat conference was held at Betul at which instructions were given and several useful questions were discussed. In the Buldana district quarterly conferences of panchayats were held in taluk board offices and instructions were imparted by the secretary, district council, and the panchayat inspectors.

In the Buldana district three instances are reported in which persons have resorted to panchas for settling matters not falling strictly by within the scope of panchayat.

The 146 acres of C class forest and 27.7 acres of E class forest vested in the Pimpalkhute panchayat of the Morsi taluk of the Amraoti district are being managed successfully. Twenty-four acres of these have been reserved for improvement and the E class area is set apart for the cultivation of *babul* trees. The panchayat derives from this

area an annual income of Rs. 300 from grazing dues and saves to itself Rs. 162 after paying the Government demand of Rs. 138.

10. Income and expenditure.—The total receipts of the panchayats were Rs. 2,01,251 [Rs. 2,06,190] and the expenditure was Rs. 1,32,093 [Rs. 1,37,076]. The income from taxes, fees and fines amounted to Rs. 1,06,767 [Rs. 1,08,752].

The expenditure on the construction and repairs of tanks and wells was Rs. 4,706 [Rs. 4,005], on other improvements of water-supply Rs. 2,319 [Rs. 2,358], on drainage Rs. 2,164 [Rs. 2,096], on roads Rs. 16,212 [Rs. 13,184], and on conservancy and other miscellaneous items Rs. 86,623 [Rs. 95,643].

Requisitions for the recovery of taxes, tolls and fees under section 16 were submitted to the Deputy Commissioners in 347 [531] cases.

The fall in the total receipts and expenditure is more apparent than real as nearly 80 panchayats, some of them with considerable income, failed to submit their returns. It cannot, however, be denied that the collections during the year were not satisfactory.

11. Taxation.—Appendix III gives the income from taxes and includes that from other sources also.

The number of panchayats which levied taxes stood as follows :—

Division	Number of panchayats	Number of panchayats which levied taxes
Berar	.. 486	65 [51]
Nagpur	.. 175	86 [64]
Chhattisgarh	.. 118	53 [25]
Jubbulpore	.. 166	61 [56]
Total	.. 945	265 [196]

The increase in the number of panchayats that levy taxes is marked in Nagpur and Chhattisgarh divisions. The percentage of such panchayats was 28 [21]. Reports from Berar districts attribute inability to improve their position in regard to taxation to continued economic depression. The chairmen of the district councils, Amraoti

and Buldana, allude to a tendency on the part of some of the panchayats to accumulate large balances and the chairman, district council, Amraoti, is rightly requiring such panchayats to submit schemes of village uplift and public utility. The Commissioner, Berar division, is taking action to impress on the district councils that taxation in excess of the necessary expenditure is unjustifiable and that right spending is better economy than useless hoarding. Arrears show no appreciable reduction in their volume. The Commissioner, Jubbulpore division, in this connection remarks that the regular submission of quarterly defaulters' lists was a duty which should not have been neglected. Nearly all the district councils have fixed dates for the submission of these lists by the panchayats and failure of the panchayats to do so in the majority of cases can be safely ascribed to the panchas themselves being the defaulters. Insistence by the district councils on the regular submission of these lists appears to be the only remedy.

12. A provision of Rs. 4,000 was made for initial grants in the year under report. A sum of Rs. 2,690 was utilized and the remaining Rs. 1,310 had to be surrendered.

Instances are not wanting to show that there has been inordinate delay in the payment of the grants to some of the newly formed panchayats.

13. **Judicial work—Village benches.**—During the year the number of benches rose from 920 to 930. The increase is due to the newly formed panchayats undertaking to exercise criminal powers.

Out of 6,987 cases disposed of, accused were acquitted on compromise in 3,426 cases, after trial in 2,793 cases and discharged on admonition in 342 cases. Bringing about compromises is the ideal method for village benches to follow in disposing of many of the unimportant cases, provided the compromise is voluntary, and not forced by long adjournments. The tendency to misuse the powers to let off youthful offenders in the case of adults on warning needs to be checked. No use of section 30 was made by stipendary magistrates. Fifteen intricate cases were referred to the Deputy Commissioners under section 48.

The Deputy Commissioners had to be approached under sections 62 (1) (a), 62 (1) (b) and 62 (1) (c) in 84, 51, and 178 cases, respectively.

One hundred and sixteen village benches exercised enhanced powers during the year.

Out of 801 cases pending at the close of the year 327 were pending over one month.

