

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

134. District Administration

In conformity with the uniform pattern of district administration set up under the British rule in India, the Collector of Sambalpur who is also called the Deputy Commissioner * for the district is treated as the pivot of the set up with vast and varied powers. He is also designated as the District Magistrate and is thus the highest authority in the district for maintenance of law and order. Although the officials of other departments in the district are under the immediate charge of their respective Heads of Departments, the Collector exercises general supervision over them in regard to quantum and efficiency of their non-technical work. He can also call the assistance of any officer in the district. In case of difference of opinion between a district officer and the Collector in regard to non-technical matters connected with the execution of a work, the decision of the Collector prevails. Co-ordination of the activities of various departments by constant contacts with the officials concerned, control over local-self governing bodies, contact with the public in committees, execution of Government policies and miscellaneous functions such as rationing and food control and relief measures in times of emergencies like flood, epidemics, etc., are all included among the functions of the Collector.

As the Collector, he is the head of the land revenue administration at the district level. His major revenue duties include general supervision and control of land records and staff of the Revenue Department, supervision over the collection of revenue and hearing of appeals against the decision of his subordinate officers in matters connected with land revenue. In the administration of land revenue, he is assisted by a hierarchy of officials of both gazetted and non-gazetted status.

Prior to the 1st of May, 1961 the Collector was functioning as Magistrate for administration of criminal justice in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. On 1st May 1961 Government separated the judiciary from the executive. As a result, the Collector and the Magistrates subordinate to him were deprived of their judicial functions. But the responsibility of main-

*The Chief Revenue Officer of the district, who is called a Collector in other districts of Orissa is now called a Collector in Sambalpur, was previously called Deputy Commissioner, a designation taken from the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act (1885) which has been in force in Sambalpur district.

taining law and order still continues to rest with the Collector. The responsibility also calls for certain magisterial powers of an executive character.

In recent years planning and development activities have assumed increasing importance in the field of public administration. The Collector as the Chief District Officer is responsible for the implementation of various developmental plans at the district level. The major developmental activities comprise agriculture and animal husbandry, irrigation, reclamation, health and rural sanitation, education, social education, communication, rural arts and crafts, industries, tribal and rural welfare, and refugee rehabilitation. Thus it may be seen that in the developmental field, the duties of the Collector are wide and he plays a vital and all-embracing role.

For the administration of developmental activities, the district is divided into Blocks and Panchayats and the developmental schemes are implemented through a set of officers called Block Development Officers, each of whom is in charge of a Block. The Block Development Officer is assisted by ministerial staff and various technical officers from different departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Industry, Panchayat, Co-operation, and Community Development. The Grama Sevak is the lowest officer at the village level.

With the enforcement of the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act with effect from 26th January, 1961, the developmental administration of the district had been decentralised into three district tiers*, viz., the Zilla Parishad at the district level, the Panchayat Samiti at the Block level and the Grama Panchayat at the village level, with an elected body of members at each stage. But on 1st November, 1968 the Zilla Parishad was replaced by the District Advisory Council. Since 14th November, 1970 the District Advisory Council has been replaced by the District Development Advisory Board. This newly formed Board is constituted of both officials and non-official members.

With regard to superintendence and control of the administrative functions, the Collector is under the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Northern Division, whose jurisdiction also extends over Sundargarh, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, and Keonjhar districts. The office of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner is located at Sambalpu, the district headquarters. So far as administration of Tenancy Acts, Land Record and Surveys are concerned he is under the control of the Member, Board of Revenue. The powers of the Commissioner

See Chapter XIV for detailed discussion about the three-tier system

and the Member. Board of Revenue vis-a-vis the Collector have been defined in the Orissa Act XXIII of 1961 and the Act XLX of 1957 respectively.

