

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

#### 220. ELECTIONS

##### (i) 1951-52 General Elections

During the time of the First General Elections (1951-52) there were 5 double member and 3 single member Assembly constituencies within the district as mentioned below—

- |  |               |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| (1) Padampur ..                        | Double member | (One seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes) |
| (2) Sohela ..                          | Ditto         | Ditto  |
| (3) J h a r s u g u d a -<br>Rampella. | Ditto         | Ditto  |
| (4) Bamra ..                           | Ditto         | Ditto  |
| (5) S a m b a l p u r -<br>Rairakhhol. | Ditto         | (One seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes) |
| (6) A m b a b h o n a -<br>Mura.       | Single member |  |
| (7) Attabira ..                        | Ditto         |  |
| (8) Bargarh ..                         | Ditto         |  |

There were 2 Parliamentary constituencies in the district, viz., Bargarh and Sambalpur. The Bargarh Parliamentary constituency was formed with Padampur, Bargarh, Attabira, Sohela, and Ambabhona-Mura Assembly constituencies and the Sambalpur Parliamentary constituency was formed with Sambalpur-Rairakhhol, Jharsuguda-Rampella Assembly constituencies of Sambalpur district, Boudh Assembly constituency of Boudh-Khondmal district and Binka, and Birmaharajpur constituencies of Balangir district. Bamra Assembly constituency formed a part of Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency.

##### (ii) 1957 General Elections

For the purpose of the Second General Elections the constituencies of the district were rearranged. 7 Assembly constituencies were formed as mentioned below:—

- |                  |               |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| (1) Sambalpur .. | Double member | (One seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes) |
|------------------|---------------|--|

(2) Bargarh ..	Double member	(One seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes)
(3) Jharsuguda ..	Ditto	(One seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes)
(4) Padampur ..	Ditto	Ditto
(5) Deogarh ..	Ditto	Ditto
(6) Katarbaga ..	Single member	
(7) Bhatli ..	Ditto	

The Parliamentary constituencies were delimited as mentioned below:—

Sambalpur, Hirakud (Jamda), Dhama, Burla, and Mahadebpali police-stations of Sambalpur subdivision and the whole of Bargarh subdivision formed a part of Sambalpur Parliamentary constituency. Rairakhol subdivision, Deogarh subdivision, Kuchinda subdivision (excluding Gobindpur P. S.) and Sasan and Jujomura police-stations of Sambalpur subdivision formed a part of Angul Parliamentary constituency. Rampella, Mura, Brajarajnar, Jharsuguda and Laikera police-stations of Sambalpur subdivision, formed a part of Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency.

### (iii) 1961 Mid-term Elections

During 1961 the Assembly constituencies were delimited in accordance with the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies order, 1961 and the double member constituencies were converted to that of single member as per "Two-member Constituencies Abolition Act, 1961" and the following constituencies were formed:—

(1) Melchhamunda	(7) Brajarajnar	
(2) Bargarh	(8) Padampur ..	(Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)
(3) Bhatli	(9) Jharsuguda ..	Ditto
(4) Sambalpur	(10) Deogarh ..	Ditto
(5) Katarbaga	(11) Bijepur ..	(Reserved for Scheduled Castes)
(6) Rairakhol	(12) Attabira ..	Ditto

**(iv) 1962 General Elections**

For the purpose of election to the Lok Sabha, Sambalpur Parliamentary constituency was formed with Melchhamunda, Padampur, Bargarh, Bijepur, Bhatli, Sambalpur, and Attabira Assembly constituencies. Brajarajnar, and Jharsuguda Assembly constituencies formed a part of Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency and Katarbaga, Deogarh and Rairakhhol formed a part of Angul Parliamentary constituency.

**(v) 1967 General Elections**

For the purpose of General Elections during 1967 the number of Assembly constituencies remained the same as that of the Mid-term Elections, 1961. But they were rearranged as follows :—

- |                  |                 |                                     |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) Padampur     | (7) Deogarh     |                                     |
| (2) Melchhamunda | (8) Brajarajnar |                                     |
| (3) Bhatli       | (9) Laikera     | .. (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes.) |
| (4) Bargarh      | (10) Kuchinda   | Ditto                               |
| (5) Sambalpur    | (11) Rairakhhol | .. (Reserved for Scheduled Castes.) |
| (6) Jharsuguda   | (12) Bijepur    | Ditto                               |

The Sambalpur Parliamentary constituency consisted of 7 Assembly constituencies, viz., Sambalpur, Melchhamunda, Bijepur, Bhatli, Bargarh, Sambalpur, and Brajarajnar. Jharsuguda, Kuchinda, Rairakhhol, and Deogarh Assembly constituencies formed a part of Angul Parliamentary constituency. Laikera was attached to Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency.

