

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The relations between the ex-State of Boudh and the British Government were regulated by Sanads granted to the Ruling Chiefs from time to time. In 1875 a *sanad* was granted to the then Chief of Boudh recognising his hereditary title of Raja and in 1894 by the grant of another *sanad* the tribute payable by the ex-State was fixed in perpetuity.

The State was administered personally by the Chief assisted by a Diwan. The Chief exercised the powers of a Magistrate of the first class and was bound to pay Nazarana to the British Government on succession. The ex-State of Boudh merged with the State of Orissa on the 1st January, 1948 and constituted a subdivision in the newly created district of Boudh-Khondmals. The district of Boudh-Khondmals was formed on the 1st January, 1948 with only two subdivisions, namely, Boudh and Khondmals. The next year Baligurha police station of Ganjam district and 51* villages of Dahya outpost which was a part of Sonepur ex-State were annexed to the Boudh subdivision. Thus the district is now comprised of three subdivisions viz., Boudh, Khondmals and Baligurha.

General administration of a district mainly rests with the Collector and District Magistrate. 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. He is assisted by one or more than one Additional District Magistrates and a team of 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 social welfare 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 departmental officers in the district for the smooth and efficient implementation of different programmes of the Government. He is the Chairman of the District Development Committee of which the officers of different departments of the Government posted in the district are members. He as the Chairman of the District Development Advisory Board advises the Government of the programmes to be implemented for the overall development of the district.

ADMINISTRATION 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. Generally, Government dues of other departments are also collected by

* Subsequently in 1954-69 Settlement the number of villages in the area had increased to 66.

him by virtue of his powers as the Certificate Officer of the district under the State Public Demand Recovery Act and the Central Revenue Recovery Act. Being the Chief Revenue Officer of the district he is responsible for the management of Government land and estates and for the maintenance of Land Records. 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 preoccupied. Immediately after Independence and during the first two Plan periods (1951-61), 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 changed to supervision and guidance as the guardian of Government interests. The Zilla Parishads were abolished with effect from the 1st April, 1967, and a District Advisory Council was constituted which was called the District Advisory Council, or the "Zilla Paramarsadata Samiti". Since 4th November, 1970 a new set up called District Development Advisory Board has replaced the Council.

The Collector is assisted by officers of various other departments like the Superintendent of Excise, the Civil Supplies Officer, the District Public Relations Officer, the District Panchayat Officer, the District Welfare Officer, etc.

The Collector of Boudh-Khondmals district is under the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Southern Division, with headquarters at Berhampur. In revenue matters the Collector is under the control of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner who has powers to revise some of his orders, to supervise his work and to give him general direction. Above the Revenue Divisional Commissioner is the Member, Board of Revenue, who is responsible for the efficient running of revenue administration throughout the State. The Collector is responsible for the collection of Government dues and for the maintenance of Government properties.

* 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 bottle-necks in the execution of the developmental works.

After the separation of 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 with headquarters at Berhampur. The Subdivisional Judicial Magistrates of the subdivisions also function as Munsifs for their respective areas. Besides, three Executive Magistrates for these subdivisions have been appointed as Special Magistrates to act in the absence of the Subdivisional Judicial Magistrates. They, however, do not try cases. They remain in charge of the routine business and dispose of urgent criminal matters. They also maintain law and order. Besides, they are also required to record confessional statements and hold T. I. parades and record dying declarations according to law. The Subdivisional Officers and the Subdivisional Magistrates, however, have been vested with powers to try offences under the Orissa Money Lenders Act and the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976.

As mentioned earlier, the district has been divided into three subdivisions, namely, Khondmals, Boudh and Baligurha. Each subdivision is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer. He is mainly responsible for the general and revenue administration and for the maintenance of law and order in his area. The Executive Magistrate posted under him is entrusted with the disposal of criminal cases under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and maintenance of law and order. Trial of criminal cases are left to the Judicial Magistrate of the subdivision.

