

CHAPTER- IV

Profiles of the Town under Study

In this chapter, an attempt is made to study in depth four towns of North Bengal in the state of West Bengal under two districts. Among them, two Municipalities have been selected from the district of Jalpaiguri, i.e., Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar and the two other Municipalities i.e., Cooch Behar and Tufanganj from the Cooch Behar district. Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar are District Headquarters and Alipurduar and Tufanganj are the Sun-divisional Headquarters. Each of the Districts and Municipalities has its own distinctive features and socio-economic pattern.

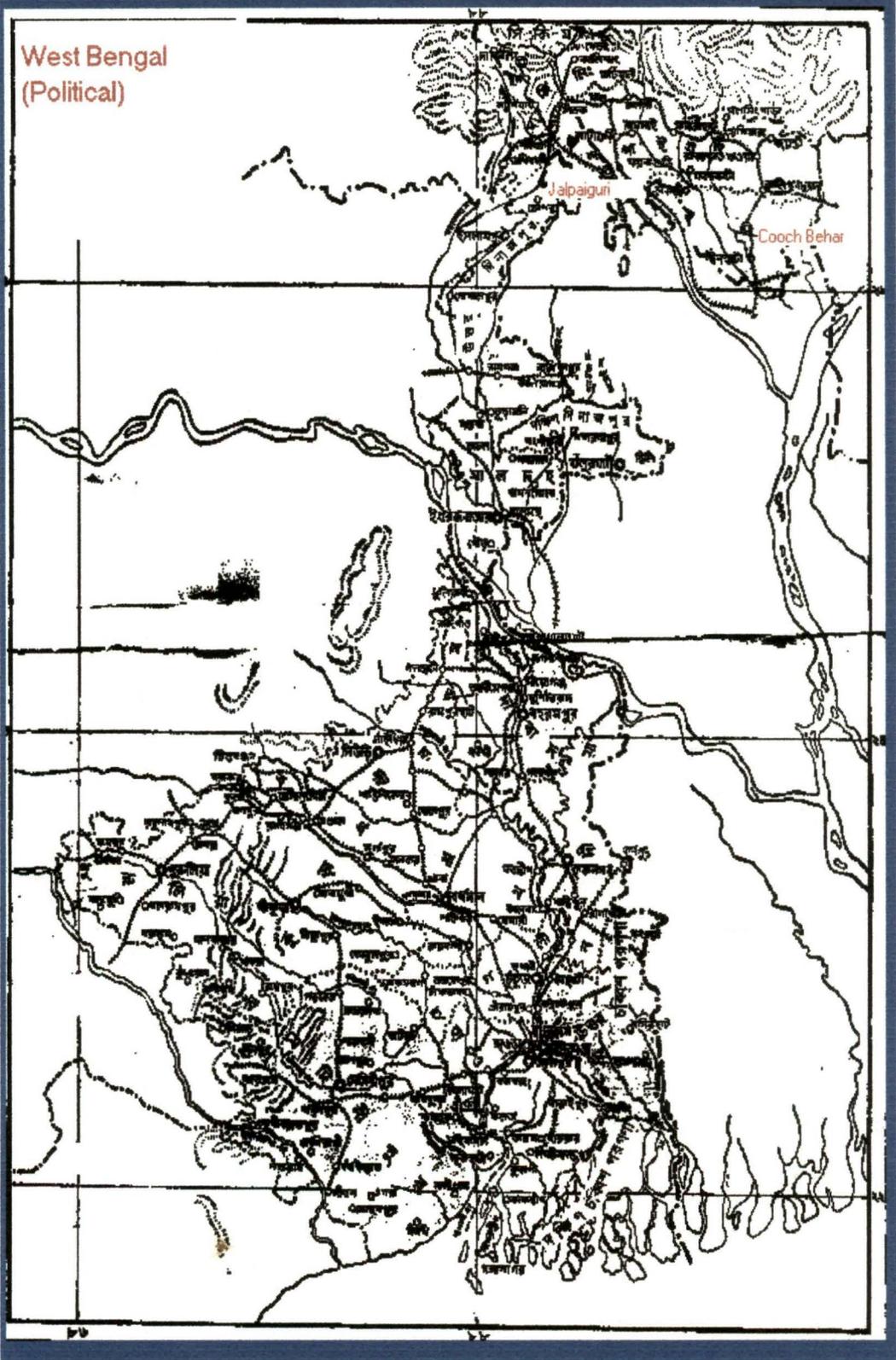
Before going into the projection of the profile of an individual Municipality, we shall try to draw the District profile of the concerned Municipality in a nutshell to understand the exact location, socio-economic pattern, importance of the Municipality in that area as well as in the district map properly.

SECTION- A

DISTRICT PROFILE: JALPAIGURI

Jalpaiguri is a border District located in the northern part in the State of West Bengal. It is unique District situated at the land of the lower Himalayas with its geographical diversity, traditional history. Colourful ethnic groups, miscellaneous linguistic and religious groups and beautiful natural sceneries. The District is a part of two geographical regions. The eastern part of the river Teesta is called 'Duars' and the western part is known as 'Tarai'. It is included in the Jalpaiguri Division in the State of West Bengal. The District has been so named after its principal town Jalpaiguri, which is also the Divisional and District Headquarters town.

West Bengal
(Political)



The District of Jalpaiguri was formed with three Sub-divisions i.e., Jalpaiguri Sub-division with its headquarters at Maynaguri, Buxa Sub-division with its headquarters at Alipurduar and Dalimkot Sub-division with its headquarter at Dalimkot. But soon Dalimkot Sub-division was transferred to the Darjeeling District. During 1874-1900, the district developed considerably with the establishment and development of Tea plantations. Between 1901-1947, the district developed due to large migration of people from outside, establishment of Broad Gauge Railway system changed socio-economic activities of the people. Jalpaiguri, predominantly a planter's town was a hub of economic activity for the entire region till the partition of Bengal in 1947. Due to partition, five Police Stations – Tentulia, Panchagarh, Boda, Debiganj and Patgram were transferred to Pakistan, now Bangladesh. And from that period the district began to lose its importance as a district in the administrative map of Bengal.

In the physical aspects, Jalpaiguri district lies between 26°16' and 27°00' north latitude and between 88°04' and 89°53' east longitude. The total area of the district is 6237.6 sq. km. It is bounded on the north by Darjeeling district and Bhutan, on the east by Assam, on the south by the district of Cooch Behar and Bangladesh and on the west Darjeeling district and Bangladesh. The main rivers of the district are Teesta, Mahananda, Kaljani, Raidak, Jaldhaka and Torsa. All the rivers flow from north to south directions. River water is not harnessed for power generation or irrigation. Number of tanks and ponds, which are helpful for sprinkle type of irrigational activities.

Land patterns of the District are two types like plain and undulated. It appears that, the land of the Jalpaiguri Sub-division is plain but the land of the Alipurduar Sub-division is a hilly area. Sinchal Hill is located at the northeast corner of the District near Indo-Bhutanese Border.¹

In the last decade of the 20th century, there has been a change in the physical boundary and total area of the district. One Mouza of Maynaguri Police Station bearing J.L. No.- 87, Panisala has been transferred to Mekliganj P.S. of Cooch Behar District. As a result, there has been a diminution in the total area and a new demarcation for the boundary of the District has been undertaken.²

SECTION – B

TOWN PROFILE: JALPAIGURI

Jalpaiguri town as an administrative unit and planters' town has distinct importance in the region. The Jalpaiguri District as an administrative unit came into being on the 1st January 1869, with the Jalpaiguri as its headquarters.³ Jalpaiguri is also the Divisional Headquarters of the Commissioner of Jalpaiguri Division having in its jurisdiction six districts of North Bengal – Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. Being a focal point of the region as administrative and service centre, the town had a dominant role in the region for a long time. The partition of the country adversely affected its growth. Its network of communication with rest of the country in the pre-independence period was through the areas, which now belongs to Bangladesh. On the other hand, due to changed geographical set up and communication facilities, Siliguri has bloated Jalpaiguri's earlier importance as a commercial and communication centre. At present, the town is surviving as an important administrative town in the map of North Bengal as well as a centre of Education and Servicing centre of the surrounding hinterlands.

The first Jalpaiguri Municipal Board was constituted in the year 1885.⁴ In India, the census definition of 'town' or 'Municipality' remained more or less the same for the period 1901-51; but in 1961, a new definition was adopted. Upto 1951, a municipal town meant – (i) collection of houses permanently inhabited by not less than 5000 persons; (ii) every Municipality/ Corporation/ Notified Area of whatever size and (iii) all civil lines not included within the municipal units. In 1961, certain tests were applied for defining a place as town or Municipal town. These were – (i) a minimum population of 5000; (ii) a density of not less than 1000 per sq. mile; (iii) three fourths of its working population should engaged in non-agricultural activities and (iv) the place should have a few characteristics and civic amenities like transport, communication, banks, schools, markets, recreation centres etc. The 1961 basis was adopted in the 1971, 1981

Map of
Jalpaiguri Town



and 1991 censuses too for defining towns.⁵ At present, the Municipal towns are classified according to its population in the following ways:

Table No.- 1
Classification of Municipal Towns

Population Size	Class of Town
1,00,000 and above	A
50,000-99,999	B
20,000-49,999	C
10,000-19,999	D
5,000-9,999	E
Below 5,000	F

Source: *District Census Handbook 1991, Jalpaiguri District, Vol.-1.*

The term 'urban area' or 'a city' or 'a town' or 'Municipality' is used in two senses – demographically and sociologically. In the former sense, emphasis is given to the size of population, density of population and nature of work of the majority of the adult males; while in the latter sense, the focus is on heterogeneity, impersonality, interdependence and quality of life.⁶ In India as well as in West Bengal, demography is considered as the only yard stick of municipalisation of a town. According to 1951 census of India, Jalpaiguri town had a population of 41,259 and in that sense, Jalpaiguri town is a Municipal town in the category of class-C Municipal town in West Bengal. Now we shall discuss the profile of the town in the following four heads – Administrative growth; Population growth of the town; basic urban services of the town; and the development potentialities of the Jalpaiguri Municipality.

