

GAZETTEER OF INDIA

ORISSA

KENDUJHAR



ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



KENDUJHAR

By

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PREFACE

The former princely State of Kendujhar was constituted into a district after its merger with the Province of Orissa in 1948. In course of minor adjustment of boundaries with the neighbouring districts for administrative convenience Tillo (7.51 sq. km.) and Jujhpada (9.06 sq. km.) groups of villages were transferred to the districts of Baleshwar and Cuttack respectively, and eleven villages of the Ambo group (14.84 sq. km.) of Baleshwar district were added to Kendujhar district. Lower Kendujhar comprising the subdivision of Anandapur is a region of valleys and low lands while the subdivisions of Kendujhar and Champua known as Upper Kendujhar consist of mountainous highlands. The mountain summits appear from the low lands as sharp peaks with narrow ridges, but in reality there are extensive table-lands on their summits fit both for pasture and cultivation.

The district is rich in mineral resources and has vast deposits of iron, manganese and chrome ores. About thirty per cent of its total geographical area is covered with forests. Most of the inhabitants of the district belong to the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes of whom the Scheduled Tribes predominate. There are tracts almost exclusively inhabited by the Juangs and the Bhuyans, two of the primitive tribes of the region. The district, in spite of its immense mineral and forest wealth and man-power, is still economically backward. In this volume attempts have been made, among other things, to highlight the life-style of the earliest settlers of the soil and the measures undertaken to improve their living standard.

This is the first district gazetteer of Kendujhar. In compiling this volume we have profitably made use of all available records and other publications of which mention may be made of the Feudatory States of Orissa (1907-08) by L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, Report on Land Tenures and the Revenue System of the Orissa and Chhatisgarh States by R. K. Ramadhyani, various Settlement and Administration Reports of the ex-State of Kendujhar, and Land Tenure and Land Reforms in Orissa (1962).

This gazetteer was compiled about five years back. It is natural that most of the data utilised in this volume relate up to that period. Efforts, however, have been made to incorporate in this volume many of the changes and developments that have taken place in the district during these five years.

The draft District Gazetteer was circulated for approval among the members of the Gazetteers Advisory Committee which was constituted as follows :

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|--|----|-----------|
| (1) Chief Minister | .. | Chairman |
| (2) Minister, Revenue | .. | Member |
| (3) Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner | .. | Member |
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| (7) Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue Department | | Member |
| (8) Late (Dr.) Nabin Kumar Sahu, former Vice-Chancellor, Sambalpur University | .. | Member |
| (9) Dr. Manmath Nath Das, former Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University | .. | Member |
| (10) Late Nilamani Senapati, Ex-Chief Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa | .. | Secretary |

The spelling of place names and the map given in the text were approved by the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Orissa, Cuttack. A comprehensive index, glossary of Oriya words and terms used in the text and a map of the district have been provided in this volume. Diacritical marks have been used in the glossary to avoid repetition in the text.

Our thanks are due to the officers of the Ministries of Finance and Communications, Government of India; the Director of Census Operations, Orissa; all the Departments and the Heads of the Departments of the Government of Orissa; and different branches of Kendujhar district administration who have taken all possible care in furnishing data for the compilation of this gazetteer. We are also indebted to the Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Orissa, the officials of the Orissa State Museum, and the Deputy Director, Survey and Map Publications, Orissa, for rendering valuable assistance in bringing out this volume. Our thanks are also due to Late (Dr.) Nabin Kumar Sahu who wrote Chapter II (History) of this gazetteer.

Late Nilamani Senapati was the Chief Editor when this gazetteer was compiled, edited and circulated among the members of the Gazetteers Advisory Committee for approval. He was with the gazetteers organisation from its very inception. His keen interest and able guidance in the compilation of the district gazetteers and the State Gazetteer of Orissa will be remembered with a deep sense of gratitude.

The following staff of the Revenue (Gazetteers) Department have worked hard in the preparation and publication of this volume: Shri Amulya Kumar Satpathy, Joint State Editor; Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Research Officer; Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik, Research Officer; Shri Prafulla Behera, Oriya Translator; Compilers: Shri Prana Krushna Satpathy (now retired), Shri Susanta Kumar Nayak, Shri Ramakanta Mishra, Smt. Bijayalaxmi Praharaj, Smt. Umamoni Senapati, Shri Chitta Ranjan Das, Shri Bidyadhar Palai and Shri Subodh Chandra Mohapatra; Shri Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, Section Officer; Senior Assistants: Shri Durga Charan Mohapatra and Shri Braja Kishore Parida; Shri Satyananda Mohapatra, Head Typist; Senior Typists: Shri Akshya Kumar Barik and Shri Haribandhu Ghadei and Junior Typists: Smt. Binapani Bose, Shri Pinaki Satpathy and Shri Dwarika Nath Moharana.

Shri Pratap Chandra Ray, Private Secretary to the ex-Chief Editor, Late Nilamani Senapati, and Shri Padma Charan Sahu, Private Secretary to the present Chief Editor; the Stenos: Shri Hadibandhu Das and Shri Bhaskar Rao Patra have also rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of this gazetteer.

Our thanks are also due to the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publication, Orissa, and the staff of the Orissa Government Press, Cuttack, for extending their help and co-operation in the publication of this volume.

Bhubaneswar
The 23rd May, 1986

NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA
Chief Editor

DURGA CHARAN KUANR
State Editor

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