

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

231. Labour Welfare

(i) The district is important from the point of labour employed in mining industries. There are eleven iron-ore mines and five china clay mines, in which about 7,000 workers are employed.

The working class comprises mostly the Adibasis, who work in different spheres as labourers. Majority of them are illiterate. The technical and skilled personnel manning the factories and transport services belong mostly to non-Adibasi classes. Many of the workers depend for their living entirely on the wages they earn from their services. Some of them have cultivable lands which are however inadequate to maintain them through the year.

A District Labour Officer working under the Labour Commissioner, Orissa, has his office at Baripada. He attends to enforcement of Labour laws and welfare of labour.

The Tata Iron & Steel Company have two Welfare Officers at Badampahar and Gorumahisani.

(ii) Activities of Labour Department

The Labour Department, Government of Orissa, has provided 20 industrial tenements under Small Income Housing Scheme at Baripada or the benefit of workers. These tenements have been given on subsidised rent to the workers.

Land has already been taken by the Labour Department at Rai-rangpur for the purpose of constructing a Multipurpose Labour Welfare centre and some industrial tenements.

The District Labour Officer has been declared by the Government as Inspector under the following Labour Acts :

1. Minimum Wages Act
2. Payment of Wages Act
3. Orissa Ships and Commercial Establishments Act
4. Employment of Children Act
5. Factories Act (as Additional Inspector)

The above Acts and Rules framed thereunder are being implemented to safeguard the benefits of the workers. Besides, the labour employed by the contractors are covered under the Fair Wages clause and P. W. D. Electricity Department Contractors' Labour Regulations.

The District Labour Officer is also the Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act.

The Tata Iron & Steel Company have provided various amenities for their workers at Gurumahisani and Badampahar. These have been discussed in Chapter V—Industries.

The State Transport has also provided a Library and Recreation Clubs in the district for its workers.

232. Excise

Prohibition has not been extended to the district because of the preponderance of Adibasi population. Prior to the merger, the Opium Act of 1878 and the Mayurbhanj Excise Act were in force. After merger, the Bihar and Orissa Excise Act, 1915, the Opium Act, 1878, the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 and the Orissa Opium Smoking Laws Act, 1947 came into operation in the district.

In 1957, the Medicinal and Toilet Preparation (Excise Duties) Act, 1955 came into force.

Medicinal opium is supplied to the addicts through Excise Officers. The Doctors in charge of Government hospitals examine the addicts. Only those addicts whom the Doctors recommend get the supply of medicinal opium. They are thus entitled to get at a time their monthly quota or one Tola, whichever is less. Nobody except a registered addict can possess opium. The registered addicts are given opium ration cards signed by the charge Sub-Inspector of Excise and the Medical Officer.

The Civil Surgeon considers appeals made by an opium addict for enhancement of opium quota.

233. Welfare of Backward Classes

(i) Mayurbhanj has been declared a Scheduled District. The total district population in 1961 was 1,204,043 of which 729,764 and 104,273 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes respectively. About 70 per cent of the population is tribal.

The District Magistrate is the head of the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department in the district. From 1st April 1963 to 31st May 1965 the Tribal Welfare section merged with Grama Panchayat section at the district level and the District Panchayat and Tribal Welfare Officer was in charge of these

two sections. But this system has since been discontinued. The District Welfare Officer is now in charge of the day-to-day business of the Department and works under the general control and supervision of the District Magistrate. The Subdivisional Officers and Block Development Officers execute plans and programmes of the department in their respective jurisdictions. The Assistant District Welfare Officers are attached to the Subdivisional Officers while the Rural Welfare Inspectors and Social Workers are attached to the Blocks.

(ii) Educational and Cultural Advancement

The following types of Schools have been opened in the district by the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department.

1. HIGHER TYPE ASHRAM SCHOOL

It was established at Bisai in Bamanghaty subdivision during 1955-56 and is at present manned by seven teachers. It has 59 Scheduled Tribe and 3 Scheduled Caste students on the roll. Students from Ashram Schools get admitted into this school for higher education up to Class XI standard. Specified training in Agriculture and in one of the Crafts like tailoring or carpentry are imparted to them. Each student is eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs. 23. Admission is restricted to students from the seven northern districts, namely, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Sundargarh. Besides the general education and vocational training, the students are trained in village cleaning, sanitation and co-operation. At times, they are taken out in excursions to different places. They are also trained in various kinds of games, adibasi dances and other cultural activities.

