



GAZETTEER OF INDIA

ORISSA

SAMBALPUR

ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



SAMBALPUR

BY

SHRI NILAMANI SENAPATI, I.C.S. (Retd.)

Chief Editor

SHRI BHABAKRUSHNA MAHANTI, I.A.S.

State Editor

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT
ORISSA GOVERNMENT PRESS
CUTTACK-3
1971

PREFACE

The first Gazetteer of Sambalpur district was written by O' Malley in 1909. It was revised by King in 1932. The district then covered the areas now occupied by the subdivisions of Sambalpur¹, Bargarh, and Padampur. The present Gazetteer covers the old district and the three new subdivisions of Deogarh, Kuchinda, and Rairakhol which accreted to Sambalpur district in 1948 in consequence of the operation of surrender of Ruling power by Princes which has been called in the text "Merger of States" or "Integration of States". Cobden-Ramsay had written the Gazetteer of the 26 Feudatory States of Orissa in 1907. It included the states of Bamra and Rairakhol which are now the subdivisions of Deogarh, Kuchinda, and Rairakhol. In the present Gazetteer, full use has been made of the work of O' Malley, King, and Cobden-Ramsay. They have been extensively quoted to compare the vastly changed conditions in the present day.

Geologist Ball, Archaeologists Beglar and Jayswal, Motte-the traveller and Settlement Officers Dewar, Nethersole and Hamid have been quoted. Extensive quotations have been taken from the autobiography of Senapati (Chief Editor of this volume) which gives a contemporary account of conditions prevailing between 1930 and 1934 when he was Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Vast changes have taken place during the last two decades. A visitor to Sambalpur today would feel like Rip Van Winkle waking up after long years of sleep. A huge lake, large areas criss-crossed with canals, corn swaying in the fields in summer indeed a Green Revolution, electric and telephone wires covering the sky, H. T. Electric towers, looking like huge skeletons standing in fields and forests to carry electric power, are all signs of a new look. Growth of heavy and light industries in and around Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, and Bargarh has transformed the pastoral countryside into centres humming with activity and concentration of people both from within and out side the district. Life in rural areas is also very different. *Zamindars*, *Gauntias*, and *Chaukidars* are no longer there. Gone also are *Deraghars* and *Dharsas*. One who knew Sambalpur of old may view these with nostalgia. All today and in future will regret the rapid disappearance of wild life. The majestic tiger, the cunning leopard and pretty spotted deer are nearing extinction. Gone also is lac, the resin of a wild insect. *Tassar*, the strongest of all textiles, has so deteriorated that people prefer synthetic fibres. You no longer see cocoons being sold in village markets. Where you could see hundreds of bullock carts moving leisurely on dust roads, you now find Diesel trucks racing on black topped roads

(1) Excluding 61 villages of Padampur (Mahadeopali) PS.—vide p. 4.

polluting the atmosphere by the masses of smoke emitted by their exhausts. The *Dhenki* which used to pound rice is no longer seen or heard. It has been replaced by rice-hullers and giant rice mills. The old way of life is gone for ever *.

In compiling this volume, we have received the assistance of many. We first mention the Casey sisters, Miss Peggy Casey, Miss Madge Casey and Mrs. Clare Morris who presented us the weather record kept at their father's Sisal Hemp Estate at Nildungri for 37 years.

The glossary has been added to explain many Oriya words used in the text and the Index has been split into two parts—general and place names, the object being to open up research into their meaning. It may have important bearing on history and geography of the country. The spelling of place names in the Map and in the text has followed the maps published by the Survey of India which some times differs from the local spelling.

The map at the end is in scale 1 : 12,50,000 (or 1 cm : 12½ Km). A more detailed map could not be printed on account of restriction imposed by the Government of India. The more detailed maps have been given in similar scales on particular subject to which they refer such as canals, roads and forest roads, mineral and geology, etc.

An omission in this volume is a picture of Veer Surendra Sai. Although pictures of him have appeared at other places we could not get an authentic original. As photography was not known at the time a picture could only have been either a painting or drawing. No such original with its authorship has been found.

