

## CHAPTER V

# INDUSTRIES

### 4. Old Time Industries

Mayurbhanj was noted for various industrial activities in the past. During the medieval period industries like stone carving, pottery, brick making, iron smelting and making of agricultural and household implements, spinning and weaving of tassar, lac growing, oil pressing, etc., are known to be thriving in this territory. The magnificent stone temples at Khiching, Mantri, Badasahi and other places, as well as, richly carved sculptures and images in different parts of the district indicate the industries of stone quarrying, masonry and stone carving which flourished in the past. Specimens of medieval pottery showing a high technique of polish and firing are preserved in the Museum at Khiching. The terracotta industries of Mayurbhanj during the late medieval period was famous in Eastern India. The brick temples and palace at Haripur with their ornamental arches and fine designs, now in ruins, and the remains of the brick fort called Itagada near Kuting testify to the flourishing terracotta industry in this territory. Mayurbhanj being rich in iron-ore, the industry of iron smelting and making of different iron implements was known here since early times. Agricultural implements like sickles, plough shares, hand axes and various household implements of the past have been preserved in the Khiching Museum. The iron smiths of this territory were also known to be experts in preparing swords, shields, battle axes and arrow heads.

Tassar manufacture appears to have been in vogue since very early times. It is known from Mr. Bawari's account that very fine quality of tassar cloth was available in Mayurbhanj during the rule of Maharaja Trivikram Bhanja (1660—1688). The East India Company set up a factory at Balasore for Mayurbhanj tassar. During the 18th and 19th centuries these industries considerably declined, but in the thirties of present century it revived with the patronage of the Durbar administration. Weavers of Bahalda, Binjhula, Kulgi, Mahulipani, Indukhuli, Dalima in Bamanghaty subdivision and Sirsa and Deuli in Baripada subdivision are technically efficient in this trade.

The Santals from early times knew how to grow cotton in their yards and they used to spin and weave coarse cloth. Even now there

are in many villages a few spinning wheels and pitlooms indicating the thriving textile industry in the past. This industry declined with the coming of mill-made cloth, which offered greater attraction for the tribal people.

Lac cultivation was also a major industry in Mayurbhanj and a section of people in Bamanghaty and Panchpir subdivisions cultivated lac as the principal money crop. It was being sold raw in the outside market. A seed lac factory was established at Rairangpur in 1935 to manufacture seed lac, button lac, superfine shellac, T. N. Shellac, kiri and cakes. But the lac trade declined from 1943-44 and the factory had to close down.

During Durbar administration some industries were started which acquired reputation for quality. Important among them were the Mayurbhanj Potteries at Kuldiha, the Glass Factory near Bahalda and the National Vanadium Trust, Ltd., at Rairangpur. These industries had closed down before merger with Orissa. Efforts of the Government of Orissa to revive them have not produced results.

### 85. Power

In February 1907 C. H. Douglas, the Consulting Engineer of the ex-State of Mayurbhanj, surveyed the Kusumbani gorge and submitted a report stating that the gorge having almost perpendicular bank was suitable for power generation. According to his report there was within a radius of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles a continuous waste of energy of 7,300 B. H. P. even in the driest part of the year, all of which was susceptible to hydraulic storage. The Kusumbani gorge along with the Burhabalanga double falls having a total energy of 4,030 B. H. P. might form the nucleus of a transmission scheme.

To generate electric power, negotiations were made with the British Westing-House and Electric Manufacturing Company represented by Mr. Douglas and agreement with them was executed in 1909. But the Maharaja died and nothing came of it.

The Electrical Department of the ex-State started a new scheme in 1928 to provide electric power to the town of Baripada. Installation of machinery and distribution lines were completed in March that year. The demand for electrical energy steadily increased year after year and in 1934 the capacity of the power plant had to be doubled by installing an additional 70 K. W. generating set.

In order to meet the increasing loads of the town a new diesel power house was established in 1944. A major portion of the power used to be consumed for the purpose of lighting and small power loads were given to commercial concerns like flour mills, textile mills, printing press ice cream plants and cinema houses.

The power house was closed in 1961 because of availability of hydroelectric power from Hirakud.

In 1957-58 another power house was established at Kuldiha to meet industrial load at Rairangpur and the neighbouring mining areas. Following transmission lines were constructed:—

- (a) 11 K. V. line: 10 miles long to ensure power supply to Badampahar town and iron mines.
- (b) 11 K. V. line: 6 miles long to Rairangpur town.
- (c) 11 K.V. line: 12 miles long connecting Gurumahisani town and iron mines with Rairangpur.

