

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

Political Parties

None of the political parties in the district is of purely local standing, but each has an all-India character. It is difficult to assess the numerical strength of the membership of these parties as it is subject to change, but on the basis of the results of the general elections of 1951 and 1957 it can be said that the major political parties in the district are the Indian National Congress, the Praja-Socialist, the Communist and the Jan Sangh.

Each party has its own district committee and regional subcommittees and other primary units in the district. Except the district committee, which has its office in the headquarters of the district, the others function in the tahsils and villages, with separate offices and office-bearers, under the aegis of the district body.

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

In the general elections of 1952 the district, for purposes of election to the State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), was divided into six constituencies, those of Misrikh, Sidhauri (West) and Biswan-cum-Sidhauri (East) which are double-member constituencies with a seat reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes in each and those of Sitapur South-east, Sitapur East and Sitapur North-west which are single-member constituencies. In the general elections of 1957 the old constituencies were delimited and the new ones were Sidhauri, Misrikh, Biswan, Sitapur, Khairabad and Laharpur, the first three being double-member constituencies.

The total number of electors in the district in 1952 was 6,92,400 of whom 4,21,314 persons (60 per cent) exercised their right to vote. In the general elections of 1957, the total number of electors increased to 8,36,915 and the number of those who actually cast their votes increased to 6,04,587 (72 per cent), the number of valid votes polled in the two general elections being 4,09,272 and 5,79,034 respectively. The statement

below shows the position of the different political parties in the two general elections for the Vidhan Sabha :

Name of party	Number of valid votes polled in 1952	Number of valid votes polled in 1957
Indian National Congress	1,87,333	Reserved 89,115 Unreserved 1,39,044
Socialist	45,792
Praja-Socialist Party	..	Reserved 52,550 Unreserved 58,462
Jan Sangh	53,373	Reserved 25,308 Unreserved 55,066
Independent	75,512	Reserved 26,089 Unreserved 1,08,156
U. P. Praja Party	10,701
Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party	27,823
Rama-Rajya Parishad	8,738
Communist	..	Reserved 7,114 Unreserved 18,130

In the 1952 elections, the Congress Party captured eight out of nine seats, the ninth going to the Independents. In 1957, the Congress again led by capturing five out of nine seats. Next came the Independents with three seats and then the Jan Sangh with one seat only.

Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council)

The district of Sitapur formed part of Uttar Pradesh East (Graduates) and Uttar Pradesh East (Teachers) and Lucknow (Local Authorities) Constituencies in the elections of 1956, 1958 and 1960, the total number of seats for each being four, five and eight respectively. Two members have been elected so far from this district.

Lok Sabha

For elections to the Lok Sabha (House of the People) in 1952 the district formed a part of the double-member constituency known as the Sitapur district-cum-Kheri district (West) constituency with one seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes. In the elections of 1957 Sitapur district together with a portion of Hardoi district formed a double-member constituency with the usual reservation for the Scheduled Castes. Congress candidates were returned to both the seats in both the general elections. The total valid votes polled in the elections of 1952 were 5,31,924, the number of electors in the constituency being 7,72,300. In