For brevity, abbreviations have been used in the text. "Community Development" referred to as "C. D." was introduced in different stages, namely Stage I, Stage II and Post-Stage II. A Stage I C. D. Block is one for which a schematic allotment of Rs. 12 lakhs is made for development work to be done within a minimum period of 5 years. Similarly, Stage II Block has a schematic allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs. A Post-Stage II Block succeeds a Stage II Block and it has no specific allotment of funds.

There are many references in the text to Five Year Plans. The periods covered by the Plans are:--

1st Five-Year Plan	.. April 1951 to March 1956
2nd Five-Year Plan	.. April 1956 to March 1961
3rd Five-Year Plan	.. April 1961 to March 1966

After three years of annual plans, the Fourth-Five Year Plan started in April, 1969.

* Vide Chapter IX.

The Gazetteer was compiled in the Gazetteers Section of the Revenue Department and placed before the Advisory Committee which consisted of—

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Chief Minister | .. | Chairman |
| 2. Minister, Revenue | .. | Member |
| 3. Deputy Minister, Revenue | .. | Member |
| 4. Chief Secretary | .. | Member |
| 5. Member, Board of Revenue | .. | Member |
| 6. Secretary, Revenue | .. | Member |
| 7. Dr. Pranakrushna
Padmabhusan. | P a r i j a, | Member |
| 8. Chief Editor, Gazetteers | .. | Member-Secretary |

It was sent to the Government of India and their comments considered. We will be failing in our duty, if we do not express our thanks to Dr. P. N. Chopra, M. A., Ph. D., Editor, District Gazetteers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Ministry of Education and Youth Services, New Dehli for their effective role in planning and co-ordinating the work of preparation of the District Gazetteers. The unit scrutinized the draft of this volume with great care and made several helpful suggestions with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication. It may also be mentioned here that a portion of the expenditure incurred on the publication and printing of the District Gazetteers is being met by the Government of India.

We have had ungrudging assistance of local officers of Ministries of Communications, Railways, and Finance; and all Departments of the State Government of Orissa and their local officers whom we had occasions to approach. We are particularly thankful to the Deputy Director, Map Publication for printing the maps, and to Dr. Banshidhar Prusti, Director of Mines, Shri Bijoy Krishna Mohanty Deputy Director of Mines, Shri Brundaban Misra, Joint Director of Agriculture and Dr. Bidyadhar Padhi, Professor of Botany, Utkal University for their valuable assistance. Chapter II on History has been drafted by Dr. Kishori Mohan Patra, Reader in History, Utkal University.

The following staff of the Gazetteers Section have worked ungrudgingly to complete the task and to go through the tedious and tiring work of proof reading—Shri Jamini Kanta Jagdev, Research Officer, Shri Mahendra Chandra Das, Officer on Special Duty Compilers Shri Amulya Kumar Satpathy, Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik and Shri Prafulla Behera; Assistants

Shri Pranakrushna Satpathi and Shri Sarat Chandra Mahapatra; Stenographers Shri Pratap Kumar Ray and Shri Nrusimha Charan Satpathi; and Typists Shri Satyananda Mohapatra, Shri Durga Charan Mahapatra, Shri Braja Kishore Parida and Shri Akshaya Kumar Barik. In spite of several proof readings, the final printed copy has a large number of mistakes, for which the indulgence of the reader is invited.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Nabin Kumar Sahu who did considerable spade work before the chapter on History could be compiled and collected some materials for Chapter XIX.

Finally, we acknowledge the valuable work of the Orissa Government Press, of the Superintendent and of his staff who have worked hard to keep to the time schedule.

