

## CHAPTER - III.

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### MUNICIPAL ORGANISATION.

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The King Dom Manuel I of Portugal had declared in 1504 that the camaras or the Municipal councils should be established at the towns under the Portuguese possessions in the East,<sup>1</sup> on the pattern in the home country. In the last chapter, we have seen that during the fifth decade of the sixteenth century, the Portuguese town of Chaul emerged adjoining the ancient port of the same name. So, to look after its civic administration, the Municipal council was introduced<sup>2</sup> sometimes between the years 1542 and 1544. An attempt has been made in this chapter to study the composition, functions and financial resources of this institution and to examine its role in the socio-economic life of the town.

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1. C R.Boxer, *Portuguese Society in the Tropics-The Municipal Councils of Goa, Macao, Bahia and Luanda*, (University of Winsconsein Press.1965), p.5. Jose Goncalo de santa Rita's article on Municipal Councils in, *Historia da Expansao Portuguesa no Mundo*, Ed.by Antonio Baião, (Lisboa, 1939). pp.763-83.
2. The exact dating of the establishment of the Municipal Council of Chaul is rather difficult to specify, so certain reasonings are followed. The *bandel* at Chaul started getting populated by the married Portuguese only after the third decade of the sixteenth century. It remained under the sway of the Nizamshahs of Ahmednagar, and it was only after 1542, the Portuguese had successfully established their control over it. In 1544, the Municipal Council of Chaul wrote a letter to the King of Portugal, which clearly indicates its existence in that year. So it is same to conclude that the Municipal council was established sometimes between 1542 and 1544. For letter of Municipal council, see *A N T T*, mass. *Collecção de São Lourenço*, vol.III fls.21-23v.

# I. STATUS OF THE TOWN AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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The King of Portugal had bestowed upon the colonial towns in the East, certain status similar to status those that were given to their metropolitan towns at home and the Municipal Council being a civil body was defending the same and trying to use it for the betterment of its residents. The earliest reference of the privileges granted to the towns in India has been related to Goa. Affonso de Albuquerque requested the Crown that it should be given the status of Lisbon and that request was accepted by the year 1518.<sup>3</sup> It is generally believed that, except Goa, other towns in the Portuguese India were bestowed the status of towns similar to those of Evora and O Porto.<sup>4</sup> Our studies reveal that it was not only the city of Goa that enjoyed the privileges of Lisbon, but the town of Chaul also had the similar status during the initial stages of its development.

According to the status of Lisbon, the *casados moradores* or the residents were allowed to bring the merchandise into the city without paying the customs duties.<sup>5</sup> This was a major difference between the status of Lisbon and that of Evora and O Porto. But certain privileges were common to all these towns that were under the Portuguese hegemony. One such was regarding the navigation facilities to the settlers so as to carry on the trade on commodities, excluding those which were

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3. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol.V, pp.162-179.

4. Boxer, *Portuguese Society*....., p.381.

5. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol.V, pp.162-179.

monopolized by the Crown. The settlers holding any posts in the Municipal Council could not be jailed until their tenure of office was terminated.<sup>6</sup> Knowing the advantage of the status of Lisbon, the Municipal council of Chaul requested the Crown in 1544 to grant the same status to their town since the residents did not possess enough means to pay the taxes.<sup>7</sup> By the following year, its request was accepted.<sup>7</sup> But, in subsequent decades, it created a great deal of confusion in the minds of the authorities in India since the privileges given to Goa were of the city of Lisbon, and no other towns in Portuguese India could have similar status.

When the Governor Diogo de Menezes (1576-1578) visited Chaul and saw the conformation of his predecessors in protecting this status,<sup>8</sup> he did not take pains to clarify the matter. When Portugal and her over-seas colonies were brought under the rule of the Habsburgs of Spain in 1580, the King Philip II of Spain who crowned himself as Philip I of Portugal, refused to recognise the status that was given to a particular town and the privileges that accompanied it and ordered that the customs duties should be levied from the residents of Chaul by establishing the customs house.<sup>9</sup> But the Municipal Council of Chaul had objected his proposal and pleaded the Crown that the privileges given to its town by the rulers of the Aviz dynasty<sup>10</sup> should not be scrapped.<sup>11</sup> Despite

6. H A G, Mss. 1416, fl. 48v.

7. A N T T, Mss. *Collecção de São Lourenço*, Vol. III, fls. 21-23v.

8. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 12, fls. 27v-271.

