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**Review of the Administration Report  
of the Punjab Public Works Depart-  
ment, Buildings and Roads  
Branch, for the year  
1944-45**

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1944-45**



THE Administration Report of the P.W.D., Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1944-45.

*Expenditure*—The total expenditure on works and technical education, etc., in the year 1944-45 was Rs. 144 lakhs in round figures as compared with Rs. 1,03 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure on establishment showed a decrease from 13.13% to 10.06%.

*Communications*—The total expenditure on roads, etc., including their maintenance was Rs. 108 lakhs. Despite difficulties in getting *bajri* and other road-surfacing material on account of scarcity of railway wagons, 829 miles were re-surfaced with tar and bitumen as against 631 miles in 1943-44. At the end of the year under review there were under the charge of the Department 4,606 miles of metalled and 1,562 miles of unmetalled roads. In addition to the above lengths of road, there were in the Province 715 miles of metalled and 6,722 miles of unmetalled Class II roads in the charge of District Boards. Encouraged by the experiments on soil-stabilised roads, a Division and a Specification Laboratory for construction of cheap all-weather roads was opened with the assistance of the Government of India and 25 miles of soil-stabilised road were constructed. Further large scale experiments in this new form of road construction are in hand and they augur well for better and cheaper village roads.

Of the several road works completed during the year, mention may be made of the following:—

- ✓(1) Redecking Leh Bridge in mile 167 of Grand Trunk Road (Arterial No. 1) in Rawalpindi District.
- ✓(2) Redecking Kala Bridge in mile 190 of Grand Trunk Road (Arterial No. 1) in Rawalpindi District.
- (3) Improving metalling and tarring Tarbela-Hazro-Campbellpur-Basal-Pindi Sultani Road (Arterial No. 8) section II Campbellpur to Basal.
- (4) Constructing approaches to the Kalabagh-Kurram Railway Bridge on Mianwali-Kalabagh Road Kurram River.
- (5) Metalling the eastern approach road to Indus crossing Ghazighat.
- (6) Strengthening the Railway overbridge at Ludhiana.
- (7) Metalling Bharwain-Chintpurni Road in Hoshiarpur District.
- (8) Raising gaps in miles 116 and 117 of Grand Trunk Road (Arterial No. 1) in Ambala District.
- (9) Improvements (rough metalling on soft places) to Theog Mathani portion of Ambala-Tibet Road (Arterial No. 20) Section Chharabra to Shipki in Simla District.

## (10) Construction of motor road round Simla (Section Cart Stand to Chota Simla).

In addition to the above, extensive works had to be carried out for restoring damages to the roads in Kangra Valley where there was a cloud burst of unprecedented ferocity during the night between 4th and 5th of August, 1944. It is estimated that about 24" of rain fell and brought about phenomenal flood. The damages done to roads and bridges were simply colossal. There were about 50 breaches throughout the length of road and in consequence communications to various military camps in the area were entirely cut off. Military authorities very kindly co-operated with the P.W.D., in the restoration of communications. Immediately after the breaches were restored temporarily by putting on diversions, it was considered essential to arrange for the construction of permanent bridges, providing increased water-way wherever necessary and to construct retaining walls, etc., where roadside had been damaged. A lot of work on the construction of permanent bridges was started and was well in hand by the end of March, 1945. All the bridges were built and reopened to traffic before the break of monsoons in 1945.

*Buildings*—The total expenditure on buildings including cost of maintenance was Rs. 36·30 lakhs. The expenditure by minor heads under the following major heads on buildings (original Works and Repairs) was :—

	MAJOR HEADS.	
	50—Civil Works	81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
General Administration (Charged) .. .. .	1,13,127	..
General Administration (Voted) .. .. .	10,83,077	..
Administration of Justice .. .. .	9,066	..
Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .	2,95,426	33,317
Police .. .. .	3,68,722	..
Education .. .. .	3,46,241	..
Medical .. .. .	3,57,776	..
Public Health .. .. .	49,993	..
Agriculture .. .. .	1,43,654	..
Veterinary .. .. .	25,376	..
Co-operation .. .. .	6,437	..
Industries .. .. .	27,947	..
Civil Works .. .. .	5,33,282	11
Stationery and Printing .. .. .	17,023	..
Miscellaneous Departments .. .. .	2,18,975	..
Scientific Departments .. .. .	493	..
Forest .. .. .	1,000	..
Land Revenue .. .. .	..	..
Excise .. .. .	..	..
Total .. .. .	35,97,615	33,328



