

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER, AND JUSTICE

INCIDENCE OF CRIME

During the first decade of this century, crimes both in the ex-States of Gangpur and Bonai mainly related to ordinary thefts and burglaries. Dacoity and robbery were taking place occasionally. In the wilds of Bamra (now in Sambalpur district) and Bonai, the Kols in gangs were committing dacoity from time to time. In 1907-08, the number of crimes reported to the police of Gangpur ex-State was 579.

The nature of crimes committed in the ex-State of Gangpur during the thirty years after 1907-08 had nothing special to be mentioned. In 1937-38, the total number of criminal cases reported to the police in this ex-State was 498.

In early 1939 there was an agitation by Lutheran Mundas of the ex-State against the increase of land revenue. The agitation reached its climax on the 25th April, 1939, when a party of police that went to the village site to arrest the leader was confronted by a crowd of 500 Mundas. The trouble was over when the mob was fired at by the troops. The firing took 32 lives.

During the period 1938-39 to 1946-47, the annual crime figures varied between 378 to 720. Most of the crimes reported were burglaries and thefts. Murders and culpable homicides were not very frequent. Dacoity, robbery, abductions and rape were rare or nil.

The number of cognizable cases reported to the police during 1914-15 in the ex-State of Bonai was 143. It varied between 143 to 455 during the ten years ending 1924-25, the largest being in 1919-20. Increase in crime in this period was due to serious out-breaks of dacoity which could not be controlled by the ex-State police. Specially, from 1918 to 1920, there was a formidable recrudescence of dacoity in Bonai with which a demoralised police force was quite unable to cope. An armed police force had to be drafted in from Ranhei, Angul and the neighbouring ex-States, and the gangs were gradually broken up. Finally, principal leaders and most of their associates were arrested. In the following five years on an average 212 crimes were reported in the ex-State.

Crime figures of the ex-State varied between 236 to 425 between 1941-42 to 1945-46. Like the ex-State of Gangpur, here also most of the crimes committed were either burglaries or thefts. Except 9 cases

of murder and culpable homicide in 1942-43, these types of heinous crimes reported in other years were within five. There were few cases of dacoity, robbery, kidnapping and cheating.

During 1955 and 1956 there was a general failure of crops and so it cast a shadow on the general economic condition of the people as well as the crime position. The construction of the steel plant which started at Rourkela under Raghunathpali police station demanded a large flow of labourers, both skilled and unskilled, who came from all over India and along with them also came absconders and out-of-view criminals who remained in the guise of labourers and committed crime during night. So, there was upward trend in the crime in 1955-56 and 1956-57 in Raghunathpali and nearby police station areas. There was also increase in accident cases due to motor vehicles as there was sudden increase in the number of such vehicles required in connection with the construction of the steel plant.

Except 1960, there was a trend of year-wise increase in the figures relating to the number of cognizable cases reported to the police of the district from 1955 to 1960. In between 1961-65 on an average 35 cases of murder, 9 cases of dacoity, 18 cases of robbery, 396 cases of burglary and 683 cases of theft were reported to the police.

Poverty, land dispute and industrialisation are some of the important causes for the increase in cognizable offences in the district.

A detailed statement showing the number of cases like murder, dacoity, robbery, burglary and theft reported to the police since 1966 to 1970 is given below :

Year	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Total crimes
1966 ..	21	20	15	382	1,030	2,300
1967 ..	31	10	21	491	988	2,551
1968 ..	50	7	20	503	1,017	2,466
1969 ..	45	9	17	435	982	2,182
1970 ..	36	14	17	406	993	2,545
1971 ..	33	16	22	465	956	2,659

Available figures for the cases of smuggling, suicide, sex crime and juvenile delinquency reported to the police from 1971 to 1973 are given below :

Year		Smuggling	Suicide	Sex crime	Juvenile delinquency
1971	..	16	26	6	13
1972	..	15	36	6	3
1973	..	67	32	4	3

POLICE

History of
police
organisation

By 1907-08, the police administration of the ex-State of Gangpur was organised on the lines of the police then in British India and the rules and procedures in Bengal Police Code were closely followed. The force was under the general control of the *Dewan* with the eldest son of the Ruler as the Superintendent of Police. The advent of the railway and the opening up of the country rendered a properly trained police force essential.

