

# **Chapter 6**

## **General Services**

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### 6.1 Law and Order

The Superintendent of Police (SP), Malda assisted by one Additional Superintendent of Police and three Deputy Superintendent of Police maintains Law and Order in the district. The district has 11 police stations (urban: two, semi-urban: six and rural: three) covering a total area of 3733 sq. Km (total population being 39.98 lakh) in 15 Blocks and two Municipalities. As no norms were available for the number of police stations to be established, an attempt was made to compare the existing facilities with the norms recommended by National Police Commission (NPC). NPC, in its Seventh Report recommended that a rural police station should not have jurisdiction over more than 150 Sq. Km while an urban police station should not be required to police more than 60000 population. By these standards, the district was short of 14<sup>1</sup> police stations even on a conservative estimate.

#### 6.1.1 Manpower, crime rate and efficiency of investigation

The position of police personnel in the district as of October 2012 is indicated in the following table

**Table 6.1: Manpower position of police force in Malda as of October 2012**

Branch		Inspector	Sub Inspector	Asst Sub Inspector	NK	HPD	PD	Constable	Lady Constable	Total
(a) Unarmed	Sanctioned Strength	17	89	126	0	1	42	364	51	690
	Men in position	13	74	90	0	0	41	305	42	565
Vacancy		4	15	36	0	1	1	59	9	125
(b) Armed	Sanctioned Strength	2	5	51	1	0	0	271	0	330
	Men in position	2	2	48	1	0	0	209	0	262
Vacancy		0	3	3	0	0	0	62	0	68

Source: Data furnished by SP, Malda

NK: Naik, HPD: Head Police Driver, PD: Police Driver

As is evident from the table, the district had a shortage of 193 personnel (19 per cent) against the sanctioned strength of 1020. The shortage at Police station further increased as 93 police personnel were posted in 19 Outposts/units (*Appendix-6.1*) created without formal sanction of posts as of October 2012. Consequently, manpower of other wings like District Intelligence Branch (DIB), Narcotic Cell, Highway Traffic, Women Cell and West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Corporation Limited suffered with shortfall of man power from 74 to 100 per cent as of October 2012.

<sup>1</sup> 25 PSs required (3733 sq Km/150) minus 11 existing

Police Regulation of Bengal, 1943 amended in December 2008, stipulates the norms of man deployment in each type of police station viz. urban, semi-urban and rural police stations. Analysis of existing manpower *vis-à-vis* these norms indicated that Malda police authority had been maintaining law and order with only 272 personnel<sup>2</sup> (31 *per cent*) against the stipulated 869. Police station-wise, the shortfall ranged from 53 to 81 *per cent* as indicated in **Appendix-6.2**. Further, the district had only 21 police personnel per lakh population<sup>3</sup> against West Bengal average of 66 as of January 2007. This may be viewed with 155 *per cent* increase in crime rate in Malda during 2000-2011 and longer time<sup>4</sup> taken in investigation of criminal cases.

Women's cell of the district was not operational though the district saw 568 *per cent* increase in crime against women during the last decade (2000-2011). Against the sanctioned strength of 27 lady police personnel in this cell, none was posted.

SP, Malda accepted (July 2011) that the district was facing acute man-power shortage. Consequently, in the event of big law and order problems, the district had to pool forces from neighbouring police stations.

### **6.1.2 Infrastructure**

Performance of the District Police authorities was affected by infrastructure deficiency as discussed under:

The SP office functions in an old damaged rented building with water seepage at the roofs during rainy season. In four out of 11 Police stations visited by audit, it was seen that the police quarters used by the police personnel were in dilapidated condition. As per records of SP, Malda, 10 out of 11 police stations did not have any quarters and the district required construction of 11 offices, six police stations and 18 barracks (**Appendix 6.3**) as of September 2012.