9. B. Mus, Mss. 20861, fls. 15v-16

10. The Aviz dynasty came to power in 1385 and continued to rule Portugal and her over-seas colonies until the year 1580.

11. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 2, fls. 46-47 and no. 3, fl. 116; A H U, Mss, 281, fls. 107v, 214-214v; B. Mus, Mss. 20861, fl. 19.

its appeal, the customs house was introduced at Chaul in  
<sup>12</sup> 1589. The Municipal Council did not extend its co-  
 operation to the State, and so the resident merchants of  
 Chaul followed various tricks to evade the payment of the  
<sup>13</sup> customs duties at their port.

So, the Governor Matias de Albuquerque deprived the town of  
 Chaul from having the privileges of navigation in the year  
<sup>14</sup> 1595. His decision unnerved the Municipal council, and it  
 started to plead the State to have the facilities of  
 navigation. It was both confusing and surprising to the  
 Viceroy Dom Francisco da Gama (1597-1600) who sent a letter  
 to the Crown to clarify the matter regarding the status of  
<sup>15</sup> Chaul. In 1611, the Viceroy Dom Jeronimo de Azevedo had  
 issued an order that the town of Chaul should not be allowed  
 to enjoy the status of Lisbon, and it was only the city of  
<sup>16</sup> Goa that deserved it. In order to remove the confusion  
 regarding the status of Chaul, the Crown took a decision in  
 1613 whereby the status of Evora was conferred on the town  
<sup>17</sup> of Chaul.

According to the privileges of Evora, the residents were  
 exempted from paying the customs duties on exporting the  
<sup>18</sup> commodities from their port. In 1650, the crown of

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12. A G, Mss 3034, fls. 108-111v.

13. Refer Chapter V for further details.

14. A P C-C R, Fasciculo III, pp. 559-561.

15. H A G, Mss, *Livro das Monções* no. 4, fls. 773-773v.

16. *Ibid*, no. 2, fl. 276v.

17. Documentos Remitidos da India, Vol. III, p. 484; A N T T, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 37, fl. 409.

18. A N T T, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 39, fl. 19.

Portugal again conferred the status of Lisbon on the town of Chaul for a period of two years. And in 1693, the Municipal Council of Chaul had requested the State to bestow the status of Lisbon upon their town. This appeal was accepted<sup>19</sup> by granting similar status for a period of three years. Thus, in the beginning the status of Lisbon was conferred on the town of Chaul for its rapid development as a center of trade. and when it had developed considerably, the attempts were made to bestow the status of Evora so as to collect customs duties from its residents. But, due to personal interest and involvement of the members of Municipal Council in trade and commerce, they opposed to have the status of Evora. As a result, the status of Evora was taken back by the State, whereby the town was deprived from having facilities<sup>20</sup> of navigation. In short, the Portuguese system of conferring the status of their metropolises on the colonial towns had its own advantages. It served the administrative purposes and also helped to develop a colonial town as a source of extracting revenues for the Imperial structure.

## II.COMPOSITION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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Various posts in the Council of Chaul were strictly reserved<sup>21</sup> for the married Portuguese settlers. The composition of

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19. A H U, Mss. India Cx. 23, doc. 77; H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 57, fls. 63-63v.

20. Refer "*system in operation and Merchants of Chaul*" in chapter IV.

21. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol. V, pp. 162-179.

the Municipality of Chaul was similar to the other towns in the Portuguese India, and only exception was the city of Goa. In Chaul, the elected body of Municipal Councillors was composed of eight members; three *vereadores* or the Aldermen, one *procuradore da cidade* or the Attorney of the Town, two *juizes ordinarios* or the Justices of Peace and two *procuradores dos mestres* or the Representatives of the Workers.<sup>22</sup>

Three Aldermen were elected by the settlers of the town. It was not that only a literate person qualify for the same post in the Board of Municipal Council. In 1634, one person who did not know to read and write, even held that post in the Municipal Council.<sup>23</sup> But the Alderman should be atleast forty years of age and he should be a married Portuguese resident of the town.<sup>24</sup> Among three Aldermen, each one took charge in rotation for a month as a *vereador do meio* or the Chairperson of the Municipal Council.<sup>25</sup> In 1654, the king of Portugal had declared that two Aldermen would be chosen, especially from the *fidalgos*. But, this decision was protested by the elites of the towns. So, in 1665, the earlier system of electing the Aldermen to the Board of Municipal Council, irrespective to their social status, was restored and continued during the period under review.<sup>26</sup>

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22. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol. III, p.98; A N T T, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.49, fls.166-166v. I have followed the English translation of these terms given by Dr.T.R. de Souza, *Medieval Goa: A Socio-Economic History*, (New Delhi, 1979), p.136

23. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.13 B, fls.336-337.