There were then eleven police stations and outposts, and the force consisted of one Inspector, 10 Sub-Inspectors, 12 Head Constables and 120 Constables maintained at a cost of Rs. 18,000 per annum. There was in addition a *Chowkidar* (village watchman) in each village, who was remunerated by grant of land.

By 1938-39, the police force of this ex-State increased to 210 which included one Superintendent of Police, one Assistant Superintendent of Police, two Circle Inspectors, 12 Sub-Inspectors, 18 Head Constables, 162 Constables and 14 others. There was one police man to every 12 square miles of area of the ex-State and to every 1,731 of its population.

There was a slight decrease in the sanctioned strength of the force in 1946-47, which was 195. The force consisted of one Superintendent of Police, 4 Inspectors, 15 Sub-Inspectors, 17 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 17 Writer Constables, 3 Havildars, 9 Naiks and 129 Constables. Besides this, there was a C. I. D. staff consisting of one Sub-Inspector and one Constable. There was one police man for 12.8 square miles and 2,047.6 persons. The ex-State was divided into 9 police stations and 4 outposts.

In 1907-08, the ex-State of Bonai had a regular police force consisting of one Sub-Inspector, five Head Constables and 29 Constables. Besides the reserved police force of 9 men and one Sub-Inspector, there were also 108 village *Chowkidars* or *Goraitis*.

The sanctioned strength of the police force of Bonai ex-State in 1942-43 consisted of 19 officers including one Inspector at the head and 80 Constables. Thirteen of them were armed. The proportion of the police force to the area and the population of the ex-State, according to the Census of 1941, was 1 to 13 square miles and 1,934.8 persons respectively. The strength was reduced by 17 Constables towards the close of the year to keep it in proportion with crimes in the ex-State. There were eight police stations viz., Sadar (Bonaigarh), Koira, Banki, Gurundia, Kamarposh Balang, Sarsara Balang, Mahulpada, and Sulgura. Just before merger, the force of the ex-State consisted of 82 personnel which included one Inspector, 6 Sub-Inspectors, 11 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 1 Havildar, 10 Writer Constables and 53 Constables. The proportion of the force to area and population according to the Census of 1941 was 1 to 15.9 square miles and 1,108 persons respectively.

After the formation of the district in January 1948, a Superintendent of Police was posted at the district headquarters. He was assisted by a force consisting of one Sergeant-Major, 4 Inspectors, one Sergeant, 33 Sub-Inspectors, 33 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 15 Havildars and 331 Constables.

Organisation
of the Police
Force after
Merger

The force included three Inspectors, 22 Sub-Inspectors, 31 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 4 Havildars and 219 Constables of the ex-States service.

Till the 31st May, 1962, the entire district was under the control of the Superintendent of Police stationed at Sundargarh. On the 1st June, 1962, for the purpose of police administration the district was divided into Sundargarh and Rourkela police districts, each under the control of a Superintendent of Police.

The present strength of Sundargarh Police district is one Superintendent of Police, two Deputy Superintendents of Police, seven Inspectors, 2 Sergeants, 48 Sub-Inspectors, 42 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, one Havildar-Major, 57 Havildars, 22 Naiks, 20 Lance Naiks, 20 Writer Constables and 589 Constables. The Rourkela police force consists of one Superintendent of Police, one Additional Superintendent of Police, one Deputy Superintendent of Police, 7 Inspectors, 43 Sub-Inspectors, 22 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 2 Havildar-Majors, 75 Havildars, 5 Writer Constables and 631 Constables.