With the growing complexity of administration and the growth of post-war development and reconstruction works, the post of two Additional District Magistrates have been created vesting in them the powers of a District Magistrate under the Code of Criminal Procedure. A rational distribution of work between the Collector and the Additional District Magistrates has relieved the former of several routine responsibilities thereby enabling him to devote wholeheartedly to the implementation of various development plans and programmes.

Besides, the Collector is assisted by 7 Deputy Collectors and 2 Sub-Deputy Collectors who constituted the sanctioned strength of Revenue Officers for the district headquarters. The district office of the Collector is divided into component sections like English office, Land records, Record room, Touzi, Nizarat, Revenue, Establishment, Land acquisition, Rent suit, Development, Tribal Welfare, and Mines sections, etc. Most of the sections of the district office are manned by Revenue Officers appointed by the Government who are to be in charge of particular sections subject to the over all control of the Collector. The Collector makes a rational distribution of work by allotting subjects to various sections in the collectorate. The functions of these officers are to assist the Collector in taking decisions and in the efficient discharge of various administrative functions by effecting adequate check and scrutiny on papers and proposals sent to Government or received from subordinate officers.

The Collector is in charge of public relations and is assisted by a District Public Relations Officer appointed by the Government in Home (Public Relation) Department. Similarly in respect of supply of foodgrains and other essential commodities he is assisted by the Civil Supplies Officer who is an officer of the Supply Department. For Grama Panchayats, he is assisted by the District Grama Panchayat Officer, who belongs to the Orissa Administrative Service, but work under the Grama Panchayat Department on deputation. The District Welfare Officer, belonging to the Tribal & Rural Welfare Department helps the Collector in tribal welfare activities. One of the Additional District Magistrate is the *ex officio* District Registrar and is vested with necessary powers under the Registration Act. He is relieved of daily registration work by the District Sub-Registrar who remains in charge of this and other routine duties.

The District Treasury is managed by an officer belonging to the senior branch of Orissa Finance Service and is controlled by the Collector.

The above picture does not take into account administration of criminal justice in the district which has been separated from the executive since 1st May, 1961. The functions which are essentially judicial like the trial of criminal cases hitherto concentrated in the Collector-cum-District Magistrate and also in a number of Magistrates subordinate to and controlled by him have been transferred to a new set of officers called judicial magistrates under the control of the High Court.

An Officer of the rank of a District and Sessions Judge designated as Additional District Magistrate (Judicial) has been appointed by the High Court. According to the allocation of functions, the Judicial Magistrates are subordinate to Sub-divisional Magistrate and ultimately to the Judicial Additional District Magistrate while all executive magistrates are subordinate to the executive District Magistrate. The District Magistrate (Executive) and the Additional District Magistrate (Judicial) are independent of each other in their respective spheres of duties.

The Subdivisional Magistrate of the pre-separation period who used to combine both executive and judicial functions is now designated as the Sub-divisional Officer and Magistrate, the first class with adequate powers over police for maintenance of law and order and for trying cases under preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

135. Subdivisional Administration

For the purposes of general administration, the district is divided into six subdivisions with headquarters at Sambalpur, Rairakhol, Bargarh, Deogarh, Kuchinda and Padampur.

Prior to 1905, Sambalpur and Bargarh subdivisions were a part of present Madhya Pradesh (then Central Provinces). In 1912, with the formation of the province of Bihar and Orissa, the two subdivisions were transferred to the new province. In the year 1948, the ex-State areas of Bamra and Rairakhol were added to the district and the subdivisions of Deogarh, Kuchinda, and Rairakhol have been created. From 1st July, 1969, a new subdivision named "Padampur" has been constituted comprising the areas of Bijepur, Gaisilat, Jagdalpur, Melchhamunda, Padampur, Patkmal and Sohela police stations of old Bargarh subdivision.