(I) Administrative Growth of the Town:

The town of Jalpaiguri was declared as a Municipal Town in the month of April 1885. Thus the town has already celebrated its centenary as a Municipal town. In the long history of more than 100 years, the town has developed in many ways and administrative development is one of them. Presently it is a 'C' category Municipal town having in its jurisdiction 12.50 sq. km area boundary. In the year 1995, three panchayat area namely, Arabinda Nagar (I) G.P., Faria G.P.-

I (part) and Paharpur G.P. (part) has been included in the municipal arena. According to the 1991 census, the number of total population of the town was more than 91 thousand. The total area of the town is divided into 25 wards. According to the municipal records, at present the total numbers of holdings are 17,641. Percentage of ratepayers to total population is 19.38. The Municipality has 25 elected Councillors elected one from each Ward. Among the Councillors 15 are male and 10 are female members. Out of the 25 Councillors 4 elected from the reserved seats for Scheduled Castes and 5 female members elected from the seats reserved for Women category only. Thus the electoral and representation pattern of the town fulfills the basic goals of the WBMA 1993 as well as 74th CAA 1992.

The elected Councillors have elected one Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among them. Besides the above officials, there is a Chairman-in-Council consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and three other Councillors. The Municipal Board is the overall authority of the Municipality. For effective performance of the various works of the Municipality, there are few committees namely Accounts Committee, Building Sub-Committee, Education Sub-Committee, Sanitation and Health Sub-Committee, Public Works Sub-Committee have been formed to monitor the works.

As enunciated by the provisions of WBMA-1993, there are 25 Ward Committees have been formed one in each Ward under the Chairmanship of the Councillor of the concerned Ward. The Councillor nominates the Convenor and other members of the Ward Committee from among the people of the ward. Thus, the Municipality has also followed the basic principles of decentralized development as envisaged by the 74th CAA 1992 as well as WBMA 1993 by constituting the Ward Committees.

Besides the above-mentioned political officials and representatives, there is a number of non-political permanent Municipal personnel to implement the policies formulated by the political executives and to carry out the day to day works of the Municipality. The number of sanctioned posts and existing strength as well as the number of casual works if any may be shown in the table below:

Table No.- 1.1
Number of Sanctioned Posts and Actual Strength up to 2000

Total sanctioned posts (strength)	Actual existing strength	Number of Casual Workers	Total
449	394	107	501

Source: Data collected from the Office of Deputy Directorate of Local Bodies, Siliguri Office.

According to the provisions of the West Bengal Municipal Act 1993, the Government of West Bengal has provided the Municipality with an Executive Officer, a Finance Officer (at present the post of FO laying vacant), a Health Officer and an Engineer at the expenses of the State Government. The number of officials and the main posts are displayed in the table below:

Table No.- 1.2
Existing Personnel Status

Name of the Posts	Number of Officials
Executive Officer	1
Finance Officer	1 (vacant)
Health Officer	1
Engineer	1
Office Superintendent	1
Accountant	1
Cashier	1
Sanitary inspector	1
Conservancy Inspector	1
Market Superintendent	1
Food Inspector	1
Head Clerk	1
License In-Charge	1
Assessment In-Charge	1
Tax Collector	1
T.C.S.	22
Overseer	9

Source: Data collected from the Jalpaiguri Municipality Office, April-2001.

The above discussion and two tables reveal that, the Jalpaiguri Municipality possesses a strong administrative set up to run the municipal functions as devolved by the Twelfth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and the WBMA 1993. Besides the above administrative structure, the ULB is also getting technical support from the Municipal Engineering Directorate (MED), in the making of municipal plans and its implementation. The Central Valuation Board (CVB) is also helping the local body by making proper assessment of the

land and properties and fixing of rates of property tax. The Directorate of ULBs also provides good support for the administrative development in the Municipality.

(III) Growth of Population at Jalpaiguri:

Jalpaiguri town has grown over the decades as a centre of administration, hub of education and centre of socio-economic opportunities of the town as well as rural hinterlands. It remained a centre of plantation industry in the whole of North Bengal for a long time. The Municipal town, which had a population of 9,708 in the year 1901, showed a steady growth rate upto the year 1951 when the total population reached at 41,259.⁷ The pattern of population growth rate of the town may be shown in the table below:

Table No.- 1.3

Decadel Population Growth Rate at Jalpaiguri Town From 1951-2001

Year	Total population	Percentage of decadel growth rate
1951	41,259	48.60
1961	48,738	18.13
1971	55,159	13.17
1981	61,743	11.94
1991	90,825	47.10
2001 (Provisional)	1,00,400	10.54

Source: *District Census Hand Book – 1991, Jalpaiguri District and data collected from Jalpaiguri Municipality Office.*

The above table shows a picture of the population growth in Jalpaiguri town. Interestingly, with the partition of India, a large number of immigrants settled in the eastern fringe of the town, which is located outside the municipal limits. The population cluster in the fringe area according to 1981 census was 48,674. The decadel population growth in this area was 134.66 percent in 1961, 47.90 percent in 1971, 33.02 percent in 1981 and 20.79 percent in 1991. Thus, the urban out growth of Jalpaiguri has experienced high population growth. Taking this population growth pattern into consideration it reveals that, population growth rate in Jalpaiguri is reasonably high. In the decade 1981-91, the number of total population increased heavily from 61 thousand to 90

thousand because in this period few fringe areas namely Panda Para, Deshbandhu Para had been included in the Municipal area. Above all the rate of population growth of Jalpaiguri was high may be established by the following table.

Table No.- 1.4
Statement Showing the Decadel Percentage of Growth of
Population in India, West Bengal and Jalpaiguri

Year	India	West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	(Jal) Fringe area	Average of Jalpaiguri and fringe area
1951-61	20	33	48.60	134.66	91.63
1961-71	25	27	18.13	47.90	33.00
1971-81	25	23	11.94	33.02	22.48
1981-91	24	25	47.10	20.79	33.94

Source: *Compilation from Urban West Bengal 1997-98, District Census Hand Book 1991 (Jalpaiguri District) and Municipal Data.*

Only quantitative growth does not signify the development of a town or an area, qualitative changes also signify how much development has been achieved by the population. That's why, we must have to analyse some of the qualitative changes that have taken place in the area as follows:

Table No.- 1.5
Statement Showing Population, Sex, Sex Ratio, Area, Density,
SC/ST, BPL, Literacy and Slum Pockets of Jalpaiguri Town
(As Data Available) 1991

Year	Population	Sex		Sex ratio per 1000 M	Area in sq. km	Density	SC
		M	F				
1991	90,825	47,000	43,825	963	12.50	6,819	11,925
	ST	BPL		Total	% of	Slum	
	828	7,209		Literate	Literacy	Pocket	
				48,857	80.53	79	

Source: *Urban West Bengal – 1997-98, 98-99. ILGUS, Calcutta.*

The above table reveals that sex ratio is better in Jalpaiguri than the State average, which was 917, in literacy also the State average was 58% but at the Jalpaiguri Municipal area it was 80.33 percent of the total population. The percentage of Scheduled Caste population to total population was 13.02 and

Schedule Tribe 0.91 percent at the town. 7.93 percent of the total population living below the poverty line. Thus it can be predicted that few of the criteria of human development index are better than the state average at Jalpaiguri. Another dimension of human development index may be shown in the following table.

Table No. -1.6

Statement Showing Total Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers and Their Percentage to Total Population at Jalpaiguri Town In 1998-99

Total main workers		Total marginal workers		Total non-workers		% of main workers to total population		% of marginal workers to total population		% of non-workers to total population	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
16966	3429	48	41	18,006	30242	48.45	10.17	0.14	0.12	51.42	89.71
Total	20395	Total	89	Total	48248	Total	29.67	Total	0.17	Total	70.20

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99. ILGUS, Calcutta.*

The above table indicates that more than 50 percent of the total male population are non-working, non-productive. On the other hand, more than 89% of the female population and average 70.10 percent of the total population are unemployed, which means that a large number of population have no employment opportunity and the non-working force is bound to live on others income, which deteriorate the livelihood in an average day by day.