The power house at Kuldiha was closed in January 1960 when hydroelectric power from Hirakud was available.

The particulars regarding Baripada and Kuldiha power houses are given in Appendix I.

### 86. Mining

In 1910, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo granted under one mining lease the iron mines in Gorumahisani, Badampahar and Sulapat covering an area of 12.08 square miles to the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Earlier, a prospecting licence covering these areas had been granted in 1905.

The firm of Tata Sons & Co. came to terms with the Maharaja in which P. N. Bose played a very important part. Pramatha Nath writes :

“The Maharaja of Mayurbhanj left the settlement of the terms and conditions which led to the foundation of the Tata Iron & Steel Co. to me, and I did my best to arrange them so as to be advantageous to it as well as to the State. Considering that the Tata Iron & Steel Co. was to be a new industrial venture for India, I readily adopted the suggestion of Mr. Perin, one of the most levelheaded businessmen. I have come across, to fix the royalty on a sliding scale.”\*

That is, the firm was to take ore for the first three or four years without any royalty, and then to charge a royalty beginning at  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna ( $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per ton, and gradually rising to 8 annas (8d.) per ton. The average royalty works out over a term of fifty years at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  annas ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per ton. †

\* *TISCO Review*, April 1933

† *Jamsedji Nusservangi Tata*, P 195

On the far-reaching consequences of these negotiations, Pramatha Nath wrote almost prophetically in the Annual Report of the Geological Department—Mayurbhanj State for 1904-1905 :

“That negotiations with Messrs. Tata & Sons have now been practically concluded. Their venture being the first of its kind in India the Maharaja has granted them very liberal terms. But the State will get a fair return not only in revenue but also in numerous advantages incidental to the establishment of an important mining centre within it. Next to land, the iron-ores are the most valuable asset the State possesses, and I may venture to predict, that they will yield a handsome easily collected and gradually expanding revenue for many centuries to come. They may, without exaggeration, be ranked among the most magnificent in the world”.

The lease granted during 1910 was renewed for a further period of 30 years from 1st July 1940, the rate of royalty then being Re. 0.50 P. per ton. Mining in the Gorumahisani iron-ore deposit commenced from 1910. It was the first iron-ore mine, which provided essential raw material to Tata's Steel Works at Jamshedpur. The mine is located about 10 miles east of Rairangpur. The main base camp is at an altitude of 1,080 feet while the elevation of the highest peak is 2,964 feet above sea level.

Raising of ore is mostly done by manual labour drawn from the neighbouring villages. The number of persons employed daily in this mine is about 3,800. The ore is transported mainly by means of 1.5 ton capacity tubs with the help of endless gravity inclines and double line aerial ropeway. Ore is directly loaded into the Railway wagons from the bunker.

The annual production capacity of this mine is about 5 lakh tons.

Working in Badampahar commenced in 1919. Mining is open-cast type. The ore is transported by loco and also by aerial ropeway and endless gravity inclines. The present production is of the order of 3 lakh tons.

Sulaipat commenced production from 1921. The workable mine has been exhausted. It can no more be worked without removing a large block of quartz at prohibitive expense. Since the 1st January 1962 it has been closed down. The number of persons employed before closure was 429. The annual production prior to closure was of the order of one lakh tons.

Among other mines which are in operation, those of China-clay in Panchpir subdivision are the most notable. All these are open-cast and the mining is done by manual labour. 32 Mining Leases have been granted in this district to several private parties for iron-ore, china-clay, asbestos, galena, quartzite, soapstone, etc. A list of mines operating is given in Appendix II.

Although large scale mining started as early as 1910, there has been no mineral based industry either in the district or in Orissa for the utilisation of these minerals. All minerals raised go out. The hope expressed by Maharaja Sriram Chandra at the time of discussion of the Tata Lease in his State Council has remained a dream. It may however be said that Mayurbhanj is contributing substantially to the mineral revenue of Orissa. The following table gives the trend in the production of minerals and the revenue thereof during the span of last 57 years.

