

Chapter 1: Introduction

General Profile of the District

District Sirmaur is bound by Shimla district in the North, Solan district in the North-West and the States of Uttarakhand in the East and Haryana in the South. This district spans an area of 2,825 square kilometres and is headquartered at Nahan. The district accounts for 4.59 lakh (eight *per cent*) of the population of the State (60.78 lakh) with 90 *per cent* of them residing in rural areas. The district comprises three Sub-Divisions and 10 Tehsils and Sub-Tehsils. To cater to rural development, the district has been divided into six Community Development Blocks covering 228 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with 966 inhabited and five uninhabited villages. The literacy rate is 71 *per cent* as against 77 *per cent* at the State level but higher than the national average of 65 *per cent*. Out of 70,439 families of the district, 19 *per cent* (13,695 families) live below the poverty line (BPL) as compared to 24 *per cent* at the State level.

Administrative Structure

- The District Planning and Development Committee is the apex body at the district level for approving the shelf of schemes for the development of the district. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) is in charge of the district and is the sanctioning authority for all developmental programmes in the district. He is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), and ensures co-ordination between the DRDA, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), field officers and all other departments of the State Government.

The DC is assisted by an additional DC, who is the Chief Planning Officer, for preparation and prioritisation of schemes and their monitoring and review. The ADC is further assisted by a District Planning Officer (DPO) and a Credit Planning Officer, who maintains the accounts of the schemes and audits them.

- **District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)**

The DRDA is the main organ at the district level to oversee the implementation of various developmental programmes. It is responsible for planning of programmes, coordinating with other agencies-Governmental, non-governmental, technical and financial for successful programme implementation; enabling the community and the rural poor to participate in the decision making process, overseeing the implementation of various programmes to ensure adherence to guidelines, quality, equity and efficiency and reporting to the concerned authorities at prescribed intervals. It is also responsible for overseeing the conduct of various surveys relating to BPL families, etc., by the State Government from time to time.

The Zilla Parishad (ZP) Chairman functions as the Chairman of the DRDA and the DC is the CEO, as mentioned above. The CEO exercises administrative control over the Project Director (PD) and the Project Officer (PO). The PD is the executive in

charge of the DRDA and is responsible for interaction with the District/State administration as well as the GOI. He/she reports to the Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and ensures co-ordination with the Zilla Parishad for implementation of various rural development programmes. The PD is also the controlling officer for all the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and District Panchayat Officer (DPO).

The administrative set up of the District is shown below:

Chart-1

