

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

INTRODUC-
TION

The tract comprising the present Sundargarh district formed a part of ancient South Kosala and was connected with Madhya Pradesh through the Ib and the Brahmani River Valleys. The routes passing through the Ib river valley and the Brahmani river valley in the district served as ancient trade routes. In the past, diamonds were occasionally found in the sands of the Ib river, and gold-washing was carried on in most of the rivers and streams by Jhora Gonds, who thus gained a sustainable livelihood. There is an open well cultivated plain land along the valley of the Ib particularly in the south. The east and the west of the Brahmani valley is filled with high ranges of mountains principal among which are Mankarnacha, Chheliatoka, and Bichakhani in the east. Bichakhani hill has acquired great importance by yielding millions of tons of iron-ore for use in the Rourkela Steel Plant, which is transported by a railway line running at the foot of the hill at Dumaro. The forests of the district are of northern tropical dry deciduous type, mainly containing Sal, Assan, and Kurum. Among forest produce are bamboo, honey, gum, and Kendu leaf. Most of the hills of Bonai subdivision are densely wooded to the summit, and except at the regular passes are inaccessible. Tiger, bear, leopard, elephant, deer, and peafowl were met with in the forests. The Bonai subdivision enjoyed an unenviable reputation for a number of man-eating tigers with which it was infested. The entire tiger population is now very nearly extinct. The principal crops in order of importance are rice, blackgram, green gram, kulthi, maize, jowar, sesamum, mustard, gram, arhar, sugar-cane and potato. The district occupies a prominent position in the mineral map of the country. There is a stretch of coal bearing rock along the valley of the river Ib. Manganese, limestone, iron, kaolin, fire-clay and dolomite mines are now being worked out extensively, giving a strong industrial base to the economic activity of the people. The Geological Survey of India have unearthed a rich belt of lead, copper and zinc in Sargipali area of Sundargarh Tahsil; the reserves of which have been estimated at 700 million tonnes. An industrial township is going to develop in the area in the near future. Minerals of the district contribute about half a crore of revenue to the State Exchequer. The total value of the minerals raised during 1969-70 was about rupees ten crores.

The district is now a land of possibilities and economic experiments. The socio-economic effects of large-scale investment in a predominantly

primitive agrarian pattern of society can suitably be studied here. That after eighteen years of high industrial production, the vicinity of the producing area does not adjust to modern trends but tries to remain primitive, is a point for intensive social study.

However, many changes have taken place during the last two decades. A visitor to Rourkela today would feel like Rip Van Winkle waking up after long years of sleep. Growth of heavy and light industries in and around Rourkela, Rajgangpur, Kansbahal, Lathikata, and Birmitrapur have transformed the pastoral countryside into a centre humming with activity with large concentration of people both from within and outside the State. Established in a backward district in an area with large concentration of Adivasis, the Rourkela steel plant has opened up new vistas of progress by utilising indigenous raw materials, employing local people, and developing large number of infra-structure facilities. It is one of the world's most modern plants producing flat products which has employed the latest machinery and technique. It is also one of Asia's largest plants producing coke oven gas and a wide range of chemicals as by-products and the only steel plant in the country with a fertilizer complex producing Calcium Ammonium Nitrate.

Life in rural areas is also very different. Zamindars, Gaontias, and Chowkidars are no longer there. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people of the district are primarily agriculturists. They cultivate one crop in a year due to lack of irrigation facilities and produce paddy, millets, oil-seeds, and pulses. Unlike the Adivasis in Koraput, and Boudh-Khondmal districts, the Adivasis of this district have taken up settled cultivation. Shifting cultivation is hardly prevalent. Poultry, dairy, and piggery are found among them but on a domestic scale. The important house-hold industries of these people are hand-pounding of rice, pottery, basket-weaving, rope-making and stitching of 'Siali' leaves.

The people of the district depend upon the forests to a great extent. Their requirements consist mainly of timber for house building, agricultural implements and bullock-carts; bamboo for fencing, roofing and basket making; and fuel for the kitchen. The poor people search out from the forest edible roots, leaves, fruits and flowers for their living. Collection of minor forest produce is an important subsidiary occupation and a large number of people are engaged in collection of 'bidi' leaves and cutting of bamboos for paper mills. Other minor forest produce like myrobalans, *mohua* flowers and seeds, *dhatuki* flowers, resin, etc. are collected by the local villagers and sold or bartered in the weekly markets in exchange for salt,

rice, and other necessities. As the district is full of mines, many tribal people have been employed in mining industries. Gradually these people are coming to the mainstream of modern life and their peculiar habits, festivals, rituals and social ceremonies are undergoing a change in the process.

Barring the Rourkela Complex, the economy of the district is mainly dependant on agriculture, which employs about 60 per cent of its labour force. The establishment of a number of industries in recent years has not changed the agrarian character of the district. The majority of the people depend upon subsistence farming. Due to lack of irrigation facilities the scope for introducing high-yielding crops, double and multiple cropping has been limited. Two Community Development Blocks namely, Lahunipara and Koira are under Intensive Area Agricultural Project and High Yielding Variety Programme.

However, the cultivators are gradually inclined to adopt improved methods of cultivation and make use of better seeds, manures and implements. Seeds of improved quality are being supplied by the Government agricultural farms. Agriculture is gradually being mechanised with the use of tractors and pump-sets. The cultivators of the district own 360 diesel pumps and 3 electric pumps. Fruit gardens as a source of income were almost unknown a few years back, but are now gaining popularity. During past few years several orchards were started at different places, and cultivation of vegetables was widely undertaken. Japanese method of paddy cultivation was introduced and has gained popularity among the farmers. Protection of crops from the ravages of pests has become easier with the help of modern pesticides. Government loan is being given for the purchase of seeds or cattle or for any other purpose connected with agriculture. Land Improvement Loan is advanced for any work which adds to the letting value of land such as construction of wells, tanks, reclamation of land, etc.

