

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

197. Prohibition

(i) Opium

Control over consumption of opium started in 1948 when every vendor was ordered to prepare a list of purchasers. In 1950 it was ordered that opium shall not be sold to any person whose name did not find place in the list prepared in the previous year, and the quantity supplied was reduced by 10 per cent every year. It was expected that the list of addicts would gradually be reduced by death and migration and nobody would be consuming opium who did not consume it in 1948.

Total amount of revenue derived through opium during the years 1948-49 to 1961-62.

Year	Total revenue	Number of addicts	Opium consumption			
1	2	3	4			
	Rs. A. P.		Mds.	Srs.	Chs.	Tls.
1948-49 ..	8,16,146-1-0	..	50	26	..	..
1949-50 ..	7,81,641-4-0	..	40	18	8	..
1950-51 ..	8,25,476-4-3	7,992	41	2	..	..
1951-52 ..	6,33,300-0-0	6,930	29	31	..	..
1952-53 ..	6,10,689-3-6	6,555	28	1	8	..
1953-54 ..	5,77,309-2-0	5,528	23	7	..	..
1954-55 ..	4,53,149-0-0	5,528	18	13	..	..
1955-56 ..	3,46,372-7-6	4,910	13	6	..	..
1956-57 ..	2,22,915-8-0	4,476	8	18	8	..
1957-58 ..	1,19,302-8-1	4,293	4	21	..	..
1958-59 ..	1,30,700-0-0	3,943	4	8	8	..
1959-60 ..	23,578-0-0	1,092	..	29	7	2-8/10
1960-61 ..	28,311-2-5	1,299	1	8	2	2-3/10
1961-62 ..	36,961-6-0	1,299	1	39	12	3-7/10
1962-63 ..	..	1,342	..	..	..	..

[70 B. of R.—50]

Opium cases detected

1956-57	..	11
1957-58	..	14
1958-59	..	20
1959-60	..	20
1960-61	..	29
1961-62	..	22

On 1-4-1959 all opium shops were closed and a deaddiction scheme was introduced under which any person could obtain opium from an Excise Officer by a certificate-*cum*-permit from a medical officer. From 1-11-1960 a new scheme called resurvey and reregistration scheme wholly under the control of medical officers was introduced.

Loss of revenue through opium prohibition has been roughly 8 lakhs per year.

(ii) Liquor

Prohibition of liquor was introduced on 1-4-1956. All the 110 liquor shops and 10 outstills, one foreign liquor shop and 3 distilleries were closed. Under the Excise Act of 1915 possession of liquor and apparatus for distillation is an offence. Although a separate Prohibition Act was passed in 1956, it has not been brought into force. For the first three years prohibition was enforced by Excise Officers and the number of illicit distillation cases detected were :

1954-55	..	2,355 (before prohibition)
1955-56	..	2,162
1956-57	..	2,288
1957-58	..	1,974
1958-59	..	2,004

On 1-4-1959 enforcement of prohibition was transferred to the Police and the Excise staff was drastically curtailed, the surplus staff being either transferred or absorbed in the Police. The Police detected the following cases of illicit distillation :

1959-60	..	4,436
1960-61	..	3,542
1961-62	..	3,920
Up to 31-7-1962	..	1,051

On 1-8-1962 enforcement of prohibition was retransferred to the Excise Department and the staff strengthened. It has now a Superintendent of Excise, 7 Inspectors, 21 Sub-Inspectors, 5 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 131 Peons.

The figures show large increase in the detection of illicit distillation after introduction of prohibition. For every case detected, a multiple must be going undetected. Illicit distillation is so easy. The raw material is there to pick up as you go along. Two earthen-pots and a bamboo become the still which can be placed in any part, behind any boulder and in any hollow in the ground. Any stranger approaching can be seen from far and the distiller can run away to return or set up elsewhere. Even when caught payment is more satisfactory for both parties than prosecution. The conclusion that cases remain undetected is probably near truth. It is often stated that drinking has increased after prohibition was introduced. No facts are available to prove or disprove the statement. But figures show that illicit distillation has increased.