24. Boxer, *Portuguese Society...*, p.45.

25. H A G, Mss. 7865, fls.86-86v.

26. de Souza, *Op.cit*, p.138.

Similarly, the Attorney of the town and the two Justices of Peace were elected by the married Portuguese settlers of the town. It is noteworthy that those who served earlier as an Attorney of the town, Justices of Peace or the market Inspector were eligible for contesting the election for the post of Aldermen in the Board of Municipal Council.<sup>27</sup>

The representatives of the workers were elected by the artisans organized in craft guilds. They did not sit along with the other Councillors, but they had a separate bench, facing the three Aldermen.<sup>28</sup> They voted in all matters, except in the judicial cases brought before the Municipal Council. In the town of Chaul, there were two representatives of the workers in the Board of Municipal Council. With respect to the Municipality of Goa, there were four representatives of the workers.<sup>29</sup> This was the only remarkable difference between the two and it may be attributed to the lesser number of the workers at Chaul. It is interesting to note that the charter of Evora did not contain provision for any representatives of the workers in its Municipal Council.<sup>30</sup> As discussed earlier, the status of Evora was conferred on Chaul from the year 1613 onwards and, despite it, two representatives of the workers continued to be elected to the Municipal Council of Chaul.<sup>31</sup>

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27. *Ibid.*

28. *Ibid.*

29. *Ibid.*, p.136.

30. Boxer, *Portuguese Society...*, p.5.

31. In 1641, João Domingos and Domings Dias were the representatives of the workers in the Board of Municipal Council of Chaul. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.49, fl. 166v.

These eight members who were elected by the married Portuguese settlers of Chaul always tried their best to protect and safe-guard the interests of the urbanites. But to look after its own interest, the State nominated its representative in the Board of Municipal Council. Generally, the Captain of the town used to be the nominee of the King. Only those who had substantial experience and proven capacity in handling administrative matters were appointed as Captains.<sup>32</sup> The tenure of office of the Captain was three years, but he could be dismissed or discharged earlier if found mismanaging the affairs.<sup>33</sup>

Besides these elected and nominated members in the Municipal Council, there were a few petty officials under the Municipal administration. The *escrivão da camara* or the Secretary of the Municipal Council was appointed for three years on a fixed salary.<sup>34</sup> At Macao, a certain person was given an extension of six years as a Secretary of the Municipal Council and after 1630, he was permitted to hold the post for life.<sup>35</sup> When a similar arrangement was proposed to be followed at Chaul, the Municipal Councillors and urbanites protested and demanded that earlier tenure of the Secretary of three years should be continued.<sup>36</sup>

The *almoçador* or the Market Inspector was another petty

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32. *Stvdia*, no. 6, July, 1960, pp. 3 ff.

33. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 22, fl. 112.

34. de Souza, *Op. cit.*, p. 140.

35. Boxer, *Portuguese Society*..., p. 43.

36. *Documentos Remitidos da India*, Vol. I, p. 53.



officer who worked under the supervision of the Chairperson<sup>37</sup> of the Municipal Council of Chaul. There were other subordinate officials in the Municipal administration such as the *tesoureiro* or the Treasurer, the *contador* or the Accountant, the *vereador das obras* or the Foreman of the Works and *portario* or the Door Keeper, who also performed the duties of Record Keeper.<sup>38</sup> There was also *juize do terreiro*<sup>39</sup> or the Jailor. Thus, the Municipal organisation of Chaul was composed of eight elected Councillors, a representative of the State and several petty officials.

### III. ELECTION PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCILLORS.

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The atmosphere for the election was procreated in the town every three years. The Attorney of the Town informed the Crown well in advance that the tenure of the Councillors would be terminated on such and such date, and appealed that permission should be given to conduct general election in the town. Eventually, the Crown issued the necessary powers to the Attorney of the Town and at the same time, he ordered the Judge to remain present during the proceedings<sup>40</sup> of the election. After receiving conformation from the Crown, the Secretary of the Council made an appeal to the Portuguese married settlers, and called them on the fixed date to the premises of the Council. The married Portuguese settlers of Chaul used their rights to elect six persons

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37. H A G, Mss. 624, fl. 12; B N L, Mss. 9809, fl. 25v; de Souza. *Op. cit.*, p. 139

38. Boxer, *Portuguese Society...*, p. 5.

39. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monoções* no. 12, fl. 123v.