Summer paddy was introduced for the first time in the year 1970. Groundnut in *rabi* season is also a new crop. Ragi, hybrid maize and jawar are the other crops which have been introduced. In un-irrigated villages the land remains fallow and the cultivators remain idle for almost half of the agricultural year and during this time they migrate for daily wages to the nearby towns. The Kuradhi Minor Irrigation Project has a total ayacut area of 3,319 hectares distributed over 22 villages in Lahunipara, and Koira Blocks. It has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 59,54,000 and irrigates about 2,800 hectares in *kharif* and 280 hectares

in *rabi* season. Five new projects have been taken up recently at an estimated cost of rupees one crore and the designed ayacut (irrigated area) of these projects is 8,000 hectares in *kharif* and 2,000 hectares in *rabi* season. Improved variety of potato is being grown and found to be very profitable. The area under this crop is increasing from year to year. Other minor crops like tobacco, winter vegetables, chillies, garlic, and tomato are also grown with an increased acreage. There are many promising varieties of local paddy viz., Sonakhadika, Jhilli, Karpurbasha, Chinamati, etc. Among the high yielding varieties of paddy 1242, BAM 9 in wet land; T. 90, 141 and 1141 in medium land; PTB. 10. in high land; IR 8, Taicchung, Jaya, Padma, and Jagannath are getting popular with the cultivators. The total area covered under paddy crop during 1971-72 was 203,204 hectares, out of which 4385 hectares were under high yielding paddy, 70,447 hectares under improved paddy, and the rest 1,33,372 hectares were under local paddy. Orchards are growing as people are interested in lemon, orange, guava, papaya, plantain and mango trees in their back-yards. Experiments have been successful in planting up-to-date varieties of pineapple and cashew. Area under cashew plantation has increased up to 6,000 acres. Pisciculture, horticulture, and poultry rearing are gaining momentum. The expansion of agriculture, communication, education, health, water supply, housing, and industrial activities have been sponsored through Community Development Blocks. Family Planning and Child Welfare measures are also gaining popularity.

In brief, on one side the industrial activities are developing rapidly in and around Rourkela, Rajgangpur, and Birmitrapur changing the economic character of the people, while on the other the old agrarian pattern alters gradually through the efforts of Co-operative Societies and Community Development Projects.

During the years 1901-1910, the material condition of the people was good. There was ample room for agricultural expansion which encouraged immigration from neighbouring areas. The construction of the Bengal Nagpur Railway line through the district brought it in direct contact with the outside States. The produce of the district could find better market outside which brought about a rise in the price of agricultural produce to the prosperity of the large section of agricultural people. This resulted in the influx of settlers from Chota Nagpur in large numbers. In 1908, Bonai subdivision was in the grip of a great famine due to failure of crops but in all other years the harvest was plentiful and large extent of waste lands were reclaimed.

ECONOMIC
LAND-
MARKS

In the next ten years from 1911—20, the district had suffered from bad harvests; and epidemics like influenza, cholera and smallpox had taken a heavy toll of life. Agricultural activities were badly affected.

In the decade 1921—30, there was great agricultural prosperity both in the shape of good harvests and by way of extension of cultivation by reclamation of waste lands and forests. In Bonai subdivision, the harvest in 1926—27 was not satisfactory which was the singular case of low outturn of crops in the whole decade. Material prosperity increased owing to the extension of the railway line to Birmitrapur in 1922. The limestone and manganese quarries developed further during this decade.

The period from 1931—40 was a period of general peace and prosperity for the district. Agricultural conditions in Sundargarh and Bonai subdivisions were favourable but in Panposh subdivision the outturn of crop was not satisfactory in some years. There was poor rainfall in 1932, 1936 and 1938 when the outturn of crop was lower than in other years but no scarcity was felt. The severe economic depression of the thirties from which the whole world suffered, passed over Sundargarh district without causing much distress. Except in the mining area of Birmitrapur where labourers in the limestone quarry got very low wages, elsewhere the whole district lived on the crop it raised which did not depend on prices. Only when it came to selling the surplus for other expenditure that they got very little money for the purpose but their needs were so few that they did not feel the pinch.

During 1941—50, the harvests were good and there were no severe epidemics. In 1943, the highest flood in living memory was seen in the river Brahmani when sixty-six villages were affected and damage to crops and houses resulted. This was the singular incident of natural calamity during the decade. But the material condition of the people was affected on account of war-time measures and high price-level. The district suffered from economic and health hazards during the Second World War. Forests were denuded to supply timber for war purposes. A large number of Mundas were recruited for the Civil Pioneer Force as well as for the Stil-Well road in Burma. They came back with large sores on their legs which, however, did not take long to heal in the dry climate of the district. Although some of the forests have recovered, large areas are still devoid of tree growth as villagers destroyed all chances of re-generation by chopping off every stick for fuel.

The decade 1951—60 was remarkable in the history of the district. Industrial advancement outweighed agriculture. A cement factory and allied industries were set up at Rajgangpur, while a steel plant was commissioned into production on the 3rd February, 1959, at Rourkela. A Fertiliser Plant was also constructed in Rourkela. The mining area in Birmitrapur has developed fully.

A college for general education at Sundargarh and an engineering college at Rourkela for technical education were opened. Industrialization has provided incentive for mixing with people from all over India. The major part of the district was covered by the Community Development Block. Agricultural prosperity combined with large scale mining and industrialization contributed to the prosperity of the district.

