

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

216. Labour Welfare

Out of the total population of 1,508,686 persons in the district 132,382 are agricultural labourers. Besides, 31,339 persons who are primarily land owners, have to work as labourers in other's farms to supplement their income. Since agriculture provides seasonal employment, the labourers find work in miscellaneous types of work not connected with agriculture in and around the village. The wages they get are insufficient to provide them with their bare necessities of life. Socially and economically these families form the weakest section of the society. From time to time, attempts have been made to devise means as to how to improve the economic condition of this large section of the rural community which is 23.4 per cent of the total rural families in the district. On account of excess of labour supply the wages they get are very low except in busy seasons of farm operation. Although a minimum wage has been prescribed by the Government, at times the labourers are forced to accept something which can hardly be called wages for work. They are underemployed and undernourished. Release of population from land and provision of non-farm employment on a wide scale will improve their condition.

Besides agriculture, factories, commercial establishments, construction works, etc. provide employment to a large number of labourers of the district. Most of the industrial establishments located in the urban areas are exceedingly small in size. These units provide employment to a small section of industrial labourers. In comparison to some other districts of Orissa, Sambalpur is industrially developed and contains a number of big factories located at Hirakud, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Brajarajnagar, and Belpahar. So far as economic conditions of these labourers are concerned they are a little better than the agricultural labourers.

To protect the interest of the labourers the State Government have fixed the minimum wages for different categories of employment as far back as 1960. The service condition of factory workers are regulated by various labour laws in force. The workers of a few major industries or State Transport Organisation have their own labour unions which look after the rights and privileges of their members. These workers are provided with recreational, cultural and educational facilities and maintain a better standard of living than the other labourers. Generally

the labourers of the district are illiterate and are not aware of their privileges. They get wages less than the minimum rate of wages fixed by the Government.

The office of the Labour Department in the district located at Sambalpur maintains contact with the employers, workers and trade union representatives and is responsible for enforcement of various labour laws relating to non-payment of wages, overtime work, discharge or termination of service etc. Most of the industrial disputes are settled through conciliation, failing which they are settled through voluntary arbitration. Cases are also referred to adjudication according to the gravity of the case.

To provide better housing facilities to the industrial labourers the State Government have constructed 50 tenements at Sambalpur and 20 tenements at Jharsuguda. There are two Multipurpose Labour Welfare Centres run by the Government and some voluntary labour welfare centres aided by the Government are being organised by the workers in the district. These centres provide cultural, educational, and recreational facilities to the workers and to their families.

The following labour laws are in force in the district:

1. Indian Factories Act
2. Minimum Wages Act
3. Payment of Wages Act
4. Employment of Children Act
5. Orissa Shop and Commercial Establishment Act
6. Trade Union Act
7. Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act
8. Fair Wages Clauses and Contractor Labour Regulation
9. Workmen's Compensation Act
10. Employees' State Insurance Scheme
11. Employees' Provident Fund Act
12. Motor Transport Workers Act
13. Industrial Dispute Act
14. Beedi and Cigar (Condition of Employment) Act
15. Maternity Benefit Act
16. Orissa Industrial Housing Act
17. Payment of Bonus Act

217. Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes :

The district has a large backward population which is nearly two thirds of the total population. The backward classes are broadly subdivided into (a) scheduled tribes, (b) scheduled castes and (c) other backward classes. The scheduled tribes and scheduled castes population in the district totalled 439,405 and 214,985 respectively in 1961 Census. The scheduled tribes and scheduled castes form distinct sections of the population both from economic and social points of view. All the castes enlisted by the State Government as other backward classes are not economically backward. But there are not many from among these classes in the educated professions.

The State Government has created a separate department at the State level as well as at the district level to deal with problems of the backward classes in respect of educational, cultural and economic development.

(a) Education

During 1931, there were 20 primary schools specially meant for depressed-class students attended by 714 pupils. The total number of such children attending all schools was 1,981. There were 2 primary schools specially meant for scheduled tribes attended by 95 pupils, while the total number of such pupils in all classes of schools was 1,990.