40. H A G, Mss. 2596, fl. 80.

whom they considered fittest to nominate various functionaries in the Board of Municipal Council, on their behalf.<sup>41</sup> The two representatives of the workers were nominated by the guilds.<sup>42</sup> This could give a little chance in erecting the banners, or arranging the processions which could woo the electors. But <sup>e</sup>Personal contacts were made to gain the support of the electorate. Bribes were offered to the married Portuguese house-holders for electing six persons who then would nominate various functionaries in the Board of Municipal Council. When such malpractice was known, it was labelled as "scandal" and the authorities conducted inquiries. The accused candidates were removed from contesting election and also punished, the nature of punishment is not clear.<sup>43</sup>

The assembly of the electors, consisted exclusively of the married Portuguese settlers of Chaul gathered at the premises of the Council Hall which was presided by the Judge. Each and every house holder had to write down the names of six persons on a piece of paper that was handed over secretly to the Judge. The Judge scrutinized the lists and declared six persons as the nominees of the house-holders. These six nominees were sworn off to draw up the list of those persons whom they considered suitable to hold various posts in the Board of Municipal Council, excluding those who had just finished their tenure. Afterwards, these

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41. de Souza, *Op.cit*, p.135.

42. *B.Mus.* 20861, fl.228v; *H A G*, Mss.7865, fls.86-86.

43. *Documentos Remitidos da India*, Vol.IV, p.86.

six nominees were grouped into three pairs. There was a rule that each pair should not have blood relations and family or occupational ties. They then drew up three electoral rolls of three persons whom they nominated, on behalf of the house-holders, to fill up impending posts in Municipal Council. The presiding officer collected all the electoral rolls and wrote down names in comprehensive list which was known as the *pauta*.<sup>44</sup> The *pauta* of the proposed officials of the Board of Municipal Council was first sent from Chaul to the authorities in Goa and from there to Lisbon.<sup>45</sup> Another copy of this list was kept in a coffer at the Municipal Council of Chaul which had three different keys.<sup>46</sup> Each key was given to three outgoing Aldermen.

On the New Year's Eve, the annual result was declared in a ceremony called as the *jeneirinhas*. The names of six persons were taken out by a small boy, often called at random from the street. These names were then immediately declared in the presence of the *homens bons* or the prominent people of the town. Those persons who declared as the officials held the respective posts in Board of Municipal Council for a year.<sup>47</sup> While representatives of the workers were nominated by the members of the guilds. Thus, the functionaries in the Municipal Council were elected

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44. Since we are unable to trace out the procedure of the election at Chaul, description given by Prog.C.R.Boxer and Dr.T.R.Souza has been used. It was conventional in each and every towns in the Portuguese India. Boxer, *Portuguese Society...*, pp.5-6; de souza, *Op.cit*, pp.136-167.

45. A N T T, Mss. *Livro das Mancões* no.24, fl.29.

46. see foot note no.44

47. *Ibid.*

indirectly through a complicated system of election. The married Portuguese house-holders elected six persons every three years who then nominated the functionaries to hold various posts in the Municipal Council.

#### IV. FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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The functions of Municipal Council were of varried nature which were carried out collectively by the petty officials under the supervision and guidance of the elected members.

The Chairperson of Municipal Council was looking after the functions of the Council and supervise the duties that were assigned to the petty officials. It was his duty to see the proper implemen<sup>48</sup>tation of the rules and regulations concerning the civil administration of the town. The State had introduced certain regulations regarding the functions of market. For instance, the merchants were not allowed to sell thier commodities outside the market place and they were supposed to sell them only by way of public auction. The shop-keepers of Chaul were not allowed to keep a stock of more than five bundles of cloth in their shops.<sup>49</sup>

It was the duty of Market Inspector to find out the cases of violation of the market regulations and brought them to the notice of the Council. A stipulated amount of fine was<sup>50</sup> colleted from the concerned merchants. It was his duty to

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48. de Souza, Op.Cit, p.139.