During the years 1961—72, there was spectacular development of small scale industries in and around Rourkela. To meet the growing demand for flat steel in the country the Rourkela Steel Plant was expanded to 1.8 million tonne ingot steel capacity per year. For the development of various ancillary industries an area of about 900 acres was acquired at Kalunga which is about 10 km. from Rourkela. This project is named as the Rourkela Developed Area Project. The work has been taken up by the Industrial Development Corporation, Orissa. By the financial assistance received from the Government of India, a Commercial Estate is under construction at Rourkela. In 1972, two blocks were under construction at a total cost of rupees eight lakhs. Provision has been made for the construction of two additional blocks. It has been envisaged that these units will be let out to unemployed educated persons for both accommodation and starting of small scale industries like steam laundry, radio repairing and servicing, etc. Industries are developing rapidly along the Rourkela-Rajgangpur road, and Rourkela-Barsuan road.

Food grains are the cheapest immediately after harvest and are dearest immediately before the harvest. This is a seasonal phenomenon which occurs every year. Prices are also lower or higher according to the nature of the harvest. A good harvest means lower price and a bad harvest means higher price. This fluctuation from year to year does not take into account the general level of prices of food grains which depends on many other factors which are governed by the laws of supply and demand. If population increases, as has been happening, and production of food crop does not keep pace with it, prices must rise, obviously because the same food has more mouths to feed.

THE GENERAL PRICE LEVEL

The price of well cleaned rice in the ex-State of Bonai in 1873 was 25·220 kg. per rupee, of common rice 50·500 kg. per rupee, and of unhusked coarse paddy one quintal per rupee. The price of common rice during the decade 1893-1902 averaged at 16,800 kg. per rupee. During this period (1893-1902) in the ex-State of Gangpur, the average price of wheat, rice, and gram was 10·320 kg., 15.0 kg., and 11,300 kg. per rupee respectively. In the year 1907 the rate of rice varied from 11 to 13 kilograms a rupee at which it remained stationary till 1913.

In 1914-15 the price of common rice decreased and ranged between 15·0 kg. to 12·0 kg. per rupee in the ex-State of Bonai. In the ex-State of Gangpur, during this year the failure of paddy crop entailed hardship on the raiyats who were accustomed to depend on it for the payment of rents. The price of rice averaged about 13·0 kg. and that of greengram 9·350 kg. to 11·210 kg. per rupee. In the next year, in spite of a good harvest of paddy, price of rice increased. Rice was sold at 12·0 kg. per rupee and greengram, blackgram, kulthi, and arhar, were sold at 5·600 kg., 9·340 kg., 8·400 kg., and 6·500 kg. respectively. In the successive two years harvest of paddy was excellent and enabled the people of the ex-States to recover from the stringent condition of preceding lean years. The years 1918, 1919, and 1920 were bad years for agricultural operations. Price of rice increased abnormally, and was available at 3·700 to 9·340 kilograms a rupee. It was found necessary to import rice in large quantities to meet the demands for the labourers of several companies working in mineral area of the ex-State of Gangpur.

In 1921-22, the monsoon was favourable for the harvest and the maximum and minimum of rice available per rupee was 15·0 kg. to 11·0 kg. in Bonai ex-State, and 15·0 kg. to 5·600 kg. in Gangpur ex-State. In 1922-23 there was a bumper crop of paddy and people were able to replenish their empty granaries. Though prices of imported goods remained high, good prices were obtained for grain and people were able to pay easily to meet their demands. The maximum and minimum price of rice in Gangpur, and Bonai ex-States were 17·0 kg., and 7·500 kg.; and 15·0 kg., and 9·340 kg., per rupee respectively. From 1923-24 to 1929-30, prices rose higher and rice was available at 15·0 kg. at the maximum and 5·600 kg. at the minimum per rupee in both the ex-States. In 1930, rice became cheaper and from 1930-31 to 1940-41 it averaged between 30·0 kg., to 10·0 kg., per rupee.

The price level was again seriously disturbed in the decade 1941-50 and rose in undue proportions. In 1943-44 there was a phenomenal rise in the prices of agricultural produce resulting from the

conditions of Second World War and the famine in Bengal. The average price of rice was 7'400 kg. to 5'600 kg. per rupee. In 1944-45, Price Control Committees consisting of officials, non-officials, merchants, and cultivators were formed for fixing the maximum price of all essential commodities. Price lists were circulated and hung at prominent places for the information of the people. During this year rice was available at 4'600 to 5'600 kilograms and greengram, blackgram, arhar, and til at 3'700, 5'600, 3'700, and 4'600 kilograms per rupee. In 1945-46 and 1946-47 the price of food grains further rose and rice was available at 5'0 kg., to 3'700 kg. per rupee.

It was thought at first that this sharp rise might be only a temporary phase, but the prices started stabilizing at the high level without any prospect of recession. However, the rise of prices during the decade 1951-60 was not as drastic as in the decade 1941-50. But the common man was hit hard and was worse off during 1951-60, because the increase in the price index in this decade, though comparatively small, came on the top of the price spiral of the decade preceding, the cumulative effect of which was good enough to break the economic back-bone of the middle and the lower middle class people. Towards 1954-55 the harvest price of rice, gram, and rape and mustard, as available per rupee, was 2'500 kg., 2'650 kg., and 2'650 kg. respectively. In 1959 the foodgrains became dearer and the retail price of rice, wheat, greengram, and blackgram was 2.0 kg., 1.800 kg., 1'700 kg., and 1.800 kg., per rupee respectively. In 1960 the wholesale price of rice, wheat, greengram, and arhar was 1'990 kg., 2'400 kg., 1'600 kg., and 1'400 kg., per rupee respectively. With the launching of the Third Five Year Plan (April 1961 to March 1966), prices began to rise rapidly and in 1963 the wholesale price of rice, wheat, blackgram, greengram, and sugar was 1.5 kg., 2'400 kg., 1'400 kg., 1.400 kg., and 0'650 grams per rupee respectively. In between 1966 to 1969 the prices of all commodities still grew higher and in 1966 rice, wheat, and sugar were sold at 0.925 grams, 1'160 kg., and 0'510 grams in wholesale rate per rupee respectively. The prices of all commodities rapidly grew higher in 1973 and in the month of October 1973 at Rourkela rice, wheat, greengram, blackgram, bunt, mustard oil, coconut oil, sugar, potato, and onion were sold at 0'700 grams, 1'110 grams, 0'416 grams, 0'476 grams, 0'444 grams, 0.114 grams, 0'102 grams, 0'277 grams, 0'800 grams, and 0'572 grams, per rupee respectively. In recent years, people have been hard hit due to rise in prices, and it is becoming difficult for lower, and middle class people to make both ends meet.