Name of Mineral/Ore	Production in Tons				
	1915-16	1929-30	1945-46	1961-62	1964-65
Iron-ore ..	240,268	217,183	901,644	690,067	700,369
China-clay ..	..	..	4,917	34,338	12,034
Asbestos ..	..	..	110	..	56
Quartzite Glass-sand.	..	..	169	..	1,414
Steatite ..	50 mds.	1,800 mds.	..	..	..
Kyanite ..	..	..	523	..	..
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mineral Revenue	17,060 (Approx.)	1,08,510 (Approx.)	2,67,012	4,94,110	7,91,628

## 87. Industries

Although Mayurbhanj is one of the richest districts in India in mineral wealth and has great forest wealth, no heavy or medium scale industry has developed in this district. There are only a few small-scale industries which have recently started. An account of these industries is given below.

**(i) Iron and Steel Industry****(a) MONORAMA FOUNDRY WORKS**

It was established in 1959 at Rairangpur under the Pilot Programme of the State Government to manufacture pipes and electrical base plates. The authorised capital of this company is Rs. 2,50,000 out of which Government have invested a sum of Rs. 1,56,000. The factory went into production in June 1963. Its present production capacity is 70 tonnes for finished products per month approximately. Steps are being taken for marketing of its products in various Government Departments.

**(b) KHANDELWAL IRON AND STEEL CO.**

It was started at Baripada in 1959 to manufacture wire netting and agricultural implements. It is a private concern and its present capital investment is Rs. 1,40,000. There are twenty skilled technical workers and the total production capacity comes to about 200 tonnes per year. The raw materials are mostly imported and are available through quota sanctioned by the Government, while some materials are procured from the Hindustan Steel and Tata Iron & Steel Co.

**(c) ISPAT UDYOG**

It was established in 1960 at Rairangpur with a capital investment of Rs. 75,000. There are twelve workers. The factory manufactures steel trunks, boxes and household utensils. Its production capacity is 100 tonnes per year.

**(d) MAYURBHANJ BUCKET MANUFACTURING Co.**

This was established in 1961 at Baripada as a sister concern of Kahandelwal Iron and Steel Co. Its present capital investment is Rs. 1,10,000. The factory manufactures buckets, drums, etc., for which raw materials are obtained mostly through quotas sanctioned by the Government. The average production capacity is 200 tonnes per year.

**(e) MAYURBHANJ INDUSTRIES**

It was started at Baripada in 1960. It manufactures barbed wire, stainless steel articles, hospital implements, etc. The raw materials are obtained through quotas sanctioned by the Government. The factory also works as a garage and makes necessary repairs for all sorts of engineering works. Twenty technical workers are employed in the factory.

**(ii) Textile Industries****MAYURBHANJ TEXTILE**

It was established by the Durbar Government as the first hosiery factory in Orissa and was being managed by Managing Agents. The factory started production in August 1943. After the merger, the shares of the ex-State were transferred to the Government of Orissa. The terms of the Managing Agents ended on the 15th August 1960. In

pursuance of the Companies Act, 1956, the management was taken over by the Government of Orissa. It is now a public limited company with an authorised share capital of Rs. 6,00,000 and paid-up capital of Rs. 2,43,550. The Government of Orissa have 62 per cent of the shares in the Company.

The finished products of the factory have found markets throughout India and have earned good reputation for quality. Its daily production capacity is 100 dozens of hosiery goods. The workers of the factory are mostly the tribal people of the district and many of them receive training in the factory before employment. There are at present 3 supervisors, 29 skilled workers and 6 unskilled workers.

(iii) Saw Mills and Rice Mills

There are 19 saw mills and 7 rice mills in the district. The saw mills are developing because of increase of trade in timber. There are 4 saw mills at Baripada, 6 at Badampahar, 7 at Karanjia and 2 at Rairangpur. All these mills have been established after 1949.

All the 7 rice mills are located in Baripada subdivision which is the main rice growing area of the district. Majority of the mills are at Betnoti which is an important trade centre for rice. Besides the rice mills there are 10 rice hullers set up in different parts of the district,

(iv) Oil Mills

MAYURBHANJ OIL AND OIL PRODUCTS

This factory started in 1947 with the patronage of the then Maharaja of Mayurbhanj. It was mainly financed by the ex-State which had a share of 50 per cent, the remaining shares being owned by private individuals. It was started with the aim of better utilisation of oil-seeds produced in the area. Besides oil, the other products were soap and glycerine. The assets of the factory were purchased by a private entrepreneur in 1957 and since then it is running as a private concern.

