



Government of West Bengal
Local Self-Government & Panchayats Department

Commission for Legislation on Town and Country Planning

Report

December 1962

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REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATION ON
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

FOREWORD

To

The Hon'ble Sri Shaila Kumar Mukherjee,
Minister of Local Self-government and Panchayats,
Government of West Bengal.

Calcutta, the 28th December, 1962

Sir,

The Commission, appointed by the department of Local Self-government and Panchayats of which you are the Minister in-charge, was asked to consider whether legislation is necessary to control the use of land in West Bengal and, if so, what form such legislation should take. We have finished our work within the time promised and are now submitting the Report for your consideration. In doing so, we want to add one or two words in explanation which could not for obvious reasons be incorporated into the text of the Report.

When the Commission was appointed by a notification dated 5th October 1961, it had a membership of nine, including a chairman appointed by name, seven other members appointed by their designation, and one other member to be nominated by the Calcutta Corporation, which ultimately selected its Commissioner to represent it in the Commission. Since then there have been one addition and two changes in the membership. The additional member was Sri D. N. Gupta, B.E., M.I.E., M.T.P.I. (Lond.) who was appointed on 8th February 1962. The two changes were due to the fact that Sri A. K. Roy, Chief Engineer (Municipal Development) left West Bengal in December 1961 to join a higher post in Uttar Pradesh, and Sri P. C. Majumdar, I.A.S. (Retd.), Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation, retired in July 1962 on the expiry of his term. Sri A. K. Roy's place was taken by Sri R. C. Roy who succeeded him as Chief Engineer (Municipal Development), and Sri S. B. Roy, I.A.S. who was appointed Commissioner of the Calcutta Corporation, was also appointed a member of the Commission in place of Sri P. C. Majumdar. Unfortunately, on account of the heavy pressure of work in his newly assumed responsibility, it was not possible for

Sri S. B. Roy to attend any of the meetings of the Commission and take part in its deliberations ; and he has regretfully asked to be excused from signing the Report in the framing of which he could not have a hand. The Report, therefore, bears the signature of nine members instead of ten.

The first meeting of the Commission was held on 16th December 1961 in which the scope of its work was considered and the subjects to be dealt with were decided in broad outline. In nine subsequent meetings the questionnaire and the different aspects of the problems at issue were taken up and discussed. The general procedure was to focus attention on these different aspects on the basis of a draft memorandum placed by the chairman for the consideration of the members which was approved subject to such additions and alterations as the members thought necessary. The final meeting was held on 21st December 1962 in which the 'Conclusions and Recommendations' were considered in detail and approved. The Report is unanimous both as regards the analysis of the existing condition and as regards recommendations for future action.

In our introductory chapter we have acknowledged our debt to those who have rendered us help from the outside. Here we want to record our particular appreciation of the assistance we received from our staff. The work of our Secretary & convenor, Sri A. C. Chatterjee, W.B.J.C.S. in running the office, preparing the agenda and proceedings of meetings; and acting as a general liaison officer between the Commission and all outside organisations and institutions (including the different departments of government) has been wholly admirable. Sri Nani Gopal Roy Chowdhury was indispensable for extra-mural work as well as in the Accounts Section. But the highest meed of praise must go to the stenographer, Sri Sadhan Chandra Chatterjee, but for whose extraordinary efficiency and ungrudging willingness for hard work the Report could not have been finished within time. The entire brunt of typing and re-typing the chapters of the Report which underwent several revisions and much of the ordinary routine correspondence of the office fell on his shoulders and to his cheerful acceptance and faithful discharge of responsibility for a job that had to be done the Commission must bear testimony.

COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATION ON TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
REPORT

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