Republic Day, 1971

NILAMANI SENAPATI
BHABAKRUSHNA MAHANTI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

General

PAGES

Introducing the district—Origin of the name of the district—Location, General boundaries, total area and population—History of the district as an administrative Unit—Topography—Hill system—River system—Springs, waterfalls, lakes and tanks—Appendices I to VI. 1—47

CHAPTER II

History

Pre-History and Proto-History—Archaeology—Early History—The Sarabhauriyas—The Panduvamsis—The Somavamsis—The Telgu—Chodas—The Kalachuris—The Gangas—The Chauhans—The Marathas—Early British Administration—Mutiny and Surendra Sai—Freedom Movement—History of ex-States of Bamra and Rairakhol. 48—97

CHAPTER III

People

Population—Migration—Distribution of population—Displaced persons—Language—Castes and Tribes—General structure of Castes—General structure of Tribes—Religious beliefs—Manners and customs—Burial system—Inter-caste relations—Social life—Home life—Communal life—Festivities—Appendices I to IV. 98—140

CHAPTER IV

Agriculture and Irrigation

Tracts of fertility—Land utilisation—Irrigation—Soil Conservation—Soil—Principal Crops—Agricultural Implements—Seeds—Crop rotation—Manures and Fertilisers—Crop diseases and Pests—Co-operative Farming—Research Station—Farms—State Assistance to Agriculture—Package Programme—Animal Husbandry—Animal diseases—Livestock—Fisheries—Forestry—Natural Calamities—Statements I to III. 141—203

CHAPTER V

Industries

Old time Industries—Power—Mining—Large-scale Industries—Small-scale Industries—Cottage Industries—Industrial Arts—Industrial potential and plans for future development—Labour and Employers' Organisation—Welfare of Industrial labour—Appendices I to V. 204—231

CHAPTER VI

Banking, Trade and Commerce

History of Indigenous banking—General credit facilities—Private money lenders—State Bank of India and other banks—Co-operative Banks—Life Insurance—Trade and Commerce—Merchants' Associations—Weights and Measures—Time—Appendices I to VI.	252—257
--	---------

CHAPTER VII

Communications

Old time Trade routes—Road Transport—National Highway—State Highway—Major District Roads—Other District Roads—Revenue Roads—Municipal Roads—Village Roads—Forest Roads—Vehicles and conveyances—Public Transport—Rail Roads—Water ways—Ferries—Aerodromes—Travel and Tourist facilities—Hotels, Dharmasalas, Inspection Bungalows—Deraghars—Posts and Telegraphs—Telephone Exchanges—Pigeon service—Radio—Wireless—Appendices I to VI.	258—303
--	---------

CHAPTER VIII

Miscellaneous Occupations

Introductory—Public Administration—Legal Practice—Medical Practice—Teachers—Men of Arts, Letters and Science—Fishermen—Drivers—Tailors—Cobblers—Blacksmiths—Brass and Bell-Metals—Gold and Silversmiths—Stone carving—Potters—Biri makers—Weavers—Haircutters—Washermen—Domestic servants—Murhi and Chura makers—Bamboo basket weavers.	304—317
---	---------

CHAPTER IX

Economic Trends

Introductory—Economic land-marks—General level of prices—General level of wages—Standard of living—Employment Exchange—Appendix.	314—317
--	---------

CHAPTER X

General Administration

District Administration—Subdivisional Administration—Other District Offices.	336—343
--	---------

CHAPTER XI

Revenue Administration

PAGES

Historical Background—The Land Revenue System— 344—383
 The Khalsa—The Zamindaris—Tenancy Rights— Survey
 and Assessment—Land Revenue System in Rairakhol ex-
 State— Land Revenue System in Bamra ex-State—System
 of collection of Land Revenue—Land Reforms—Bhoodan
 Movement— Other Sources of Revenue— Appendices I and II.

CHAPTER XII

Law and order, and Justice

Incidence of crime—Organisation of Police Force— 384—421
 Railways Police— Fire Stations—Orissa Military Police—
 Village Police—Jail—Sub-Jails—After—Care Shelter—Justice
 —Criminal Courts—Separation of Judiciary from Executive
 —Executive Magistrates—Adalati Panchayats—Civil Courts
 —Bar Associations—Appendices A to E.