Both the police establishments are placed under the Deputy Inspector-General, Western Circle, Rourkela.

Civil Police

(a) Sundargarh police district—At present the district has four police circles, 18 police stations (as in the margin) and a number of

1. Sundargarh Circle—
Sundargarh, Talsara,
Hemgir, Lefripara,
Bhasma.

out-posts. The circles are managed by the Inspectors and the police stations by the Sub-Inspectors. They are assisted by a number of Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Constables.

2. Rajgangpur Circle—
Rajgangpur, Bargaon
Kalunga.

3. Birmitrapur Circle—
Birmitrapur, Bisra,
Raiboga.

4. Bonai Circle—
Bonaigarh. Banki,
Kamarposh Balan g,
Koira, Gurundia,
Tikayatpali,
Mahulpada.

The ordinary reserve of the district which mainly provides staff to the civil police consists of 6 Inspectors, 42 Sub-Inspectors, 42 Assistant Sub Inspectors, 2 Havildars, 22 Writer Constables and 270 Constables.

(b) Rourkela police district—This police district has the only police circle at Rourkela with 4 police stations, viz., Township, Plant site, Tangarpali, and Raghunathpali with a number of town outposts.

The ordinary reserve of Rourkela police district includes 5 Inspectors, 35 Sub-Inspectors, 20 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 19 Havildars, 5 Writer Constables and 298 Constables.

Armed Police

To meet emergencies and to tackle the law and order problem, contingents of armed police are stationed at Sundargarh and Rourkela. The striking force at Sundargarh consists of one Reserve Inspector, two Sergeants, six Drill Sub-Inspectors, two Havildar-Majors, fifty-five Havildars, twenty-two Naiks, twenty Lance Naiks and 319 Constables.

On the other hand the armed police stationed at Rourkela consists of one Reserve Inspector, four Sergeants, three Drill Sub-Inspectors, two Havildar-Majors, 51 Havildars, 11 Naiks, 9 Lance Naiks and 305 Constables.

Prosecution Staff

To prosecute police cases, police staffs have been posted in different subdivisional courts of the district. The courts of Sundargarh and Bonaigarh come under Sundargarh Police district. The court staff of Sundargarh include one Inspector, three Sub-Inspectors, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 8 Constables, whereas one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and 8 Constables constitute the staff for Bonaigarh Court.

The court staff of Uditnagar which include one Prosecuting Inspector, 5 Court Sub-Inspectors, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 11 Constables are provided by the Rourkela police administration.

The Home Guard organisation has been set up in the district since 1962 with the object to have trained personnel, besides military and police, for utilisation during emergency. At present the sanctioned strength of the organisation is 1,162 out of which 800 are rural home guards and the rest are urban home guards. The members of this organisation are provided with free uniform and paid at rates as sanctioned by the Government from time to time when they are called for duty, parade, training, range practice, rally, etc. The home guards are actively participating in the maintenance of law and order and are helping the people in distress during natural calamities like epidemic, fire, and flood. Home Guard

The services of the traffic police are utilised only in Rourkela city of the district. The present sanctioned strength (1974) of the traffic police is one Sub-Inspector, two Havildars and 20 Constables. The traffic posts are located at different central places of the city. Traffic Police

The only railway police station in the district is at Rourkela with a jurisdiction which extends from Jareikela Railway Station to Sonakhan Railway Station of Howrah-Bombay line of South-Eastern Railway and to all the branch lines in the district. The staff of this railway police station consists of 2 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, one Havildar, one Writer Constable and 30 Constables. Generally minor thefts and occasionally cases like murder, dacoity and robbery are reported to the railway police here. In between 1957-67, the railway police handled yearly on an average 137 cases in the district. In 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 number of cases reported to them were 126, 114, 146 and 126 respectively. Railway Police