(III) Existing Urban Basic Services in Jalpaiguri Municipality:

The existing land use pattern of Jalpaiguri town shows that the river Karala divides the town into two parts. The town is located to the south and west of the river. The most important road communication to the town is National Highway No.-31. The town is also connected by railway line and the Jalpaiguri railway station is located within the municipal area. The main railway junction – New Jalpaiguri Railway Junction is located 40 km. away from Jalpaiguri town. Although the town is most important administrative centre of the Jalpaiguri Division as Divisional Headquarter, it has no air communication

with the state capital. The commercial activities are concentrated to two main approach roads of the town. The administrative complexes are located along river Karala towards the eastern side of the town. The Business and commercial places cover 5.85 percent of the total municipal area and located at the centre of the town. Presently, the growth of the town is directing towards south, northeast and western sides. The small-scale industrial sectors cover 0.85 percent of the total area of the town. The town is predominantly high density residential development and the residential areas are mainly located within 5-7 km. of the town.⁸ According to the provisional census report 2001, the population of Jalpaiguri has crossed 1 lakh milestone. Now we shall try to project the basic urban services and infrastructural facilities available in the town for a population of more than one lakh in the table below.

Table No. -1.7

**Statement Showing The Basic Urban Services of the Jalpaiguri Town
As Data Available upto April, 2001**

Year , 2000-2001			
1. Length of Roads (in km.)	Pucca – 123	Kacha – 15	Total – 138 km
2. Length of Drains (in km.) (Open Surface sewerage system)	Pucca – 19	Kacha – 204	Total – 223 km
3. Water Supply (Maintained by Municipal body)	Length of pipeline (in km) 103.90 km	House connection 6000 Nos.	Hand tubewell 45 Nos.
4. Hospital (maintains by State Government)		1	
5. Blood Bank (Maintained by State Government)		1	
6. Ambulance Service (Municipality)		2 nos. of car	
7. Working Women's Hostel		1 (Municipality)	
8. Burning Ghat		1	
9. Grave Yard		1	
10. Day Night Door to Door Garbage Collection		----	
11. Low Cost Sanitation --		distributed –	5400 Nos. requirements – 4000 Nos.

Source: Data collected from Jalpaiguri Municipality Office on April 27, 2001.

Besides the above mentioned basic urban services. The town has the following urban facilities maintained by the Municipality or State Government/

Government Agency or any private authority. The facilities are shown in the table below.

Table No.- 1.8

Statement Showing the Existing Urban Facilities at Jalpaiguri Town upto April, 2001

Name of the urban facility	Number	Maintains by Municipality	Maintains by State Govt./ Govt. Agency	Private Authority
1. Market	7	6	1	----
2. School				
a) Primary	70	----	65	5
b) High/H.S.	15	----	15	----
c) College	5	----	5	----
3. Bus Terminus	3	2	1	----
4. Play Ground	5+2 (Stadium) =7	2 (Stadium)	----	5 (Clubs)
5. Parks	5	3	2	----
6. Fire Service	1	----	1	----
7. Ponds	5	5	----	----
8. Rest House/Dormitory	5	1	4	----
9. Auditorium/Marriage Hall	4	1	1	2
10. Nursing Home	5	----	----	5

Source: Annual Administration Report, Budget Estimate and Office records of the Jalpaiguri Municipality, collected on 27th April 2001.

(IV) Development Potentialities of Jalpaiguri Town:

Before the commencement of the Integrated Development Plan in the Sixth Plan period, there was no plan made for the town of Jalpaiguri. It may be mentioned that the Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority extended its area of development works upto Jalpaiguri and the few development projects are going on under the said authority. The first integrated planning started under the IDSMT scheme in the Sixth Plan period. The project report on integrated development was formulated by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, an authorized agency of the government. The schemes undertaken for IDSMT project were formulated in consultation with the local agencies and the people. According to the project report, the town would be able to play a positive role in creating and generating growth impulses, if the schemes are implemented.⁹ In consonance with this objective, the plan project aimed at,

(a) developing the economic characteristics of the town; (b) improving the existing institutional characteristics; (c) developing existing land use pattern; (d) generating and rebuilding infrastructural services and (e) giving an urban form by making a balance in the basic urban services and opportunities to the people.¹⁰

The details of the scheme taken under IDSMT in Jalpaiguri town may be projected as under:

Table No. – 1.9

Statement Showing Various Projects under IDSMT in Jalpaiguri 1983

Name of the scheme as per project report	Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Name of the schemes actually taken	Cost (Rs. in lakh)
1. Improvement of Bus Stand	9.45	1. Improvement of Bus Stand	9.45
2. Installation of Traffic signals	1.00	2. Construction of Godown	1.01
3. Redevelopment of Din bazar Market	11.00	3. Redevelopment of Din bazar Market	11.00
4. Development of Race Course Para Market	2.95	4. Dormitory cum Tourist Lodge	10.70
5. Development of Beil Khana market	10.23	5. Development of Bowbazar Market	2.23
6. Development of Bowbazar Market	2.23	6. Development of Race Course Para Market	15.05
7. Kadamtala Market	3.40	7. Kadamtala Market cum Flatted Factory	8.50
8. Housing at Municipal Trenching Ground site	15.93	7. Housing at Municipal Trenching Ground site	15.93
9. Housing at land adjacent at Sadar behind B.D.O.'s office	20.99	9. Western Bounary Road	6.30
10. Development Industrial estate at Assam More Phase – I	15.08	10. Low cost Sanitation	20.01
Total Cost (Rs.)	92.26	Total Cost (Rs.)	100.38

Source: IDSMT Project Report, Jalpaiguri, 1983.

Although the projects under IDSMT scheme produced few good results by making employment opportunities and resource generation of the Municipality but after the IDSMT no such scheme for resource generation has been taken by the Municipal authorities. It is true that various development works are going in the town like – (a) Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (LCS); (b) Environment Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS); (c) Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY); (d) Basic Minimum Services (BMS); (e) National Slum Development Programme (NSDP); (f) Award of 10th Finance Commission etc., sponsored by either the Central Government or the State Government. The said schemes mainly concentrated in the infrastructural development and for the

economic upgradation of the urban poor. The Central and State Government may withdraw these schemes at any time at their will. From the above discussion it reveals that the Municipality itself has not taken any initiative for its own resource generation scheme and almost solely dependent on the State or Central Government's dole to run the municipal development works.

Very recently, the Municipal authority has been taken a resolution in its Board meeting no.- 028 of January 19th 2001¹¹ to construct a super market with all facilities like small cold storage, air condition, small go-down etc. at Beil Khana ground. Through this scheme, employment opportunity and municipal income both have a potentiality to be increased. Another scheme in the process is the reconstruction of the Maxi-Taxi stand. A good amount of income may be earned through the parking fees from this scheme. But all the schemes are in the pipeline now.

SECTION – C

TOWN PROFILE: ALIPURDUAR

Alipurduar was declared as a Municipality on the 7th February 1957. According to 1991 census, the town had a population of 65,241 and this was a 'D' type Municipality. Alipurduar is under the administrative jurisdiction of Jalpaiguri District. It is the Sub-divisional headquarters of the Alipurduar Sub-division. The town is at a distance of 125 km. from the District headquarters and the nearest district town Cooch Behar is at a distance of 21 km. Alipurduar is situated on the north bank of the Kaljani river and river Nonai is flowing along the eastern boundary of the said municipality. Alipurduar is named after late Colonel Hadayet Ali Khan. Now we shall try to draw the town/Municipal profile in the following ways.

(I) Administrative Growth:

According to 1951 census, Alipurduar town had a population of 24,866 and the town get the status of a Municipal town on 7th February 1957.¹² At present, total area under the jurisdiction of the Municipality is 10.89 sq. km. and

Map of Alipurduar
Municipality
Scale: 16.1 Mile

1



the entire area is divided into 20 wards. In 1991 census, the number of total population was 65,241 and the number of total ratepayers in 1999-2000, was 13,500. Percentage of ratepayers to total population is 20.69. The Municipality has 20 elected Councillors of whom 13 are male and 7 are female Councillors. Out of 20 Councillors, 6 members are belonging to the SC category. Besides Chairman and Vice-Chairman, there is a Chairman-in-Council which is constituted with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two other elected Councillors. Each of the Wards of the Municipality has a Ward Committee and the Councillor as the Chairman of the Ward Committee nominates the members and Convenor of the concerned Ward Committee. Besides the Ward Committees, there is one 'Development Committee' and the 'Finance Committee' to monitor the day to day works of the Municipality.¹³

The Municipality has non-elected officials as follows:

Table No.-2
Existing Personnel Status

Total Sanctioned Strength	Actual Existing Strength	Number of Casual Workers	Total
149	70	3	73

Source: Data collected from Deputy Directorate's Office of Local Bodies, Siliguri.

According to the Office Superintendent of the Municipality, the number of casual workers varies from time to time according to the needs of the Municipality. The number of departmental officers and their designations are as follows¹⁴:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Executive Officer. | 2. Health Officer. |
| 3. Finance Officer. | 4. Accountant. |
| 5. Sanitary Inspector. | 6. Tax-Collector. |
| 7. Assessment-in-Charge. | 8. Overseer. |
| 9. P.F. In-Charge. | 10. License Inspector. |

At present, after the demise of the Executive Officer the post is laying vacant. Besides the above-mentioned officers, there are 26 skilled and 35 unskilled employees in the Municipality. Municipal Engineering Directorate also helps the Municipality by providing technical experts in the making and

execution of development plans. CVB makes assessment of properties and prescribes the rate of property tax for augmentation of Municipal revenue sources.

