

## CHAPTER XVII

### OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

The landless population finds employment in agricultural fields as well as in industrial and mining areas. According to 1971 Census 54,297 persons were agricultural labourers, out of which 46,281 were males and 8,016 females. The recent installation of the Rourkela Steel Plant and a number of large and small-scale industries in the neighbourhood have brought some prosperity to the local Adibasis. Other big centres of employment are the Cement Factory at Rajgangpur; the quarries at Birmitrapur, Hatibari, Panposh, Koira, Lanjiberna, Purnapani, Barsuan, etc. The number of industrial workers is nearly the same as that of the agricultural labourers. The Hindustan Steel alone employed 34,000 labourers during 1971.

LABOUR  
WELFARE

The increased employment in the factories and quarries has reduced the migration of the local labourers to other neighbouring districts and also outside the State. The Kendu leaf (Bidi) industry engages a large number of women labourers for about 6 months a year for plucking as well as binding the leaves. Construction of roads, buildings and irrigation projects provide employment to a certain extent as most of the agricultural labourers face unemployment during December and May when they find no work after the paddy is harvested.

Prior to 1948, the Gangpur ex-State had its own rules for controlling emigration of labour to Assam Tea Gardens. Licenses to the Forwarding Agents were being granted on the recommendations of the Political Department and a fee of Rs. 20/- was charged in each case. A sum of Rs. 5/- was being realised for each person recruited. In the ex-State of Bonai there was no such rule till June, 1947, and the rules then introduced were similar to those in Gangpur. During the Second World War period about 3,000 labourers were being recruited annually from this district. The Tea District Emigrants Labour Act, 1932, was extended to this district in 1948 and Sundargarh became a controlled emigration area. The District Magistrate was authorised in 1951 to issue licences to the Forwarding Agents under Section 17 of the Act.

The State Government have established a labour Office to deal with various labour problems of the district.

A Deputy Labour Commissioner has been kept in charge of the office with his headquarters at Rourkela. His subordinate staff consist of an Assistant Labour Commissioner, an Inspector of Factories, an Inspector of Boilers, a District Labour Officer and four Assistant Labour Officers. The main function of the labour office is to implement the labour laws in force in the district and to look after various labour welfare measures. Besides, it remains alert over the labour situation and takes timely action for the prevention of strikes and labour unrest, and for the settlement of industrial disputes.

Generally all the major industrial establishments have provided amenities for their workers in the form of recreational facilities other than statutory welfare measures. Most of the industrial workers of the district have formed trade unions to safeguard their interest (A list of trade unions as on the 31st December 1971 is given as Appendix I). Among them the skilled workers who get higher wages than the unskilled labourers are economically and culturally better off. The general condition of the unskilled workers is poor. The wages they get is not sufficient to cope with the rising cost of living.

The following table gives an account of the industrial disputes and complaints admitted for conciliation, which were either concluded by drawing up a memorandum of settlement or failure reports were sent to the Government (during 1967 to 1971).

## DISPUTES

Year	No. of Disputes admitted			No of Disputes disposed of	
	Pending at the beginning of the year	Received during the year	Ended in failure	Settled through conciliation	Withdrawn
1967	20	40	15	5	Nil
1968	45	61	70	17	3
1969	16	46	38	9	4
1970	11	69	31	29	1
1971	19	63	28	27	1

## COMPLAINTS

Year	Total No. of complaints		
	Pending at the beginning of the Year	Received during the year	No. of complaints disposed of
1967	128	732	277
1968	583	646	611
1969	618	608	650
1970	576	451	447
1971	580	418	626

Besides, 140 cases under Workmen Compensation Act were disposed of during the first half of 1972 directing payment of Rs. 1,84,947 to the workers.

There are two multipurpose labour welfare centres in the district for the benefit of workers run by the State Government. They are located at Rourkela and Rajgangpur. Welfare Centres

Each of the centres has been provided with a library and reading room. Education in sewing and knitting is also imparted in these centres. Besides, staff have been provided to teach music.

The State Government have constructed 216 tenements at Rourkela and 132 tenements at Rajgangapur to provide accommodation for the workers of the local factories. House rent at the rate of Rs. 16.50 in respect of each tenement (two roomed) is charged from them at present. Industrial Housing

A regular Excise Department was functioning in the ex-State of Gangpur since the beginning of the present century. In the ex-State of Bonai there was no separate office to deal with excise matters. It was kept in charge of the Police Department. PROHIBITION

Prohibition of drinking liquor has not been enforced in this district. Most of the population, being Adibasis, use liquor not only for habitual drinks, but also for customary and religious rites. At the beginning of the present century there were as many as 220 out-stills in the ex-State of Gangpur, but the number was reduced to 60 in 1907-08. This indicates a remarkable decrease in drunkenness.