**221. Political Parties and Organisations**

Major All-India Political Parties having their organisation in the district are the Indian National Congress, the Swatantra Party of India, the Sanjukta Socialist Party, the Communist Party of India and the Praja Socialist Party. Among the local parties mention may be made of the Jana Congress Party which had been organised before the last General Elections. The Ganatantra Parishad was an important political party in the district till it merged with the Swatra Party of India in 1962. The Socialist Party has been divided into Praja Socialist Party and Sanjukta Socialist Party.

We get an idea of the relative strength of the political parties in the district at different periods from a study of the results of elections. During the 1st General Elections (1952) the Indian National Congress,

the Socialist Party, the Ganatantra Parishad and Independent candidates were contesting in the district. For the 13 Assembly seats there were altogether 52 candidates in the field. The Congress Party won six seats, the Ganatantra Parishad five, the Socialist Party and Independents got one seat each. 8 candidates contested the election to the House of the People. The Ganatantra Parishad won the seat from the Sambalpur constituency. An Independent candidate was elected from the Bargarh constituency.

In 1957 the Indian National Congress, the Communists Party of India, the Ganatantra Parishad and Independent candidates contested for the 12 Assembly seats and also for the election to the House of the People. Out of 12 Assembly seats, the Ganatantra Parishad won 9 seats. The Congress got 2 seats and the Communist Party secured one seat. All the three seats in the Lok Sabha were won by the Ganatantra Parishad.

In the Mid-term elections of 1961, there were about 50 candidates in the field. Out of 12 seats, Congress won 7, Ganatantra Parishad 3, Communist 1 and Independent 1.

During the 1962 General Elections to the Lok Sabha, the Socialies Party and the Ganatantra Parishad candidates were elected from the Sambalpur and the Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituencies respectively. From the Angul constituency an Independent candidate was elected uncontested.

In the last General Elections (1967), the Indian National Congress the Swatantra Party, the Communist Party of India, the Sanjukta Socialist Party, the Jana-Sanhga and the State recognised Jana Congress Party along with Independents including unrecognised parties contested the 12 Assembly seats. The Indian National Congress contested all the 12 Assembly seats, the Swatantra Party contested for 10 seats, the Sanjukta Socialist Party contested 7 seats, the Communist Party of India 6 seats, the Jana Congress 4 seats, the Jana Sangha 2 seats, besides the Independents who contested in 9 constituencies. The Swatantra Party won 6 seats, Congress won 4, the Jana Congress and Communist got one seat each. Out of a total number of 302,984 valid votes, cast, the following votes were polled by different political parties for the elections to the Assembly:

The Swatantra Party	..	101,008
The Indian National Congress	..	94,372
The Communist Party of India	..	28,571
The Sanjukta Socialist Party	..	31,046
The Jana Congress	..	13,685
The Jana Sangha	..	2,488
Independents (including unrecognised parties)		31,814

For the elections to the Lok Sabha six candidates contested from the Sambalpur Parliamentary Constituency, the Congress candidate was elected. Swatantra Party candidates won both the seats from Angul and Sundargarh constituencies defeating the Congress and Independent candidates. Valid votes polled by different political parties are given below :—

The Swatantra Party	..	226,820
The Indian National Congress	..	166,243
The Sanjukta Socialist Party	..	38,985
The Communist Party of India	..	32,689
The Jana Congress	..	9,553
Independents (including unrecognised parties)		85,030
		<hr/>
Total number of valid votes polled . .		559,320
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## 222. Newspapers and periodicals