Village courts.—During the year the number of village courts rose by 10 to 930. Ninety-nine village courts exercised enhanced powers under section 32 (2) and 13 under section 54 (1). The total number of suits disposed of was 8,764. The number of contested cases was 4,062 or 46 per cent. Out of 819 suits pending at the close of the year, 390 were pending over two months.

There is a decided increase in the volume of case work both civil and criminal. Although proportionately the criminal work has increased more than the civil work, greater dispatch was shown in dealing with it. This cannot be said of the civil work. Although the increase in the percentage of contested suits partly accounts for the delay, no substantial lessening in the duration of case work which still persists to be high can be looked for unless panchayat courts bring to bear commonsense and local knowledge on their decisions and rely less on interpretations of law and formalities of procedure.

14. Control by district councils.—All district councils except Wardha, Bhandara and Saugor have formed sub-committees for panchayat work. Very few of them are however doing any real work. The instructions contained in circular letter No. 1988-1258-VIII, dated the 26th April 1928, on the subject of panchayat sub-committee are commended to the notice of all the district councils.

It is gratifying to note that the system of appointing district honorary panchayat officers by the district council in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner has caught on and 11 [9] district councils have appointed panchayat officers. These honorary panchayat officers are useful in establishing greater points of contact between the Deputy Commissioner and the district council and materially assist the village panchayat officer in carrying out the policy of Government.

All the district councils have realized their duty of training panchayats in administrative work and the legal necessity of their exercising a general control over the panchayat funds and have given proof of this by appointing local agencies for the instruction and inspection of panchayats and the periodical audit of panchayat fund accounts and for doing propaganda work. Most of the district councils

have appointed cattle-pound inspectors or bazar superintendents as panchayat inspectors in addition to their duties whilst some have entrusted these duties to their secretaries and head clerks of local boards.

The delegation of their powers by most of the district councils to local boards has resulted in speedier disposal of business and it is hoped that those district councils which have not done so would follow suit. There is yet much room for improvement in the direction of punctual disposal by the chairmen, district councils, of objections preferred against assessment of taxes by assesseees.

The tendency of sarpanchas to retain larger amounts than they are authorized to hold for current expenses and in some instances to get themselves appointed as cashiers needs to be discouraged and it is necessary in the interest of the safety of the panchayat fund that panchayat mohcirs who have to handle money in the performance of their duties should be required to furnish adequate securities.

Rule 76 needs to be observed more rigidly to prevent officious interference by non-officials in panchayat affairs.

15. General.—Of the 11,147 panchas, 562 were Muhammadans, 546 belonged to the depressed classes and the rest were Hindus of various castes. It would be pertinent to quote the remark of the Commissioner, Jubbulpore division, that the local moneylender and the high class Hindu still exercise a disproportionate influence over the deliberations and decisions of the panchayats but this appears inevitable until the masses are awakened to the power which the vote confers on them.

The following table exhibits the inspections done by the Deputy Commissioners and their assistants :—

Division	By Deputy Commissioner	By Sub-Divisional Officers, Tahsildars and fully empowered Naib-Tahsildars
Nagpur	.. 18 [16]	32 [68]
Jubbulpore	.. 11 [13]	56 [49]
Chattisgarh	.. 14 [6]	86 [91]
Berar	.. 20 [37]	246 [79]
Total	.. 63 [72]	420 [297]

I toured for 125 days, inspected 180 panchayats in 12 districts, did propaganda at 12 centres, held 28 rallies, revived 16 panchayats which had been languishing and were recommended by the Deputy Commissioners for dis-establishment; inspected the village panchayat branches of the district council offices of the districts. I visited and trained the honorary panchayat officers and panchayat inspectors of those districts in their duties and was officer-in-charge of the village uplift class held at Buldana under the auspices of the provincial village uplift board, Nagpur, in the month of March 1937.

I was also present at the District Conference of Panchayats at Betul.

V. R. KHISTY,

NAGPUR :
The 28th January 1938.