Of the important building works completed during the year mention may be made of the following :—

- (i) Providing 3rd storey to the P.W.D. Secretariat Building, Lahore.
- ✓ (ii) Construction of five new barracks for constables, for the recruit training School for Rawalpindi Range at Sargodha.
- (iii) Construction of Rickshaw Coolies' quarters in Simla.
- (iv) Providing 2nd storey to the Punjab Civil Secretariat Building, Lahore.
- (v) Providing accommodation for the Civil Supplies Office, Lahore.
- (vi) Providing additional accommodation for Research Laboratory in Mayo School of Arts, Lahore.
- (vii) Providing accommodation for Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of Punjab University Officers Training Corps in the Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

Mention may be made of the following important works which were in hand :—

1. Construction of 3rd storey of the proposed extension to the Ellerslie Buildings, Simla-E.
2. Providing additional hostel accommodation in the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur.
3. Construction of sheds for Storage of Foodgrains at Moga, Abohar and Jagraon.
4. Conversion of the District Jail, Mianwali, from Class II to Class I.

In general the department was faced with considerable difficulties in the execution of both original works and repairs due to "controls" on most of the building materials and shortage of labour. Nevertheless, all the important major works and especially the works connected with Airfields and military buildings were completed satisfactorily and in time.

*Contribution to war efforts*—During the year under review this Branch executed original works to the value of about Rs. 13,00,000 for the Government of India, War Department, Army Branch, and maintained about 61 encamping grounds, 31 Airfields and certain buildings, etc., in Cantonments at Rawalpindi, Campbellpur, Multan, Jhelum, Kharian, Murree hills including water supply and electric installations at cost of Rs. 24,92,118 approximately.

*Post-War Planning*—(a) *Buildings*.—In order to meet the expanding requirements of various departments, Building schemes estimated to cost Rs. 14 crores were prepared during the year.

(b) *Roads*—The Post-War Road Development Scheme for the Punjab makes provision for the construction of an additional length of 7,136 miles of Arterial Road and 17,903 miles of Rural Road System. It will take 15 years to complete and will cost Rs. 69 crores approximately. It is designed to provide all-weather roads and there will be almost no town in the Province with a population of 5000 souls or over which will not be connected by a metalled road and there will be no village in the Province which shall be more than 2 miles away from an all-weather road.

*Communications Board*—The Board distributed Rs. 3,96,014 as grants-in-aid to various District Boards in the Province and its Engineer Secretary gave technical sanction to 96 road projects of various District Boards.

*Public Health Branch*—During the year under review the Public Health Branch prepared and examined projects of the total value of Rs. 1,13,21,345 for the Punjab Government, Local Bodies in the Punjab and the Defence Department of the Government of India. In addition, the preparation of preliminary proposals for Post-War Reconstruction relating to Public Health Engineering Works, i.e. water supply and/or drainage works or extensions thereof in towns, and rural water supply works and improvements in water supply and sanitation were pushed forward. Proposals for the carrying out of urban works of an estimated cost of Rs. 9,21,92,500 rural works of an estimated cost of Rs. 2,70,87,009 and exploratory and boring works of an estimated cost of Rs. 33,01,600 were submitted.

Besides the construction of the Lahore Sewerage Scheme and other schemes of local bodies which were in hand, about 47 important works were commenced and 23 schemes were completed during the year. All important water supply and sanitary installations and cognate works relating to Government buildings and installations and a number of water supply and drainage schemes of local bodies throughout the Province continued to be run and maintained by this Branch.

*Electrical Engineering*—The Electrical Engineer and his staff remained very busy during the year in executing and maintaining electrical works in provincial buildings in the Province and in a number of Airfields in the Punjab.