(v) Other Small-scale Industries

There are 6 printing presses in the district, 4 of which are at Baripada and 2 at Rairangpur. The Mayurbhanj State Press owned by the ex-State of Mayurbhanj was donated to Utkal University after the merger and is at present running at Cuttack.

There are 4 cement tile factories all of which are run by private bodies. There are 4 bakeries, 5 wooden furniture units and two vulcanising units, all located at Baripada.

**88. Industrial Estate, Takatpur**

To encourage establishment of small industries an Industrial Estate has been established at Takatpur near Baripada at a cost of Rs. 4,57,000. It consists of 8 'A' type units and 4 'B' type units together with an administrative block and other buildings. The 'B' type units have

been allotted to the Takatpur Powerloom Weavers' Co-operative Society a limited concern, for their powerloom unit. The 'A' type units are yet to be allotted

### 89. Panchayat Industries

Among Panchayat Industries, mention may be made of two tile factories located at Baripada and Karanjia, a Carpentry unit at Betnoti and a Blacksmithy unit at Rairangpur. A sugar factory at Rajaloka and a Hume pipe factory at Gidighati are under construction. There is also a proposal to establish a Polythene factory at Bahalda. These industries mostly utilise the raw materials and labour available in the locality. Almost all of them are financed by the State Government and are managed by Co-operative Societies.

### 90. Cottage Industries

#### (i) Weaving

##### (a) COTTON WEAVING

Several weavers' co-operative societies have been organised at weaving centres of the district, important among which are Chandanpur, Sirsa, Deuli, Takatpur, Khunta, Badasahi, Kaptipada and Bahalda. During 1963-64 there were 29 weavers' co-operative societies having 1,531 members. Members of these societies are given looms jackquard, warping drums, steel reeds and yarn by Government agency. A pattern making factory has been opened at Baripada since 1953.

##### (b) TASSAR REARING AND WEAVING

Tassar weaving was thriving as a cottage industry under the Durbar administration. Since the outbreak of the World War II there has been a slump in this industry. Steps are being taken to bring the tassar weavers under co-operative fold and they are given financial and technical assistance by Government for reviving the trade. Tassar rearing is found in Bangiriposi, Bahalda and in some areas of the Similipal hills. There is a Tassar Seed Station at Bangiriposi and a Central Tassar Depot has been opened at Baripada. Tassar rearing is also done through co-operative societies and there are 8 such societies in the district.

##### (c) MAT MAKING

Mat making is generally found at Kekeipal in Panchpir subdivision. It is made from a kind of reed growing by the side of the Gobarjore and Salandi rivers.

#### (ii) Oil Pressing

The district is notable for production of edible and non-edible oil-seeds. There are 13 oilmen societies and 3 soap manufacturing societies which consume non-edible oil. Nearly 200 oilmen families are benefited by these co-operative societies. The State Khadi and



Village Industries Board have financed these societies in the form of grants and loans. During the period from 1956-57 to 1964-65 the Board have granted a sum of Rs. 73,211 and advanced loan of Rs. 2,73,901 to the oilmen societies. The soap manufacturing societies have been financed by a sum of Rs. 91,000 during the period.

(iii) **Leather Industry**

There are 3 societies for tanning leather from the raw hides available in the district. Vegetable tanning is more popular than chrome tanning and the products of the societies find good market outside the district. The Leather Society at Karanja has a footwear section which is doing profitable business. Nearly sixty families in the district have been provided work throughout the year by these societies. The State Khadij and Village Industries Board are financing this industry.

**91. Handicrafts**

(i) **Stone Carving**

In Khiching and its neighbourhood there are several families of stone carvers. In 1924 when the ruined temples of Khiching were renovated some of these families got opportunities to exhibit their skill. They work on a kind of stone called serpentine which has different colours and shades and is available in the neighbouring localities.

The Khiching Stone Workers' Society has been organised to give employment to the families of stone carvers. The society produces various marketable goods like stone utensils, caskets, images, etc. There is a show room and sale centre at Khiching for these products. The products of the society are considered to be of good quality because of fine texture and polish.

(ii) **Dokra Casting**

Some of the tribal people exhibit skill in casting toys and cult images from bell-metal. In order to encourage this art two co-operative societies have been organised at Bisai and Muruda and about 62 families are engaged in the work of casting. The products of these societies have earned good reputation outside the State.