SAMBALPUR SUBDIVISION

The sanctioned strength of revenue officers for this subdivision is one Deputy Collector who is the Subdivisional Officer and three Sub-Deputy Collectors. As a principal revenue officer of the subdivision, the Subdivisional Officer has to remain squarely in charge of revenue matters. Besides, he deals with revenue and criminal cases limited only to preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, certificate cases, encroachment cases etc. One Sub-Deputy Collector is in charge of Nizarat. The other two work as Revenue Officer and Certificate Officer respectively. The entire subdivision has been covered by Community Development Blocks viz., Sambalpur I, II and III, Laikera I, II and III, Jharsuguda, Lakhanpur, and Rengali. There are two tahasils, namely, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda in charge of four Sub-Deputy Collectors, two of whom are designated as Tahasildar and the other two as Additional Tahasildar. The Tahasildar and Additional Tahasildar of Sambalpur are assisted by a Revenue Supervisor, 12 Revenue Inspectors, 17 Amins, 11 Muharrirs, 15 Khalasis and 4 process servers, and the Tahasildar and Additional Tahasildar of Jharsuguda by a Revenue Supervisor, 6 Revenue Inspectors, 2 Amins, 6 Revenue Muharrirs, 2 Chainmen and three Process Servers.

The Sub-Treasury at Jharsuguda is managed by an officer belonging to the junior branch of Orissa Finance Service.

RAIRAKHOL SUBDIVISION

The sanctioned strength of revenue officers for this subdivision is one Deputy Collector who is the Subdivisional Officer and two Sub-Deputy Collectors, as Revenue Officer and Tahasildar respectively. The Subdivisional Officer is in overall charge of the subdivision and looks to the general administration and revenue cases, certificate cases and encroachment cases etc. On the judicial side the Additional Munsif has been vested with powers of Subdivisional Magistrate.

The Tahasildar of Rairakhhol is assisted by a Revenue Supervisor, 4 Revenue Inspectors, 2 Amins, 4 Muharrirs and 2 Chainmen in collection of Land Revenue arrears, cesses, Taccavi loans and in detection of encroachment cases.

The Sub-Treasury at Rairakhhol is managed by one of the Revenue Officers posted at the subdivisional headquarters on the part-time basis.

BARGARH SUBDIVISION

One officer belonging to the Indian Administrative Service acts as the Subdivisional Officer and Sub-Collector for this subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer, besides his normal work also looks to the revenue cases, certificate cases and encroachment cases. There is one Deputy Collector functioning as Revenue Officer and a Sub-Deputy Collector as Nizarat Officer. Besides, there are two Sub-Deputy Collectors with their headquarters at Bargarh functioning as Tahasildar and Additional Tahasildar respectively. The Tahasildar and Additional Tahasildar of Bargarh are assisted by 2 Revenue Supervisors, 23 Revenue Inspectors each incharge of a Revenue Inspector circle, 37 Amins, 21 Revenue Muharrirs, 35 Khalasis, 12 Chainmen and 1 Process Server to collect land revenue arrears, cesses and Taccavi loans as well as to detect encroachment cases.

On the judicial side there is one Subdivisional Magistrate and one Magistrate vested with 1st class powers. The entire subdivision has been covered by six Blocks, viz., Bargarh, Bhatli, Bheden, Barpali, Attabira, and Ambabhona.

One of the Officers belonging to the Orissa Finance Service (Junior Branch) manages the Subdivisional Sub-Treasury.

DEOGARH SUBDIVISION

The sanctioned strength of revenue officers for this subdivision is one Deputy Collector and 2 Sub-Deputy Collectors. The Deputy Collector is functioning as Subdivisional Officer who is in overall charge of the subdivision. He looks to the general administration and deals with revenue cases, certificate cases and encroachment cases. One Sub-Deputy Collector who is stationary at the headquarters works as the Revenue Officer. The other Sub-Deputy Collector is functioning as the Tahasildar of Deogarh Tahasil. This Tahasildar is assisted by one Revenue Supervisor, 9 Revenue Inspectors, 2 Amins, 2 Chainmen and 8 Revenue Muharrirs in the revenue and miscellaneous works.