*Engineering Education*—The cost of engineering education during the year was Rs. 3.80 lakhs approximately.

(a) *Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore*—The report for the year shows that competition for entry in the "A" Class, namely the Engineering Class leading to the B. Sc. (Engineering) Degree of the Punjab University, was keener than the previous year. For admissions to this class 463 candidates competed for the 55 vacancies reserved for Punjabi student

against 384 last year, while for the "B" Class (Engineering Mechanics Class) 74 candidates competed for 40 vacancies. The number of candidates for the "C" Class, namely the Apprentice Class for training young men in the College Workshops to be skilled artisans, was 23.

The results of the final examination in 1944 were very satisfactory. Out of 35 "A" Class students who sat for the B. Sc. (Engineering) Degree Final Examination of the Punjab University, 32 were successful. Owing to a keen demand for trained men for war works, only a few of the "C" Class students actually completed the three-year prescribed course but instead, went in for war employment.

The demand for trained Engineers and Workshop Operators exceeds the supply. Every student or apprentice who qualifies from this College in any of the classes is able to find ready employment.

(b) *Government School of Engineering, Punjab, Rasul*—Competition for entrance to the school continued to be keen. There were 532 candidates as compared with 396 during the previous year. In order to meet the increased demand of the Province for overseers and draftsmen the number of vacancies in the school was increased from 140 to 260 (overseers 190 and draftsmen 70) excluding the nominees of other Provinces and States.

The results of the final examination at the end of the second year were again very satisfactory. Of the 94 students who sat 61 obtained the "A" certificate (16 with "Honours" and 45 with "Credit") and 32 obtained the "B" certificate. In the final examination at the end of the second year for Draftsmen Class, 10 students appeared and all passed.

Of the 56 overseers and draftsmen who took the Special Course in reinforced concrete all were successful.

The School Training Centre for masons and bricklayers under the Technical Training Scheme of the Government of India (Department of Labour) proved a success.

The School also acts as a Service-Securing Bureau and about 290 men were offered posts through it during the year under review.

*Town Planning*—As in the previous year the work of the Town Planning Branch of the Department comprised—

- (a) preparing town planning and building schemes on behalf of Municipal Committees, including the requisite surveys;
- (b) advising Commissioners and Government in connection with town planning schemes submitted by local authorities; and

(c) the preparation of development schemes for lands owned by Government and various Municipalities.

The Municipal Committees before proceeding to prepare town planning or building schemes now generally consult the Provincial Town Planner and the quality of Municipal schemes is improving. During the year under review 46 schemes were completed, 22 were under preparation and advice was given either to Government or to the Local Authorities concerned on 13 schemes.

*Miscellaneous*—The Department continued to carry on its campaign against encroachments on Government land and during the year under review restored a total area of 8,163 s.ft. which is worth lakhs of rupees. It also rendered assistance to local bodies and prepared and carried out projects of the value of Rs. 1,60,24,622.

The 1st and the 2nd Units of the Punjab Civil Pioneer Force which proceeded on active service to the Eastern Front in the previous year remained there on duty during the year under review.

A detachment of the Depot Company was detailed in August 1944 to assist the Irrigation Branch in executing relief work in Lyallpur and Sargodha districts in connection with damages done by floods.

*Administration*—Mr. J. B. Vesugar, B. Sc., A. M. Inst. C. E., I.S.E., continued as Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Punjab, P.W.D., Buildings and Roads Branch, till 12th April, 1944, when his services were placed again at the disposal of the Government of India. He was succeeded by Mr. L. A. Freak, B. Sc., A. M. Inst. C.E., I.S.E., who continued till the end of the year.

Mr. D. A. Howell, C.I.E., O.B.E., M. Inst. C. E., M. I. Mech. E., continued as Chief Engineer of the Public Health Branch of the Buildings and Roads Department throughout the year.

During the year under review there was an immense expansion of work calling for a corresponding increase in the staff.

Government takes this opportunity to record its appreciation of the hard work put in by all concerned from top to bottom in the Department in achieving good and expeditious execution of various works.

ABDUL QADIR,

*Secretary to Government, West Punjab  
P.W.D., Buildings and Roads Branch.*