**92. Industrial Potential and Plans for future development**

As stated earlier the district is rich in mineral and forest wealth. Almost all minerals are exported to the States of Bihar and West Bengal. Excepting a few saw mills there is no industry in the district to utilise the forest-produce. The district is in no shortage of cheap labour and it can get sufficient hydro-electric power from Hirakud. Skilled artisans are also not wanting in the district. There is, therefore, good prospect for development of various industries in this area.

Recent survey conducted by the Directorate of Mining has indicated possibilities of setting up of ferro-vanadium and vanadium pig iron plant, glass factory, pottery manufacturing unit and clay washing unit in the district. A survey undertaken by the Industries Department has also revealed that there is scope for establishment of stone-crushing industry, oil mill, lime-industry, lac industry, hand-made-paper and tile industries.

### **93. Labour and Employees' Organisation and Welfare of industrial labour**

#### **(i) Labour Welfare at Gorumahisani and Badampahar Iron Mines**

The two mining townships of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., are well-laid out with necessary amenities of electricity, water-supply, hospitals and schools. Most of the staff and workers are housed in rent-free quarters. Free education is imparted in the Primary and M. E. Schools run by the Company. Canteens are run where food is supplied at cheap rates to the workers. Well equipped creches have been provided for workers' children. There are club houses with libraries and facilities for indoor games. Free cinema shows are organised periodically for the entertainment of the workers. There are also Employees' Co-operative Credit Societies and Stores at both townships.

#### **(ii) Labour Organisation**

The working class of the district comprises mostly the tribal people. As there are no big industries in the district many of the labourers go outside in search of employment. At present there are 18 trade unions as given in the Appendix III. Eight of the unions are affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress while 2 are affiliated to the Jharkhand Party and one to Praja Socialist Party. The rest probably have no party affiliation. The labourers of the district are simple and hard working and they seldom take resort to strikes. In 1964 no labour strike was recorded in this district as against 20 strikes and lock-outs involving 5,683 workers with 78,749 man days lost in the whole of Orissa that year. In 1965 a single strike involving 9 workers with loss of 9 man days was recorded in this district as against 51 strikes and lock-outs involving 23,297 workers with a loss of 1,24,807 man days in Orissa.

## APPENDIX I

## Baripada Power Station

Year	Number of industrial consumer	Number of Household consumer	Number of units consumed
1957-58 ..	9	589	353,542
1958-59 ..	11	616	443,963
1959-60 ..	11	656	457,225
1960-61 ..	12	734	491,679

## Kuldiha Power Station

Year	Number of industrial consumer	Number of Household consumer	Number of units consumed
1957-58 ..	1	49	11,580
1958-59 ..	2	66	32,334
1959-60 ..	1	39	6,447 ( Diesel)
1960-61 ..	4	34	136,296 (Hydro)

## APPENDIX II

## List of Mines

Name of Mineral/Ore	Name and location of the mine
Iron-ore	.. Gorumahisani Badampahar Hatisikli Jaydhanposi Kasiabera
China-clay	.. Kurma Jashipur Dumuria Chanchbani Jamkesar
Asbestos	.. Chirkubadi
Quartzite	.. Khasadihi

## APPENDIX III

## LABOUR UNITS

1. Badampahar Iron Mines Labour Union
  2. Badampahar Shramika Sangha
  3. TISCO Workers' Union, Badampahar
  4. Gurumahisani Workers' Union, *Ad hoc* Committee
  5. Gurumahisani Workers' Union
  6. Thakur Mazdoor Sangha (Iron Mine and China-Clay Mine)
  7. Pandia Mazdoor Sangha (Iron Mine and China-Clay Mine)
  8. Timber Workers' Union, Badampahar
  9. Mayurbhanj Potteries Workers' Union, Kuldihā
  10. Mayurbhanj Mine Workers' Union, Nagalsila
  11. Passengers' Association, Badampahar
  12. South-Eastern Railway Workers' Union, Bahalda Road
  13. Mine Corporation Workers' Union, Maharajanagar, Jashipur (for State Trading Corporation).
  14. Mayurbhanj Motor Employees' Union, Baripada
  15. Sulaipat Tata Mines Workers' Union
  16. Mayurbhanj Commercial Workers' Union, Baripada
  17. Baripada Government Electrical Workers' Association, Baripada
  18. Mayurbhanj Textile Workers' Union, Baripada
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