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**Review of the Administration Report  
 of the Punjab Public Works Department,  
 Buildings and Roads Branch,  
 for the year ~~1946~~**

1946-47

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**1946-47**



**Proceedings of the Punjab Government in the P. W. D.,  
Buildings and Roads Branch, No. 31-G. II, dated 3rd  
January 1951, concerning.**

The Administration Report of the P. W. D., Buildings and Roads Branch, for the year 1946-47.

*Expenditure*—The total expenditure on works and technical education, etc., in the year 1945—47 was Rs. 291 lakhs in round figures as compared with Rs. 211 lakhs in the previous year.

*Communications*—The total expenditure on roads, etc., including their maintenance was Rs. 1,17,53,742. Despite difficulties in the carriage of road materials by rail, owing to scarcity of railway wagons approximately 1,009 miles were surfaced with tar and bitumen, as against 1,000 miles in 1945-46. At the end of the year under review there were under the charge of the Department 4,698 miles of metalled and 1,985 miles of unmetalled roads against 4,643 miles of metalled and 1,699 miles of unmetalled roads last year.

In addition to the above lengths of roads there were in the Province 702·71 miles of metalled and 6,603·98 miles of unmetalled class II roads in charge of District Boards. Encouraged by the success of First Experiment of Soil Stabilization of 25 miles in Batala-Siri Gobind Pur and Batala-Dera Baba Nanak Roads at a cost of Rs. 2,63,959 further mileage was taken up. As an experimental measure one estimate of stabilizing 32 miles on Jassar-Pasrur, Khanewal-Katcha Khu and Sonepat-Gohana Roads at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,80,000 and another of stabilizing 112 miles of Narowal-Zafarwal, Gujranwala-Begpur, Shahdara-Rarang, Gujrat-Jalalpur and Khangah Dogran Roads were in operation. These experiments were located in various parts of the Punjab, with a view to study the behaviour of that type of construction under different climatic conditions. Of the several road works completed during the year mention may be made of the following:—

- (1) Improving and metalling the Musakhel-Talagang Road Section of Arterial No. 10 in Mianwali, Attock Districts.
- (2) Constructing and metalling Mianwali-Kalabagh-Kuram River Road in Mianwali District.
- (3) Improving and metalling Chakwal-Talagang Road Section of Jhelum-Sohawa-Chakwal-Talagang Road (Arterial No. 12).
- (4) Metalling unmetalled miles of Jhang-Bhakkar-Darya Khan Road.
- (5) Improving and metalling Khushab-Mianwali Section of Arterial No. 2 in Shahpur District.

There was further general rise in the level of wages of labour and cost of building materials with the result that the premium was increased from 100 per cent to 110 per cent over the pre-war schedule of rates or in some cases even more. It was difficult to obtain slack coal for the manufacture of bricks as during last year. The shortage of wagons for the transport of all types of materials further added to the difficulties, nevertheless matters were pursued very diligently through their various stages and the progress of works was not allowed to suffer.

*Communications Board*—The Board held two regular meetings and one meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee for distribution of grants to District Boards during the year. Funds to the extent of Rs. 6,32,307 were distributed as grants-in-aid to various district boards in the Province and technical sanction was given to 136 road projects of the different district boards by the Engineer Secretary to the Board.

The combined post of Superintending Engineer, Roads, and Secretary, Communications Board, Punjab, continued during the year with a separate staff for the latter.

*Public Health*—During the year under review the Public Health Branch prepared and examined projects of the value of Rs. 1,41,95,130 for Punjab Government, local bodies in the Punjab, and the Defence Department of the late Government of India.

Besides the construction of the Lahore Sewerage Scheme and other schemes of local bodies which were either completed or in hand, about 16 important works were commenced and 49 were completed during the year. In addition to this all important water-supply and sanitary installations throughout the Province continued to be maintained and run by this Branch for the year 1946-47, as usual. These works comprise water-supply installation, consisting of tube-wells and percolation wells with steam oil engine driven and electric pumping plants, reservoirs, tanks and pipe-lines, sanitary installation, septic tanks and sewerage farms, steam disinfection apparatus, gas plants, hot water-supply, heating, air-conditioning and laboratory installations, etc. The average daily quantity of water, sewerage and sullage dealt with by various works in direct charge of Public Health Circle was approximately 9,057,248 gallons and the total horse power of the installations including those under completion was nearly 900 B. H. P.