2. ASHRAM SCHOOL FOR BOYS

These are residential schools. Admission is open only to the Adibasi students. Education is imparted up to Middle English standard besides training in vocations like carpentry, weaving, tailoring smithy, agricultural operations, poultry rearing, bee-keeping, etc. There are seven such schools in the district each having more than 100 tribal students on the average. These Ashram Schools are located at Nalaguja, Jamda, Chandua, Basipitha, Kendumundi, Sarat and Pondupani. The students in these schools learn the habit of discipline, self-help and live a corporate life. After passing the M. E. School Examination, they are admitted into High School for higher education. Each student is given a stipend of Rs. 20 per month to cover the expenditure of boarding. The mess committee formed in the Ashram School manage the mess under the guidance of the teachers.

On different occasions, the students are taken out to exhibitions and to different places on excursion.

Students other than the Scheduled Tribes are sometimes allowed admission in these schools as day scholars, but they are not eligible for stipends and such other concessions as are allowed to Adibasi students.

The teaching staff of an Ashram School usually consists of a Headmaster, four Assistant teachers, a Tailoring teacher, a Carpentry teacher, an Agricultural teacher and a Hindi teacher.

3. ASHRAM SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS—OR KANYASHRAM

There are two Kanyashrams—one at Rairangpur and the other at Thakurmunda. Education is imparted up to M. E. standard and the students appear at the common Middle English School examination. Besides the Headmistress, there are three Assistant Mistresses on the teaching staff in each Kanyashram.

Apart from the general education, vocational training like tailoring, weaving, music, dancing, poultry rearing, cooking, etc., are provided in the school. Social and cultural activities in line with those in the Ashram Schools for boys are also organised. The girls also go on excursions and participate in various cultural performances.

Each student is eligible for a monthly stipend of Rs. 25 to cover the expenditure for food, clothing and medicine.

4. SEVASHRAMS AND UPGRADED SEVASHRAMS

These are day schools. Though priority is given to the tribal students in the matter of admission, other students are also admitted. They receive education up to L. P. standard in Sevashrams and U. P. standard in Upper Sevashrams. Reading and writing materials and garments are supplied once a year and sometimes twice. In addition to general education they get training in vocations like spinning and gardening and sanitation. There are 26 Upper Sevashrams and 75 Lower Sevashrams. The total strength is 5,871 out of which 3,683 belong to Scheduled Tribes and 602 to Scheduled Castes.

The teachers in the Sevashrams are called 'Sevaks'. Apart from teaching in the Sevashrams, the teachers have other jobs to perform, such as, reading newspapers to the villagers, distribution of common drugs and medicines, settling petty disputes amicably, etc. At times they also join the students in the village sanitation work. Education is free. The Sevashrams provide co-education.

(iii) Economic Uplift

The Mayurbhanj Tenancy Regulation, 1904 conferred on the tenant the tenancy right and contained laws regarding administration of land. Though under this law no provision existed for giving any special

right to the tribals, as a practice, preference was being given to them in the matter of granting lease of land. This was prevalent during Durbar Administration. It continued after the amalgamation of Mayurbhanj with the State of Orissa and the tribals got preference over non-tribals in getting lease of land.

The Durbar Administration made ample provisions to protect the interest of tribals in the transfer of their immovable properties to non-tribals so that the latter could not take advantage of the backwardness and ignorance of the tribals. The policy is being continued.

(iv) Housing facilities

During the period from 1955 to 1965 Government have sanctioned Rs. 3,80,850 for building 550 units of houses for the Scheduled Tribes and Rs. 65,955 for building 102 units for the Scheduled Caste people of the district.

(v) Village Welfare Centres

Eight such centres have so far been established in the district. The Village Welfare Guide holds charge of the centres and works in twelve adjoining villages. He conducts Night schools, distributes medicines, helps in improving village sanitation, persuades the villagers to bring about amicable settlement of petty disputes, gives assistance to start industries like bee-keeping and poultry rearing. Above all, he is to exert his best to give to the people an impetus to participate in all developmental activities carried out in the village.

