

## CHAPTER VIII

### MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

In the ex-State of Bonai (present Bonai subdivision), during the beginning of the twentieth century almost in every village there were small settlements of Panas, who wove cloths from locally grown cotton. The people of Hansi caste also wove coarse cotton cloth somewhat finer than those woven by the Panas. These people wove the clothes for the village community. There were also the village plough-makers and potters who worked for two or three villages in the neighbourhood. The jungle tribes collected tusser, lac, myrobalans, sabai grass, and other jungle products for the contractors and received payment in cash or kind. Bamboo mat and wicker work were done by the Turi, Dom, and Khond castes. Brass and bronze vessels, dishes and ornaments of all usual forms in rough description were made by Kansari caste. Iron smelting was done by men of the Kamar caste and they prepared fine domestic and agricultural implements. Gold-washing was done by the Jhora caste. Gold was obtained from the sands in the bed of the Brahmani river and its tributary streams. The earnings of a Jhora gold-washer averaged about twenty paise per day. A unique occupation was that of the manufacture of vessels of soap-stone or *khari* for culinary and other domestic use. This occupation was followed by men of the Bhumij caste. Very neat vessels of all the usual domestic shapes and sizes were turned out of this stone. The number of persons engaged in these occupations is not available.

PRE-MERGER  
PERIOD

During the beginning of the twentieth century, in the ex-State of Gangpur (present Sundargarh and Panposh subdivisions), the principal occupation of the people was agriculture. Out of the total population 84.5 per cent were agriculturists, 10.8 per cent followed industry, 1.1 per cent were engaged in trade, and only 0.4 per cent followed professions. There were no indigenous manufacturers. The village weavers prepared the cloth required by the people and eked out a precarious livelihood owing to the competition of mill-spun goods. The lime quarries at Bisra ; two large timber companies with their headquarters at Rourkela, and Kalunga ; and the manganese quarries employed a considerable amount of labour. Gold-washing was carried out in most of the rivers and streams by Jhora Gonds, who thus gained a sustainable livelihood.

After the merger of the ex-States, a regular Census enumeration was undertaken in 1951. The Census of 1951 showed that of the total

POST-  
MERGER  
PERIOD

population of 552,203 as many as 479,415 pursued agricultural occupation as their principal means of livelihood. Thus about 86·82 per cent of the total population depended on agriculture for their living, and the remaining 13·18 per cent on industries and services. Of those who lived on agriculture 415,218 persons (69·29 per cent) belonged to the class of cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned by themselves and their dependants, 47,749 persons (8·65 per cent) were agricultural labourers, 15,051 persons (2·73 per cent) were cultivators of land unowned and their dependants, and only 1,397 persons (0·25 per cent) were non-cultivating owners of land and their dependants. Only 25,305 persons (4·78 per cent) derived their principal means of livelihood from production other than cultivation and 37,398 persons (6·77 per cent) were dependent on other services and miscellaneous sources of income. Only 7,759 persons (1·42 per cent) obtained their income from commerce, while a small number of 2,326 persons (0·42 per cent) depended on transport.

During 1954-55, an economic sample survey<sup>1</sup> was undertaken for the rural population of the district in which the family was taken as a unit. The survey showed that 82·3 per cent were agricultural families and 17·5 per cent were non-agricultural families. Of the agricultural families 70·3 per cent belonged to the class of cultivators of land wholly owned, 1·5 per cent were cultivators of land unowned, 0·5 per cent were non-cultivating owners, 9·9 per cent were agricultural labourers, and 0·1 per cent did not come in any of these classes. The significant feature was that the district stood second in the State so far the number of owner-cultivators is concerned.

The non-agricultural classes were divided into four main occupation-groups. Of the total non-agricultural families 8·7 per cent derived their major source of income by working as labourers, 0·5 per cent from trade, 4·0 per cent from production other than cultivation, and 4·3 per cent from service and profession.

In comparison with the occupational figures of 1951 Census this survey has also indicated, more or less, the same number of persons engaged in different occupations.

The economic classification adopted in the Census of 1951 underwent a substantial change in the Census of 1961. In the Census of 1951 the chief criteria were "economic dependance" i. e., a dependant

who earned some amount of income which was not adequate for maintaining himself, and "income"; while in the Census of 1961 the population was divided into two broad classes viz., workers and non-workers. The term "workers" included all persons working as well as the working children irrespective of their earning income.

In 1961, there were 383,029 workers in the district which comprised 252,755 males and 130,274 females, and constituted 50.5 per cent of the total population. Besides, there were 143,459 males and 232,129 females treated as non-workers. Students of no income, housewives and other adult females who did no other work than household duties, infants, disabled persons, beggars, convicts in jail, and unemployed persons were grouped under this category.

