

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANISATIONS**200. Representation of the district in the State and the Union Legislatures****(i) The Government of India Act, 1935**

In laying down a Federal Constitution for India, the Act of 1935 gave the Provinces a new status which was designated as the Provincial Autonomy. So under the new Act, full responsible government was introduced in the Provinces.

In accordance with the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935, the first General Elections were held in 1936. Orissa had a 60-member unicameral Legislature and out of 60 members four members were to be nominated.

Koraput district was delimited into 3 General constituencies for the election, i.e., Nowrangpur General, Jeypore-Malkangiri General, Koraput General.

The Congress candidates won all the general seats.

Apart from this, two persons were nominated to the Legislative Assembly.

(ii) 1945 Elections

In the 1945 General Elections the Congress candidate contested by an Independent candidate supported by the Andhra Mahasabha stood for the constituency of Koraput (General). The Congress candidates also fought the Independent candidates for the Jeypore-Malkangiri and Nowrangpur constituencies. From all the three constituencies the Congress candidates got elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly.

(iii) 1951 Elections

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, Koraput was delimited into 9 Assembly constituencies with two double-member constituencies as given below :

Name of Constituency	Number of seats	Seats reserved for	
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1. Malkangiri ..	1	..	..
2. Padwa ..	1	..	..
3. Nowrangpur ..	2	..	1
4. Jeypore ..	2	1	..
5. Koraput ..	1	..	1
6. Nandapur ..	1	..	..
7. Rayagada ..	1	..	1
8. Bissamcuttack ..	1	..	1
9. Gunupur ..	1	..	1
Total ..	11	1	5

Out of the total of 11 seats, 5 were reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 1 for Scheduled Castes.

The Congress candidates won four seats, i.e., the Assembly constituencies of Malkangiri, Nowrangpur (General), Nowrangpur (Reserved S. T.) and Jeypore (Reserved S. C). The rest seven seats, i.e., Padwa (General), Jeypore (General), Koraput (Reserved S. T.), Nandapur (General), Rayagada (Reserved S. T.), Bissamcuttack (Reserved S. T.) and Gunupur (Reserved S. T.) went to the Ganatantra Parishad.

In the 1951-52 Elections for the House of the People, Koraput district was delimited into two constituencies, namely, the Nowrangpur General constituency and the Rayagada-Phulbani constituency (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).

The Nowrangpur General constituency comprised the whole of Nowrangpur subdivision and Padwa, Pottangi, Semiliguda and Nandapur police-stations of Koraput subdivision.

The Rayagada-Phulbani constituency (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) comprised the Rayagada subdivision and Koraput, Dasmantapur, Lakshmipur and Narayanpatna police-stations of Koraput subdivision and Baudh-Khondmals district excluding Manmunda and Baudh police-stations of Baudh subdivision.

The Ganatantra Parishad candidate was elected in the Nowrangpur General constituency and in the Rayagada-Phulbani constituency the Congress candidate was returned unopposed.

(iv) 1957 Elections

Under the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituency Order, 1956, the Koraput Parliamentary constituency consisted of two seats which included (1) entire Koraput district, and (2) Parlakimedi taluk with R. Udayagiri taluk (excluding Tumba and Mohana ex-Agency) in Parlakimedi subdivision of Ganjam district.

Congress candidates were returned from both the Parliamentary seats

The delimitation under the said Order to the Assembly constituency is as follows :

Name of Constituency	Number of seats	Seats reserved for	
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1. Umarkot	1	..	..
2. Nowrangpur	2	1	..
3. Jeypore	2	1	..
4. Malkangiri	1	..	1
5. Padwa	1	..	..
6. Koraput	1	..	1
7. Pottangi	1	..	1
8. Rayagada	1	..	1
9. Gunupur	2	..	1
Total	12	2	5

Congress candidates were elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly from Umarmkot (General), Nowrangpur (General), Nowrangpur (Reserved S. C.), Pottangi (Reserved S. T.), Rayagada (Reserved S. T.), Gunupur (General) and Gunupur (Reserved S. T.) constituencies.

