

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

HISTORICAL  
BACKGROUND

Gangpur

Patterns of administration prevalent during the Durbar regime are available only in a sketchy form from the Annual Administration Reports of both the ex-States of Gangpur and Bonai now forming the district of Sundargarh. As it appears from the Administration Report (1938-39) of Gangpur, the Regent Rani Sahiba was running the administration with a handful of counsels consisting of one Dewan, one Chief Judge, two Subdivisional Officers, one Superintendent of Police, one Forest Officer, one Chief Medical Officer, one Tahsildar and one Naib-Tahsildar. The strength of the staff as indicated above shows that the administration was simple in nature. Consequent on the expansion of the various activities of the State, the administrative machinery also experienced a gradual increase in the work-load. As a result, during the last year of the Durbar Rule (1946-47) the strength of the staff went up to 21 principal officers consisting of three ministers, one District Magistrate-*cum* Sub-Judge-*cum* Deputy Registrar, and two Subdivisional Officers. The Subdivisional Officer, Sundargarh, was also working in the capacity of Sundargarh Control Officer and Publicity Officer in addition to his own duties. One Superintendent of Police, one Magistrate, Second Class; one Income tax Officer-*cum*-Mining Officer, one Revenue Officer and Tahsildar-*cum*-Magistrate, First Class; one Assistant Revenue Officer, one Headquarters Magistrate, one Chief Medical Officer and Superintendent of Jail, one Chief Forest Officer, one Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, one Superintendent of Excise, one Deputy Inspector of Schools, one State Engineer, one Manager, Nagia and Hatibari Wards Estates and one Assistant Control Officer were there in charge of various other departments.

Bonai

Similarly, the ruler of Bonai was at the apex of the administration of his State. He was assisted by a handful of officers, but there was a marked expansion in the cadre of officers year by year. Just before merger, the ex-State had 22 officers of whom mention may be made of the Dewan-*cum*-Collector, Assistant Dewan-*cum*-District Magistrate, Sub-Judge, Chief Medical Officer-*cum*-Superintendent of Jail, Development Officer-*cum*-Magistrate, 1st Class; Forest Officer, two Subdivisional Officers one each for Bonai and Koira subdivisions, two Tahsildars and one Assistant Engineer.

The gradual trend of elaboration in the various branches of administrative machinery was perhaps due to the inclusion of the States in the Eastern States Agency headed by the British Paramountcy. Even then

from the duty charts of the officers it appears that one officer was in charge of various departments and was also working in different capacities. This shows that though the administrative machinery was elaborate in nature, still it was in rudimentary stage.

Consequent upon the integration of the States on the 1st January, 1948, with Orissa, the district of Sundargarh was formed comprising the two ex-States of Gangpur and Bonai. The ex-State of Gangpur was divided into two subdivisions, i. e., Sundargarh and Panposh while Bonai was retained as the third subdivision.

In the new set up, the Collector and the District Magistrate is in overall charge of the general, revenue, and development administration of the district and he is assisted by an Additional District Magistrate and other district level officers. He occupies the pivotal position in the district administration. He is the guardian of law and order, and the promoter, helper and adviser of the Panchayat Raj institutions. He also supplies adequate technical support and facilities to the district level officers. He being the co-ordinating and guiding functionary at the district level, co-ordinates and guides the activities of different departments in the district.

ADMINISTR-  
ATION AT  
DISTRICT  
LEVEL

The primary function of the Collector as indicated by his very designation, is to collect the land revenue and other dues of the Government. He as the District Magistrate is also responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. Besides, a lot of other miscellaneous business relating to almost every sphere of administration keeps him constantly pre-occupied. Immediately after Independence and during the first two plan periods (1951—1961), he was responsible for almost all development works implemented in the district. The "Captain" of the development team, as he was called, he had to co-ordinate and supervise all development and welfare works in the district. But with the introduction of the Zilla Parishad Act, 1960\*, the role of the Collector

\*. With the abolition of the Zilla Parishad with effect from the 1st April 1967, a District Advisory Council was constituted which was named as "Zilla Paramarsadata Samiti" in Oriya. The functions of the District Advisory Council as defined in Resolution No. 2694, dated the 1st July, 1968, of the Community Development and Panchayat Raj (C. D.) Department, Government of Orissa, were as follows:

- (a) To advise the Government regarding developmental and other activities referred to it by Government from time to time and,
- (b) to consider and advise Government as to how best the developmental activities can be expeditiously and efficiently executed and suggest ways and means to remove the bottlenecks in execution of the developmental works.

A new set-up called District Development Advisory Board has replaced the Council since the 14th November, 1970.

changed to supervision and guidance as the guardian of government interest.

He is also assisted by an Additional District Magistrate stationed at Rourkela for maintaining law and order in Rourkela City.

Besides the above, the Collector is assisted by officers of various other departments like the Superintendent of Excise, Civil Supplies officer, District Public Relation Officers, District Panchayat Officer, and District Welfare Officer.

The Collector is under the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Northern Division, whose office is located at Sambalpur. The Commissioner is the immediate supervisor of the Collector who has powers to revise certain actions of the Collector and to give him general direction.

After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate no longer tries criminal cases. Separate judicial magistrates have been posted to the district and they are functioning under the supervision of the District and Sessions Judge, Sambalpur-Sundargarh judgeship.