Out of the total working population 214,829 persons were engaged as cultivators and 44,316 persons as agricultural labourers. Besides, 5,581 persons were engaged in mining and quarrying, 15,948 in household industry, 21,567 in other manufacturing works and 5,976 in construction work and 7,025 in trade and commerce. In transport, storage and communication 7,060 persons were engaged. There were 60,727 persons who followed other vocations not enumerated above.

According to the Census of 1971 the district had a total population of 1,030,758 as against, 758,617 of 1961 Census, of which 530,836 were males and 499,922 females. In the district-wise rural and urban composition of population in the State the highest percentage of urban population is recorded in this district (23.25 per cent) which is mainly due to the development of the Rourkela township during the last decade. Incidentally it may be mentioned that although Cuttack (in Cuttack district) is the largest city of the State its population constitutes 5.07 per cent of the total population of the district whereas the population of Rourkela city makes up 16.74 per cent of the population of Sundargarh district.

The total number of workers in the district is 324,122 of which 293,053 are males and 31,069 females. The number of workers constitutes 31.6 per cent of the total population, the male and female workers respectively accounting for 55.3 and 6.6 per cent of the total male and female population. In 1961 the total number of workers made up 50.5 per cent of the total population and the male and female workers respectively constituted 63.8 and 36.0 per cent of the corresponding total population.

In the total working population cultivators, agricultural labourers, and other residual workers respectively accounted for 43.0, 16.6 and 40.4 per cent in 1971. The corresponding figures for 1961 were 56.1,

11.6, and 32.3 per cent and for 1951 were 78.17, 8.65, and 13.18 per cent. The reason for the sharp decline in the participation rates specially among females could partly be attributed to the change in the definition of workers adopted for 1971 Census as compared to that of 1961. The definition adopted in 1961 was elastic allowing for inclusion as workers of housewives, students, who rendered only casual assistance in some economically productive work like cultivation, household industry done by other members of the family. But according to 1971 Census a man or woman who was engaged primarily in household duties or a student attending an institution, even if such a person helps in the family economic activity but not as full time workers should not be treated as a worker for the main activity. Application of this test might have resulted in non-inclusion, particularly in the rural areas, of a large number of housewives and students as workers in the 1971 Census although they would have been classified as such in 1961.

It is noticed from the above figures that while the percentage of actual cultivators is gradually decreasing, the rate of participation in agricultural labour and other occupations is steadily increasing.

In 1971, there were 1,40,027 persons engaged as cultivators; 54,297 persons as agricultural labourers; 5,727 persons in livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations, orchards and allied activities; 2,569 persons in mining and quarrying; 43,475 persons in manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs of household and other than household industries; 2,089 persons in construction; 14,523 persons in trade and commerce; 11,548 persons in transport, storage, and communication; and 39,867 persons in other services. Besides, there were 7,06,636 persons treated as non-workers who do not have substantial contribution towards any economic activity of the district.

The occupational pattern of the district, and of Rourkela City, Sundargarh town, and Rajgangpur town and the subdivisions, viz., Sundargarh, Panposh, and Bonai in 1971 is given in details in Appendix I of the Chapter.

For the establishment of the Rourkela steel plant, the State Government had initially acquired 20,000 acres of land affecting families in 31 villages. In addition to this 725.31 acres were acquired at Mandira, and Purnapani. The rehabilitation of these displaced persons thus become a responsibility of the Government and the State was obliged to ensure them jobs in the Hindustan Steel Limited. In October 1966, a formula was devised on the basis of which one able-bodied person from each displaced family was given priority consideration for a job in the Rourkela steel plant. By the 1st January 1971, 2,899 persons had found jobs in the Hindustan Steel Limited

The Hindustan Steel Limited is the biggest employer engaging 34,014 persons, up to December 1971. The Orissa Cement Limited, Rajgangpur, has employed 3,470 persons. The Utkal Machinery Limited, Kansbahal, has employed 1,231 persons. Besides, there are a number of small-scale industries in and around Rourkela which have employed a number of technical personnel, ministerial staff, and labourers. There were 67,439 persons in the entire district in 1971 employed both in public and private sectors. After the nationalisation of the Banks, the scheme of self-employment has taken a moderate shape due to the insecurity involved in advancing loans without adequate security. The Credit Guarantee Corporation, which was started in 1971 helped in this matter by taking over the functions of underwriting a loan or standing guarantee for security.

The Union Government employees of the district besides the employees of the Rourkela steel plant, numbered a few hundreds mostly engaged in the departments of the Posts and Telegraphs, and the Railways. In the departments of the State Government, employees of different grades are working whose duties and spheres of activity vary.

During 1972, the strength of the police force in the district was 1,601. There were two Superintendents of Police, one Additional Superintendent of Police, three Deputy Superintendents of Police, 14 Inspectors, 91 Sub-Inspectors, 64 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 137 Havildars, and 1,289 Constables. In 1972, there were 567 employees (356 officials and 211 Conservancy staff) working in the local self-Government organisations. There are employees in other departments which have been dealt in the Chapter, Other Departments.