This district with one Vigilance Sub-Inspector and one Constable was under the control of an Inspector posted at Sambalpur till December 1959, when it was separated and formed a separate zone with one Inspector, one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector and three Constables with headquarters at Sundargarh. Consequently on the expansion and reorganisation of Vigilance, this district has been divided on the 1st November, 1961 into two zones with 2 squads placed one each at Sundargarh and Rourkela. The squad at Sundargarh has a staff consisting of one Inspector, and 3 Constables whereas the Rourkela squad is manned by one Inspector, one Sub-Inspector and four Constables. Vigilance

The statement below indicates the number of vigilance cases handled by each squad for the last five years ending 1970:

Year	Sundargarh Squad		Rourkela Squad	
	Criminal Cases	Files	Criminal Cases	Files
1966	4	19	2	25
1967	4	18	5	65
1968	1	11	1	30
1969	1	6	3	14
1970	5	24	1	11

Wireless Wireless stations have been established at Sundargarh, Rajgangpur, Birmitrapur, Tensa, Bonaigarh, and Rourkela. Two Sub-Inspectors, sixteen Assistant Sub-Inspectors and seven Constables are functioning in these stations.

Fire Station The only fire station of the district is located at Rourkela.* This 'A' class fire station was established in September 1965. The staff of this station consists of one Station Officer, one Assistant Station Officer, 4 Leading Firemen, five Driver Havildars and 32 Firemen.

During 1971, the staff of the fire station attended 19 fire calls and saved property worth Rs. 9,775. Property damaged this year was worth Rs. 23,247.

The statement given below shows the number of fire calls, the number of houses destroyed, and the amount of property damaged and saved from September 1965 to the end of 1970.

Year	Fire Calls			No. of houses destroyed	Amount of property damaged	Amount of property saved
	Total	Major	Ordinary			
					Rs.	Rs.
1965	3	1	2	2	200	15,000
1966	36	4	32	133	51,115	5,67,430
1967	34	8	26	89	20,30,800	12,33,600
1968	31	2	29	36	20,455	3,52,300
1969	31	5	26	147	2,45,870	3,37,100
1970	35	7	28	30	2,12,902	6,73,960

* Since June 1972, a 'C' class fire station at Sundargarh has started functioning.

Uptil 30th June, 1965 each village in the district was looked after by a *Chowkidar* and a *Jhankar* who was also the village priest. They were remunerated with some *jagir* lands or pay sanctioned by the Government. But from 1st July of that year it was decided to replace them by the appointment of Beat Constables.

Village
Police

According to the law which abolished the villages police, the *Jhankar* should have half of his *jagir* land left with him for worshipping the village deity. This means that the entire *jagir* land of his has to be surveyed and valued. Then alone it can be decided which half would be left for the village deity. This work was started several years ago but it has not yet been completed.

Beat system did not work well. So the system was abolished on 1st March, 1967. Now Grama Rakhis have been appointed in their place to look after the villages. The sanctioned strength of the Grama Rakhis in the district during 1972-73 was 338.

Generally the Constables are recruited at the district level through the Employment Exchanges. Out of the total vacancies, 40 per cent are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The newly appointed Constables undergo a prescribed course of training for a period of nine months either at the Police Training College, Angul or at the Police Training School, Nayagarh. Besides, in the district level they also undergo a 30 days refreshers course.

Recruitment,
training and
amenities
provided for
the Police
personnel

The police personnel of the district enjoy rent-free accommodation and get free clothings. Common mess and canteen are functioning to cater to their needs. They are provided with books, newspapers and periodicals and the facilities of various indoor and outdoor games.

In 1907-08, the ex-State of Gangpur had one well-built Jail at Sundargarh and one Sub-Jail at Raghunathpali (Panposh). The Sundargarh Jail had accommodation for 114 prisoners. At Raghunathpali Sub-Jail, prisoners sentenced by the Magistrate to a period not exceeding three months were confined.