49. H A G, Mss.624, fls.23v-27.

50. Ibid, fl.12.

check stock at the shops every now and then, and to report  
 on the situation to the Chairperson.<sup>51</sup> The cases regarding  
 the violation of above-mentioned regulations brought by the  
 Market Inspector or by the private parties were brought to  
 the notice of a committee comprised two Aldermen and two  
 Justices of Peace. After hearing both the parties, this  
 committee gave its verdict which remained final.<sup>52</sup> But their  
 decision concerning the property disputes and personal  
 injuries were subjected to appeal in the court of *ouvidor* or  
 the Judge who was appointed directly by the State.<sup>53</sup> There  
 was also a jail under a jailor within the fortified city of  
 Chaul.

The Municipal Council was involved in protecting the  
 interests of the urbanites against the atrocities committed  
 by the State officials and it also safe-guarded them  
 from the acrimonious State policies that affected the  
 economic position of its residents.<sup>54</sup> It was the Attorney of  
 the Town who in consultation with other Councillors  
 represented such cases to the higher authorities both in Goa  
 as well as in Lisbon.<sup>55</sup> The *tabalião de publico* or the  
 Public Notary though not directly connected with the  
 Municipal Council was supposed to verify the contents and  
 certify the letters that were despatched by the Council to  
 the Crown or the Viceroy.<sup>56</sup>

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51. *Ibid*, fl. 26v.

52. de Souza, *Op.cit* p. 139.

53. *Ibid*; *B N L*, Mss. 10829, fls. 23-30; *H A G*, mss 4460, fls. 123-123v.

54. The role of Municipal Council concerning these activities is covered in detail in the chapters IV and V.

55. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 39, fls. 19 and Mss. no. 60, fl. 306.

56. *A H U*, Mss. India Cx. 17, doc. 40 and India Cx. 23, doc. 77.

The secretary of the Municipal Council acted as its clerk and also its standard-bearer on the occasions when the Municipal Councillors and State officials used to attend certain public processions and festivities.<sup>57</sup> In absence of a suitable person in the Municipal Council, the post of Jailor was performed by the Aldermen, Attorney of the Town and the Justices of Peace, in rotation of two months.<sup>58</sup> The formen of public works had to look after the maintenance of religious and the public buildings, streets and minor renovations of the fort walls.<sup>59</sup>

The necessary quantity of food grains was generally brought to the town of Chaul from other places and the State encouraged merchants by granting exemptions from the payment of customs duties.<sup>60</sup> The Municipal Council regulated the supply of food grains to Chaul and kept watch on its smuggling to the neighbouring areas so as to overcome impending shortage of such essential items for its urbanites.<sup>61</sup>

It was a prime responsibility of Municipal Council to provide potable water to the town-dwellers.<sup>62</sup> The town of Chaul was lucky in this respect, as most of the wells were located in the residential complexes.<sup>63</sup> The supply of

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57. de Souza, *Op.cit*, p.140.

58. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.12, fl.123v.

59. de Souza, *Op.cit*, p.140.

60. Refer, "Customs duties" in Chapter v.

61. H A G, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.14, fl.193.

62. *Ibid*, fl.168.

63. B P A D E, Mss, CXV/2.1.

providing drinking water was solved due to the planning of the town, limited area of town proper and its geo-hydro advantages. Incidentally, even today drinking water is struck out in Chaul (Now known as Revdanda) by digging only upto ten feets, even close to the coastal region.

The State insisted and was desirous to maintain homogeneity in the physical structure of the towns under the Portuguese dominion. Moreover, a certain degree of uniformity in the town planning was maintained. An order was issued in 1622 to the Municipal Council of Goa instructing to allot separate streets to the residents according to their professions, in the same pattern and manner existed at Lisbon.<sup>64</sup> Such instruction was not followed in the town of Chaul as we have seen that some of the roads in Chaul were named after prominent religious personalities and institutions.<sup>65</sup> It was perhaps due to the smallness of the town proper, where it was difficult to allot separate streets according to occupations.

On the other hand, the Municipal Council of Chaul did accept the accord of the Municipality of Goa concerning uniformity in the pattern and elevation of the houses. Accordingly, the houses were constructed with stones, with sloping roofs where tiles were used and were known as the *telhas de portuguezes*.<sup>66</sup> It was the duty of the Municipal Council of

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64. H A G, Mss. 7846, fls. 36v-37. Even today, some of the roads at Lisbon are named after the professions, such as *rua dos sapatarios* or road of cobblers, *rua dos ourem* or road of gold smiths etc.