Thus, from the above discussion, it reveals that, after the enactment of the West Bengal Municipal Act 1993, an initiative to inject fresh blood has been started to vibrant the municipal administration at Alipurduar by providing the Executive Officer, Finance Officer, a Health Officer, an Engineer by the State Government at its own expenses. On the other hand, the CVB and the MED also providing support in the planning and to augment resources. The constitution of Ward Committees have also ensured the functional decentralization and peoples' participation by entrusting them the powers to formulate plans for the concerned Ward by themselves. Undoubtedly, there has been a growth of administrative chain from the top hierarchy to the lowest unit of the Municipal administration at Alipurduar Municipality.

(III) Population Growth:

According to the 1951 census, the total population of the Alipurduar town was 24,886. Soon after the town declared as a Municipal town on 7th February 1957, the rate of population growth of the town started at a faster rate. The rate of population growth of the town may be shown in the following tables.

Table No.-2.1

Decadel Population Growth rate of Alipurduar

Year	Total Population	% of Growth Rate
1951	24,866	----
1961	28,927	+16.24
1971	36,667	+26.76
1981	48,605	+32.56
1991	65,241	+34.22
2001 (Provisional)	73,040	+11.6

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99 and from Municipal Office.*

Table No.- 2.2
Percentage of Decadel Rate of Population Growth in India, West Bengal and Alipurduar, 1951-1991

Year	India	West Bengal	Alipurduar
1951-61	20%	33%	16.24%
1961-71	25%	27%	26.76%
1971-81	25%	23%	32.56%
1981-91	24%	25%	34.22%

Source: *Report of the West Bengal Municipal Finance Commission, 1993.*

Thus, the above tables 2.1 and 2.2 reveal that the rate of growth of population at Alipurduar Municipality was much faster than the average rate of growth in India and West Bengal. It also proves that, enormous migration from Bangladesh and Assam highly inflated the population of Alipurduar.¹⁵ To find out the Human Development Index of the Alipurduar Municipality, the various criteria may be displayed in the following table.

Table No.- 2.3
Statement Showing Population, Sex, Sex Ratio, Area, Density, SC/ST, BPL, Literacy and Slum Pockets of Alipurduar Town (As Data Available) 1991

Population	Sex		Sex Ratio per 1000 M	Area in sq. km	Density
	M	F			
1991	33,000	32,000	946	10.89	6,944
SC	ST		BPL	Literacy	No. of Slum
23,000	3,000		4,500	49,450	33

Source: *Urban West Bengal 1998-99, Annual Administration Report 1999-2000.*

The above table reveals that the sex ratio is better than West Bengal State average which was 917, regarding literacy rate West Bengal had 58 percent of which male 68% and female 47%, but in Alipurduar out of 49,450 literate people 82% was male and 60% of the female population. The average literacy rate was 71%. Another criteria of human development index may draw from the following table.

Table 2.4

Statement Showing Total Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers and Their Percentage to Total Population

Total Main workers		Total Marginal workers		Total Non-workers		% of Main workers to total population		% of Marginal workers to total population		% of Non-workers to total population	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
16020	2458	129	76	17370	29188	47.79	7.75	0.38	0.24	51.82	92.01
Total	18478	Total	205	Total	46558	Total	28.32	Total	0.31	Total	71.36

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99. ILGUS, Calcutta.*

(III) Urban Basic Services at Alipurduar:

The town is connected with the other parts of the state by roads and Railways. It is situated on a State National Highway and National Highway No.-31, which passes through a large part of the district. It is well connected with Jalpaiguri by Jalpaiguri-Alipurduar road, with Cooch-Bihar by Alipurduar-Cooch Bihar road. Another important road connecting the town is Buxa Fort Road running towards north. Three Railway Stations are situated in the town. Both Alipurduar and Alipur Court is Meter Gauge line and are branch lines. New Alipurduar station is a Broad Gauge line. The mainline is connecting with Cooch Bihar and Assam. The branch lines are the bifurcation of the line coming from Alipurduar junction and one of these branch lines is going towards Assam and another towards Cooch Bihar. Thus, Alipurduar town has a good transport and communication linkages with other parts of the state and Assam as well.

Now, we shall try to chalk out the infrastructural development in the municipality of the basic urban services for the citizens. In this regard, we shall draw two categories – Firstly, the basic urban services maintains by the Municipality and other agencies or by the State Government and secondly, other urban facilities available in the municipal boundary.

Table No.- 2.5
Existing Basic Urban Services at Alipurduar Municipality
(As Data Available)

1. Length of Roads (in km.)	1996-97	Matalled- 87.200	Unmattled – 36.856	Total- 124.056
	1997-98	Matalled- 87.200	Unmattled – 36.856	Total- 124.056
	1998-99	Matalled- 67.736	Unmattled – 25.504	Total- 93.240
	1999-2000	Matalled- 67.736	Unmattled – 25.504	Total- 93.240
2. Length of Drains (in km.)	1996-97	Pucca- 68.65	Kacha --38381	Total – 38449.65
	1997-98	Pucca- 68.65	Kacha --38381	Total – 38449.65
	1998-99	Pucca- 70.05	Kacha -- 38369	Total – 38439.05
	1999-2000	Pucca- 70.05	Kacha -- 38369	Total – 38439.05
3. Water Supply	No. of House Connection	Length of Pipe Water		No. of reservoir
Maintained by P.H.E.	6926	7.09 km.		3
Maintained by the ULB – Hand Operated Tubewell Nos. --- 429				
4. Health and Sanitation	Blood Bank – 1		Dispensary (Homeopathy) – 1	
	ILCS – 5 th Phase (complete)		No. of Latrines – 9208 Still to be distributed (Reported on March 2001) – 2000	
5. Working Women's Hostel – 1	Old Age Home – 1			
6. Crematorium – 1 (Non-electrical)	Burial Ground – 1			

Source: *Compilation of Annual Administration Report of Alipurduar Municipality, from 1996-97 to 1999-2000.*

Table No. – 2.6
Other Urban Facilities at Alipurduar Municipality

1. Markets	Municipal – 1	Other Markets – 3	
2. Rest House/ Dormitory	Municipal – 1	P.W.D. – 1	
3. Nursing Home	Private – 2	----	
4. Hospital	State Government – 1	Eye (Lions Club) – 1	
5. Educational Facilities	Pry. School High/H.S.	College	Municipal School
	40 10	1	Nil
6. Parks	2	----	
7. Play Grounds	7	----	
8. Bus Terminus	Municipal – 2	State Government – 1	
9. Pounds	2		

Source: *Data Collected from Alipurduar Municipality Office.*

The foregoing data revealed that, Alipurduar town is not situated on any national or State Highway and national Highway No.-31 is 10 km. away in the west of the town. The main roads of the town are Samuktala Road, Alipurduar-Jalpaiguri Road, Alipurduar-Cooch Behar Road, Alipurduar-Falakata and Alipurduar-Buxirhat Road. 14.50 km. of the total roads in the Municipality is maintained by the P.W.D.¹⁶

Water supply is inadequate and none of the 20 Wards yet to fully covered by piped water supply. The water supply scheme for town was designed for a population of 42,000 in the first phase. Later with the growth of population the

water supply scheme has been modified and the third phase of the water supply scheme under P.H.E. is in progress. For that purpose 4 lakhs 30 thousand rupees has been handed over to the P.H.E. department.¹⁷

Surface drains are used for draining at Alipurduar. The main drain, Netaji Road drain runs towards southern direction and is gradually taken turn towards east and finally towards south and out fall is at Sovaganj. Housing is low laying areas remain submerged during monsoon for want of proper drainage. Proper drainage system is not provided in many places and existing conditions of the drains are most unhygienic and they are not cleaned and absence of proper gravity flow due to faulty construction and lack of maintenance.¹⁸

The town is the centre of large and increasing trade and commerce. Tea, Paddy, Timber and Jute are the chief items of trades. The town is well connected with neighbouring villages and having good road connection with Jalpaiguri, which is the main trade centre of the district. Approximately, 100 neighbouring villages are dependent on this town for trade, commerce and as service centre.¹⁹

There is no big industrial unit or Governmental Enterprise Firm within the town. The industrial environment is not so impressive and that's why there is enormous unemployment. Medium and small-scale industries have developed scatteredly. Among them – Mustered Oil, Lime, Woodwork, Bread and Confectioneries, Food grains, Aluminum Utensils and Tea industry etc.²⁰

For trade and commerce market and market complexes are essential. But these facilities within the town are not as should be. After and under the initiation of the IDSMT scheme, few steps have been started for the augmentation of market facilities in the Municipality.²¹

The above discussed town profile of the Alipurduar Municipality indicates that the town had and has multifarious problems. The rate of population growth is faster but the development of infrastructure and employment opportunities are much more slower. As a result, a gap between needs and services are enduring. To minimize the problems and to give the town an urban form, the Centrally sponsored scheme – IDSMT has been launched at Alipurduar Municipality to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To improve infrastructural facilities and helping in the creation of durable public assets and to emerge the town as a regional centre of economic growth and employment.
- (b) Decentralizing economic growth and employment opportunities and promoting dispersed urbanization while taking due advantage of the functional interlinkages between villages, towns and cities through a regional planning approach.
- (c) Increasing the availability of serviced sites for housing, commercial and industrial uses and promoting the principles of planned and orderly spatial development.
- (d) Integrating spatial and socio-economic planning as envisaged in the 74th Constitution Amendment Act 1992, and preparing and implementing town development plans.
- (e) Promoting resource generating schemes for the urban local bodies to improve their overall financial position and ability to undertake long term infrastructure development programmes on their own as well as to repay the borrowed capital and usher in necessary municipal reforms.²²

(IV) Development Potentiality of the Municipality:

Keeping in view the above goals and to eradicate the said municipal problems, the Alipurduar Municipality made the following projects under the IDSMT scheme in the year 1993, which may be displayed in the following table.