In the beginning of the present century there was little of skilled labour in the ex-States of Gangpur, and Bonai, except carpenters,

GENERAL
LEVEL OF
WAGES

blacksmiths, and masons. Unskilled labour did not cost more than twelve to twenty paise per day while agricultural labour was generally paid in kind. The custom of paying the village artisans, watchmen and menials in kind at harvest time was common. The system of free labour (Bethi and Begar) was prevalent.

During the first three decades of the present century, in the ex-State of Gangpur, a superior mason earned a daily wage of Re. 0.50, while a superior blacksmith and a carpenter got about Re. 0.67 each. Common carpenters, masons, and blacksmiths were paid Re. 0.33, Re. 0.22, and Re. 0.33 per day respectively. The rate of wages in the ex-State of Bonai during this period was determined by custom, and money payments were not usually adopted. The daily rate of wages paid to imported labour was: superior mason Rs. 1.25, common mason, and carpenter Re 0.75 each. A common blacksmith could get Re. 0.25 per day. It was extremely difficult in the two ex-States to obtain paid daily labour. The cultivators were well off and the landless field labourers obtained sufficient good remuneration in kind from the farmers and preferred irregular labour eked out by the spoil of the chase or the numerous edible products of the jungle to regular hours and good cash wages. The only system of obtaining local labour was the system of forced labour rewarding the labourers with their daily allowance of 1.867 kg. of rice.

Towards 1942 the wages of different classes of labourers began to rise. In the ex-State of Bonai, during 1942-43, the daily rate of wages was Re. 0.25 to Re. 0.31 per male labourer and Re. 0.19 to Re. 0.25 per woman labourer, while in the interior areas it was a little lower. The agriculturists continued paying in kind as usual, viz., paddy, and their rate was lower but in spite of this the 'Halias' felt more secure as they preferred payment in kind to cash. Many labourers were engaged in the extraction of timber and the construction of a portion of the Bombay-Calcutta Trunk Road. In the next year the daily rate of wages of male labourer was increased while the rate of wages for female labourers remained stable. The carpenters and masons earned Re. 0.60 to Re. 1.00 per day. Blacksmiths got Re 0.50 to Re. 0.75 per day. In the next year the wages of both male and female labourers were increased and varied from Re. 0.31 to Re 0.44 and Re. 0.25 to Re. 0.31 respectively. Masons were paid at the rate of Re. 0.50 to Rs. 1.25 and carpenters Re. 0.75 to Rs. 1.50 according to their skill. The labourers found no difficulty in getting remunerative employment in various public works of the ex-State as well as in the fields of tenants. In 1945-46 the mining works, public works, and forest operations of the ex-State continued to afford sufficient

employment to a large number of people. The wages of skilled labour ranged from Re. 0.75 to Rs. 1.50 and those of unskilled labour from Re. 0.25 to Re. 0.44 per day. According to practice followed here, the agricultural labour was paid in kind which was almost equivalent to Re. 0.31 per male adult and Re. 0.25 per female adult a day. Owing to the availability of sufficient employment within the ex-State very few preferred to go outside in quest of better wages. In the ex-State of Gangpur, during 1943-44 the rate of wages varied from Re. 0.31 to Re. 0.37 for a man and Re. 0.19 to Re. 0.25 for a woman. People were getting sufficient employment in limestone quarry of the Bisra Stone Lime Company, Limited, Birmitrapur; dolomite and lime quarry of the Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited at Panposh; the ex-State's own engineering department, and the public works undertaken by the ex-Zamindaris. There was also a considerable drain of labour to the tea gardens of Assam and the various military works in the country. In the next year the rate of wages for both skilled and unskilled labour increased highly. The wages of skilled labour ranged from Re. 1.00 to Rs. 2.50 and that of unskilled labour from Re. 0.37 to Re. 0.62 per day. The rate of cart hire per day ranged from Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 3.00. There was no increase in the rate of wages next year. In 1946-47, the rate of wages increased and varied in between Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2.50 for skilled labour and Re. 0.37 to Re. 0.75 for unskilled labour per day.

During 1954-55 an economic survey¹ was undertaken by the Government of Orissa. It was observed that in the rural economy a major portion of the families derived its livelihood by earning wages in farm and non-farm occupations. The Survey showed that more than half of the labourers, i. e., 54.26 per cent were employed on casual basis. About one fifth of the total number of labourers (21.71 per cent) was engaged on annual terms. Labourers engaged on weekly and monthly terms constituted 20.15 per cent and 3.58 per cent respectively. A labourer, on the average, got work on 279 days a year.

In 1957, with the rise in prices of foodgrains, the wage level was also increased. A carpenter would get Rs. 3.50, a cobbler Rs. 2.50, and a blacksmith Rs. 3.00 per day during the years 1957 to 1961. During this period the field labourers and the herdsmen were paid in between Rs. 1.50 to Re. 1.00. Other agricultural labourers, such as, those who water fields, carry loads or dig wells were paid at Rs. 1.25 per day.