The total B. H. P. of the plants actually in operation was approximately 973 while new plants totalling more than 113 B. H. P. were under order or in course of erection.

*Electrical Engineering*—The Electrical Engineer and his staff remained very busy during the year in executing a large number of original works and maintaining the electrical installations in Government owned buildings all over the Province.



*Engineering Education*—The cost of engineering education during the year was Rs. 5,64,303.

(a) *Punjab College of Engineering and Technology, Lahore*—The report for the current year shows that the applications received for entry to the 'A' Class leading to B. Sc. Engineering Degree of Punjab University for 74 vacancies reached the record figure of 673 as compared with 573 applications for 43 vacancies during the last year, whereas in 'B' Class (Engineering Mechanics) only 47 candidates competed for 40 vacancies against 45 in the last year. 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 18.

The result of the final examination in 1946 was very satisfactory. Out of the 45 'A' Class students who sat for the B. Sc. (Engg.) Degree Final Examination of the Punjab University, 44 were successful.

Employment of students presented no problem as the demand for trained Engineers and workshop operators exceeded the supply and every student and apprentice who qualified in the college in any of the classes and possessed good character, found employment forthwith.

(b) *Government School of Engineering, Punjab, Rasul*—As a result of the Annual Competitive Examination held in October and November 1946, 210 students were admitted into the Overseer Class and 67 in Draftsman Class. Out of these, 9 Overseers belonged to N.-W. F. P., 5 to Delhi Province, 1 to Bilaspur State, 5 to Patiala State, 1 to Chamba State, 2 to Kashmir State, 3 to Nabha State, 1 to Kalsia State, and 1 from Sirmur State.

Of the 114 students who sat for the Overseers Class at the end of the second year, 46 obtained the 'A' Class Certificates, 1 with 'Honour' and 45 with 'Credit', 62 obtained the 'B' Class Certificate and 6 failed. In the final examination at the end of the second year for Draftsman Class, 15 students appeared, 12 passed and 3 failed. All 10 students on Bricklayer Artizan Class qualified.

The School also acts as a service securing bureau and about 300 men were offered posts through it during the year under review.

The general health of both the staff and students has on the whole been satisfactory.

*Town Planning*—Mr. U. A. Coates, B.A., Arch. (Hons.), F.R.I. B.A., M.T.P.I., continued to hold the post of Provincial Town Planner during the year under review.

As in the previous year the work of the Department consisted mainly of—

(a) Preparing town planning schemes and building schemes under section 192 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911

- on behalf of municipal committee, including the requisite surveys.
- (b) Advising Commissioners and Government in connection with town planning schemes submitted by local authorities.
- (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, 86 schemes were prepared, were under preparation and advice was given either to Government or the local authorities concerned on 116 town planning schemes, layout, etc.

*Miscellaneous*—The Department continued to carry on its campaign against encroachment on Government land and during the year under review restored a total area of 3,835 sft. It also rendered assistance to local bodies and prepared and carried out projects of the value of Rs. 36,19,997. Besides, in 28 cases discrepancies of various nature were observed in revenue records and brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioners through the Divisional Officers for rectification.

The units of the Civil Pioneer Force, which were last year converted as a Provincial Organization by the Government of India, were disbanded, as they did not prove economical. After the lapse of Civil Pioneer Force Ordinance on 30th September 1946 a skeleton staff was retained under Commandant Naryan Singh to dispose of stores and equipment and also to clear the accounts, etc.

*Administration*—Messrs. L. A. Freak, B. Sc., A. M. Inst. C. E., I. S. E., H. A. Harris, O.B.E., A.C.G. I., and J. S. Sethi held the posts of Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Punjab (East), Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government, Punjab (West) and Chief Engineer, Public Health, respectively, throughout the year under report.

M. AZAM

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