At present there are 157 Sevashrams (Primary schools) functioning in the district having a total strength of 12,671 students, out of which 6,711 belong to scheduled tribes, 3,572 to scheduled castes and the rest 2,387 to other backward classes. The teaching staff consists of 335 members including 5 females. Besides, there are 4 high schools, 4 M. E. schools, including one for girls. The total number of pupils being 1,106. Nearly rupees four lakhs have been spent so far to provide such students with hostels in different schools. The Government, awards scholarships to backward class pupils from class IV to Class XI in all schools and provides reading and writing materials to such students from class I to III. During 1968-69 a sum of Rs. 35,471 was spent for supply of text books and writing materials. Rs. 3,44,508 was spent in awarding scholarships to 1,914 students belonging to scheduled tribes, 669 students belonging to scheduled castes and 121 students belonging to other backward classes during 1968-69, reading in M. E. and high schools of the district. 15,130 primary school students were benefited with scholarships and in shape of text books and writing materials etc. and an amount of Rs. 1,11,390 was spent during 1968-69.

(b) Economic schemes for upliftment of backward classes and tribes

For economic development of backward class people attention is being given to improvement of agriculture and reclamation of land. In order to discourage the practice of Podu or shifting cultivation,

Government have sponsored the scheme of settling the Adibasis in colonies in plains. Families resettled in such colonies are supplied with lands and agricultural implements free of cost, while subsidy in cash is given for building houses and reclamation of fallow lands. Upto the end of 1967, 360 Adibasi families have been settled in 10 rehabilitation colonies in the district at an expense of Rs. 3,87,286. Facilities for irrigation, drinking water, roads, and schools are provided in these colonies.

The Government have started 61 Grain Golas to provide the backward people paddy and cash loans at a low rate of interest. Schemes are also being worked out for development of cottage industries and crafts through co-operative societies.

(c) Health and Sanitation

Apart from the general medical facilities available in the district two six-bedded hospitals located at Naikul and Jamseth, an allopathic dispensary at Jharbandh and an Ayurvedic dispensary at Kandheikela have been constructed for the benefit of the tribal people of the locality for improvement of sanitary condition of these people. Rs. 6,72,353 was spent to construct 1,049 hutments and Rs. 7,13,423 for supply of drinking water in rural area. Besides, for improvement of communication facilities 900 kms. of village roads and 118 culverts and causeways have been constructed for which a sum of Rs. 3,38,415 has been spent up to the end of 1967-68.

218. Prohibition

Prohibition of drinking liquor has not been enforced. But some measures to control consumption of intoxicants have been enforced from time to time. The Excise Acts in force in the district are discussed below.

(a) *The Opium Act of 1878*—The object of the Act is to exercise control over free use of opium and its preparations.

(b) *The Bihar and Orissa Excise Act 11 of 1915*—This Act provides measures to control excess indulgence in all kinds of excisable articles and to ban unauthorised manufacture, possession, transport and sale of all kinds of excisable articles except as provided in the Act.

(c) *The Orissa Opium Smoking Act 11 of 1928*—The aim of this act is to ban the smoking of Opium in any form within the State.

(d) *The Dangerous Drugs Act 11 of 1930*—The object of this Act is to control free use of morphia, cocaine and its alkalies.

(e) *The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations duties Act of 1956*—This is a Central Act extending throughout the country. The objective of this Act is to control improper manufacture and use of medicinal and toilet preparations containing rectified spirit and dangerous drugs.

(i) Crimes

The nature of crimes generally committed are illicit distillation and manufacture of pachwai or rice beer. Cases of smuggling in *Ganja* and opium from the neighbouring States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are also found. But the general tendency of the people is towards distillation of cheap liquor and manufacture of pachwai. In areas inhabited by tribal people raw material is available in plenty for distillation of cheap liquor and the Adivasis are privileged to manufacture pachwai freely. In inaccessible tracts illicit distillation goes unhindered. The local people also do not come forward to co-operate with the preventive staff for the detection of crimes.

(ii) Medicinal opium

In 1948-49 a census of the opium addicts was taken in order to enforce a scheme of gradual prohibition in opium within a period of ten years. A quota was fixed for each addict as per requirement. The quota was revised every year with a reduction of 10 per cent and by 1958-59 supply of opium was completely stopped. But since the scheme created certain amount of hardship to the addicts of advanced age and sickly persons, they were again registered by Government Doctors from the 1st April 1959 to the 31st March 1961. On the whole 990 addicts were registered for supply of medicinal opium. A quota of 19 kgs. per month was prescribed for them. Due to short supply of medicinal opium from the Ghazipur factory, through the agency of Central Depot at Cuttack full quota could not be supplied to the Card-holders. Resurvey of the addicts was taken up and the number was reduced to 837 after elimination of the ghost cards. Thus the quota for 837 addicts comes to 16 kgs. a month. During 1968-69, 80 kg. 450 grams were supplied which was the highest during the last 5 years. When 192 kgs. is the actual requirement per year it is obvious that either the prescribed amount is exaggerated or the addicts are getting the drug from black market.