The candidates set up by the Ganatantra Parishad were returned from the Jeypore (General), Jeypore (Reserved S. C.), Malkangiri (Reserved S. T.), Padwa (General) and Koraput (Reserved S. T.) constituencies.

Thus the party position becomes, Congress—7 and Ganatantra Parishad—5.

A bye-election to the Umarmkot constituency was held on 25th January 1959 consequent on the decision of the Orissa High Court which declared the election of the constituency void. In the bye-election the candidate set up by the Ganatantra Parishad was elected. Again, as a result of resignation of the Congress candidate from the Nowrangpur (General) seat a bye-election was held and another Congress candidate was elected from that seat.

(v) Mid-term Elections, 1961

For the mid-term elections held in June 1961 the district was delimited into 12 single-member constituencies as shown below :

Constituency	Police-stations
Umarmkot	.. Umarmkot, Jharigan
Dabugan	.. Dabugan, Papadahandi, Tentulikhunti.
Nowrangpur (S. C.)	.. Nowrangpur, Kodinga
Jeypore	.. Jeypore, Kalyansingpur, Kundra, Borigumma P.-S. (part).
Kotpad	.. Kotpad, Borigumma P.-S. (part)
Malkangiri (S. T.)	.. Venkatapalam, Motu, Mathili
Padwa	.. Padwa, Machkund, Boipariguda
Koraput (S. T.)	.. Nandapur, Koraput, Dasmantapur
Pottangi (S. T.)	.. Pottangi, Semiliguda, Narayanpatna.
Rayagada (S. T.)	.. Lakshmipur, Rayagada.
Gunupur	.. Gunupur, Padmapur, Pottangi Gudari P.-S. (excluding Chandrapur out-post).
Bissamcuttack (S. T.)	.. Kalyansingpur, Ambadola, Bissamcuttack, Chandrapur out-post.

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Out of these 12 seats Congress won 10 and Ganatantra Parishad won 2. Congress candidates were elected from the Nowrangpur (S. C.), Rayagada (S. T.), Kotpad (S. C.), Jeypore (General), Umarmkot (General), Dabugan (General), Koraput (S. T.), Gunupur (General), Pottangi (S. T.) and Padwa (General) constituencies. The candidates set up by the Ganatantra Parishad were returned from the Bissamcuttack (S. T.) and Malkangiri (S. T.) constituencies.

(vi) Third General Elections, 1962

The third General Elections to the House of the People were held during the month of February 1962. In these elections Koraput district was delimited into two constituencies, namely, the Nowrangpur General constituency and the Koraput constituency reserved for Scheduled Tribes.

The Nowrangpur General constituency comprised the Assembly constituencies of Umarmkot, Dabugan, Nowrangpur, Jeypore, Kotpad Malkangiri and Padwa.

The Koraput Reserved constituency consisted of the Assembly constituencies of Koraput, Pottangi, Rayagada, Gunupur, Bissamcuttack of Koraput district and Parlakimedi and R. Udayagiri of Ganjam district.

Congress candidates were returned from both these constituencies.

(vii) Political Parties and Organisation

Two All-India Political Parties, viz., the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of India have network of organisations in this district. After the emergence of the Ganatantra Parishad, a Provincial party, the Congress, had lost ground, but it regained popularity in 1961. The Ganatantra Parishad has now merged with the All-India Swatantra Party. The Praja Socialist Party has confined its organisational work to the Jeypore area.

201. Newspapers published in the district and their importance—Papers published outside the district in common circulation within the district

No daily newspaper is being published in this district. But there are four weeklies, viz., 'Janasakha', 'Ajikali', 'Amakatha' and the 'Dandakaranya Times'. 'Ajikali' (Oriya) and 'Amakatha' (Oriya) have stopped publication. 'Janasakha' (Oriya) is published from Nowrangpur and the 'Dandakaranya Times' from Jeypore.