*Village Panchayat Officer,
Central Provinces and Berar.*

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RESULT OF CIVIL WORK DONE BY THE VILLAGE COURTS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST MARCH 1937

Name of district	Number of village courts on 31st March 1937	Pending from the last year	Number of suits instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Uncontested cases	Contested cases	Total disposed of	Pending	
								At the close of the year	Over two months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Berar division									
Amraoti ..	78	112	683	795	399	290	723	72	39
Akola ..	87	75	908	983	647	275	922	61	42
Buldana ..	75	102	838	940	378	484	862	78	34
Yeotmal ..	247	136	1,173	1,309	481	828	1,214	95	33
Total ..	487	425	3,602	4,027	1,905	1,877	3,721	306	148
Nagpur division									
Nagpur ..	30	46	304	350	246	72	298	52	24
Wardha ..	16	46	225	271	127	112	239	32	27
Chanda ..	32	68	557	645	318	241	559	86	52
Chhindwara ..	57	44	613	657	552	78	614	43	10
Betul ..	29	61	478	539	202	305	507	32	23
Total ..	164	265	2,197	2,462	3,907	808	2,217	245	136

Chhattisgarh division

Raipur	..	16	21	276	297	221	23	244	53	2
Bilaspur	..	44	35	562	597	276	91	538	59	19
Drug	..	36	25	214	239	145	84	231	8	1
Balaghat	..	15	6	64	70	53	11	64	6	..
Bhandara	..	6	8	32	40	19	21	33	7	5
Total	..	117	95	1,148	1,243	714	946	1,110	133	27

Jubbulpore division

Jubbulpore	..	49	40	455	495	347	129	464	31	16
Saugor	..	25	22	369	391	233	137	368	23	12
Mandla	..	15	10	187	197	94	71	165	32	21
Hoshangabad	..	46	19	437	456	357	77	434	22	6
Nimar	..	26	25	287	312	268	17	285	27	14
Total	..	162	116	1,735	1,851	1,299	431	1,716	135	79
Grand Total	..	930	901	8,682	9,583	7,825	4,062	8,764	819	390

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RESULT OF CRIMINAL WORK DONE BY THE VILLAGE BENCHES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST MARCH 1937

Name of district		Number of village benches	Pending from the last year	Number of cases instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Total disposed of	Pending	
							At the close of the year	Over one month
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Berar Division								
Amraoti	..	78	42	434	476	415	61	33
Akola	..	87	25	594	619	561	58	16
Buldana	..	75	59	565	624	551	73	35
Yeotmal	..	247	54	734	788	722	66	29
Total	..	487	180	2,327	2,507	2,249	258	113
Nagpur division								
Nagpur	..	29	25	277	302	276	26	10
Wardha	..	16	17	108	125	108	17	10
Chanda	..	32	20	396	416	392	24	16
Chhindwara	..	57	28	425	453	426	27	10
Betul	..	29	57	790	847	707	140	56
Total	..	163	147	1,996	2,143	1,909	234	102

Chhattisgarh division

Raipur	..	..	17	11	501	512	418	94	49	
Bilaspur	..	..	44	32	317	349	320	29	14	
Drug	..	..	36	26	162	188	161	27	2	
Bilaghat	..	..	15	6	88	94	85	9	..	
Bhandara	..	..	6	11	152	163	150	13	10	
Total			..	118	86	1,220	1,306	1,134	172	75

Jubbulpore division

Jubbulpore	..	..	49	37	367	404	375	29	16	
Saugor	..	..	26	34	373	407	384	23	11	
Mandla	..	..	15	10	246	256	243	13	10	
Hoshangabad	..	..	46	32	427	459	424	35	..	
Nimar	..	..	26	26	280	306	269	37	..	
Total			..	162	139	1,693	1,832	1,695	137	37
Grand Total			..	930	552	7,236	7,788	6,987	801	327

15

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE RECEIPTS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST MARCH 1937

Name of district	Opening balance on the 1st April 1936	Receipts				Total
		Taxes, fees and fines	Grants from Government, local authorities or private persons	Other receipts		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Berar division						
Amraoti ..	5,339 7 9	2,593 14 0	251 8 6	1,287 10 2	9,472 8 5	
Akola ..	5,257 4 9	4,497 6 8	24 4 6	1,464 5 11	11,243 5 10	
Buldana ..	6,638 15 10	4,800 2 0	1,828 8 8	2,340 14 1	15,608 8 7	
Yeotmal ..	13,885 6 9	9,986 6 3	643 8 0	3,079 3 9	27,594 8 9	
Total ..	31,121 3 1	21,877 12 11	2,747 13 8	8,172 1 11	63,918 15 7	
Nagpur division						
Nagpur ..	1,511 10 8	5,128 12 3	92 8 6	681 1 5	7,414 0 10	
Wardha ..	524 15 5	2,019 1 6	300 12 0	432 13 9	3,277 10 8	
Chanda ..	4,338 2 6	16,762 13 4	266 0 0	636 10 8	22,003 10 6	
Chhindwara ..	3,752 14 2	5,443 6 9	184 0 0	191 0 4	9,571 5 3	
Betul ..	3,632 7 4	10,177 2 7	1 12 0	997 4 4	14,808 10 3	
Total ..	13,760 2 1	39,531 4 5	845 0 6	2,938 14 6	57,075 5 6	