1. Economic Survey of Orissa, Vol. I, Prof. Sadasiv Misra, M. A. Ph. D., (London)

Since 1965 the wage rates have been enhanced further with the rise of prices. In 1967 the skilled labourers, such as, carpenter, cobbler, and blacksmith got Rs. 4.00 per day, Male labourers got Rs. 2.50, female labourers Rs. 2.00, and children Rs. 1.25 per day. Other agricultural labourers got about Rs. 2.00 per male, Rs. 1.75 per female, and Rs. 1.50 per children. A herdsman, whose work is grazing the cattle, got Rs. 2.00 per day. In 1972, carpenters, blacksmiths, and masons got Rs. 5.00 each per day. In urban areas wages of skilled artisans were higher and they got about Rs. 7.00 to Rs 8.00 per day according to their skill. Field labourers and other agricultural labourers were receiving at the rate of Rs. 3.00 per male, Rs. 2.00 per female, and Rs. 1.50 per child per day . A herdsman was getting Rs. 2.25 per day. In the interior parts of Sundargarh subdivision male labourers got Rs. 2.00 in cash or 2.500 kg. of paddy in kind. Female labourers got Rs. 1.50 in cash or 2.0 kg. of paddy in kind per day. In Bonai subdivision the rate of wages per male and female labourers was the same as that of Sundargarh subdivision. But when they demanded wages in kind, it was paid at the rate of 4 kg. of paddy to males and 3.500 kg. of paddy to females per day.

STANDARD OF LIVING

At the beginning of the 20th century the material condition of the people of the ex-State of Bonai was prosperous. They had enough for their wants which were few and lived a happy and contented life. There was, however, a marked difference between the condition of the people living along the valley of the Brahmani and those dwelling in the forest tracts. The villagers along this valley were neat and clean, the houses were large and well cared for. The villagers possessed considerable herds of cattle and buffaloes. The people, however, were extremely backward and scarcely left the limits of their own villages. In fact, the villages were self-contained and self-managed. The Pahari Bhuiyans and the Hos lived in the interior part of the ex-State and their method of living was in marked contrast to their more favourably situated brethren. Their raiment consisted of a scanty cloth round the loins and in some cases a body wrap; their ornaments, a few glass beads strung round the neck. Their wants were few and they ate mostly maize which they raised on clearings in the jungle on the hill sides. Fuel was readily available; so too was timber for their houses and agricultural purposes. The necessities of life could be cheaply obtained, of luxuries few were known except opium and a considerable consumption of 'Handia' (rice beer). The people of the ex-State were free from debt except for occasional small loans amongst themselves.

During this period in the ex-State of Gangpur the condition of the people was, on the whole, good. The soil was fertile, prices were low, and the land assessment was very light. No rent was paid for the vast tracts of upland cultivation and in return free labour and certain contributions in kind were paid to the Chief. The railway had added enormously to the prosperity of the people and had given them a ready market for surplus stocks and forest products. The pinch of severe distress was almost unknown. The better classes had ample stocks and the aboriginals and landless classes lived, to a very large extent, on the products of the forests.

Towards 1935 in the ex-State of Gangpur people lived in better houses and wore more gold and silver ornaments than they did twenty years ago. There was an increase in trade in 1918 to 1925. But the general prosperity was not reflected upon the labouring class and the poor raiyats. Every year a large number of them went to Jamshedpur, and Assam to eke out their livelihood. Their earning in tea gardens was quite substantial and the relatives of these tea garden labourers received Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 80,000 yearly by money orders from the labourers. The Agharias grew fine rice, groundnuts, onion, blackgram, greengram, and sugarcane. Sugarcane cultivation was first introduced by them in the Gangpur ex-State. The standard of comfort was not much altered. The food, furniture, and clothing of an average villager were very much the same as they were before. But the Gaontias and the tenants generally used bicycles. The aboriginal races did little rice cultivation. Their principal food crop was Gulji. Many of them lived as much upon forest produce as upon their cultivation. In Bisra, Panposh, and Birmitrapur police stations most of the aboriginals lived upon rice and *Mahua* from June to October. The Mundas and the Oraons were hard working men and their work in tea gardens was much appreciated.

The average cost of cultivation of rice in Bahal land was not more than Rs. 8.88 per acre and the average net profit per acre was Rs. 16.75 when paddy was sold at 77.500 kg. per rupee. The cost of cultivation in Mal land was less and the yield was also less. Surplus paddy which a tenant got after meeting the cost of cultivation and payment of rent was his profit, the price of which fluctuated with the rise and fall of the price of paddy in the market. During this period there was no marked change in the general condition of the people of the ex-State of Bonai. The population consisted of agriculturists and labourers and very few people followed trade and other professions. Rabi and oil-seeds played an important part in the rural economy. These were exported and gave handsome profit to the tenants. Any damage done to these crops brought distress to the tenants.

Towards 1945 the economic condition of the people was satisfactory. The worst of the economic depressions was not imminent. People did not feel the pinch of penury as paddy was available at a comparatively cheaper rate than in the surrounding British districts. The works undertaken by the Public Works Department, supply of timber to War, and mining operations provided sufficient labour to the poorer classes and they had no necessity to go outside in search of employment. Apart from the ready market for labour, there were other subsidiary occupations such as collection of Sabai grass, Kendu leaves, cultivation of Tassar, and Lac which could supply labour to those classes which had the lowest economic margin. The increased prices that the agricultural products fetched helped to ameliorate the condition of the peasants considerably. The Pans and the Kolhas improved their economic condition by taking to wet cultivation.