Table No.- 2.7

IDSMT Projects at Alipurduar for Resource Generation and Infrastructural Development

Project Components	Implementing Agency	Cost of Completion (in lakh)	Complete/ In Progress
1. Bus Terminus	Alipurduar Municipality	40.49	Complete
2. Industrial Estate	Alipurduar Municipality	25.00	In Progress
3. Dormitory	Alipurduar Municipality	3.81	Complete
4. Mini Daily Market	Alipurduar Municipality	13.37	Complete
5. Rest House	Alipurduar Municipality	9.33	In Progress
6. Low Cost Sanitation	Alipurduar Municipality	28.00	5 th Phase Complete
Total Project Cost Rs. 120.00 lakhs			

Source: IDSMT Project Report, Alipurduar Municipality.

SECTION – D

DISTRICT PROFILE: COOCH BEHAR

Cooch Behar is a small district located in the northeastern sector of India. It is included in the Jalpaiguri Division in the State of West Bengal. Before 28th August 1949, Cooch Behar was an Indian State ruled by the king of Cooch Behar, who had been a feudatory ruler under the British Kingdom. The rule of Koch kings endured from 1510 to 1950, a period of 400 years in Cooch Behar. It was founded by Biswa Singha and ended with Jagadipendra Narayan, the last king of Cooch Behar. The independent Koch kingdom in the eastern part of India became a small but powerful kingdom with an area boundary larger than the present area of Cooch Behar District.²³

By an agreement on the 28th August 1949, the king of Cooch Behar ceded full an extensive authority jurisdiction and powers of the State to the Dominion Government of India. Eventually, Cooch Behar was transferred and merged with the Province of West Bengal on 1st January 1950 and from that date Cooch Behar emerged as a new District in the administrative map of West Bengal. However, Cooch Behar had been created with the same areas and boundaries of the old state of Cooch Behar. In course of time, Cooch Behar has been transferred from a kingdom to a state and from a state of the present status of a District.²⁴

Cooch Behar is located in the sub-Himalayan territory, which is commonly known as 'Tarai' in West Bengal. It lies between 26°32'4" to 25°57'56" north latitude in north-south direction and between 89°54'36" to 88°47'40" east longitudes in east-west directions. The total physical area of the District is 33.87 sq. km.²⁵

Cooch Behar has international border with Bangladesh in three directions. It is rounded on the north by Jalpaiguri district, in the east by Bangladesh and Assam and in the south by Bangladesh and in the west by Jalpaiguri district and Bangladesh. There are 126 Enclaves or Chhitmahals, which

are outlying or detached tracts of land situated in the District of Rangpur in Bangladesh.²⁶

It is essentially a flat country with a slight slope from northwest towards southeast. There are slight undulations in land. There is no mountain peak or hill in the district. There are large number of rivers and marshy lands in the area. Teesta, Torsha, Jaldhaka and Sankosh are the main rivers and flow from northwest towards southeast directions. These rivers have influenced the socio-economic life of the people and they are also helpful for transportation and irrigation. There is a small forest area in the northeastern side and does not possess any type of mineral or mining product as economic resource in the district. Among agricultural crops – Paddy, Wheat, Pulses, Mustered are food crops and Tobacco and Jute are cash crops, which are being produced in plenty in this territory. Land is fertile and soft, flat and alluvial in nature. 60 percent of the land is low and suitable for paddy and jute cultivation. On the other hand 40 percent of the land is high land and suitable for tobacco cultivation. The main economic activities of the rural people are cultivation. The total cultivable land area is 341.35 thousand hectares. Fishery is also an important occupation due to large number of rivers, canals and ponds. Cooch Behar has been considered generally as an industrially backward district. There is no infrastructural facility for large-scale industry. Cotton weaving is the only small-scale industry and there is sufficient scope and possibility for agro-based industry.²⁷

Cooch Behar town is the Headquarters of the North Bengal State Transport Corporation. As such, the different parts of the district as well as the state is well connected by the state transport systems. State and private buses ply regularly on the 356.81 km. motorably roads in the district. There is a Broad gauge line of the North East Frontier Railway connecting the different parts of the district with Kolkata and Guwahati. The national Highway No.-31 passes through the district. There is a small airport at Cooch Behar town. Due to unknown reasons, the air communication is remaining stop for few years.²⁸

There are six Municipal towns and three non-Municipal towns and approximately 1137 inhabited Mouzas in the district with the population of

21,71,145 according to the 1991 census. Dinhata, Haldibari, Tufanganj, Mathabhanga and Mekliganj are all important trading centres engaged in purchasing and selling of tobacco, jute, paddy, bamboo and timber materials. Cooch Behar town is the main commercial centre in the District engaged in trade with the Border State of Assam.²⁹

There has been an important administrative development in the rural sector of the district during 1980's. A new Police Station has been created out of Mathabhanga Police station. In the urban sector, the Town Committees of the towns like Haldibari, Mekliganj, Mathabhanga and Tufanganj have been converted into Municipal towns. There are now 9 Police stations, 12 Community Development Blocks and 5 Sub-divisions as the administrative units. Cooch Behar town is the District Headquarters and also the main centre of the District.³⁰

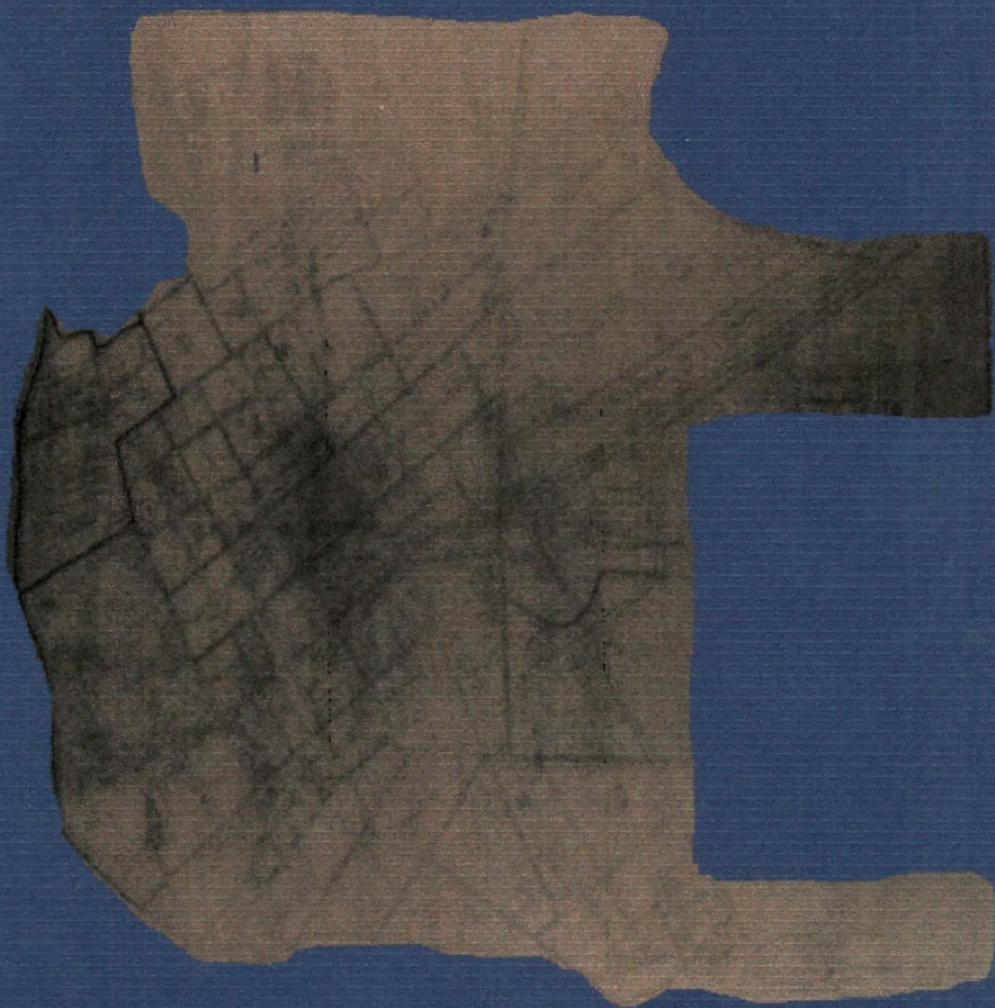
SECTION – E

TOWN PROFILE: COOCH BEHAR

Cooch Behar town is situated at the northern regional plains of the State of West Bengal. It is the district Headquarters. The town of Cooch Behar converted into a Municipal town in the year 1946. The town has its historic past and importance as well. It was a native State under the Hindu king – the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, who engaged foreign experts to prepare a plan for this town.³¹ The existing grid iron pattern road network with well conceived vistas corroborate this fact. Thus in the past, as a State capital and presently as a district Headquarters, the town has been catering to a large number of settlements in terms of facilities and services and has become a nodal point of the region.