On 19-7-1960 Government appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Padmabhushan Dr. P. K. Parija, I.E.S. (Retired) "with a view to the fulfilment of the objective of prohibition.....to review the experience gained and devise ways and means to meet the problems and difficulties faced by the administration". In the report submitted on 9-12-1961, the Committee said, "As the demand for drinks did not disappear with the abolition of shops illicit distillation started on a large scale, where there used to be licensed shops." For Koraput Scheduled Tribes the Committee recommended, "the existing concession of drinking Tari or Salap from one's own tree may be allowed to the Adivasis in Koraput district.....". They recommended that sale of Tari of Salap should be prohibited and offenders severely penalised. On the subject of home-brewing, the Committee recommended "..... the concession of home-brewing of Pachwai may be allowed strictly within the limit of 3 seers of undiluted or 9 seers diluted for a family of 5 persons or more. For a smaller family, the limit may be fixed at 2 seers undiluted or 6 seers diluted. This limit is prescribed for domestic consumption whereas for ceremonial use larger limit may be fixed on temporary permits to be granted by the appropriate authorities on application and on payment of a prescribed fee."

The consequence of liquor prohibition has been no curb on the drinking of Salap and Pachwai by the Scheduled Tribes. The consumption of distilled liquor has probably gone on as before—if not increased. Evidence was given before the Parija Committee that sulphate of ammonia is added to accelerate fermentation. The need of haste in illicit distillation is likely to result in the poisoning of the liquor. Therefore, many addicts are probably drinking liquor poisoned by sulphate

of ammonia, whereas under the licence system in every distillery and outstill worked under Government control, the liquor was guaranteed pure.

LOSS OF REVENUE THROUGH PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR

The revenue from country spirit was . .

	Rs.
1940-41	.. 2,31,168
1955-56	.. 7,21,598

The revenue from foreign liquor rose from Rs. 534 in 1940-41 to Rs. 5,789 in 1955-56.

The loss of revenue from liquor prohibition has been roughly Rs. 7½ lakhs per year.

(iii) The people and prohibition

The hillmen, who constitute the bulk of the population, are generally addicted to drink. Indigenous liquor is served in many of their social and religious functions. About their favourite drinks and their manufacture Mr. Bell states :

“The hillmen have always been accustomed to concoct intoxicating liquors out of various substances. The favourite drink is the arrack distilled from the blossom of the *Bassia latifolia* or *Mohwa* tree. The Government now exercises a monopoly in the manufacture of this liquor, except in one or two very remote areas, private distillation is forbidden. There are, however, numerous other intoxicants with the consumption of which the Government do not interfere, though their sale is prohibited. Except in Malkangiri, where palmyra palms are plentiful, toddy is obtained from the sago-palm or *Solapa* tree (*Caryota urens*). A rough ladder, consisting of a stem of a bamboo with the branches on either side of it cut short so as to make steps is lashed to the tree and left there permanently. The owner climbs up whenever he or his requires a drink. Beer is distilled from rice, *Sama* (the millet, *Panicum miliare*) and *Mandya*. The grain is mashed in the ordinary manner, some more water added and a small quantity of a ferment mixed with it.” (*Koraput District Gazetteer* by R. C. S. Bell, page 86).

(iv) Difficulties in enforcement of prohibition laws

Parija Committee Report (page 19) says, “To sum up, the general view is that the present arrangements for enforcement of prohibition programme are ineffective and have given rise to problems some of which are enumerated below :

- (a) Propensity of a section of the public to break law with impunity.
- (b) Large-scale illicit distillation and sale of the liquor in several places, particularly in towns and industrial pockets.

- (c) The use of ammonium sulphate in the preparation of I. D. liquor which tends to make the drink poisonous.
- (d) Organised smuggling of liquor from the outstill shops of the neighbouring wet districts of the State and from wet areas of other States.
- (e) An organised illicit trade has established itself and a section of the public has been making huge profits by keeping Gunda elements to suppress lawful opposition.
- (f) Corruption among the Enforcement staff which is working directly against the success of the scheme."

At the beginning of prohibition from 1-4-1956, 526 prohibition committees were formed throughout the district with public participation. Six propaganda workers were also appointed to educate the people regarding prohibition. This work has now been entrusted to the Public Relations Department and 8 propaganda workers are now working under the District Public Relations Officer.