JAILS

In the year mentioned above, there was also a Jail at the headquarters of Bonai ex-State. The Jail was affording accommodation to 31 prisoners.

In 1943-44, Sundargarh Jail, Raghunathpali (Panposh) Sub-Jail and Bonaigarh Jail had daily average population of 113, 7 and 49.45 respectively.

The convicts of Sundargarh and Bonaigarh Jails were engaged in carpentry, weaving of cloth, *newar* making and oil-pressing, wheat grinding, tank-digging, rope-making, preparing articles from bamboo and gardening.

There were hospitals for the above two Jails and the patient-prisoners of Raghunathpali Sub-Jail were also afforded medical treatment.

Since 1st January, 1948, all the three Jails were taken over by the State Government.

After government take over, the Sundargarh Jail, at first continued to function as a class III district jail and since 1959, due to increase of the prison population, the status has been raised to that of class II district jail. It has 10 wards and 12 cells. It can accommodate 226 male and 10 female prisoners. From the date of merger up to the 8th May, 1954, the Jail at Bonaigarh functioned as a Special Sub-Jail. The status of this Special Sub-Jail was reduced to that of a Sub-Jail on the 9th May, 1954. But since 25th February, 1958, the jail, with an accommodation facility for 62 male and 5 female prisoners, has again been given the status of a Special Sub-Jail.

In 1959, another Special Sub-Jail started functioning at Rourkela. Due to the increase in prison population, the status of this Special Sub-Jail was raised to that of a Special Jail on the 1st March, 1965 with 18 wards and accommodation facilities for 295 male and 16 female prisoners. The Sub-Jail at Raghunathpali was closed on the 19th April, 1962.

The average daily population of the three jails from 1966 to 1971 is given in the following statement:

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
District Jail, Sundargarh.	180.05	190.89	182.07	182.31	226.37	227.44
Special Sub-Jail, Bonaigarh.	44.79	51.73	76.49	66.40	67.10	89.80
Special Jail, Rourkela.	227.23	241.22	213.82	264.76	241.42	240.15

The Chief District Medical Officer is the part-time Superintendent of the District Jail. He is being assisted by one Jailor, one Assistant Jailor and a number of other subordinates.

Rourkela Special Jail has been placed under the charge of the Revenue officer of Panposh subdivision. He is assisted by one Jailor, one Assistant Jailor and a number of other subordinates. The Assistant Surgeon in charge of the subdivisional hospital, Bonaigarh, is the

part-time Superintendent of Bonaigarh Special Sub-Jail. One Assistant Jailor and a number of subordinates assist him in the management of the Special Sub-Jail.

There is one two-bedded hospital attached to the District Jail, Sundargarh, under the charge of the Chief District Medical officer who acts also as the part-time Medical Officer in addition to his part-time superintending. There is one Assistant Surgeon and one Pharmacist who assist him in the treatment of ailing prisoners. Necessary equipments, medicines and special diets for the ailing prisoners are provided from the jail budget.

Medical,
Educational
and Recrea-
tional fac-
ilities

There is a hospital ward in the Rourkela Special Jail. One whole-time Assistant Surgeon and a Pharmacist are available for providing medical facilities to the prisoners.

There is no hospital attached to the Special Sub-Jail at Bonaigarh. But a six-bedded ward of the jail has been kept separate for the treatment of the sick prisoners. The Superintendent, who is also the Medical Officer of the Jail, and a Pharmacist look after the patients. The required medicines are either brought from the local hospital or purchased by the jail authorities.

To raise the standard of literacy among the prisoners there are schools with trained teachers in the District Jail, Sundargarh; and Special Jail, Rourkela. But there is no school at Bonaigarh Special Sub-Jail.

To improve the morals of the prisoners, there are part-time religious instructors for the three jails of the district who come on Sundays and other holidays, to impart religious instructions. The prisoners are allowed to read newspapers and periodicals. Books from the jail libraries are issued to them.

