

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATION

#### 235. Under Durbar Administration

The idea of associating people with the administration of the State was conceived by Maharaja Sri Rama Chandra Bhajna Deo who was the Ruler of Mayurbhanj State from 1892 to 1912.

The Mayurbhanj State Council was formed to formulate laws and regulations and to sanction budgets for the administration of the State. Both official and non-official members were nominated to this body. Similar steps were also taken by the same Ruler in the formation of the Municipality at Baripada in 1905. It then consisted of fourteen Commissioners excluding the Chairman, most of them being non-officials the system of election was, however, introduced first in the year 1922 when Commissioners were elected from among the rate payers for each of the wards of the Municipality. The next step taken at popular representation was the establishment of Praja Sabhas for various subdivisions in 1939. These were advisory bodies composed of two-third non-official members and one-third officials. The non-official members were elected on the basis of male adult franchise. This was followed by the formation of Central Legislature in 1946 known as Mayurbhanj Kendra Parishad, which again was composed of a majority of non-official members, two-thirds of which were recommended by the different Praja Sabhas. This Kendra Parishad later formed the Constituent Assembly. A State Legislature had also been formed with large scale transfer of power, details of which have been mentioned in Chapters II and XIV.

#### 236. Representation of the District in the State and Union Legislatures

The first General Election was held in 1951-52. For purpose of election to the State Legislature, the district was divided into eight constituencies, two of them being double-member constituencies. Of the total ten seats, five were reserved for Scheduled Tribes, two for Scheduled Castes, and the remaining three were general seats. Details of these constituencies are given in Appendix I.

The election was keenly contested and out of the ten seats in the district, Congress and Socialist parties secured four seats each and of the remaining two seats, one went to the Ganatantra Parishad (now Swatantra) and the other to the Independent (Jharkhand Party). Total

number of valid votes polled in the General Election was 182,895. The votes secured by various political parties were as follows :

Socialist (Now P. S. P.)	..	60,670
Congress	..	54,345
Ganatantra (Now Swatantra)	..	23,662
Independent	..	44,218

The district is represented by one member in the Lok Sabha and for this election the candidate put up by the Congress party was elected defeating his other two rivals. Out of total valid votes of 108,238 the Congress party captured 48,830 votes, the Socialist party (Now P. S. P.) 37,670 and the Independent candidate 21,738.

For the second General Election held in 1957, the total number of seats allotted to this district remained unchanged, but there were a few changes in the party position. The Congress party which captured four seats in the previous election was reduced to 2 and the Praja Socialist Party which was formerly known as Socialist Party came down from 4 to 2. The Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra) which secured only one seat in the first election increased its hold in the district by capturing three seats. The Jharkhand party also captured 3 seats. The seat in the Lok Sabha was captured by an Independent candidate. Out of 194,501 valid votes for State Legislature, the Political Parties secured following number of votes :

#### FOR STATE LEGISLATURE

Congress Party	..	47,293
Praja Socialist Party	..	37,100
Ganatantra (Now Swatantra) Party	..	46,977
Communist Party	..	13,193
Independent including Jharkhand Party	..	49,938

#### FOR HOUSE OF PEOPLE

Total number of valid votes cast	..	97,175
Congress Party	..	22,709
P. S. P.	..	12,530
Ganatantra (Swatantra) Party	..	28,796
Independent	..	33,140

The Two-member Constituencies Abolition Act, 1961 came into force on the 10th March 1961. As it was decided to hold mid-term elections in Orissa in the first week of June 1961, the finalisation of action under this Act assumed special urgency. The Election

Commission was of the view that the elections should be held on the basis of the single member constituency and as a result of such bifurcation total seats allotted to this district remained unchanged at 10 and as usual six seats were reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates. The picture that emerged out of this election was different from that of the previous elections. The Congress Party captured 7 seats and the Praja Socialist Party obtained the other three.