Besides, there are people who pursue other vocations as discussed below.

In the ex-State of Gangpur there were 137 schools and the teaching staff consisted of 331 persons including 12 females. In the ex-State of Bonai there were 76 schools and the teaching staff consisted of 144 persons of which 31 were trained teachers.

EDUCATIONAL  
PROFESSION

In 1972, there were 73 H. E. schools with 683 teachers (584 males and 109 females), 180 M. E. Schools with 905 teachers (856 males and 49 females), 1268 Primary schools with 2,418 teachers (1,927 males and 491 females), four Junior Basic schools with 8 male teachers, one Arts and Crafts school with 4 teachers, four Ashram schools with 30 teachers (23 males and 7 females), 91 Sevashram schools with 177 teachers,

three Elementary Training schools with 12 teachers, one Polytechnic school with 47 teachers, and one school with a single teacher each in the jails at Rourkela, and Sundargarh.

As per the statistics available in 1972 as many as 217 college teachers, both technical and non-technical, were serving in different higher educational institutions in the district.

#### MEDICAL PROFESSION

In the past there were a few Kavirajas who prepared medicines from indigenous roots and herbs in ayurvedic formulae. The most notable among them was Late Braja Sundar Purohit who distributed medicines free of cost to the patients. Allopathy was first introduced in 1875 with the opening of a dispensary in Sundargarh.

#### Allopathy

In 1972, there were 23 allopathic hospitals, 15 dispensaries, 16 Primary Health Centres, one Mobile Health Unit, one Medical Aid Centre, and 577 Maternity Centres and sub-centres. In all these institutions 202 allopathic doctors, 171 nurses, 40 midwives, 20 Health Visitors, and 77 pharmacists and compo unders were working in the district. Besides, there are a few private allopathy doctors practising in Rourkela City, Rajgangpur, and Sundargarh.

#### Homeopathy

There are four homeopathic dispensaries located atKhuntagaon, Darlipali, Bandhabahal, and Sankobahal each provided with a doctor. In 1972, there were 750 registered homeopathic doctors in the district.

#### Ayurveda

Ayurveda is also preferred by a number of persons. In 1972 there were 10 ayurvedic dispensaries located at Nandapara, Sarsara-Balang, Beladamal, Sikajore, Chungimati, Rouldega, Sole, Khatkurbahal, and Khuntagaon, each provided with a Kaviraja. In 1972, there were 56 registered Kavirajas in the district.

#### LEGAL PROFESSION

In 1972 there were 74 advocates practising at the district and the subdivisional headquarters, namely Sundargarh, Uditnagar, and Bonai-garh. Most of these advocates practise both in civil and criminal courts.

In Sundargarh town there were 30 advocates of whom five are practising in civil courts, fifteen in both civil and criminal courts, and nine in criminal courts. Among them there were two Bar-at-Laws. Out of these advocates four get an average income of Rs. 3,000 per month, five earned an income of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 per month, and the other twenty averaged between Rs. 200 to Rs. 700 per month.

In Bonaigarh there were nine advocates whose monthly income ranged between Rs. 200 to Rs. 300. The advocates are practising in the courts of Munsif, Subdivisional Magistrate, Subdivisional Officer, Magistrate 1st Class, and Tahasildar.

In Rourkela there were 35 advocates practising in different courts.

In 1972, in the district in other occupations there were 11 bakeries and biscuit factories employing on an average 227 persons daily. These were located at Sundargarh, Rajgangpur, and Rourkela. In 1972 in publicity, printing and allied occupations about 64 persons were working daily and eighty-five persons were engaged in milling of rice and wheat. During the said year, there were four ice factories at Rourkela engaging 48 persons and 1,417 people were engaged in manufacturing of suitcases, grills, gates, rolling shutters, bolts, nuts, tin-containers, agricultural implements, and mechanical spare parts from iron and steel. In the manufacture of chemicals, such as, insecticides, phenyle, soap, and cosmetics 100 persons on an average were engaged daily. Besides, there are many people who are engaged as cooks, maids, water-bearers, and butlers. Their number was 3,627 in the Census of 1961.

OTHER  
OCCUPA-  
TIONS

Many artisans are engaged in various crafts of which a few are mentioned below in order of their numerical importance. The figures relate to 1961 Census.