On the judicial side there is one Munsif working as Subdivisional Magistrate.

The entire subdivision has been covered by three Community Development Blocks, viz., Deogarh, Barkote and Naikul.

The Sub-Treasury at Deogarh is managed by one of the Revenue Officers of the subdivisional headquarters on the part-time basis. There is a currency chest for this Sub-Treasury.

KUCHINDA SUBDIVISION

The sanctioned strength of revenue officers for this subdivision is one Deputy Collector who is the Subdivisional Officer and 2 Sub-Deputy Collectors. The Subdivisional Officer is in overall charge

of the subdivision and looks to the general administration and tries revenue cases, certificate cases and encroachment cases. One Sub-Deputy Collector is functioning as Revenue Officer with headquarters at Kuchinda. Another Sub-Deputy Collector is functioning as Tahasildar, Kuchinda. As Tahasildar, he is assisted by a Revenue Supervisor, 9 Revenue Inspectors, 2 Amins, 8 Revenue Muharrirs and 2 Chainmen in the collection of land revenue arrears and cesses, Taccavi loans and in detection of encroachment cases. They also make revenue and miscellaneous enquiries.

The subdivision has been covered by three Blocks, viz., Kuchinda, Jamankira and Gobindpur. On the judicial side there is one Sub-divisional Magistrate.

The Sub-Treasury at Kuchinda is managed by an officer of Orissa Finance Service (Junior Branch).

PADAMPUR SUBDIVISION

The sanctioned strength of revenue officers for this subdivision is two Deputy Collectors of whom one is the Subdivisional Officer and three Sub-Deputy Collectors. The Subdivisional Officer is in the overall charge of the subdivision and looks to the general administration and revenue cases, certificate cases and encroachment cases, etc. The other Deputy Collector works as the Revenue Officer. One of the Sub-Deputy Collectors works as the Nizarat Officer and the other two function as Tahasildar and Additional Tahasildar respectively. The non-gazetted staff of this tahasil include 2 Revenue Supervisors, 14 Revenue Inspectors, 2 Amins, 13 Revenue Muharrirs and 2 Chainmen. The subdivision has been divided into six Blocks, viz., Bijepur, Sohela, Gaisilat, Padampur, Paikmal I and Paikmal II.

On the judicial side the Additional Munsif, Padampur has been vested with powers of Magistrate (Judicial) 1st class. One of the Revenue Officers of the subdivisional headquarters in addition to his own revenue duties manages the subdivisional Sub-Treasury.

136. Other District Offices

There are a number of officers functioning in Sambalpur at the district level. They are under the administrative control of their respective Heads of Departments at the State Level. Their functions have been dealt with in other chapters. The chief officers functioning at the district level are as follows :—

1. Commercial Tax Officer
2. District Agricultural Officer
3. District Health Officer
4. District Industries Officer

5. Executive Engineer (Public Health Department)
6. Executive Engineer (Rural Engineering Organisation)
7. Executive Engineer (Roads and Buildings)
8. District Labour Officer
9. District Mining Officer
10. Superintendent of Police
11. Civil Surgeon
12. Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies
13. Employment Exchange
14. Superintendent of Excise

Regional and Zonal Officers at Sambalpur

1. Assistant Commissioner of Commercial Taxes
2. Assistant Director of Gram Panchayat
3. Assistant Director of Fisheries
4. Assistant Labour Commissioner
5. Conservator of Forests
6. Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies
7. Deputy Director, Agriculture
8. Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry
9. Divisional Forest Officer
10. Joint Director, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services
11. Deputy Inspector-General (Police)
12. Chief Engineer, Hirakud Dam Project

Central Government Offices

1. Office of the All India Radio
2. Office of the Central Excise
3. Office of the Central Wheat Sales Depot
4. Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs
5. Superintendent of Post Offices
6. Office of the District Engineer, Construction, South-Eastern Railway.