Out of 596,426 citizens eligible to exercise franchise in this district, 172,217 citizens exercised their right. Out of a total of 159,661 valid votes cast, votes secured by political parties were as follows :

Congress Party	..	58,047
Praja Socialist Party	..	36,336
Ganatantra (Now Swatantra)	..	28,306
Communist Party	..	3,790
Independent	..	33,182

For the election to the House of People, the Congress Party captured the seat by securing 33,824 votes. Its rivals were Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra) which captured 26,545 votes and an Independent candidate 13,333.

### 237. Political Parties and Organisations

#### Local and All-India hold on the District

Among the political parties operating in the district, the Indian National Congress, the Swatantra Party, the Praja Socialist Party, and the Communist Party are of All-India standing. The Communist Party has very few adherents.

The Jharkhand Party which has got its organisation in a few districts of Orissa has of late acquired a position of importance in the political domain. Of these parties the Congress, the P. S. P. and Swatantra have got full-fledged organisations. The other parties are less active.

The Congress Party has been able to maintain its hold in the district excepting the election held in 1957. It secured four seats in the first elections, two in the second and seven in the mid-term elections held in 1961.

The Praja Socialist Party has been able to maintain its strength in the district. It secured four seats in the first General Election, two in the second and three in the mid-term elections. The Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra) captured one seat in the first election three in the second and none in the mid-term election

held in 1961. The Jharkhand Party got one of its candidates elected to the State Assembly in the first General Election. It increased its number to three in the second elections, but could not secure any seat in the mid-term elections.

### 238. Newspapers and Magazines

A printing press was first established in Mayurbhanj by Maharaja Krushna Chandra Bhanja Deo (1868—82). A fortnightly paper called 'Mayurbhanj Pakshika Patrika' edited by Sri Hariprasad Das was published from Baripada in April 1879. The main objective of the magazine was to review the political and technical matters of Mayurbhanj in simple Oriya. Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo came to power in 1892 and he started a full-fledged State Press at Baripada from which a monthly literary magazine called 'Utkala Prabha' was published in April 1891 and continued regularly for five years. The aims and objects of this magazine were to encourage the educated community for enriching Oriya literature by contributing articles of merit. This journal published articles relating to science, philosophy, religion, politics, etc. Many young writers took the opportunity and were suitably rewarded. From a private Press at Baripada called the Baripada Sammilani Printing Company's Press, the weekly paper 'Monorama' was published from October, 1905 and continued for four years. It got into trouble for ventilating anti-Bengali tension and had to be stopped. The press was removed to Calcutta. A quarterly journal named 'Mayurbhanj Gazette' published both in English and Oriya started in the year 1931-32. The Oriya edition of the Gazette known as 'Bhanja Pradeepa' started from October, 1934 and the English portion called 'Mayurbhanj Chronicle' from October 1935. 'The Mayurbhanj State Gazette' an official fortnightly publication started in January 1936 and continued till 1949. In 1940-41, a supplement to the Mayurbhanj Gazette named 'The Mayurbhanj Information Bulletin' was published from the 22nd July 1943. 'Chandrika' a monthly literary paper edited by Sri Mahesh Chandra Mohapatra appeared for a year in 1951-52 and then disappeared because of financial troubles. After merger a fortnightly newspaper dealing mostly with local news known as the 'Mayurbhanj Jagarana' was published for a short period in 1963. Another news magazine 'Janata' was published from Baripada, but it is defunct now. From Rairangpur a news magazine in English 'The Hint' also appeared in 1964.

No newspaper or news magazine is published at present from this district. Papers of All-India importance like The Statesman, Hindusthan Standard and Amrita Bazar Patrika and newspapers of State importance like Prajatantra, the Samaj, the Kalinga, the Matrubhumi

are in circulation. Besides these daily papers, periodicals like the Asantakali, the Jhankar, the Niakhunta, Meena Bazar, Sansar, Desh (Bengali), Illustrated Weekly of India (English) are in circulation in the district.