ARTISANS

Sl. No.	Name of occupation	Number of artisans
1.	Spinners, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers and related workers.	4,815
2.	Blacksmiths ..	3,294
3.	Bakers, Confectioners, and Sweetmeat makers	3,019
4.	Basket makers ..	2,912
5.	Potters ..	2,503
6.	Washermen ..	1,910
7.	Goldsmiths and Silversmiths ..	1,908
8.	Shoe-makers and repairers ..	1,650
9.	Masons ..	1,299
10.	Tailors ..	948
11.	Barbers ..	495
12.	Carpenters ..	464

## APPENDIX I

A detailed list of the occupational pattern of the district and Rourkela City, Sundargarh town and Rajgangpur town, and the Subdivisions in 1971.

(1)	Population			Total workers			Cultivators		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
		(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)		(6)	(7)
Sundargarh District	10,30,758	5,30,836	4,99,922	3,24,122	2,93,053	31,069	1,40,027	1,34,120	5,907
Rural	7,91,073	3,96,929	3,94,144	2,44,973	2,21,585	23,388	1,37,317	1,31,501	5,816
Urban	2,39,685	1,33,907	1,05,778	79,149	71,468	7,681	2,710	2,619	91
Rourkela City	1,72,502	98,667	73,835	57,849	53,701	4,148	492	471	21
Sundargarh Town	17,244	9,038	8,206	4,852	4,391	461	583	556	27
Rajgangpur Town	21,876	11,753	10,123	7,106	6,500	606	835	800	35
Sundargarh Subdivision	4,41,657	2,21,447	2,20,228	1,39,518	1,25,209	14,309	71,871	68,629	3,242
Panposh Subdivision	4,12,019	2,19,565	1,92,454	1,28,551	1,16,760	11,787	36,372	34,880	1,492
Bonai Subdivision	1,77,064	89,324	87,240	56,053	51,079	4,974	31,784	30,611	1,173



	Agricultural Labourers				Livestock, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Plantations, Orchards and allied activities				Mines and Quarries				Manufacturing, Processing, Household Industry			
	Persons		Persons		Persons		Persons		Persons		Persons		Persons		Persons	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
(1)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)
Sundargarh District	54,297	46,281	8,016	5,727	4,731	996	12,569	8,317	4,252	8,854	7,063	1,791				
Rural	52,771	44,926	7,845	4,419	3,512	907	7,155	4,897	2,258	8,101	6,357	1,744				
Urban	1,526	1,355	171	1,308	1,219	89	5,414	3,420	1,994	753	706	47				
Rourkela City	528	456	72	897	854	43	216	173	43	346	327	19				
Sundargarh Town	556	500	56	162	155	7	3	3	..	111	107	4				
Raigangpur Town	275	234	41	144	118	26	1	1	..	132	123	9				
Sundargarh Subdivision	36,847	30,811	6,036	2,148	1,626	523	771	495	276	5,085	3,931	1,154				
Panposh Subdivision	6,546	5,925	621	2,146	1,884	262	8,424	5,375	3,049	2,197	1,912	285				
Bonai Subdivision	10,904	9,545	1,359	1,433	1,222	211	3,374	2,447	907	1,572	1,220	352				

	Services and Repairs											
	Other than household Industry		Construction				Trade and Commerce		Transport, storage and Communication			
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
(1)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)
Sundargarh District	34,621	32,312	3,309	2,089	1,962	127	14,523	13,670	853	11,548	11,035	513
Rural	11,792	10,140	1,652	950	894	101	3,286	2,915	371	2,925	2,779	146
Urban	22,829	22,172	657	1,139	1,113	26	11,237	10,755	482	8,623	8,256	367
Rourkela City	19,320	18,890	430	777	764	13	8,533	8,244	289	7,069	6,883	181
Sundargarh Town	191	186	5	140	136	4	733	675	58	353	346	7
Rajgangpur Town	2,997	2,802	195	116	114	2	986	947	39	519	463	56
Sundargarh Subdivision	7,447	6,460	987	402	387	15	2,918	2,619	299	1,534	1,443	91
Panposh Subdivision	25,285	24,235	1,050	1,454	1,369	85	10,863	10,380	483	9,163	8,825	338
Bonai Subdivision	1,889	1,617	272	233	206	27	742	671	71	851	767	84

	Other Services			Non-workers		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
(1)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)
Sundargarh District	39,867	33,526	6,305	7,06,636	2,37,783	4,68,385
Rural	16,257	13,709	2,548	5,46,100	175,344	3,70,756
Urban	23,610	19,853	3,757	1,60,536	62,439	98,097
Rourkela City	19,671	16,634	3,037	1,14,653	44,966	69,687
Sundargarh Town	2,020	1,727	293	12,392	4,647	7,745
Rajgangpur Town	1,101	898	203	14,770	5,253	9,517
Sundargarh Subdivision	10,495	8,809	1,686	3,02,157	96,238	2,05,919
Panposh Subdivision	26,101	21,980	4,121	2,83,468	1,02,800	1,80,663
Bonai Subdivision	3,271	2,773	498	1,21,011	38,745	82,266