The Subdivisional Officer has general control over the subdivisional staff of all other departments as well as of the Panchayat Samitis and Grama Panchayats in his subdivision. He is directly responsible for the smooth implementation of the programmes of the Panchayat Samitis. As Chief Revenue Officer of the subdivision, he is responsible for proper administration of the Tahsils. He has also powers of control and supervision over the police administration. The Subdivisional Officer also acts as the Estate Officer for all Government properties. Besides, the Subdivisional Officers are also notified as Subdivisional Magistrates under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Each Subdivisional Office has sections like (1) General and Miscellaneous, (2) Development, (3) Revenue, (4) Establishment, (5) Nizarat, (5) Records Room, (7) Election, (8) Judicial, (9) Welfare, (10) Grama Panchayat, (11) Civil Supplies, (12) Public Relations, etc. These sections are managed by gazetted officers subject to the overall control of the Subdivisional Officer.

ADMINISTRATION AT THE SUBDIVISIONAL LEVEL

The district has 5 Tahsils, each in charge of a Tahsildar. For better revenue administration there are two Tahsils under each of the two subdivisions of Baligurha and Boudh and one Tahsil under the Khondmals Sadar subdivision. The Tahsil Offices are located at Phulabani in Khondmals Sadar subdivision, Boudh and Kantamal in Boudh subdivision, and Baligurha and G. Udayagiri in Baligurha subdivision. The Tahsildars are assisted by Additional Tahsildars. A Tahsil is further divided into some Revenue Inspector Circles which are the lowest land revenue units for the collection of land revenue and are in charge of Revenue Inspectors.

Except Khondmals Sadar, the other two subdivisions have three Sub-Treasuries of which two are in Baligurha subdivision located at Baligurha and G. Udayagiri. These Sub-Treasuries are in charge of Junior Officers of the State Finance Service. They are designated as Sub-Treasury officers. Khondmals Sadar being the headquarters of the district has got a Treasury which is manned by a Senior Officer of the Orissa Finance Service who is designated as Treasury Officer.

COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
BLOCKS AND
OTHER
OFFICES

To implement the Community Development programmes the district has been divided into 15 Blocks, each in charge of a Block Development Officer. The Blocks are located at Phulabani, Phiringia and Khajuriparha (in Khondmals Sadar subdivision); Boudh, Harabhanga and Kantamal (in Boudh subdivision); and Baligurha, Nuagan, Tumudibandha, Kotagarh, Daringbarhi, G. Udayagiri, Chakapad, Tikabali and Raikia (in Baligurha subdivision).

A list of the various sections of the district office at Phulabani is given in Appendix-I. These sections are in charge of district level officers subject to the 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.

APPENDIX—I

Different Sections of Boudh-Khondmals Collectorate

1. Revenue
2. Touzi
3. General and Miscellaneous
4. Judicial
5. Establishment
6. Welfare
7. Emergency
8. Land Acquisition
9. Compensation
10. Development
11. Election
12. Nizarat
13. Land Records and Records Room
14. Mining
15. Public Relations
16. Civil Supplies
17. Panchayat
18. Excise
19. Library
20. Regional Transport Authority

Offices of the State Government

1. District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, Phulabani
2. District Statistical Officer, Phulabani
3. District Labour Officer, Phulabani
4. District Agriculture Officer, Phulabani
5. District Industries Officer, Phulabani
6. District Inspector of Schools, Phulabani, Boudh, Baligurha
7. District Employment Officer, Phulabani
8. District Treasury Officer, Phulabani
9. Divisional Forest Officer, Phulabani, G. Udayagiri
10. Divisional Forest Officer (Kendu Leaf), Phulabani, Boudh
11. Deputy Director, Agriculture, Boudh
12. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Phulabani
13. Executive Engineer, Electrical, Phulabani
14. Executive Engineer (Roads and Buildings), P. W. D., Phulabani
15. Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Organisation, Phulabani
16. Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Boudh
17. Chief District Medical Officer, Phulabani
18. Circle Inspector of Schools, Phulabani
19. Superintendent of Police, Phulabani
20. Principal, Government Science College, Phulabani
21. Assistant Engineer, Public Health, Phulabani
22. Assistant Engineer, Lift Irrigation, Boudh
23. Assistant Engineer, National Highways and Projects, Phulabani
24. Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation, Phulabani
25. Superintendent of Fisheries, Phulabani
26. Assistant Transport Manager, Phulabani
27. District Jail Office, Probation Officer and Prison Welfare Officer, Phulabani
28. Soil Conservation Officer, Phulabani
29. District Savings Organiser, Phulabani

Offices of the Central Government

1. Superintendent of Post Offices and Telegraphs, Phulabani