In recent years, the impact of urban life, the modern means of communication, education, the impact of Five Year Plans through Community Development Blocks and the modern outlook to which people are fast taking, have much bearing on the food-habits and luxuries even in the remote parts of the district. The district is now one of the most industrially advanced areas in the State. The industries in and around Rourkela are providing ample scope for the employment of the people on higher wages. In spite of the increased prices of food-grains and other commodities people are able to meet the expenses.

The tribal people are economically very backward. Their annual income is hardly sufficient to provide them even with the bare subsistence of life. Much of their income is spent on social ceremonies and on drinks leaving little or no savings. For social expenses and to meet daily necessities of life in most parts of the year, they depend on money-lenders from whom they borrow small amounts of money on extremely onerous terms, at times pledging their standing crops in the field. The State Government in a bid to help these people have undertaken a number of welfare measures including the opening of Agricultural Credit Societies, Co-operative Banks, and schools to spread education among them.

In the family budget of the upper class people expenditure on cereals is much less than on other food items. They live in expensive houses in towns provided with modern amenities. On an average about 33 per cent of their income is expended on toilet, amusements, clothing, light, fuel, medicine, and education.

The middle-class people live in better houses. In respect of food items rural people depend more on home-grown stock than their counter

parts in the urban areas, while for the non-food items dependence on market is more or less the same for all. They could hardly save money for a Bank balance.

The lower class people generally live in cottages and huts. A major portion of their earning is spent on food, mostly cereals. The expenditure on education, health, fuel, and light is very meagre.

Monthly consumption of food items and non-food items per household in rural/urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by expenditure groups has been given in appendix II of the Chapter. These figures are based on the report on Family Budget Enquiry, 1960. In this study, 103 households from the rural area and 73 households from the urban area have been surveyed.

The District Employment Exchange, Rourkela, came into existence on the 3rd May, 1955. To meet the increased activities of this Employment Exchange a sub-office was opened at the district headquarters under the control of a Junior Employment Officer. The District Employment Exchange is under the control of the District Employment Officer.

GENERAL
LEVEL OF EM-
PLOYMENT IN
DIFFERENT
OCCUPATION
Employment
Exchange

The Live Register in 1971 had a strength of 25,217 persons of which 2,918 were matriculates and under-graduates, 142 graduates in Arts, 197 graduates in Science, and 38 graduates in Commerce. Under-matriculates accounted for 5,731 persons. There were 10,975 male labourers and 1,036 female labourers. Diploma holders in civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical, and metallurgical engineering accounted for 40 persons, 100 persons, 60 persons, 12 persons and 30 persons respectively.

In the last three years there has been a fall in the number of registrants, notification of vacancies, and placements. The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe applicants constituted the bulk of the Live Register amounting to 7,400 persons in 1968, 10,019 persons in 1969, and 10,847 persons in 1970. Against these, 342 persons in 1968, 282 persons in 1969 and 126 persons in 1970 were placed in employment.

There are 132 employers in the public sector employing 49,375 persons, and 69 employers in the private sector employing 18,064 persons in the entire district. These figures are according to the information given by the employers engaging 22 persons and above in the private sector, and all the employers in the public sector.

Employment
Market
Information

The Vocational Guidance Unit is functioning in this district since August 1961 under the charge of a trained officer in vocational guidance.

Vocational
Guidance

During the period January, 1971 to January, 1972, 890 individuals received information regarding jobs, 160 applicants received individual guidance, 111 group discussions were conducted in which 855 persons attended, and applications of 552 persons were forwarded to different organisations for training.

Crash
Programme
for Rural
Employment

In view of the current unemployment and underemployment situation in rural areas, efforts to counter the situation have been undertaken on a country-wide basis. The Government of India have, accordingly, formulated a scheme called the 'Crash Scheme' for rural employment. Already several schemes, notably those relating to small farmers, marginal farmers and rural works in drought-prone areas, as also the Rural Manpower Programme are covering selected areas of the country. It would take some more time for these schemes to spread beyond the limited areas assigned to each one of them. Meanwhile, in the residue areas, as also in the areas where the substantive schemes have not yet fully spread out, or are likely to afford only limited benefits, a minimum measure of effort needs to be urgently mounted to relieve the distress caused by unemployment or under-employment or seasonal unemployment. The present scheme has been conceived in this context and seeks to provide quickly and directly employment to at least some specific numbers in each of the districts of the country. The scheme is operated through the State Governments with 100 per cent central assistance as grants.

More specifically, the objective of the scheme is to generate additional employment through a net-work of rural projects of various kinds which on the one hand are labour intensive and on the other create productive assets or complementary facilities which are part of the area development plan of each district. Due to the operation of the several employment-production-oriented special schemes, not all areas in a district would require further employment facilities. There would be developed areas, developing areas and under development areas in each district. It is in the relatively undeveloped areas where the need for employment is the greatest that this Crash Scheme should be implemented. The scheme should provide employment to minimum of 1,000 persons for ten months in a year in each district. Wages to be paid would be in terms of locally prevalent off season wage rates not exceeding in all Rs. 100 per head*per month.

The scheme is designed to provide employment primarily to those who belong to families where no adult member is employed. The scheme has, however, also to take note for employing others keeping in view the problems of under-employment and seasonal unemploy-

ment. To secure durable quality of the works under the scheme, funds are also provided not exceeding one-fourth of the total wage bill for any project for purchase of materials and equipment.

The work-projects undertaken should generally be such as can be completed within two working seasons and may, as found necessary, relate also to stabilisation of existing assets like repair of roads, soil-conservation, afforestation, minor irrigation works like construction and restoration of storage tanks, etc.