Besides, an Oriya monthly 'Christian Mitra' is published from Koraput by the J. E. L. Church. An Oriya fortnightly 'Narada' was being published from Jeypore but has since become defunct.

Oriya dailies published outside the district, viz., the Samaja, the Kalinga, the Prajatantra and the Matrubhumi are in common circulation throughout the district. English dailies, such as the Statesman, the Hindustan Standard and the Amrita Bazar Patrika have a limited circulation, confined to the urban areas of Koraput, Jeypore, Nowrangpur, etc.

202. Voluntary Social Services Organisations

(i) The Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangha

By 1st October 1955 when Acharya Vinoba Bhave completed his tour in Koraput the number of Gramadan villages were more than 600. Nearly 165,268 acres of land were donated in the district. The Sarva Seva Sangha decided to undertake the task of reconstruction and development in the Gramadan villages in co-operation with Utkal Navajeevan Mandal.

The Sangha started its work in August 1956. During the Second Five-year Plan period the Government allotted an amount of Rs. 64 lakhs to the Sangha for social and economic development works especially in Gramadan villages. The Sangha took up village industries programme establishing a lac factory and pottery manufacturing unit. It also started a research laboratory for investigation of natural resources of the district and experimented on upgrading the quality of timber by air-seasoning methods. It also started two oil ghannies and a soap manufacturing unit. It undertook an Ambar Charkha training programme and certain other upliftment works.

(ii) Navajeevan Mandal

The Navajeevan Mandal came into existence in 1946, with the aim of improving the condition of the Adivasis and late Sarangadhar Das was the first President of the Mandal. Its headquarters is at Koraput. It is working in close co-operation with Sarva Seva Sangha. A number of social welfare institutions has been opened for the upliftment of Adivasis aided by the Government and by Kasturba Trust Fund.

The social welfare centres are located at Lekidiguda, Ashramput, Bamini, Bikrampur, Limbaguda, Bamdikar, Sankhalpada, Sauraguda, Marichipadhi, Genduriguda and Chandrapur.

(iii) Thakkarbapa Ashram, Rayagada

It is a notable philanthropic institution of the district. Established in 1939 on behalf of the Servants of India Society under the supervision of late Padmasri Lakshminarayan Sahu, it has done immense good and has a notable career in Adivasi upliftment works. It was registered in 1941.

Spreading of education is one of the primary works of the institution. It opened 10 Primary Schools.

Now only three schools are running one of which is at Thakkarbapa Ashram, Rayagada and the other two at Jumbiguda and Kanditi.

A hostel was started in the year 1954-55 with provision for free boarding and lodging of 12 Adivasi students. The number of inmates is 40 boys and 10 girls.

(iv) **Social Welfare Extension Project**

Under the Central Social Welfare Board a Social Welfare Extension Project was started in 1956 with 5 centres covering a population of about 20,000. These centres are based on the principle of matching contribution by the public to the extent of 25% of the expenditure. Each of these centres is served by one Grama Sevika and one Dai. The centres at Relikumbha and Nighaman Ganda have, in addition, one craft teacher each.

Social Welfare Centres		Number of villages covered	Population	
1. Relikumbha	..	13	3,699	
2. Rangabalikumbha	..	11	3,779	
3. Nighaman	..	13	3,999	
4. Mastiput	..	7	3,895	
5. Kolal	..	7	3,699	
	Total	..	51	19,071

The activities of these centres are primarily for Child Welfare. They impart education to the children up to pre-basic classes and also educate the adults. They also provide training in various handicrafts.

The project has recently been transferred to the District Council of Child Welfare.

(v) **Prem Samaj**

This Samaj started at Jeypore in March 1954 under the guidance of Sri Swami Krishnananda of Pichapuram. There is an executive body consisting of 15 members to conduct the activities of the Samaj. Its main function is feeding of 25 to 30 destitutes, orphans and boggars from funds now and then collected from the public. It is not a registered organisation.

(vi) **Jana Kalyan Sangha**

This organisation started at Kotpad in 1957. Its object is to help the needy students and helpless patients. It has opened a free Homeopathic Dispensary.