The outstill system was in vogue till 1949-50 and there were as many as 90 outstill shops. In 1950-51 when distillery was introduced 40 outstills were converted into country spirit shops. This changed system of supply was not welcomed by the people. The local Adibasis did not relish distilled liquor as they were accustomed to cheap outstill liquor and home brewed pachwai. They have been allowed to brew and possess pachwai (Handia/Kushna) up to a limit of 7 litres undiluted and 18 litres diluted for their domestic consumption. Limit has also been fixed for the sale of other excisable goods in the district to check their unrestricted use. Accordingly an individual can get  $1\frac{1}{2}$  litres of outstill and foreign liquor, 3 litres of beer, 25 grams of *ganja* and 120 grams of *bhang*. Consumption of *ganja* has become more than double during the last 10 years.

The number of excise shops and the consumption of liquor, *ganja* and *bhang* in the district during 1967-68 to 1971-72 is given in Appendix II.

About 10 maunds (3.73 quintals) of opium was being consumed in the district during the forties. Even mothers were habitually administering opium to their little children which adversely affected the health of the society in the long run. The Gangpur Durbar had promulgated Gangpur State Opium Smoking Act, 1946, which came into force since 20th November 1947, and further contemplated to introduce card system for the supply of opium to discourage people from smoking and eating more of the drug.

As an all-India measure for complete prohibition of opium, the sale of opium for the oral consumption of the addicts through licenced agencies was discontinued with effect from the 1st April, 1959. It caused hardship and physical suffering to old, infirm and long opium-addicted persons. These persons were allowed to purchase medicinal preparation of opium of a quantity issued to them prior to 1st April 1959. The addicts were to produce medical certificate-cum-permit-cards issued by the medical officer of the locality. Medicinal opium was being sold through sale centres of the excise department. But it was detected that widespread smuggling and sale of spurious opium at a cheaper rate continued throughout the State. The Board of Revenue conducted a sample survey at Puri, and Jagatsinghpur in Cuttack district to find out the effect of complete prohibition. The Survey revealed that all the old addicts who had not registered themselves as such, had not given up the habit and were getting spurious opium from the black-market. It was therefore decided to take up a fresh survey and registration of the addicts with effect from the 15th October, 1960. The price of medicinal opium was also reduced from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 6/- per tola (11.66 grams.).

At present there are only 218 registered opium addicts in this district and their monthly quota is 2,352 grams of medicinal opium. The drug is being sold through 9 departmental opium sale centres and the selling price is Re. 1/- per gram.

No further registration of addicts is being made without valid recommendations from medical officers. Number of addicts is gradually falling. During the last 30 years the average annual consumption of opium has come down from 10 maunds (373 kg.) to 28 kg.

The Bihar and Orissa Excise Act, 1915 and the Opium Act, 1878 were in force in the ex-States of Gangpur and Bonai and are continuing in the present district of Sundargarh. Other acts like the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930; the Orissa Opium Smoking Act, 1947; the Medicinal and Toilet Preparation Duties Act, 1956; Opium Laws Amendment, 1957; and Molasses Control Order, 1961 are also in force. The main activities of the excise department are to guard against the leakage of excise revenue and to check irregularities committed in contravention of the provisions of these Acts.

Excise  
Offices

Unrestricted manufacture and sale of Pachwai, illegal transport and possession of liquor, smuggling of opium, *ganja* and *bhanga* are the principal crimes. About 500 excise cases are reported from the district every year.

The total population of the district is 1,030,758 (1971 Census). The percentage of the Scheduled Tribes to the total population is 53.40 and that of the Scheduled Castes is 8.02. Sundargarh has been declared a Scheduled district. Although the backward communities form the majority of the population, no systematic attention was given for their welfare prior to Independence.

Administration  
of  
Backward  
Classes and  
Tribes

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

The economic condition of the Adibasis and the backward classes is poor. They are primarily agriculturists. According to 1961 Census about 80 per cent of the total tribal working population were dependent on land. The Adibasis of this district have taken up settled cultivation. Shifting cultivation is hardly prevalent among them. Basket-making, rope-making, pottery and hand-pounding of rice are also done by them to supplement their income. A large number of them are engaged in collecting *Kendu* leaf and cutting of bamboos for paper mills. Large industries and mines have provided gainful employment to a number of Adibasi people.

Economic  
Schemes for  
the uplift  
of Backward  
Classes and  
Tribes

These tribals are mostly illiterate and ignorant. Very often they are exploited by unscrupulous local traders and money-lenders. Generally they barter agricultural and forest products for articles of daily consumption. Weekly markets are the important channels of local trade but lack of proper communication facilities stand in the way of agricultural marketing at remunerative prices.