CHAPTER XIII

Other Departments

Public Works Department—Electricity Department— 422—428
 Irrigation Department—Hirakud Dam Project—Hirakud
 Research Station—Rural Engineering Organisation—Health
 Department—Veterinary Department—Co-operative Depart-
 ment—Agriculture Department—Industries Department—
 Education Department—Forest Department.

CHAPTER XIV

Local-Self Government

History of Local-Self Government—District Council 429—445
 and Local Boards—District Board and Union Boards—
 Municipal Corporations—Notified Area Councils—Town
 Planning—Zilla Parishad—Panchayat Samitis—Grama
 Panchayats—Appendix.

CHAPTER XV

Education and Culture

Historical background—Beginning of Western 446—475
 Education—Literacy and educational standards—Spread
 of education among women—Spread of education among
 Backward Classes and Tribes—General Education—Schools
 and Colleges—Professional and Technical Schools and
 Colleges—Sambalpur University—Schools for cultivation
 of fine arts, music, dancing, etc.—Oriental Schools—Cultural
 and literary societies—Cultural and literary periodicals—
 Appendices I and II.

CHAPTER XVI

Medical and Public Health Services

PAGES

Survey of Public Health and Medical facilities in early times—Vital statistics—Diseases common to the district—Public hospitals and dispensaries—Primary Health Centres—Maternity and Child Welfare—Family Planning—Institutions managed by Local Bodies—Private Hospitals—Teaching institutions—Sanitation—Protected water-supply—Anti-malaria measures—Leprosy—T. B.—Yaws—Vaccination—Appendix. 476—490

CHAPTER XVII

Other Social Services

Labour Welfare—Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes—Prohibition—Charitable Endowments. 491—500

CHAPTER XVIII

Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations

Elections—Political parties and organisations—News-papers and periodicals—Voluntary Social Service Organisations. 501—507

CHAPTER XIX

Places of Interest

Ambabhona—Attapura—Badarama—Barakot—Bamra (Gobindpur)—Bargarh—Barpali—Belpahar—Bhatli—Bheran (Bheden)—Bhojpur—Bijepur—Borasambar—Brajarajnar—Burkel (Barikel)—Burla—Charmal—Chiplima—Debrigarh—Deogarh—Dhama—Diptipur—Dungri—Gaisama—Gaisilat—Ganiapali—Ghens—Hatibari—Hirakud—Huma—Jharsuguda—Jujomura—Kamgaon—Kharsal—Khinda—Kolabira—Kuchinda—Kudabaga—Kuilighoghar—Kumbhari—Kuruan—Laira (Laida)—Larambha—Melchhamunda—Narsinghnath—Nildungri—Padampur—Phasimal (Fasimal)—Rampur—Rampur (Rairakhol)—Sambalpur—Sason—Sohela—Ushakothi—Vikramkhol—Appendices I to IV. 508—554

Plates	555
Glossary	557—562
Index	563—644

LIST OF PLATES

1. Tiger
2. Pre-historic inscription at Vikramkhol
3. Statue of Padmasambhava
4. Gangadhar Meher
5. Raja Basudev Sudhal Dev
6. An artistic building of ex-ruler, Bamra
7. Raja Bhanuganga Tribhuvan Deb
8. Raja Vira Chandra Jadumoni Deo Jenamoni
9. Goddess Samalai (Sambalpur)
10. Samalai Temple
11. Statue of Vaijal Dev
12. Another Statue of Vaijal Dev
13. Inscription of Vaijal Dev (Narsinghnath)
14. A lady in Sambalpuri Saree
15. An American Lady in Sambalpuri Saree
16. Dalkhai Dance
17. Daughter of a farming family with Sambalpur hair style
18. Daughter of a farming family with paddy seedlings
19. "Swarna" Jowar Plant (Package area)
20. Paddy (Package area)
21. Groundnut (Package area)
22. Potatoes (Package area)
23. Metre-gauge Railway (Dungri-Bargarh)
24. Dungri Limestone Quarry
25. A view of Sambalpur town
26. Narsinghnath Temple
27. Waterfalls at Narsinghnath
28. Hirakud Dam