### 39. Voluntary Social Service Organisations

#### (i) Bharat Sevak Samaj

A branch of the Bharat Sevak Samaj is functioning in this district. This branch was inaugurated in 1956. It has one Honorary Convenor as its head and it has extended its scope to the interiors to participate in various nation-building activities. In order to assist the District Convenor in discharging his duties a paid assistant has been appointed. This branch has more than one thousand general members and forty-five active members besides many sympathisers and helping members. The organisation has taken up works in 45 village units. One Lok Karya Kshetra has been opened in the village Sankerko under Badasahi Block. Besides one Honorary Block Convenor, there are three paid workers at present working in the Lok Karya Kshetra. In 1960-61 the Branch organised six camps. Some road construction work has also been done.

#### (ii) District Red Cross Society

This is a branch of the Indian Red Cross Society and has been functioning since pre-merger period. The society has a standing fund of Rs. 8,100 which has been invested in purchase of stock certificate. The income is used for giving financial aid to deserving patients. The District branch also engages itself in other Red Cross activities.

#### (iii) District Council for Child Welfare

The District Council for Child Welfare has been recently organised under the auspices of the State Council for Child Welfare. This body is at present having seventeen members and an official as *ex officio* President of the Council. In 1961, the Council undertook the management of five Social Welfare Centres in the district which were previously managed directly by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board.

#### (iv) Missions

There are two Christian Missions operating in the district. The Protestant Mission at Baripada looks after the Leprosy Asylum at Baripada for which it gets Rs. 5,000 as Government grant annually. The Roman Catholic Mission is functioning at Nangalkata.

**(v) Seva Sangha, Baripada**

It has been started since Durbar time and it functions within the jurisdiction of the Baripada Municipality. This organisation has a stage and an auditorium. There is also a proposal for constructing a Hall.

The main work of the Seva Sangha is to burn the dead bodies of persons who do not have any relatives and also to supply fuel to the poor people for cremation purposes.

**(vi) State Social Welfare Advisory Board**

The activities of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board in the district is confined to giving grants to deserving voluntary institutions concerned with Social Welfare. Five original pattern project centres were initially started by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board during the Second Plan Period (1956-57 to 1960-61) and they are now being managed by the District Council of Child Welfare of which the District Magistrate is the Chairman. The pattern of assistance given by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board which is now being continued by the District Council of Child Welfare can be seen in Appendix II.

**(vii) Co-ordinated Community Welfare Extension Project Centres**

There are ten Welfare Extension Project Centres in Khunta Block II, where one Mukhya Sevika, six Grama Sevikas, two Craft teachers, four Dais and six Balwadi teachers are employed in order to carry on the programmes of welfare of women and children such as Balwadi, milk distribution, Maternity services and Adult education etc.

There is a Chairman of Project Implementing Committee assisted by six non-official members, three officials and three Block Advisory Committee representatives to look into the management of these centres.

Grants from the Central Welfare Board to the institutions operating in the field of Social Welfare flow through its counterpart at the State level and the amount of grant, made to different institutions in the district, is given in Appendix III.

## APPENDIX I

## 1951-52 Election

Panchpir Constituency	.. Double member
Kaptipada Constituency	.. Single member
Khunta Constituency	.. Single member
Baripada Constituency	.. Double member
Bahalda Constituency	.. Single member
Rairangpur Constituency	.. Single member
Bangiriposi Constituency	.. Single member
Muruda Constituency	.. Single member

## 1957 Election

Baisinga Constituency	.. Double member
Udala Constituency	.. Single member
Karanjia Constituency	.. Single member
Jashipur Constituency	.. Single member
Rairangpur Constituency	.. Single member
Bahalda Constituency	.. Single member
Bangiriposi Constituency	.. Single member
Baripada Constituency	.. Double member

## 1961 Election

Baisinga Constituency	.. Single member
Udala Constituency	.. Single member
Karanjia Constituency	.. Single member
Jashipur Constituency	.. Single member
Rairangpur Constituency	.. Single member
Bahalda Constituency	.. Single member
Bangiriposi Constituency	.. Single member
Baripada Constituency	.. Single member
Muruda Constituency	.. Single member
Khunta Constituency	.. Single member