In this district, during the period April, 1971 to March, 1972, Rs. 12,50,000 were provided of which Rs. 3,18,300 for renovation and excavation of tanks, Rs. 2,10,366 for improvement of minor irrigation projects, Rs. 27,500 for deepening of nursery tanks and stocking tanks for pisciculture, and Rs. 6,93,834 for improvement and construction of roads. During this period Rs. 10,58,816.71 were expended and 3,97,562½ man-days were employed. A detailed list of the expenditure incurred and man-days employed by the different Community Development Blocks and other offices has been given in Appendix I of this Chapter.

The Community Development Programme was introduced in the district with the inauguration of the Community Development Block at Sundargarh on the 2nd October 1953. The district has been divided into 17 Community Development Blocks covering a total area of 788,087 hectares.

COMMUNITY
DEVELOP-
MENT

The achievements of the Community Development Blocks in the district are narrated below.

In 1968-69, improved seeds of paddy 7648.12 quintals, wheat 256.83 quintals, jowar 12.88 quintals, maize 19.30 quintals, mung 94.95 quintals, sugarcane 44.80 quintals, and groundnut 218.38 quintals were distributed. Fertilisers, such as, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate 4179.87 quintals, Super Phosphate 857.70 quintals, Ammonium Phosphate 283.80 quintals, and other chemical fertilisers of 2526.67 quintals were distributed. An area of 1511.89 hectares was under green manuring. Chemical pesticides of 384.68 litres were distributed.

Agriculture

In 1971-72, there were 17 Veterinary hospitals, 59 Stockman Centres, and 12 Artificial Insemination Centres. 154,966 animals were treated and 8,939 animals were castrated.

Animal
Husbandry
and
Veterinary

In 1971-72, there were 17 Primary Health Centres, 21 dispensaries, 36 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, and 21 Family Planning Centres. Besides, there were 3 training centres for Dhais. 124,528 patients were treated in dispensaries, and 10,446 patients in Primary Health Centres.

Health and
Rural Sani-
tation

- Education** In 1971-72, there were 1312 Primary schools, 4 Junior Basic schools, 185 M. E. schools, and 68 H. E. schools. A total number of 40,002 boys and 19,696 girls were enrolled in Primary schools of which 27,681 boys and 13,541 girls belonged to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- Social Education** In 1971-72, there were 214 Yubak Sanghas with 4,789 members. Besides, there were 77 Adult Literacy Centres, 56 libraries and reading rooms, 31 Community Centres, and 47 Rural Radio Forums.
- Women's Programme** In 1971-72, there were 344 Mahila Samitis with 11,285 members. Besides, there were 3 Balwadi Centres imparting education to the children, 169 expectant and nursing mothers, and 576 school children were medically examined. On an average 8,163 expectant and nursing mothers, and 32,729 pre-school children were fed per day.
- Communication** In 1971-72, 924 km., 1,389 km., 701 km., and 343 km. of roads were maintained by Panchayat Samitis, Grama Panchayats, Public Works Department and Rural Engineering Organisation respectively. Besides, 50 km. length of National High Way, 176 km. length of State High Way and 205 km. length of rail roads were passing through the Community Development Blocks of the district.
- General** During 1971-72, there were 68 electrified villages and 1,239 villages were provided with primary schools. 182 villages and 8 villages had Post Offices, and Post and Telegraph offices respectively. There were two Gramadan villages and 8 model villages.
- A list of Community Development Blocks with their headquarters, number of villages, number of Grama Panchayats and areas has been given in Appendix III of this chapter.

APPENDIX 1

A list of expenditure incurred and man-days employed during 1971-72, under Crash Programme for Rural Employment.

Name of Community Development Blocks and Offices	Expenditure incurred	Man-days employed
Sundargarh ..	62,088.00	31,044
Tangarpali ..	54,588.00	14,635
Lefripara ..	70,605.07	28,242
Hemgir ..	46,612.40	18,844
Sabdega ..	89,588.00	33,625
Balisankra ..	99,588.00	39,611
Bargaon ..	89,573.47	38,986
Kutra ..	44,588.00	15,761
Rajgangpur ..	28,318.35	8,273½
Kuarmunda ..	71,588.00	23,044
Bisra ..	35,778.96	11,674
Nuagaon ..	69,588.00	23,215½
Lathikata ..	69,478.88	28,147
Bonaigarh ..	24,312.65	10,480
Lahunipara ..	32,810.45	11,841
Koira ..	42,897.49	9,342
Gurundia ..	51,143.01	14,351
Divisional Forest office ..	65,669.98	31,763½
Office Superintendent of Fishery ..	10,000.00	4,583
Total:	10,58,816.71	3,97,562½

APPENDIX 11

TABLE 1

Monthly consumption of cereals per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50	14.41	9.43	23.84	18.95	0.83	19.78
51—100	22.86	18.40	41.26	27.76	1.08	28.84
101—150	14.14	45.27	59.41	43.20	..	43.20
151—300	9.11	74.67	83.78	37.60	..	37.60
301—500	1.03	129.93	130.96	98.46	..	84.96
501—1,000	25.00	313.12	338.12	51.50	..	51.50
1,001 and above	..	..	..	49.60	..	49.60
All Expenditure Groups.	17.15	33.78	50.93	34.03	0.66	34.69

TABLE II

Monthly consumption of milk and milk-products per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50	0.91	1.18	2.09	0.93	..	0.93
51—100	0.96	0.75	1.71	2.33	1.11	3.41
101—150	1.25	1.51	2.76	5.00	..	5.00
151—300	14.51	1.50	6.01	14.50	..	14.50
301—500	26.75	..	26.75	19.10	..	19.10
500—1,000	..	32.50	32.50	48.75	..	48.75
1,001 and above	..	..	..	20.00	..	20.00
All Expenditure Groups.	2.84	2.22	5.06	8.09	0.32	8.41