Their income is insufficient even to provide them with the bare subsistence of life. Much of their income is spent on festivals, social ceremonies and on drinks. They practically have no savings. Indebtedness is a common feature with them. Grain *gollas* have been established in the tribal areas so that these people will avail loans easily without any formality. Subsidy is also given to purchase agricultural implements and seeds. The State Government have started a scheme known as the Purchase, Sale, and Fair Price Shop Scheme which is functioning at Lahunipara since 1969 to ensure a fair price to their agricultural products and to grant loan to the backward people for festivals and other occasions. The Scheduled Areas Relief Regulations, 1967, and the Scheduled Area Money Lenders Regulation, 1967, are in force in the district in order to protect the tribals from paying higher rate of interest to the money-lenders.

Fair price shops have been started at interior places from where the tribal population get their requirements at reasonable prices. There is also facility to sell minor forest products and other commodities.

Sundargarh being a scheduled district, the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes get preference in the settlement of land encroachment cases. In case of unobjectionable encroachments committed prior to the 13th September 1961, the land is settled in favour of the encroacher on payment of prescribed government dues. If that encroachment is committed prior to the 26th January 1950 no *salami* is realised, but back rent from the 10th January 1950 till the date of settlement is realised. In deserving cases the *salami* is also waived by the Collector. No *salami* is charged for the first 10 decimals of homestead land.

In case of unobjectionable encroachments committed prior to the 13th September, 1961, no limits have been fixed by the Government for the settlement of land encroachment. But in case of unobjectionable case applications and encroachments committed after the 13th September, 1961, lands up to an extent of 5 acres (about 2 hectares) can be settled where the encroachers or the lease applicants are landless.

Two Adibasi colonies have been established in this district during 1956-57 and 1957-58, and 160 families have been re-settled with land in

these colonies. These steps were taken to dissuade the Adibasis from adopting shifting or Podu cultivation, and to induce them to settle in the plains and to take to regular cultivation.

To improve the percentage of literacy among the tribal people a number of educational institutions have been started in the district by the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department. At present there are 6 High English schools (4 for boys and 2 for girls), 3 Ashrams and one Kanyashram, 91 Sevashrams (including 2 residential Sevashrams) and 6 Chatusalis. Reading and writing materials are supplied free of cost to the students studying up to Class V. Stipends are awarded to the students studying in Class VI to XI. During the last 5 years (1967-68 to 1971-72) a sum of Rs. 57,86,906 was spent for awarding stipends to the students of the district. 39,939 students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, 3,926 belonging to the Scheduled Castes, and 717 belonging to other backward classes have been benefitted by this scheme. During the same period reading and writing materials costing Rs. 80,878 were distributed to the primary school students.

Education  
and  
Employment

In Ashram and Sevashram schools, the pupils are also imparted technical training in different crafts like agriculture, carpentry, tailoring, weaving etc., along with general education. Besides, candidates belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes get scope for training in different crafts in the Handicraft Training Centre at Bargaon and at the Model Foot-Wear Unit, Rourkela.

For the employment of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes in different services 40 per cent (24 per cent for Scheduled Tribes and 16 per cent for Scheduled Castes) of the total vacancy has been reserved and the Government policy in this regard has been communicated to various appointing authorities. The District Employment Committee under the Chairmanship of the Collector reviews the employment position from time to time.

Apart from the general medical facilities available in the district the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department have provided some medical institutions for the benefit of the tribal people of the locality. One six-bedded hospital has been established each at Balisankara and Sorda. A dispensary at Jarda, and an Ayurvedic dispensary at Chungimati have been opened. Besides, a mobile health unit is being maintained at Gundiadihi to serve the remote villages of the area. The Tribal & Rural Welfare Department also provides funds every year for rural water-supply, improvement of village roads and construction of houses for the backward people.

Health and  
Sanitation

**CHARITABLE  
ENDOWMENTS****Koira Dis-  
pensary  
Fund**

The Koira Dispensary Fund was created in July, 1955, with a corpus of Rs. 2,600. The Collector, and the Civil Surgeon, Sundargarh, are the joint administrators of the Fund. The income is to be utilised for the improvement of the dispensary building at Koira.

The Treasurer, Charitable Endowments, Orissa, holds properties and securities of the endowment and the income derived from it is periodically disbursed to the persons nominated for administering the funds according to the scheme settled by the Government based on the wishes of the donor.



