

1

# Introduction

#### 1.1 General Profile of the District

District Mandi is one of the 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh located on the central part of the State. In terms of population it is the second largest district in the State bounded by Kangra in the North-West, Hamirpur and Bilaspur in the West, Solan district in the South, Shimla district in the South-East and Kullu district in the East. This district spans an area of 3,950 square kilometres and is headquartered at Mandi with a population of 9.01 lakh (15 per cent) of the population of the State (60.78 lakh as per 2001 census) 93 per cent (8.40 lakh) of them residing in rural areas. The district comprises seven Sub-Divisions, nine Tehsils and seven Sub-Tehsils. To cater to rural development, the district has been divided into ten Community Development Blocks covering 473 Gram Panchayats (GPs) with 2,833 inhabited and 505 uninhabited villages. The literacy rate is 76 per cent as against 77 per cent at the State level but higher than the national average of 65 per cent. Out of 2,06,096 families of the district, 20 per cent (41,339 families) live below the poverty line (BPL) as compared to 24 per cent at the State level. SC/ST population (as per 2001 census) comprises 30 per cent of the total population of the District.

#### 1.2 Administrative Structure

#### **Deputy Commissioner**

Deputy Commissioner (DC) is the head of the district administration and also functions as District Collector and District Magistrate. 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. DC being in charge of the district 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, (ADC) 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, nongovernmental, technical and financial for successful programme implementation. It is also responsible for overseeing the conduct of various surveys relating to BPL families, etc.

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) of the DRDA. The PD is the executive in charge of the DRDA and is responsible for interaction with the District/State administration as well as the Gol. 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 setup of the District is shown below:

Chart 1: Administrative setup at District level

### **Deputy Commissioner**

Overall incharge of the district and CEO of DRDA. Ensures co-ordination between DRDA, PRIs, Field Officers and all other departments

### **Additional Deputy Commissioner**

Chief Planning Officer-responsible for preparation, prioritisation, monitoring and review of schemes

### **District Planning Officer**

Releases funds to BDOs-responsible for monitoring financial and physical progress of works

# **Project Director (DRDA)**

Co-ordinates with district/State administration/Gol

### **Project Officer (DRDA)**

DDO, maintains accounts, plans, monitors and reports on schemes

# **Block Development Officers**

Releases funds to GPs, monitors and measure Works, make payments, submit reports to PO

### **Pradhan Gram Panchayat**

Executes all schemes in the GP and renders accounts to BDO