The Village Welfare Centres are located at the following places :

Baripada Subdivision	..	1. Budhikhamari
		2. Patharnesa
		3. Joka
Bamanghaty Subdivision	..	4. Tiring
Kaptipada Subdivision	..	5. Ranibandh
Panchpir Subdivision	..	6. Tatto
		7. Mahuldiha
		8. Chainbainsa

(vi) Medical relief

Two Allopathic dispensaries have been started by the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department of which one is located at Chandua in the Baripada subdivision and the other at Bijatola in the Bamanghaty subdivision. One Mobile Health Unit has also been established at Chitraposi in Panchpir subdivision.

An Ayurvedic dispensary and a six-bedded hospital are under construction at Balidihā in Baripada subdivision and Sarat in Kaptipada subdivision. One Maternity ward has been constructed at Rairangpur in 1958-59. It is attached to the Rairangpur Hospital.

234. Charitable Endowments

(i) Ratha Charan Kaikei Prize Fund

Shri Hari Krishna Patnaik of Rairangpur has donated Rs. 100 (one hundred) for the R. K. Trust Fund in the memory of his parents.

The Subdivisional Officer, Bamanghaty administers the said fund. The Headmistress of the Rairangpur Girls' Middle English School awards the prize out of the accrued interest of the fund to a girl student of that school adjudged best in cooking.

(ii) Ichhabati Devi Medal Fund

Shri Radha Gobinda Das, I.A.S. (Retd.) of Baripada has donated a Government Promissory note of 4 per cent Orissa Government loan of 1958 on the face value of Rs. 500 (five hundred) to be applied in trust for award of a medal in the memory of his mother Ichhabati Devi.

The District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj is the administrator of the Fund.

Out of the income accruing from the said fund, the Headmistress of the Prem Kumari Girls' High School, Baripada, awards a silver medal every year to the most accomplished student of the said school and such number of books with the medal as the fund permits. In choosing the girl, her spiritual bias and piety are preferred among other accomplishments.

(iii) Maharaja Purna Chandra Scholarship Fund

Routrai Saheb Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo has endowed a scholarship fund of which the Maharaja is the administrator. He has invested Rs. 50,000 in 4 per cent Government Securities and has appointed a committee for the management of the proceeds of the fund. The proceeds of the fund are to be spent in awarding scholarships to residents of Mayurbhanj not exceeding Rs. 50 a month each for technical education.

(iv) Sriram Chandra Bhanja Memorial (Water Supply) Fund

The fund was created in 1920 for the purpose of irrigation in Mayurbhanj. Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja was taking special interest for irrigation schemes and as such the fund was intended to commemorate the works of this enlightened ruler. The Durbar Government was contributing a sum of Rs. 10,000 every year towards the corpus of this fund. By the time of merger on 1st January 1949 an amount of Rs. 81,546 was in the Mayurbhanj State Bank

to the credit of this fund. By 1960 the total amount in the credit of the fund was Rs. 86,120 out of which Rs. 67,835 was spent on various water-supply schemes of the district. The Collector is the administrative officer of this fund.

(v) **Hobby Prize Fund**

Shri Nilamani Senapati, I. C. S., then President, Board of Revenue who is an old boy of Krushna Chandra High School at Baripada (which was previously called Mayurbhanj Raj High English School) has donated three per cent Government Promissory note of the face value of Rs. 600 to be applied in trust for the award of prizes from the income therefrom. The District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj administers the fund.

Object—The object of the donation is to encourage hobbies among those students who will do well in their studies. The income accruing from the said fund shall be spent on awarding two prizes of the value of Rs. 9 and Rs. 6 for the first and second prizes respectively. As desired by the donor, the competition for the prizes should be confined to the top three students in General Proficiency. Only the student of the M. K. C. High School, Baripada are eligible for it.

Procedure

Both boys and girls shall be allowed to compete. Students should not be allowed to compete in subjects allied to the subjects they have taken up for study in class examinations.