TABLE III

Monthly consumption of other food items per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50 ..	4.93	0.83	5.76	9.50	0.01	9.51
51—100 ..	7.88	2.73	10.61	19.58	0.31	19.89
101—150 ..	17.58	7.24	24.82	33.71	..	33.71
151—300 ..	34.26	11.27	45.53	55.95	..	55.95
301—500 ..	112.12	18.34	130.46	94.89	..	94.89
501—1,000 ..	151.21	118.37	269.49	120.69	..	120.69
1,001 and above ..	15.74	5.71	21.45	31.80	0.13	31.93
All Expenditure Groups ..	..	..	..	115.62	..	115.62

TABLE IV

Monthly consumption of fuel, light and intoxicants per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50 ..	1.67	2.13	3.80	5.25	..	5.25
51—100 ..	3.59	4.28	7.87	8.47	..	8.47
101—150 ..	7.55	4.70	12.25	11.75	..	11.75
151—300 ..	15.59	2.85	18.44	13.83	..	13.83
301—500 ..	26.87	..	26.87	20.72	..	20.72
501—1,000 ..	34.93	30.00	64.93	19.62	..	19.62
1,001 and above ..	..	..	..	21.69	..	21.69
All Expenditure Groups ..	16.14	3.94	10.07	9.99	..	9.99

SUNDARGARH

TABLE V

Monthly consumption on amusement, toilet and sundry goods per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50 ..	0·72	0·04	0·76	1·63	..	1·63
51—100 ..	1·51	0·31	1·82	3·14	..	3·14
101—150 ..	3·77	0·19	3·96	5·81	..	5·81
151—300 ..	7·36	0·36	7·72	12·82	..	12·82
301—500 ..	27·28	..	27·28	19·04	..	19·04
501—1,000 ..	41·62	..	41·62	36·13	..	36·13
1,001 and above ..	..	..	..	31·00	..	31·00
All Expenditure.. Groups	3·43	0·22	3·65	7·13	..	7·13

TABLE VI

Monthly consumption of clothing, etc., per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by all Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1—50 ..	1·79	0·31	2·10	2·93	..	2·93
51—100 ..	5·07	0·17	5·24	5·06	..	5·06
101—150 ..	6·15	0·43	6·58	8·91	..	8·91
151—300 ..	12·62	0·79	13·41	11·55	..	11·55
301—500 ..	27·87	..	27·87	33·76	..	33·76
501—1,000 ..	77·25	..	77·25	42·91	..	42·91
1,001 and above..	..	..	..	145·75	..	145·75
All Expenditure .. Groups	6·57	0·32	6·89	10·83	..	10·83

TABLE VII

Monthly consumption of miscellaneous goods and services per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by all Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P	Rs. P.	Rs. P
1—50 ..	0·94	0·15	1·09	1·38	1·38	1·38
51—100 ..	3·21	0·61	3·82	13·71	..	3·71
101—150 ..	6·91	0·87	7·78	10·44	..	10·44
151—300 ..	15·02	4·60	19·62	18·02	..	18·02
301—500 ..	35·30	2·83	38·13	27·72	..	27·72
501—1,000 ..	87·25	10·42	97·67	71·40	..	71·40
1,001 and above ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All Expenditure Groups ..	6·29	1·13	7·42	13·94	..	13·94

TABLE VIII

Monthly consumption of durable and semi-durable goods per household in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by all Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P
1—50 ..	0·56	0·04	0·60	0·50	..	0·50
51—100 ..	2·40	0·14	2·54	2·07	..	2·07
101—150 ..	3·23	..	3·23	10·22	..	10·22
151—300 ..	2·90	0·65	3·55	22·73	..	22·73
301—500 ..	6·36	..	6·36	69·93	..	69·93
501—1,000 ..	38·67	..	48·67	125·45	..	125·45
1,001 and above ..	..	..	..	367·92	..	567·92
All Expenditure Groups..	3·20	0·06	3·26	28·03	..	28·03

TABLE IX

Consumers expenditure per household per month in Rural/Urban areas of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, and Keonjhar districts classified by Expenditure Groups.

	Rural			Urban		
	Cash	Non-cash	Total	Cash	Non-cash	Total
	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P	Rs. P
1—50 ..	24·89	13·12	38·01	40·27	0·85	41·12
51—100 ..	45·42	26·65	72·07	69·10	1·89	70·99
101—150 ..	59·56	59·51	118·97	127·02	..	127·02
151—300 ..	100·96	95·96	196·92	187·01	..	187·01
301—500 ..	250·22	151·11	401·33	370·13	..	370·13
501—1,000 ..	465·84	504·41	970·25	516·47	..	516·47
1,001 and above ..	..	..	..	1,325·60	..	1,325·60

APPENDIX III

General particulars about the Community Development Blocks of the district.

Name of the Community Development Blocks	Headquarters	Number of villages in the Blocks	Number of Grama Panchayats	Block area (Hectares)
Tangarpali	.. Ujalpur	73	6	2,966
Lefripara	.. Lefripara	92	8	6,022
Hemgir	.. Hemgir	142	9	93,238
Kutra	.. Kutra	50	8	31,385
Gurundia	.. Gurundia	128	9	40,238
Bargaon	.. Bargaon	70	9	35,949
Sabdega	.. Sabdega	56	9	32,428
Nuagaon	.. Nuagaon	121	10	38,889
Balisankra	.. Balisankra	84	10	45,065
Sundargarh	.. Sundargarh	87	8	35,988
Bonaigarh	.. Bonaigarh	110	7	25,435
Bisra	.. Bisra	51	6	22,560
Rajgangpur	.. Rajgangpur	68	8	34,478
Lathikata	.. Lathikata	103	9	44,440
Kuarmunda	.. Kuarmunda	120	8	57,672
Lahunipara	.. Lahunipara	213	8	77,568
Koira	.. Koira	107	7	83,720
Total	.. ..	1,675	139	7,88,087