## APPENDIX II

## Welfare Extension Project Centres in Mayurbhanj district for Activities concerning women and children

## ORIGINAL PATTERN PROJECT CENTRES

Name of the Centre	Activity	Budget	Pattern of Assistance
		Rs.	
1. Raghunathpur	Balwadi-cum-Mahila Mandal.	540	Salary of Grama Sevaka-cum-Balawadi Worker, Rs. 45 per month.
2. Purnachandrapur.	..	300	Nashta or supplementary food at the rate of Rs. 25 per month.
3. Podastia ..	..	300	Materials for recreation and education, Rs. 25 per month.
		180	Materials for social education, adult literacy, books, recreation, etc. at the rate of Rs. 15.
4. Sankerko ..	Maternity Indoors.	1,080	Salary of Midwife at the rate of Rs. 90 per month.
		480	Salary of Dai at the rate of Rs. 40 per month.
		730	Medicines at the rate of Rs. 60 per month.
		240	Milk for weak women before, and after delivery at the rate of Rs. 20 per month

Name of the Centre	Activity	Budget	Pattern of Assistance
5. Basipitha ..	Crafts ..	Rs. 720	Salary of trained instructor at the rate of Rs. 60 per month.
		240	Raw materials at the rate of Rs. 20 per month.
		Contingencies for all activities. 500	
	For one centre	5,300	
Total ..	For five centres	26,500	

## APPENDIX II-A

### Co-ordinated Community Welfare Extension Project Centres

There are ten Welfare Extension Project Centres in Khunta-Ij Block, viz., (1) Badakhunta, (2) Ranibandha, (3) Kuamara, (4) Bhandagaon, (5) Chaturi, (6) Saenkela, (7) Kusalda, (8) Pasuda, (9) Balijoda and (10) Baradihi. One Mukhya Sevika, six Grama Sevikas, two Crafts Teachers, four Dais and six Balwadi teachers are employed and carry on programmes on welfare of women and children.

The Chairman of the Project Implementing Committee manages these centres. She is assisted by six non-official ladies, three officials, the Block Development Officer, Khunta, Subdivisional Officer, Kaptipada and Medical Officer, Khunta, as well as three Block Advisory Committee representatives.

## APPENDIX III

Statement showing list of voluntary Institutions in Mayurbhanj district who received Grant-in-aid from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi against equal matching contributions from other sources.

Name and address of the Institutions	Date of Establishment and registration number	Period of sanction	Amount sanctioned	Purpose
1	2	3	4	5
1. Chelia Gruhalakshmi Co-operative Society, P. O. Badasahi.	14-7-1956  No.128/MB, 28-5-1956.	1-1-1957 to 31-12-1957	Rs. 3,000	Vocational training for women.
		1-10-1959 to 31-3-1961	2,000	Construction of worksheds.
			1,000	Equipment for Craft Class.
2. Nari Mangal Samiti, Ageria Grama Panchayat, Betnoti.	1-7-1956	1-1-1957 to 31-12-1957	16,000	Maternity Centre
3. Pedagadi Gruhalakshmi Co-operative Society, Kaptipada.	No.122/MB, 6-6-1956.	1-1-1957 to 31-12-1957	2,500	Vocational training for women including purchase of Sewing Machine.
4. Kasturiba Nari-Samity, P. O. Baisinga.	—	1-4-1959 to 31-3-1960	500	Children's Library
			1,000	Craft class for women.
5. Jabar Sisu Raija, P. O. Baisinga.	..	Ditto	500	Games and Children's sport and equipment.
6. Gunanidhi Mahila Samity, Bairatpur, P. O. Jaida (Udala).	—	1-4-1960 to 31-3-1961	1,500	Craft classes and women's club.
7. Bairatpur Gunanidhi Gruhalakshmi Co-operative Society, Ltd., Bairatpur. Udala.	No.273/MB, 12-7-1960.	1-4-1961 to 31-3-1962	1,500	Consolidation and improvement of the Society.
8. Bijoylakshmi Mahila Samiti, Vill. Manda, P. O. Radho (Udala).	..	Ditto	500	Craft class for women.
9. Gruhalakshmi Mahila Samiti, Radho.	..	Ditto	500	Craft class for women.
10. Nari Mangal Samiti, Vill. Dugudha, P. O. Udala.	..	Ditto	500	Recreational programme of women.