*Police Quarter in Gazole PS*



*Police Quarter in Habibpur PS*

During 2006-12, Home (Police) Department took up construction of 42<sup>5</sup> buildings for which ₹ 2.68 crore was sanctioned and ₹ 1.52 crore was released. These works were entrusted to PWD, either directly by the Department or by the DM, in case where work was entrusted by the Department to DM. Neither the department nor

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<sup>2</sup> Position as of October 2012

<sup>3</sup> Calculated based on the population as per 2011 Census and the men-in-position as of October 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Investigation reports were not submitted within 60/90 days of crimes as stipulated by Section 167 of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. As of October 2012, reports on 1161 cases (25 cases in 2008, 92 cases in 2009, 533 cases in 2010, 511 cases in 2011) had been pending.

<sup>5</sup> Three police stations, six rest rooms-cum-toilets for women police personnel in six PSs, construction of 24 quarters and 9 kennels.

the DM stipulated any target of completion of these constructions. Audit test checked nine works in progress, under various schemes and observed that neither the DM nor the department monitored the progress of work leading to protracted execution and cost escalation. Audit noted that all nine works test checked were stalled due to funds constraints consequent to cost escalation. The details are indicated in the following table.

**Table 6.2 : Table indicating status of test checked infrastructural works in Malda as of September 2012**

	Name of scheme	Particulars of work	Sanctioned work (Rs. in lakh)	Date of Sanction	Present status
1	Border Area Development Programme (BADP)	Construction of English Bazar PS	30.00	October 2006	PWD did not undertake the work after having conducted the soil test expending ₹ 0.56 lakh. Consequently, DM awarded the work to a contractor in January 2010 and work could not be completed for want of funds consequent to cost escalation (estimated to be ₹ 10 lakh).
2	Eleventh Finance Commission	Bamangola PS building and Rest room cum toilet for women police personnel at Malda, Kaliachak, English Bazar, Bamangola, Chanchal and Harishchandrapur PS	17.50	December	Though the department released ₹ 17.50 lakh, PS remained incomplete for the last three years for want of funds to the extent of ₹ 10.19 lakh owing to cost escalation while status of other constructions was not available.
3	Modernisation of Police Forces (MoPP)	Gazole PS	34.40	January	Department released ₹ 21.87 lakh only remained incomplete for want of funds.

Source: Records of SP, Malda



Thus, due to lapses in monitoring and non-provision of funds, police infrastructure was not improved as envisaged under various schemes.

## 6.2 Municipal Services

Malda district has two municipalities- English Bazar and Old Maldah. The efficiency of English Bazar Municipality on waste management was reviewed in audit.

### 6.2.1 Waste management

#### 6.2.1.1 Sewerage and drainage

Municipal areas covered by roads (kutcha or pucca) were required to be surrounded by drains in both sides of the roads. However, there was shortage of 43 *per cent* in drains (303.70 km) as the municipality had only 405.42 km length of drain *vis-à-vis* requirement 709.12 km. Further, the municipality discharged untreated drain water into Mahananda river polluting the river and the adjoining environment. English Bazar Municipality stated (June 2011) that due to paucity of funds the Municipality could not implement the sewerage system.

#### 6.2.1.2 Solid Waste Management (SWM)

English bazaar Municipality generates 215 MT of solid waste per day, out of which 200 MT (93 *per cent*) is collected and 15 MT (seven *per cent*) remains unattended. Segregation of solid wastes, including bio-medical / hazardous wastes, etc., was not done by the Municipality. The municipality did not have any treatment plant for effective disposal of the waste and untreated waste was dumped in ditches and private low lands situated outside the town.



*Discharge of untreated drain water into the Mahananda river in English Bazar Municipality (June 2011)*

#### 6.2.1.3 Non implementation of mandatory reforms

The Municipality implements Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the guidelines (September 2006) required that it should ensure improvement in urban governance and civic services by implementing mandatory reforms like the accrual based double entry accounting and e-governance within a span of seven years. However, there was no progress towards its implementation as of March 2012.

The Municipality stated (May 2011) that the implementation of e-governance was being dealt with by the Change Management Unit (CMU) <sup>6</sup>.

#### 6.2.1.4 Recommendations

- ***Municipality should develop a comprehensive system of sewerage and drainage and waste treatment system so as to avoid pollution of environment and rivers.***

<sup>6</sup> The CMU was created in 2003 as an agency to oversee the implementation of the Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor programme by the Municipal Affairs Department.