In the year 1941, the town had a population of 16,000. In the year 1946, the town declared as a Municipal town and presently the town is a 'D' category

**Map of
Cooch Behar Town**



Municipal town. It is located on the bank of the river Torsha and is situated 120 km. from Jalpaiguri and 170 km. from Siliguri, the two important urban centres in North Bengal. The town is well connected by roads and railways. The Broad Gauge Railway Station of New Cooch Behar is only 3 km. from the town and the Meter Gauge Station is situated within the town. National Highway No.-31 passes along the northern fringe of the town and thus the town is well linked to the important urban centres in Eastern India. It has direct link with the State Capital Kolkata by road, Rail and to some extent through airways.³² Now we shall discuss the profile of the Cooch Behar town in the following:

(I) Administrative Development:

According to 1951 census, Cooch Behar town had a population of 33,242 and the town gets the status of a Municipal town in the year 1946. At present, total area under the jurisdiction of the Municipality is 8.19 sq. km. and the entire town is divided into 20 wards. In the 1991 census, the total number of population was 71,028 and the total number of ratepayers in 1999-2000 was 12,992. Percentage of ratepayers to total population is 18.29%. The Municipality has 20 elected Councillors representing the concerned Ward. Among the Councillors 13 are Male and 7 are Female Councillors. Out of the total 20 Councillors 8 members belong to the SC category. Besides Chairman and Vice-Chairman, there is a Chairman-in-Council, which is constituted with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two other elected Councillors. Each of the Wards of the Municipality has a Ward Committee and the Councillor as the statutory Chairman of the Ward Committee, nominates the members and Convenor of the concerned Ward from and among the people of the Ward. Besides the Ward Committees, there is one Development Committee, one Accounts Committee and one Market Committee to help the Municipal authority.³³

Besides the elected officials and cabinet from of Chairman-in-Council, the Municipality has non-elected permanent personnel to implement the policies of the local body. The Municipal personnel of Cooch Behar may be shown in the following table.

Table No. – 3
Existing Personnel Status

	Total sanctioned strength	Actual existing strength	No. of casual workers	Total
1. According to Deputy Directorate's Report	469	469	Casual workers engaged after 31.12.91 & still casual – 79	300+79 =379
2. Annual Administrative Report 1999-2000	469	469	Casual throughout the year as required	469

Source: *Deputy Directorate's Office, Siliguri. Op. cit.*

One interesting point to be noted here that, although the State Government as well as the West Bengal Municipal Act 1993, has promised to provide an Executive Officer, a Finance Officer, a Health Officer, a Municipal Engineer to a Municipality at the expenses of the State Government to vibrant the municipal administration in their day to day works. But no such recruitment has made to the Cooch Behar Municipality till April 2001. As a result, all the administrative, civic services and development works of the Municipality are being done under the supervision of the following departmental heads.³⁴

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Office Superintendent. | 2. Accountant. |
| 3. Deputy Accountant | 4. Cashier. |
| 5. Tax Collector | 6. Overseer – 2. |
| 7. Town Project Officer. | 8. Municipal Surveyor. |
| 9. Store Keeper. | 10. License Inspector. |
| 11. Sanitary Inspector. | |

Although, Cooch Behar municipality has not been provided with State Government recruited personnel but the Municipality is getting help in regard to planning and development works and technical support from the Municipal Engineering Directorate (MED). CVB also made and is making for the second time assessment of properties to augment municipal income from its own sources like property tax.

Thus, the above discussion depicts that except few recruitments by the State Government, there has been a good administrative development through the cabinet form of collective responsibility i.e., Chairman-in-Council and by the

formation of Ward Committee under the leadership of the Councillor of the concerned Ward. In this way, at least a process of decentralized development has been initiated by the WBMA-1993 in West Bengal Municipal administration.

(II) Population Growth at Cooch Behar Town:

The demographic character of the town is interesting. Although Cooch Behar was the capital of a native state, the town remained as a small urban centre having very marginal growth of population. During partition of India and Bengal, the population of the town suddenly shot up and then onwards the population has been growing steadily. It has been estimated that, by the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the total population of the town would be near one lakh. Incidentally, adjacent to this town on the eastern side, there is almost a continuous extension of urban activities at Guriahati; a settlement under Panchayat and interestingly enough, Cooch Behar town along with Guriahati has been declared as an urban agglomeration in 1971 census. The rate of population growth at Cooch Behar town during the last century may be projected in the table below.

Table No.- 3.1
Decadel population growth rate at Cooch Behar town during 1901-2001

Year	Total Population	Percentage of Decadel Growth
1901	10,458	----
1911	10,841	3.1
1921	18,461	74
1931	11,837	-36
1941	16,000	36
1951	33,242	108
1961	41,922	26
1971	53,684	28
1981	64,506	20
1991	71,028	10.1
2001 (Provisional)	83,321	17.30

Source: Compilation of Census Reports and Urban West Bengal, op. cit.

Table No. - 3.2
**Percentage of rate of population growth in India,
West Bengal and Cooch Behar Town**

Year	India	West Bengal	Cooch Behar
1951-61	20	33	108
1961-71	25	27	26
1971-81	25	23	28
1981-91	24	25	10.1

Source: Urban West Bengal Report of the WBMFC, 1993, op. cit.

As evident from the above tables, Cooch Behar remained as a stagnant town with not a high growth of population till 1941. This was due to rigid rules of immigration imposed by the then Maharaja of Cooch Behar State and other natural and socio-economic barriers. The population of the town suddenly jumped from 16,000 to 33,242 with an increase of 108 percent between the years 1941-51. Undoubtedly, this an effect of huge migration as a sequel to the partition of Bengal and since then Cooch Behar being a border town, has been experiencing increasing burden of population over the decade. Another point to be noted here that, in the last decade of the 20th century, the rate of population growth in the Municipal area was much less than India and West Bengal average. But the fact is that, most of the migrants settled just outside the Municipal boundary like Guriahati and New Cooch Behar urban agglomeration due to high price of residential land at the municipal boundary. On the other hand, the migrants get almost all the urban facilities without paying any service charges of the Municipality. Thus, taking all the urban agglomerations in account, the actual population growth was much more higher that projected in the above table.³⁵

Only quantitative growth does indicate the development of an area or a Municipality. Qualitative changes also have to consider. Therefore, in the following tables we shall explain the various criteria of Human Development Index.

Table No. 3.3

Statement showing Population, Sex, Sex ratio, Area, Density, SC/ST, BPL, Literacy and Slum pockets of Cooch Behar town
(as data available) 1991

Year	Population	Sex		Sex Ratio per 1000 M	Area in sq. km.	Density	SC
1991	71,028	36,000	35,000	962	8.19	8,669	12,000
	ST	BPL		Literate	% of Literacy	No. of slum Pockets	
	3,000	5,009		60,000	84%	50	

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99, op. cit.*

The above table depicts that the sex ratio is better than the State average, which was 917. In regard to literacy rate West Bengal had according to 1991

census 58% literate of which male 68% and female 47%, but in Cooch Behar Municipal area, out of 71,028 persons 60,000 were literate, which represents 89% of the male and 79% of the female population and average of 84% people are literate. Among 71 thousand people 36.5% people belong to the SC and ST category. In the urban area 6.7% people are living below the poverty line. Besides the above-mentioned criteria, an another dimension of Human Development Index may be projected in the following table.

Table No.- 3.4

Statement Showing Total Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers and Their Percentage to Total Population

Total Main workers, 1998-99		Total Marginal workers		Total non-workers		% of main workers to total population		% of marginal workers to total population		% of non-workers to total population	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
16710	3154	104	111	19477	31659	46.04	9.03	0.29	0.32	53.67	90.65
Total	19864	Total	215	Total	51136	Total	27.89	Total	0.30	Total	71.81

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99, op. cit.*

The above table indicates that, the number of employed working people is much lower than the non-working population at the Cooch Behar Municipal town. Only 30% of the total population are engaged in any occupation, of which male 20.5% and female 9.5% are working. It means that the employment opportunity at Cooch Behar has not increased as it should be and as a result, the living standard and human development bound to deteriorate.

(III) Urban Basic Services at Cooch Behar:

The existing land use pattern of Cooch Behar town indicates that the major focus of the physical pattern is directed towards the palace compound, which was the residence and seat of administration at the time of Maharajas. The Palace compound is located at the end of the west axis on riverside and the residential area surrounded it from other three sides with crisscross roads. The town appears to be unique in parks, play grounds, open space and ponds, which are properly distributed within the town. The present administrative offices and

buildings mostly located on the south of the palace around a big water tank known as Sagar Dighi. The most interesting and unique feature of the town is the existence of numerous ponds, which have a considerable impact on the environment. At present, the basic urban services as provided by the Municipality or State Government or any Government agency may be displayed in the following table no. 3.5.