As mentioned earlier, the district has been divided into three subdivisions, namely, Sundargarh, Bonai, and Panposh. Each subdivision is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer. He is mainly responsible for general and revenue administration and for the maintenance of law and order in his area. The Executive Magistrates posted under him administer only the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and maintain law and order. Trial of criminal cases are left to the Judicial Magistrates of the subdivisions.

The district has 5 Tahsils, each in charge of a gazetted Tahsildar. A Tahsil is further divided into Revenue Inspector Circles which are the lowest land revenue units for collection and are in charge of Revenue Inspectors. Staffing pattern of each subdivision is as follows:

Each Subdivisional Officer has sections like (1) General and Miscellaneous, (2) Development, (3) Revenue, (4) Establishment, (5) Nizarat, (6) Record Room, (7) Election, (8) Judicial, (9) Welfare, (10) Grama Panchayat, (11) Civil Supplies, (12) Public Relations, etc. These sections are manned by gazetted officers subject to the overall control of the Subdivisional Officer. In the subdivision of Sundargarh, the Subdivisional Officer is assisted by officers like Revenue Officer, Nizarat Officer, Subdivisional Panchayat Officer and Assistant District Welfare Officer. The first two officers belong to the State Administrative Service whereas the other two are the officers ex-cadre. In the subdivision

of Panposh, he is being assisted by many subordinate officers like officers in-charge, Criminal Court; Revenue Officer, Development Officer, Executive Magistrate, Subdivisional Panchayat Officer, Assistant District Welfare Officer, and Special Certificate Officer to run the general administration of the subdivision. Similarly in Bonai subdivision, the Subdivisional Officer is assisted by officers like Revenue Officer, Nizarat Officer, etc.

The Subdivisional Officer, Sundargarh, obtains the help of the three Tahsildars posted in Rajgangpur, Sundargarh, and Hemgir Tahsils of his subdivision for running the revenue administration. In Bonai and Panposh subdivisions, since the subdivisions are co-terminous with the Tahsils, the Tahsildars assist the Subdivisional Officers in the revenue administration of the subdivisions. Here it may be mentioned that the Tahsildar of Panposh is having his headquarters at Kuarmunda which was previously the headquarters of the Nagra Zamindari.

Except Sundargarh each subdivision has a Sub-Treasury which is in charge of a junior officer of the State Finance Service. They are designated as Sub-Treasury Officers\*. Sundargarh being the headquarters of the district has got a Treasury which is manned by a senior officer of the Finance Service who is designated as Treasury Officer.

To implement the Community Development Programme the district has been divided into 17 Blocks each in charge of a Block Development Officer. The Blocks are located at Lefripara, Hemgir, Rajgangpur, Kutra, Sundargarh, Bargaon, Sabdega, Balisankra, and Tangarpali (in Sundargarh subdivision), Kuarmunda, Nuagaon, Bisra, and Lathikata (in Panposh subdivision), and Lahunipara, Koira, Bonaigarh, and Gurundia (in Bonai subdivision).

COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCKS AND  
OTHER OFFICES

List of various sections in the district office is shown in Appendix-I. These sections are in subordinate charge of many district level officers subject to overall control of the Collector.

Other State Government Offices and offices of the Government of India located in the district are shown in Appendix II.

---

\*. Government have sanctioned to open a Sub-Treasury at Rajgangpur which is yet to function.

## APPENDIX I

## SECTIONS OF SUNDARGARH COLLECTORATE

1. Revenue
2. Touzi
3. General and Miscellaneous
4. Judicial
5. Establishment
6. Land Records
7. Forest Settlement
8. Emergency
9. Land Acquisition
10. Compensation
11. Development
12. Election
13. Nizarat
14. Record Room
15. Mines
16. Public Relation
17. Civil Supplies
18. Panchayat
19. Regional Transport Office
20. Excise
21. License
22. Treasury
23. Census
24. Library
25. Certificate
26. Loans
27. Flood
28. Bill and Budget
29. Forms and Stationery

## APPENDIX II

## OFFICES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

1. District Veterinary Officer, Sundargarh
2. District Statistical Officer, Sundargarh
3. District National Savings Organiser, Sundargarh
4. District Welfare Officer, Sundargarh
5. Chief District Medical Officer, Sundargarh
6. Superintendent of Police, Sundargarh
7. Superintendent of Police, Rourkela
8. Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Rourkela
9. Assistant Director, Fisheries, Sundargarh
10. Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, Sundargarh
11. Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Organisation, Sundargarh
12. Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Organisation, Rourkela
13. Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Sundargarh
14. Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Rourkela
15. Executive Engineer, Electrical, Rourkela
16. Executive Engineer, Public Health Department, Rourkela
17. Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh
18. Divisional Forest Officer, Bonaigarh
19. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Sundargarh
20. Principal, Sundargarh College, Sundargarh
21. Principal, Rourkela Science College, Rourkela
22. District Employment Exchange Officer, Rourkela
23. District Industries Officer, Rourkela
24. District Labour Officer, Rourkela
25. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Rourkela
26. Divisional Transport Manager, Rourkela
27. Commercial Tax Officer, Rourkela
28. Mining Officer, Rourkela
29. Inspector of Schools, Sundargarh Circle, Sundargarh
30. District Inspector of Schools, Sundargarh
31. District Inspector of Schools, Rourkela
32. District Agricultural Officer, Sundargarh
33. District Industries Officer, Sundargarh

## OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. Income tax Officer, Rourkela.
2. Superintendent, Central Excise, Rourkela
3. Central Excise Factory Officer, Rourkela
4. Assistant Labour Commissioner, Rourkela
5. Superintendent of Post Offices, Sundargarh