## APPENDIX I

*Trade Unions in Sundargarh district*

Sl. No.	Name and address of the Union	Membership	Affiliation	Name of the Establishment	Date of Registration
1	Barsuan Iron Mine Mazdoor Union, Tensa.	1,465	A. I. T. U. C.	Barsuan Mines of Hindustan Steel Ltd.	26-10-1970
2	Cinema Employees Association, Rourkela.	51	..	Cinema Houses of Rourkela.	15-9-1970
3	Gangpur Labour Union, Birmitrapur.	6,361	I. N. T. U. C. and I. N. M. W. F.	Bisra Limestone Quarry, Birmitrapur.	11-9-1948
4	Gomardih Dolomite Mazdoor Union, Jharbeda.	24	..	..	25-6-1969
5	Hindustan Steel Mines Workers Union, Rourkela.	190	U. T. U. C.	Mines owned by Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela.	9-7-1964
6	Hatibari Mazdoor Union, Hatibari.	620	I. N. T. U. C. and I. N. M. F.	Hatibari Limestone Quarry.	30-8-1951
7	Hindustan Steel Workers Association, Rourkela.	12,119	I. N. T. U. C.	Hindustan Steel Limited and Other Industries, Rourkela.	10-9-1959
8	Ispat Sramik Sangha, Rourkela.	5,005	..	Hindustan Steel Limited, Rourkela.	28-10-1970
9	Kansbahal Mazdoor Union, Kansbahal.	837	A. I. T. U. C.	Utkal Machinery Ltd., Kansbahal.	9-8-1966
10	Kalinga Auto Sramik Sangha, Kalinga.	99	..	Kalinga Auto Private Ltd.,	1-8-1969
11	Kansbahal Sramik Sangha, Kansbahal.	523	..	Utkal Machinery Ltd., Kansbahal.	26-3-1970
12	Lanjiberna Sramik Sangha, Lanjiberna.	1,743	I. N. T. U. C.	Lanjiberna Limestone Quarry, Lanjiberna.	11-4-1957
13	Lathikata Refractories Workers Union, Lathikata.	190	..	Orissa Industries Ltd., Lathikata.	12-2-1963
14	North Orissa Workers Union, Rourkela.	2,777	..	Iron Mines of Hindustan Steel Ltd.	28-3-1955
15	Orissa State Electricity Board Employees Union, Rajgangpur.	550	..	Orissa State Electricity Board.	20-1-1971

APPENDIX I—*continued*

Sl. No.	Name and address of the Union	Member-ship	Affiliation	Name of the Establishment	Date of Registration
16	Orissa Cement Mazdoor Sangha, Rajgangpur.	1,195	H. M. S.	Orissa Cement Ltd., Rajgangpur.	12-6-1952
17	Orissa Cement Workers Union, Rajgangpur.	1,163	..	Orissa Cement Ltd., Rajgangpur.	12-9-1970
18	Panposh Mazdoor Union, Panposh.	565	I. N. T. U. C. and I. N. M. F.	Dolomite Quarry, Panposh.	6-11-1954
19	Rourkela Mazdoor Sabha, Rourkela.	4,693	M. M. S.	Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela.	16-12-1955
20	Rourkela Workers Union, Rourkela.	1,863	U. T. U. C.	Ditto ..	23-5-1957
21	Rourkela Steel Mazdoor, Union, Rourkela.	2,166	A. I. T. U. C.	Ditto ..	3-11-1958
22	Refractory Employe e s' Association.	247	..	Orissa Industries Ltd., Lathikata.	30-7-1963
23	Rajgangpur Sramik Sangha, Rajgangpur.	228	..	Orissa Cement Ltd., Rajgangpur.	20-8-1965
24	Rourkela Ispat Karakhana Karmachari Sangha.	1,265	..	Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela.	6-1-1971
25	Rourkela Sramika Congress, Rourkela.	2,756	..	Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela.	23-7-1971
26	Sundargarh Mining Workers Union, Purnapani.	81	..	Mines of Purnapani Area.	17-6-1963
27	Steel Employees Trade Union, Rourkela.	2,000	..	Ditto ..	1-9-1971

## APPENDIX II

*Excise shops and consumption of Liquor, Ganja and Bhang*

Year	Country Outstill Liquor		Foreign Liquor		Ganja		Bhang		Tari No. of Shops
	No. of Shops	Consumption (in L. P. Litres)	No. of Shops	Consumption (in L. P. Litres)	No. of Shops	Consumption (in kg.)	No. of Shops	Consumption (in kg.)	
1967-68 ..	96	8,75,940	13	13,135 (Spirit) 91,260 (Beer)	22	521	12	20	31
1968-69 ..	95	9,61,203	13	16,140 (Spirit) 1,05,253 (Beer)	25	675	14	17	..
1969-70 ..	95	9,60,305	18	16,084 (Spirit) 1,01,986 (Beer)	24	652	13	21	..
1970-71 ..	95	9,69,328	18	16,787 (Spirit) 88,493 (Beer)	24	582	13	7	..
1971-72 ..	94	11,11,879	21	18,886 (Spirit) 73,716 (Beer)	24	567	13	15	..

SOURCE—Office of the Superintendent of Excise, Sundargarh