Table – 3.5

Urban Basic Services at Cooch Behar Municipality

1. Year	Length of Roads in km.	Metalled	Unmetalled	Maintained by Municipality	PWD	
1996-97	135.1	130.02	5.08	68.02	62.00	
1997-98	135.1	130.02	5.08	68.02	62.00	
1998-99	135.1	130.02	5.08	68.02	62.00	
1999-00	135.1	130.02	5.08	68.02	62.00	
2. Drains in km.						
Year	Total		Pucca	Kacha		
1996-97	150		18.25	131.75		
1997-98	150		21.25	128.75		
1998-99	150		22.75	127.25		
1999-00	150		29.84	120.16		
3. Sewerage System (in km)			1996-2000 – Nil			
4. Water Supply						
Year	Length of pipeline in km.	No. of deep tubewells	No. of overheads	Water works if any	No. of House connection	Hand tubewells
1996-97	105	24	3	1	7092	349
1997-98	105	25	3	1	7092	349
1998-99	105	25	3	1	7192	349
1999-00	105	25	3	1	7192	349
5. Street Hydrant		6. Medicine Bank – 1		7. Working Women's Hostel – 1		9
8. Old –Age Home-1		9. Electric Crematorium -1		10. Graveyard – 1		
11. Blood Bank – 1		12. Ambulance Service – 4				
13. Day Night door to door Garbage Collection				14. English Medium School (Primary) - 1		

Source : Annual Administration Report (1996-2000), Cooch Behar Municipality Office.

Besides the above-mentioned basic services, Cooch Behar Municipality has the following urban facilities, which may be displayed in the following table.

Table No.- 3.6

Existing Urban Facilities in Cooch Behar Municipality

Name of the facility	Maintains by Municipality	Maintains by State Government	Maintains by Private Authority
1. Market	4	----	----
2. Selling Centre	3	----	----
3. College	----	7	----
4. School			
Primary	1	41	6
Secondary + H.S.		15	1
5. Bus Terminus	2	1	----
6. Play Ground and Stadium	1	2	----
7. Parks	1 & 1 (proposed)	3 (Social Forest)	----
8. Fire Service	----	1	----
9. Ponds (Existing)	24	----	----
10. Football Team	1	----	----
11. Volleyball Team	1	----	----
12. Rest House/Dormitory	3	2	----
13. Municipal Hall	1	1+1 (Z.P.)	----
14. Hospital	----	1+1 (Cancer Research Centre)	----
15. Nursing Home	----	----	5

Source: Data collected from Cooch Behar Municipality Office and Municipal Journal 'Paye Paya'.

(IV) Development Potentiality in Cooch Behar:

Although, Cooch Behar had experienced planning efforts during the time of Maharajas', but the nature of the then planning was essentially centred to the physical aspect and beautification of the town only. The Maharajas' had the vision to make the town beautiful, the existence of large number of ponds, the grid iron pattern roads etc. corroborate this fact, but there was no thought to make the town a productive one. After Indian Independence and the merger of Cooch Behar State in the Dominion of India, no proper planning has so far been made for the town and any master plan for its future perspective.

Considering the growing problems of the town in the one hand and the rate of population growth on the other and also in the context of the importance of the town with its rural hinterlands and small urban centres of the district, the town was selected as one of the twenty towns in West Bengal under IDSMT scheme in the Sixth Plan period.³⁶

In order to fulfill the stipulation of the Central Government, a project report was made for the town of Cooch Behar. Since, the Municipality had no

planning machinery of her own, the State Government and Planning Department of the Land Use Planning Cell, Government of West Bengal, formulated the Project Report. Under the IDSMT scheme, a number of projects were taken and implemented for beautification, resource generation of the town. After the passing of the 74th CAA 1992, the urban local bodies have been given the status of 'Local Self-Government' and has been instructed to augment their own resources as far as possible. That's why, each Municipal body has to find out its own resource generating scope in their jurisdiction. In the following tables we shall note the projects under IDSMT first and than the other schemes taken by the Cooch Behar Municipality to fulfill the above objectives.

Table No. – 3.7
Projects under IDSMT at Cooch Behar Municipality

Name of the Projects taken in the Project Report	Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Projects actually taken	Cost (Rs. in Lakh)
1. Land acquisition and development including sites and services	10.00	1. Tourist Dormitory	13.00
2. Fringe Area Development	29.00	2. Fringe Area Development	28.00
3. Extension of Central (Bhabaniganj) Market	41.00	Extension of Central (Bhabaniganj) Market	41.00
		4. Go-down cum Office	1.87
		5. Low Cost Sanitation	21.00
Total	Rs. 80.00	Total	Rs. 104.87

Source: *IDSMT Project Report 1983 for Cooch Behar Municipality, op. cit.*

Table No.- 3.8
Resource Generating Projects Taken by the Municipality after IDSMT Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Number of Projects
1.	Rest House/Dormitory	2
2.	New Industrial Estate at Bhabaniganj Market	1
3.	New Maxi/Taxi Stand and Stall	1
4.	Prabas and Chila Roy Abasan	1
5.	Deshbandhu Market (in Process)	1
6.	Shocker Machine	1

Source: *Data collected from Cooch Behar Municipality Office and Budget Estimates for the year 2001-2002 of the Municipality.*

From the above tables reveal that, the Cooch Behar Municipality has to some extent initiated few projects for its own resource generation. But how far the projects will be fruitful it depends on its management and sincerity, which is yet to be proved. But the steps, which has taken is not less important.

SECTION – F

TOWN PROFILE: TUFANGANJ

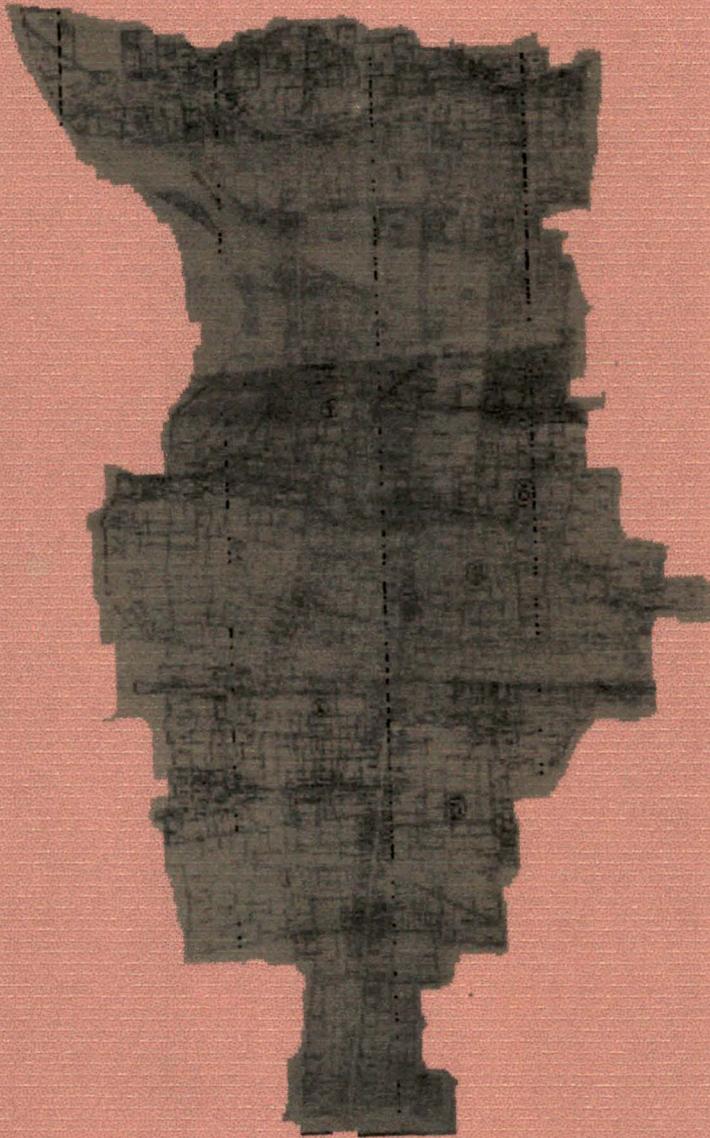
Tufanganj Municipal town is under the administrative jurisdiction of Cooch Behar district. Tufanganj is the Sub-Divisional Headquarters of the Tufanganj Sub-division. It is situated at a distance of 22 km. east of the District town Cooch Behar. The first Town Committee was established in the year 1929, under the control of the then State of Cooch Behar Maharaja. Thus the small urban centre of Cooch Behar had a long history under Cooch Behar Town Committee Act. The Town Committee was converted into a Municipality in the year 1983. This is a small Municipality and at present, the total area under the Municipal jurisdiction is 2.48 sq. km. and a population of 16,418, according to 1991 census. Tufanganj is an 'E' category Municipal Town.³⁷ In the last two decades of the 20th century, there has been good administrative development in the small Municipal town of Tufanganj.

(I) Administrative Development:

Tufanganj town came under the Town Committee in 1929 and at that time its population was very small. According to 1941 census, its population was 1412. But its population was gradually increasing. The town remained under Town Committee Act for 54 years and there was no administrative development occurred in that long period. The Government of West Bengal, by a statutory order converted all the Town Committees into Municipalities in the 1980's. As a result, Tufanganj town achieved the status of a Municipal town in the year 1983, and from that period there has been a good administrative growth at Tufanganj Municipal town.