65. Refer, "Portuguese Town of Chaul-Physical Context" in Chapter II.

66. H A G, Mss. 7752, fls 190 and 204v.

Chaul to see whether these instructions were properly followed by its urbanites while constructing their houses.

It was the Municipality that suggested the State to undertake the renovations and construction of the fortified walls of the town proper. We find that such works were carried out by the State soon after appeal was made by the Council.<sup>67</sup>

Until the year 1631, the Municipal Council of Chaul functioned as an intermediate agency between the Central authority and the neighbouring rulers. But in the same year, the Viceroy Conde de Linhares declared that henceforth the Central authority will directly deal with the native powers and Municipal Council of Chaul should not take part in dealing with them.<sup>68</sup> The State also entrusted responsibilities to the Municipal Council of Chaul to mint the coins called *bazarucos* with an idea to prevent the flow of gold and silver currencies to the town of Upper Chaul.<sup>69</sup>

#### V. SOURCES OF INCOME TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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The wholesale dealings of the merchandise were conducted at the market place, in the public auction. The merchants who were found to be violating this arrangement were penalized and fined. The rate of fine was twenty *pardaos* that was collected from the merchants who sold their commodities

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67. *H A G*, Mss.1370, fls.150-150v; *A N T T*, doc., Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.23, fls.61, 89, 340; *A H U*, Mss. India Cx.8, doc.89; *Documentos Remitidos do India*, Vol.III, pp.386-387.

68. *H A G*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.14, fl.207.

69. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.38, fl.31 and. no.55, fl.79.



against the regulation, and another twenty *pardaos* was<sup>70</sup> collected from the purchaser. Similarly, the fine was collected from the owners of shops who kept cloths of more than five bundles.<sup>71</sup> Both the fines were imposed by the State and were levied by the Municipal Council of Chaul. The income through these fines was known as the market<sup>72</sup> fine (collectively known as the *renda de verde*). Significantly, this was the only source of income that was not taken over entirely by the State from the possession of the Council during the period of our study. In 1591, the Viceroy Dom Luis de Ataide had declared that the income collected under this head would be divided between the State<sup>73</sup> and the Municipal Council in the proportion of 1:2. Prior to this arrangement, the Municipal officials were involved in collecting the market fines, but when the State was included in its collection, the entire exercise was done in the presence of the factor of Chaul.<sup>74</sup> This particular arrangement was known as the *terça parte de renda de verde*<sup>75</sup> or the third part of the market fine. Following table shows the income to both the State and Municipal Council from this source:

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70. *H A G*, Mss. 624, fl. 26.

71. *Ibid*, fl. 26v.

72. *Ibid*, fl. 12

73. *Ibid*, For instance, in 1591, the income from this source was 1200 *pardaos* and out of which, 400 *pardaos* was remitted by the factor to the royal treasury while rest of amount was kept with Municipal Council of Chaul.

74. *Ibid*.

75. *Ibid*.

## T A B L E (03.01).

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 (Income from market fines to State and Council in proportion of  
 1:2)  
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year	income to State	income to Council	total
1607	403 pd 1 t 30r	806 pd 3 t 00r	1209pd 4 t 30 r
1608	303 pd 1 t 30r	606 pd 3 t 00r	909 pd 4 t 30 r
1609	318 pd 1 t 30r	635 pd 3 t 00r	954 pd 4 t 30 r

NOTE: Income to State mentioned in the table is taken from the source, *A H U*, Mss. India Cx.23, doc.77. While income to the Municipal Council and total revenue collected through this source are calculated by me on the basis of proportion given in *H A G*, Mss.624, fl.12.

Abbreviations : pd = *pardaos*, t = *tangas*, r = *reis*.

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Between 1591 and 1615, three divisions of the income from this source were made, two parts were retained with the Municipal Council for its civil expenditure while one part was deposited in the royal treasury.