Chhattisgarh division

Raipur	..	..	2,312 10 4	5,920 11 9	50 0 0	1,061 15 9	9,345 5 10
Bilaspur	..	..	2,114 14 1	3,477 3 0	49 8 0	252 0 9	5,893 9 10
Drug	..	..	2,672 0 0	5,460 0 0	190 0 0	361 0 0	8,683 0 0
Balaghat	..	..	827 12 11	359 3 0	140 12 0	196 12 11	1,524 8 10
Bhandara	..	..	401 0 6	2,434 12 3	74 4 0	123 12 0	3,033 12 9
Total	..	..	8,328 5 10	17,651 14 0	504 8 0	1,995 9 5	28,480 5 3

Jubbulpore division

Jubbulpore	..	..	2,942 3 3	3,590 11 1	..	322 5 3	6,855 3 7
Saugor	..	..	2,608 10 3	1,883 12 11	75 0 0	203 4 7	4,770 11 9
Mandla	..	..	1,309 1 0	4,663 14 1	338 0 0	1,358 10 6	7,669 9 7
Hoshangabad	..	..	3,873 6 11	4,865 3 2	178 4 0	1,526 8 8	10,443 6 9
Nimar	..	..	5,631 5 2	12,702 1 3	100 0 0	3,604 3 8	22,037 10 1
Total	..	..	16,364 10 7	27,705 10 6	691 4 0	7,015 0 8	51,776 9 9
Grand Total	..	..	69,574 5 7	1,06,766 9 10	4,788 10 2	20,121 10 6	2,01,251 4 1

APPENDIX IV

STATEMENT SHOWING THE EXPENDITURE OF VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE 31ST MARCH 1937

(1) Name of district	Expenditure				
	Construction of		Repairs of		Other improvements to water supply
	Tanks	Wells	Tanks	Wells	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Berar division					
Amraoti ..	..	45 12 0	..	222 11 0	376 8 9
Akola ..	..	..	66 0 0	29 8 0	162 7 6
Buldana ..	..	15 0 0	..	73 0 0	254 3 6
Yeotmal ..	5 0 0	293 11 0	6 11 6	286 15 9	20 7 0
Total ..	5 0 0	354 7 0	72 11 6	612 2 9	813 10 9
Nagpur division					
Nagpur ..	..	..	..	8 10 0	67 7 0
Wardha ..	..	..	..	..	..
Chanda ..	..	41 14 9	34 8 0	65 13 9	15 1 0
Chhindwara ..	..	69 14 6	13 8 0	202 9 9	65 2 9
Betul ..	72 5 0	1,387 9 3	2 13 6	99 9 3	59 14 6
Total ..	72 5 0	1,499 6 6	50 13 6	376 10 9	207 9 3

Chhattisgarh division

Raipur	..	..	21 6 3	..	1 8 0	12 0 6	69 0 0
Bilaspur	..	..	..	13 1 0	66 5 0	45 12 0	37 15 0
Drug	..	..	..	5 0 0	11 0 0	46 0 0	122 0 0
Balaghat	..	..	..	..	..	15 14 0	10 11 0
Bhandara	..	..	..	..	..	115 15 0	12 8 0
Total	..	..	21 6 3	18 1 0	78 13 0	235 9 6	252 2 0

Jubbulpore division

Jubbulpore	..	..	..	..	7 15 6	29 4 9	232 11 0
Saugor	..	..	..	14 0 0	38 12 3	138 3 6	26 12 0
Mandia	..	..	..	219 0 0	2 11 0	72 0 0	190 1 9
Hoshangabad	..	..	..	53 11 0	63 11 9	19 7 6	553 9 11
Ninar	..	..	115 7 0	13 8 0	67 8 3	454 1 6	42 0 0
Total	..	..	115 7 0	300 3 0	180 10 9	713 1 3	1,045 2 8
Grand Total	..	..	214 2 3	2,172 1 6	383 0 9	1,937 8 3	2,318 8 8