The total Municipal area is divided into 12 wards and the Municipal Board is consisted with the 12 elected Councillors one from each Ward. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality is elected among the elected Councillors. Besides the board of Councillors, Chairman and Vice-Chairman,

**Map of
Tufanganj Town**



there is a Chairman-in-Council consisted with Chairman, Vice-Chairman and an elected Councillor. There is one Accounts Committee and one Development Committee to supervise the development and finances of the Municipality. Besides the elected officials and Councillors of the Municipality, there are 12 Ward Committees to make total development plans and prioritization of the Ward. The Ward Councillor as the Statutory Chairman of the Ward Committee, nominates the members and Convenor of the Ward Committee from among the bonafied people of the Ward.³⁸

To implement the policies and day to day works of the Municipality there is municipal non-elected permanent personnel. The staff pattern and members of sanctioned and existing posts are shown below.

Table No.- 4
Existing Personnel Status

Total Sanctioned Strength	Actual Existing Strength	Casual	Total
49	37	Nil	37

Source: Deputy Directorate's Office, Local Bodies, Siliguri, op. cit.

Table No. – 4.1
Total Number of Councillors, Male, Female,
SC/ST, No. of Ward Committee

Total No. of Councillors	Male	Female	SC	ST	Number of W/C formed
12	8	4	5	----	12

Source: Data collected from Tufanganj Municipality Office.

At Tufanganj Municipality, Executive Officer, Finance Officer, Health Officer or Engineer has not been recruited by the State Government as envisaged by the WBMA-1993, as a result, all the administrative works as well as civic services and management are being done by the following departmental Heads under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Office Superintendent. | 2. Accountant. |
| 3. Cashier. | 4. Overseer – 2. |
| 5. Town Project Officer. | 6. Collector – 4. |
| 7. Birth and Death Register. | 8. Head Typist. |
| 9. Store Keeper. | 10. Electrician. |

(II) Population Growth Pattern at Tufanganj:

Although, Tufanganj has already celebrate its centenary as a Sub-division in the year 1989, the town never had a large population and as a result, the town till now cannot fulfill the main criteria of minimum population of a town to be declared as Municipal town. The following table indicates the truth.

Table No. – 4.2

Rate of population Growth at Tufanganj Town, 1941-2001

Year	Population	Percentage of Decadel Growth
1941	1,412	----
1951	2,316	64.02
1961	3,473	49.96
1971	4,209	21.19
1981	4,906	16.56
1991	16,418	234.65
2001 (Provisional)	19,292	17.5

Source: *District Census Hand Book, Cooch Behar, 1991 and Municipality Office.*

The above table indicates that, in the census periods 1951 and 1961, the rate of population growth of the town was much more than the national and state average. The main reasons behind it was the merger of Cooch Behar state in the Dominion of India and large number of migration from East Pakistan due to partition of India. On the other hand, there was a tremendous growth in 1991 and it was because, a large number of people migrated from the neighbouring State of Assam and also from the rural hinterlands. The town also declared as a Municipal town just before the 1991 census decade. A comparative growth pattern between India, West Bengal and Tufanganj are shown in the table below.

Table No. – 4.3

Percentage of Population Growth in India, West Bengal, and Tufanganj (1951-1991)

Year	India	West Bengal	Tufanganj
1951-1961	20	33	49.96
1961-1971	25	27	21.19
1971-1981	25	23	16.56
1981-1991	24	25	234.65

Source: *Report of the West Bengal Municipal Finance Commission, 1993, op. cit.*

Besides the quantitative developments, the qualitative developments are also necessary to measure the development of a town in the modern concept of development and human development indexes. The table below indicates some of the criteria of human development.

Table No.- 4.4
Statement Showing Population, Sex, Sex Ratio, Area, Density, SC/ST, BPL, Literacy and Slum Pockets of Tufanganj Town
(As Data Available) 1991

Year	Total Population	Sex		Sex Ratio per 1000 M	SC	ST	Area in sq. km
		M	F				
1991	16,418	9,000	7,418	957	5,086	201	2.48
	Density	BPL		Total Literate	% of Literacy	No. of Slum Pockets	
	6,452	7,000		12,472	75.9	50	

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99, op. cit.*

From the above table we can say that, the sex ratio, literacy rate and density of population indicate a better condition than the West Bengal average. But in case of poverty line the situation is worse, because 42.5 percent of the total population are lying below poverty line. How much percentage of the total population is engaged in any occupation and how much is non-working is shown in the table below.

Table No.- 4.5
Statement Showing Total Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers and Their Percentage to Total Population

Year, 1998-99											
Total main Workers		Total Marginal workers		Total Non-Workers		% of Main Workers to total Population		% of Marginal Workers to total Population		% of Non Workers to total Population	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
4088	872	65	34	4236	7379	48.73	7.50	0.77	0.42	50.49	92.08
Total	4960	Total	99	Total	11629	Total	28.1	Total	0.62	Total	71.2

Source: *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99.*

The above table indicates that the employment opportunity at Tufanganj has not increased according to its necessity. In the 1991 census decade, the rate of population growth was 234.65% and percentage of working population to

non-working population was 29:71%, which indicates the stagnation of employment opportunity at the town.

Now, we shall focus our attention on the basic urban services and urban facilities of the town as data available.

(III) Basic Urban Services at Tufanganj:

The town Tufanganj is well connected with other parts of the State by road. From Tufanganj, about 110 buses of North Bengal State transport Corporation and private organization ply in 32 different routes. It has Bus routes connecting directly to Kolkata, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Guwahati etc. There is facility of Railways at a distance of 24-km. i.e., New Cooch Behar Railway Station. The other basic services existing in the town are stated in the Table No. 4.6.

Table – 4.6

Urban Basic Services Available at Tufanganj Municipality

Name of the Services	Maintained by Municipality		Maintained by State Govt./Govt. Agency
	Kucha	Pucca	
1. Roads in Km.			3
Total – 62.96	11.40	48.56	
2. Drains in Km.			
Total – 69.50	66	3.50	
3. Water Supply	Length of Pipeline- 4 km. Deep Tubewell – 4	House Connection – 300 (PHE) Tubewells - 410	
4.			
a. Sanitary Latrine – 2905	Service Latrine- 500,	Burning Ghat – 1, Graveyard – 1	
b. Hospital – 1	c. Blood Bank – 1,	d. Nursing Home – 1	e. Ambulance – 2
5. Primary School – 14	High/H.S. – 5,	College – 2	
6. Municipal Hall – 1	Marriage Hall cum Dormitory - 1		

Source : *Urban West Bengal, 1998-99, and Data Collected from Tufanganj Municipality Office*

Besides the above-mentioned urban basic services, the Municipality has the following urban facilities.

Table No.- 4.7

Existing Urban Facilities Available at Tufanganj Municipality

Name of the Facility	Maintained by Municipality	State Govt./Govt. Agency	Private
1. Market	3	----	----
2. Bus Terminus	----	1	1
3. Passengers Shade	7	----	----
4. Parks	2	----	----
5. Play Grounds	2	----	----
6. Cinema Hall	----	----	2
7. Swimming Pool (proposed)	----	1	----

Source: *Data collected from Municipality Office, Tufanganj.*

Thus, the above two tables reveal that, the urban basic services like roads, drains and water supply has not developed with the growth of population. There is a piped water supply arrangement in the Municipality, which is maintained by P.H.E. Directorate. Total 300 out of 5426 holdings have got the piped supply water facility at their home. On the other hand, the town is lacking in proper drainage system. The town has 66 kms. of kucha open surface drain along Municipal roads. There is no underground sewerage system. This small Municipal town is suffering from the above-mention essential urban infrastructural deficiencies, which needs a proper treatment for healthy growth of the town.

(IV) Development Potentialities of Tufanganj Town:

After making in depth study of the conditions of Tufanganj town, the Urban Development Department and Municipal Engineering Directorate, Government of West Bengal observed that, there was need for concerned public action for improvement of its agricultural base, setting up of industries both of small scale and agro-based and to introduce marketing facilities of service centres in appropriate location and improvement of transport facilities. These would be necessary steps to ensure balanced growth of the region and to give the town an urban form.

Keeping in view the above-mentioned goals i.e., to eradicate the infrastructural deficiencies and to augment the own sources of income, few projects have been identified and proposed at the Municipality under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), sponsored by the Government of India to improve the condition of the town by creating infrastructural facilities in the one hand, and expansion of resource generating urban facilities on the other. These programmes aim at developing a town into a growth centre from the perspective of sectoral development. According to the Municipal authorities, the schemes are by and large remunerative, employment oriented and designed for economic upliftment of the town and its rural hinterlands.⁴⁰ The projects under the IDSMT may be shown in the following Table.

Table No. – 4.8

Projects under the IDSMT at Tufanganj Municipality

Name of the Projects	Implementing Authority	Cost of the Project Rs. in lakh	Complete/ Incomplete
1. Shopping Complex	Tufanganj Municipality	26.00	In Progress
2. Commercial Complex	Tufanganj Municipality	14.00	Not Started
3. Construction of Marriage Hall cum Dormitory	Tufanganj Municipality	30.00	Complete
4. Construction of Drain, Roads, Street Lighting in the Municipal Area	Tufanganj Municipality	30.00	Almost Complete
Total Project Cost = 100.00 (lakh)			

Source: IDSMT Project Report. 1996 for Tufanganj Municipality.

Besides the IDSMT project, the Municipality has constructed 40 stalls in the eastern side of the Sub-divisional Hospital by costing Rs. 6 lakh and has already sold the stalls by Rs. 10 lakh and a monthly rent of Rs. 100 to be earned. Thus the Municipality has started taking initiatives to augment its own sources in the local level as far as possible.⁴¹

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