(iii) Cultivation and manufacture of Ganja

Ganja cultivation was taken up by a private person at Jharsuguda in 1949-50. Next year three persons were given licenses for cultivation. Their number rose to five during 1951-52. The State Government also took up cultivation in the Agricultural Farm at Sambalpur during the same year on an experimental basis. At present there are four *Ganja* fields located at Deogan, Dhankauda and Godigan and the cultivation covers an area of 38 acres. The products are also supplied to other districts of the State according to requirements. There is prospect of increasing the area under cultivation in Deogarh area where the soil and the climate are suitable.

(iv) Excisable goods

A limit has been fixed for sale and possession of excisable goods in the district as given below :—

1. Foreign liquor—

(a) Spirits and Wines	..	18 litres
(b) Beer	..	19.5 litres
(c) Medicated Wines	..	18 litres
(d) Rectified spirit	..	At the discretion of the competent authority.

2. Commercial spirit—

(a) Denatured spirit	..	4 litres
(b) Methylated spirit	..	4 litres

3. Country spirit—

(a) Distillery spirit	..	3 litres
(b) Liquor prepared in out still system.	3 litres	

4. Fermented Liquor—

(a) Pachwai (handia) diluted	..	18 litres
(b) Pachwai undiluted	..	7 litres

5. Fermented tari

.. 4 litres

6. Drugs—

(a) Ganja	..	35 grams
(b) Bhang	..	230 grams
(c) Medicinal opium	..	As per individual ration card.
(d) Medicine containing opium, etc.	Under	doctor's prescriptions.
(e) Morphine and its preparations	}	Used strictly under the prescription of a physician.
(f) Cocaine and its preparations		

The quantity of excisable commodities consumed during 1964-65 to 1968-69 is given below :—

Name of the commodity	Consumption				
	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
Country liquor	901,524 (litres)	948,700 (litres)	691,252 (litres)	884,256 (litres)	522,366 (litres)
Foreign liquor	8,777 (litres)	7,597 (litres)	7,578 (litres)	7,583 (litres)	10,621 (litres)
Ganja ..	1,830 kgs. 250 grams	2,201 kgs. 35 grams	2,348 kgs. 250 grams	2,415 kgs.	2,857 kgs.
Bhang ..	29 kgs.	42 kgs. 250 grams	41 kgs. 500 grams	38 kgs. 500 grams	44 kgs.
Opium .. (medicinal)	74 kgs. 946 grams	49 kgs. 982 grams	62 kgs. 644 grams	62 kgs. 416 grams	80 kgs. 450 grams

219. CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

(i) Nethersole Trust Fund

This fund was created in notification No. 8789, dated the 19th December 1892 of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, Nagpur out of the collection made by the officials in the settlement Department in 1899 to commemorate Mr. W. Nethersole, once Settlement Officer, Sambalpur. The corpus of the Fund is Rs. 400. The Secretary, High Schools Committee, Sambalpur, is the administrator. The income is utilised in awarding an annual prize of Rs. 16 to a student of the High School of Sambalpur who secures highest percentage of marks in the Entrance Examination, provided the successful student is of Oriya parentage of the Sambalpur district and has studied one year at the High School, Sambalpur.

(ii) Morris Memorial Fund, Sambalpur

This fund was created in notification No. 6555, dated the 21st September 1892 of the Chief Commissioner, C. P., Nagpur by the collection made by the people of Sambalpur. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 18,000. It is administered jointly by the Headmaster, Chandrasekhar Zilla School and the District Magistrate, Sambalpur. The income should

be utilised in awarding three scholarships of the annual value of Rs. 90 each, tenable for two years at any college in Orissa, to the residents of the district of Sambalpur educated at the Sambalpur Zilla School. The balance available after the award of such scholarships should be used for the grant of free studentship to poor and meritorious students of the school who are residents of the district of Sambalpur.