An Oriya weekly newspaper called 'The Samalpur Hitaisini' started publication from Deogarh on the 30th May, 1889. It continued for about 34 years and ceased publication on the 3rd March, 1923. It was being published from the Jagannath Balhaba Press at Deogarh under the patronage of Raja Sir Basudev Sudhala Dev of Bamra. The Fraser Press, said to be the first printing press of the then district of Sambalpur was established in 1905. 'The Utkal Sevak', an Oriya weekly newspaper was being printed from this press. It was on circulation during 1914. The Oriya weekly newspaper 'Sadhana' came out in 1921. During 1936, another news weekly 'Jagarana' was in circulation. During 1958, two Oriya periodicals 'Prajasaki' and 'Subrati' were being published from this district. The 'Jeeban' and 'Bichhuati' were published in 1958 and 'Vaidyabandhu' a quarterly in 1960. 'The Khadyota' a fortnightly newspaper began its publication in 1962. The 'Squeeze' an English weekly appeared for sometime during 1964-65. But all the above mentioned newspapers and periodicals are no longer in circulation.

In respect of the newspapers and periodicals of recent origin we may mention the following few. All of them are existing except 'Katusatya' (published in 1968).

'The Panchamukhi' an Oriya weekly newspaper began its publication from Sambalpur in 1966. Another weekly 'Sata kahale Chhatiphate' started publication from Bargarh in 1967. 'The Agnisikha' a fortnightly

newspaper began its publication in 1968 from Sambalpur. The literary magazines and periodicals published from the district have been discussed in Chapter XV—Education and Culture.

Among Oriya dailies published outside the district, in circulation in this area are The Samaja, Prajatantra, Kalinga, Matrubhumi and Swarajya. Among English dailies The Times of India, The Amrit Bazar Patrika, The Hindustan Standard and The Statesman are in circulation.

### 223. Voluntary Social Service Organisation

#### (i) Lodha Bhai Orphanage

Late Seth Lodha Bhai Thaira had established the Lodha Bhai Orphanage in 1930 at Sambalpur to take care of Muslim orphan children. The institution provides free primary education, clothing and food, etc., to the children.

#### (ii) Gopaljee Math

It is one of the oldest Maths of the district established between 1617 A. D. to 1630 A. D. popularly know as Guru Math of Sambalpur royal family. The Math has started a Sanskrit tol and maintains the students reading in that institution. Besides, many poor students reading in different schools and colleges get financial help from the Math.

#### (iii) State Social Welfare Advisory Board

The activities of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board in the district consist in channeling the grants made by the Central Social Welfare Board to various voluntary organisations dealing with the problems of women, children, the aged and infirm, the mentally and physically handicapped, etc.

#### (iv) Child Welfare

A District Council for child welfare has been formed to undertake welfare work for children, adolescents, expectant and nursing mothers. Seven Balwadi Centres (Children's homes) and eight maternity centres have been established in the district. In Balwadis, children between the age-group of three to five years are admitted where they are nursed by Grama Sevikas. She teaches them good habits, makes them play and withdraws them from the mothers so that they can have some time for themselves. The Grama Sevikas are also to go round the villages allotted to them and teach stitching to the ladies. Dais have been appointed to attend to the antinatal, natal and post-natal cases.

#### (v) Feeding School Children

CARE which stands for Co-operative for American Relief. Every where started mid-day meals for school children in Sambalpur district in 1963. At present they are feeding 118,000 children in 973 schools. An investigation is being made by the Indian Council for Social Development to ascertain the all round effect of CARE feeding.

**(vi) Mahila Samitis**

There are 653 Mahila Samitis functioning in the district. These associations have been organised to develop economic and cultural activities among the women folk. Through these organisations they are trained in tailoring, handicrafts, poultry rearing, etc. Besides, they are also saving and helping small saving movement. They are trained in improved methods of cooking, fruit preservation, child-care, family planning, etc. These Samitis assist women-folk in villages in introducing and installing smokeless chullahs, water-seal latrines, etc.

**(vii) Yubak Sanghas and Village Leader's Training Camps**

Members of Yubak Sanghas are expected to organise cultural programmes, village libraries and sports. They also help in introducing improved methods of cultivation, construction of village roads and look after the village sanitation. There were 38 Yubak Sanghas in the district during 1966-67 having 1,369 members.

Village Leader's Training Camps are organised from time to time to train village leaders in improved and modern cultivation, co-operation, social education, etc.

**(viii) Adult Literacy :**

Adult Literacy Centres have been organised in different places of the district. About 2,000 persons are made literate every year.