(v) **Limitations in manufacture, sale, etc., of excise goods**

No liquor or drug is manufactured in the district. For sale of excise goods the following restrictions are observed: (a) *Foreign liquor*—Foreign liquor permits are issued in suitable cases to the public by the Collector on payment of a fee according to scheduled rate (i.e., monthly Rs. 10, quarterly Rs. 25, half-yearly Rs. 50 and yearly Rs. 100). The permit-holders are allowed to possess foreign liquor up to the limit prescribed by the permit subject to a maximum of 9 units. (b) *Opium*—The Medical Officers in charge of hospitals and dispensaries in the district have been entrusted with the work of examination of opium addicts of the area. If the addict volunteers, the Medical Officer shall also render treatment for removal of his habits. In suitable cases the Medical Officer issues a certificate-cum-permit to addicts for consumption of opium. (c) *Ganja*—Possession of 70 grams of *ganja* is permissible. (d) *Bhang*—Possession of 115 grams of *bhang* is allowed. (e) *Pachwai*—Only the people of the Scheduled Tribes may manufacture and possess for consumption and not for sale up to the maximum of 15 seers of diluted pachwai and 5 seers of undiluted pachwai. (f) *Salap*—This intoxicant, extracted from *Salap* tree, is a favourite drink of the Adivasi who can consume but cannot sell.

198. Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

The entire district of Koraput except the Kashipur P.-S. area has been declared as a Scheduled area under the Constitution of India. According to 1951 Census 1,269,216 persons of the district belonged to Backward Classes and Tribes. In 1961 the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of the district was enumerated as 186,438 and 912,343, respectively. 80 per cent of the population being backward, all activities of the Welfare State must necessarily be for their benefit. Different activities have been detailed in their appropriate Chapters.

199. Religious Endowments

The whole of Koraput district was a zamindari area till 29-12-1952 when the Orissa Estates Abolition Act came into force and the management was taken over by Government.

The temples in the entire ex-zamindari of Jeypore except those managed by Inamdars and private persons were being managed by the Jeypore estate and they were about 330 in number. During the time of management by the estate, the expenditure of all these temples was being met by the estate as the *debottar* lands endowed to many of these temples had been previously resumed. After taking over management of temples by Government they are entrusted to the control of the Endowment Commissioner and the expenses are incurred as before, the State Government making a grant of Rs. 1,50,000 from year to year under the head "7—IR—Expenditure—Management of ex-Zamindari Estate—Grants to temples and festivals". The Tahsildars of different tahsils of the estate are being appointed as trustees under the provision of the Orissa Hindu Religious Endowments Act in respect of the temples in their respective areas and the Collector of Koraput is in overall supervision. Budgets are furnished to the Endowment Commissioner every year through the Collector and the Endowment Commissioner issues instructions from time to time about management.

There are temples of which the following are important :

(1) Sri Gupteswar temple

The importance of this place is described in Chapter XIX—Places of Interest.

- (2) Sri Nilkantheswar Mahadev temple of Papadahandi
- (3) Sri Sarveswar temple of Nandapur
- (4) Sri Balaji temple of Gunupur
- (5) Sri Bhairaba temple of Borigumma
- (6) Sri Pataleswar temple of Paikapada
- (7) Sri Majhi Gariani temple of Rayagada
- (8) Sri Bandar Khariani temple of Nowrangpur
- (9) Sri Bendrani temple of Umarkot
- (10) Sri Markoma temple of Jeypore
- (11) Sri Kalika temple of Bissamcuttack
- (12) Sri Bhagabati temple of Jeypore
- (13) Sri Narayan temple of Jeypore
- (14) Sri Nilkantheswar temple of Jeypore

At Jeypore and Gunupur there are staff appointed by the Endowment Commissioner for management of the *debottars* whereas in other places management is done by the Revenue staff some of whom are being given a special allowance.

There is a mosque at Jeypore—with 6 Asurkhanas attached—the income of which is about Rs. 300 a year. A Committee of Muslims administers the wakf.