(iii) The Kusumakumari Prize Fund, Sambalpur

The fund is created out of the donation made by Babu Chandra Kumar Chatterjee, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, C. P. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 500. It is administered by the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur. The income should be utilised in awarding a prize to one of the students of the Sambalpur Zilla School, who stands first in the Matriculation Examination.

(iv) The Borasambar Lewis Medal Fund

The fund was created out of a donation made by the Raja Lal Rajendra Singh Bariha Bahadur, Zamindar of Borasambar of Sambalpur in memory of Mr. W. H. Lewis, Deputy Commissioner. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 900. The Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur and the Subdivisional Officer, Bargarh are the joint administrators of the Fund. The income should be utilised on the annual award of medal to the student of the George High English School, Bargarh, who stands first in Matriculation Examination.

(v) Mahant Bihari Das Medal Fund

The fund was created on the donation made by Shri Nilambar Das Mahant of Gopalji Matha at Sambalpur in Commemoration of his late Guru Mahant Bihari Das. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 600. It is administered by the Headmaster, Sambalpur Zilla School. The income should be utilised in the award of a medal, to be called 'The Mahant Bihari Das Medal' to a student of Sambalpur Zilla School, who passes matriculation examination securing highest marks in compulsory sanskrit.

(vi) The Baker Medal Fund

The fund was created out of the surplus of amount collected to celebrate the visit to Sambalpur of Sir Edward Normal Baker, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 600. The Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur is the administrator of the fund. The income should be utilised in the annual award of a medal to the student of the Sambalpur Zilla School, who stands first at the Matriculation Examination from amongst the students of that school in the year.

(vii) The Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund

This fund was created with a portion of the balance of the Victoria Memorial Fund, Sambalpur. The corpus of this fund is Rs. 11,500. The Subdivisional Officer, Bargarh and the District Inspector of Schools, Sambalpur are the joint administrators. The income should be spent on the annual award of a scholarship of five rupees a month tenable for six years at the George High School, Bargarh to a poor and deserving student of any school in the Bargarh Tahsil who obtains the highest marks in the U. P. Scholarship Examination provided the income of the guardian does not exceed Rs. 500 a year. The student must not be over 14 years of age on the date of selection for the scholarship.

(viii) The Sarojini Devi Trust Fund

The fund was created with a donation made by Rai Bahadur K. C. Sen. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 170. It is administered by the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur. The income should be spent on the payment on the salaries of the teachers of the Sambalpur Girls School.

(ix) Pravas Kumari Devi Daridra Narayan Trust Fund

This fund was created out of the sum left by late Pravas Kumari Devi, Zamindarini of Barpali of the district of Sambalpur for the purpose of charity. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 22,001. It is administered by the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur. The income should be utilised in distributing food and clothings among the poor school children of Barpali *Illaka* on the death anniversary day of Late Pravas Kumari Devi.

(x) The Goodridge Endowment Fund

The fund was created with the donation made by Jhon Perch Goodridge, Esq., I. C. S. (Retd.). The corpus of the Fund consists of some landed property and securities worth Rs. 100. It is administered by the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur. The income should be spent for the maintenance of pauper lepers.

(xi) The Purnima Medal for Proficiency in Music

The fund made out of the donation made by Shri Bharat Chandra Nayak of Sambalpur in commemoration of his deceased daughter, Purnima. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 300. It is administered jointly by the District Magistrate, Sambalpur and the Headmistress, Lady Lewis Girls' School, Sambalpur. The income should be spent on the award of a medal to the winner in music competition among the girls of Lady Lewis Girls' School, Sambalpur.

(xi) Indumati Medal Fund

This fund was created with the donation made by Miss Snehakana Dutta. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 300. It is administered by the Head Mistress, Lady Lewis Girls' High School, Sambalpur. The income should be spent on award of a silver or silver-plated medal to the best all-round girl promoted from Class VII to Class VIII of the said school.

(xii) Mrs. Hemlata Mansingha Prize Fund

This fund was created by a donation by Mrs. Hemlata Mansingha. The corpus of the fund is Rs. 300. The administrator of the fund is the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur. The income of the fund is utilised in awarding a medal to the best social worker of the Gangadhar Meher College, Sambalpur.