The factor of Chaul used to complain to the higherups that due to the machinations of the members of Municipal Council he was unable to deposit the third part of market fines to the royal treasury. The State also realised that income through this source to its exchequer was less. However, it was decided in 1615 that entire amount would be kept by the Municipal Council of Chaul for its expenditure.<sup>76</sup> Once allowed to retain all the income collected independently, the Municipal Council thought of increasing the rate of fines. But, the merchants, particularly the shop-keepers protested vehemently and obtained an order from the Viceroy in 1619 to the effect that the fine should be collected at the old rate only.<sup>77</sup>

The Governor Dom João de Castro had allowed the Municipal Council to enjoy the *renda de bazar* or the bazaar tax in 1548, as a token of appreciation of its urbanites for their services during the siege of Diu. Afterwards, the Municipal Council had begun to collect certain amount every year from the shop-keepers of Chaul, by way of tax. In 1548, the

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76. *Documentos Remitidos da India*, Vol. III, p.261, So far as the other towns under the Portuguese hegemony were concerned, their Municipal Councils appropriated the entire amount for their expenditure. A H U, Mss. India, Cx. 4, doc. 103; de Souza op. Cit, pp. 141-143.

77. *Assentos do Conselho do Estado*, Vol. I; p. 29.

Municipal Council had possessed 150 *pardaos* through this tax<sup>78</sup> and this amount reached to 500 *pardaos* in the year 1580. The same Council had shown a special favour to a certain person<sup>79</sup> who farmed out this tax along with two other taxes. So, the urbanites made complaints to the State on this issue. However in 1581, the Viceroy Dom Luis de Ataide had taken over this tax from the possession of the Council and ordered that the remittance should be made to the State<sup>80</sup> exchequer. Thus, from 1581 onwards, the Municipal Council was deprived from enjoying the income of bazaar tax.

The weaver community was settled in the suburb of the town of Chaul, outside the fortification. This area was under the control of the Portuguese authorities on India. So, the Municipal Council was given the authority to collect a tax<sup>81</sup> called *sirgarra* or loom tax from the weavers. The annual<sup>82</sup> rate of this tax was ten *pardaos* per loom. The Municipal Council ~~was~~ also collected certain amount for issuing<sup>83</sup> licences to the shop-keepers of the town. The Council was in possession of land plots in the town which were rented out to the urbanites. It was collecting certain amount annually<sup>84</sup> from them by way of rent.

Apart from these sources of income to the Municipal Council,

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78. *Subsidios para as historia da India Portugueza*, p.123;

*H A G*, Mss.624, fl.7.

79. *H A G*, Mss.624, fls.7-7v.

80. *B. Mus*, Mss.20861, fl.214v.

81. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no.56, fl.387v.

82. *H A G*, Mss.2320, fl.10.

83. *H A G*, Mss.1247, fl.18v.

84. *B N L*, Mss.456, fl.37.

two more taxes were collected by the State, apparently for the development of the town. In 1580, *renda da hum percento* or one per cent imposition was levied from the merchants, in addition to the customs duties.<sup>85</sup> In 1612, another tax called *consulado* or two percent imposition was introduced which was collected from the merchants on the export of precious metals.<sup>86</sup> While introducing both these impositions, the State made it clear that this income would be used for renovations of the fortification, purchasing of arms and ammunition and for public utilities in the town.<sup>87</sup> But, in 1622, the King of Portugal declared that only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the income that was derived through these taxes would be spent towards public<sup>works</sup> and the rest would be utilized for other purposes.<sup>88</sup>

In addition to these regular sources of income to Municipal Council, incidental grants were offered to the Council by the State from time to time. For instance in 1580, a part of the income derived through toll tax was given to the Municipal Council for maintaining the hospital in Chaul.<sup>89</sup> In 1682, one hundred *xerafins* was given to the Municipal Council towards purchasing the necessary drugs for the apothecary at Chaul.<sup>90</sup> Thus, the Municipal Council had various sources of income to finance its functionings in the

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85. *H A G*, Mss, 624, fl. 19.

86. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol. X, pp. 689-699.

87. *H A G*, Mss. 7750, fl. 14.

88. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 21, fl. 299 and Mss. no. 18, fl. 125; *A H U*, Mss. India Cx. 8, doc. 89.

89. *Stvdia*, no. 6, July, 1960, p. 21.

90. *A H U*, Mss. India Cx. 35, doc. 5.

town, and did provide various jobs to a few urbanites, and obviously salaries were paid to them. Some amount must have been spent for maintaining and cleaning the roads. putting the lamps on the streets etc. Some amount must have been paid to the Councillors towards their honorarium.

#### VI. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE STATE.

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To safe-guard its interest, the crown had nominated the Captain to sit in the session of the Municipal Council. But, his presence was not welcomed by the other elected Councillors who requested the Crown to prevent the nominated member from participating the meetings of the Council.<sup>91</sup> But the Crown flatly refused their appeal and further stressed that his presence during the session would be very much essential.<sup>92</sup> Many a times, the meetings of the Council turned out uncontrollable, whenever the Captain overruled the opinion of the elected Councillors regarding question pertaining to the defence.<sup>93</sup> On the other hand, the Councillors were always anxious to express their sentiments by making complaints against the Captain on every small and irrelevant matters of dispute.<sup>94</sup>

The Jesuits were given the responsibilities by the Crown to safe-guard the finance <sup>to</sup> of the town. The amount derived

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91. de Souza, *Op. cit.*, p. 138.

92. *B. Mus.*, Mss. 20862, fl. 136; *H A G*, Mss. 7746, fl. 13.

93. *B. Mus.*, Mss. 20862, fl. 229; *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 31, fl. 131.

94. *H A G*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no. 7, fls. 61, 166v; *B. Mus.*, Mss. 20861, fl. 136.

through the imposition of one per cent, in addition to the customs duties was deposited by the Jesuits in their college in a large box. This box had four keys. One key was given to the Captain, second to the factor, third to the secretary to the Council and the fourth one remained with the Rector of the Jesuits college.<sup>95</sup>

When the Crown wanted to introduce the tax called *consulado*,<sup>96</sup> Municipal Council opposed the proposal. The Councillors understood well that it would be neither placed under their possession nor it would be utilized properly for the development of their town. Moreover, it would be an extra-tax on its urbanites. But the protest yielded no results, as we have seen that it was introduced in 1622. But, this time the Crown involved the Municipal Council in its administration. The income levied through this source was also kept in a box in the premises of the Jesuits college, but two keys were given to the chairperson and the treasurer of the Council, while one key was kept by the Rector of the same college.<sup>97</sup>

Surprisingly, despite the involvement of Municipal Council in safe-guarding the treasury and the royal order to use this money for public utilities, the Jesuits did not allow the Councillors to take out the money and to use it for the development of the town. However, in their frustration, the

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95. *As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo*, Vol. X, pp. 689-699.

96. *Assentos do Conselho da Estado*, Vol. I, pp. 160-161.

97. *A N T T*, Mss. *Livro das Monções* no, 38. fl. 125.

Councillors took forcible possession of the treasury and such occurrences were repeated quite often.<sup>98</sup> The Jesuits used to complain to the Portuguese authorities at Lisbon and Goa against the Councillors, and insisted on the higherups to punish the members of the Council. In such happenings, the Captain-the representative of the Crown remained neutral.

The King Philip III of Portugal had founded the First Portuguese India Company on 27 August 1628 in Lisbon. He made an appeal to all the Municipalities, both in Portugal as well as in her over-seas colonies, so as to raise the capital towards this new company.<sup>99</sup> When a Royal letter reached Chaul, the Jesuits persuaded the Municipal Councillors to subscribe some capital towards this venture. It is to be noted that the Jesuits were in the possession of the finance of the town. Hence, due to them, the Municipal Council gave 3,700 *pardaos* as its share towards this company 100.

Thus, the Municipal Council was an important institution that was safe-guarding the interests of the urbanites by obtaining favourable policies to them. The composition of the Municipal Council was strictly restricted to the particular section of society, the racial conceit never entered into the minds of its Councillors. It was due to the tacit involvement of them in trade and commerce. We will discuss the role

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98. *Assentos da Conselho da Estado*, Vol. II, pp. 329-330; H A G, Mss. 1421, fls. 31v, 48v and Mss. 1163, fl. 211.

99. B A. Mss. 50-V-37, fls. 503v-504v. A. R. Disney, "The first Portuguese India Company, 1628-1633," *The Economic History Review*, II series, Vol. XXX, no. 2, May, 1977, pp. 242-258.



played by the Municipal Council in trade and economy of Chaul in the subsequent chapters. The Municipal Council used to execute the rules and regulations concerning the town's civic administration through its own chain of the functionaries and carried out the works of public interests through generating funds by way of imposing taxes upon its urbanites. It was an intermediate agency between the State and the urbanitees and tried to maintain harmony between the two. It was an oligarchy norm in the urban center of the Medieval India.

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100. A.R. Disney, *Twilight of the Pepper Empire*, (London. 1978), p .160.