Prisoners are encouraged to participate in outdoor and indoor games inside the jail compounds. Musical instruments are also provided for the recreation of the prisoners.

Different categories of prisoners such as under-trials and convicts are kept segregated as far as practicable within the jail walls. During Durbar regime, the jail administration was mainly based on deterrent whereas after Independence various reformatory measures are being gradually adopted for the improvement of the prisoners. After the admission of a prisoner he is sympathetically given a hearing of his difficulties and necessary endeavour is made to study his aptitude. He is allowed to write letters to his relatives and friends, make petition to higher authorities regarding his case affairs and after

Nature of
treatment
offered to
different cla-
sses of priso-
ners

conviction, to file appeal to the next appellate court. To look to the welfare of the prisoners, one Welfare Officer has been appointed in the District Jail.

Panchayat system has been introduced in the jails of the district. The prisoners nominate some of the inmates from whom five are selected by the Superintendent to constitute the Panchayat. From among the selected members one acts as the *Sardar* and supervises the work of others. The other four are given different charges like cooking, looking to the sanitation and gardening, and to promote a healthy atmosphere in the prison.

Board of
Visitors

There is a Board of Visitors for the District Jail with 5 official and 5 non-official members. The District Magistrate acts as the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Board. The Special Jail, Rourkela, and the Special Sub-Jail, Bonaigarh, have five and three non-official visitors respectively.

The Board of Visitors meets once in three months. The members go round the jail to look to the grievances of the prisoners, inspect the quality of the food served to the prisoners and examine the punishment register. The Board also recommends premature release of life-convicts to the Government.

The statement given below shows the number of various types of convicts released on expiry of term, on appeal and on remission of sentences from the District Jail, Bonaigarh Special Sub Jail and Rourkela Special Jail from 1966 to 1970.

Name of the jail	Year	On expiry	On appeal	On remission
District Jail, Sundargarh	1966	135	10	38
	1967	203	5	51
	1968	73	3	41
	1969	86	13	23
	1970	117	5	39
	1971	126	13	26
Special S u b-J a i l, Bonaigarh	1966	51	..	9
	1967	76	3	13
	1968	63	5	24
	1969	86	2	16
	1970	114	1	11
	1971	123	3	13

Name of the jail	Year	On expiry	On appeal	On remission
Special Jail, Rourkela	1966	1,102	..	37
	1967	1,074	2	22
	1968	820	4	40
	1969	791	7	58
	1970	500	..	25
	1971	335	..	45

Since February 1961, one District After-care Shelter at Sundargarh has been opened to facilitate social and vocational rehabilitation of the ex-convicts. The shelter provides food, clothes, and lodging to 25 inmates admitted after being released from the jails. The inmates are allowed to stay for a period of three months. Since February 1961 till the end of 1970, 158 ex-convicts were admitted and 149 were discharged. After-Care Shelter

A Probation Officer has been posted at the headquarters of the district. He mainly supervises the probationers and other persons placed under his supervision, and where necessary, endeavours to find them suitable employment. He also enquires, in accordance with any direction of a court, into the circumstances or home surroundings of any person accused of an offence with a view to assist the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing with him. Probation Officer

During the Durbar administration, the ex-States of Gangpur and Bonai had different systems of judiciary. Before the forties of this century, the judiciary of the ex-State of Gangpur constituted of a Chief Judge, one Sessions Judge, and five to seven Magistrates with first, second, or third class powers. JUSTICE

A Bench was formed for the purpose of High Court work in the ex-State with the sanction of the Political Agent conveyed in his letter No. F. J-1-1/38(W), dated the 5th April, 1938. The Bench consisted of the Regent Rani Sahiba and her *Dewan*. All the subordinate courts of the ex-State were made responsible in respect of all judicial matters to the Bench.

Besides the Bench, in early forties, the judiciary consisted of one District and Sessions Judge, two Subdivisional Magistrates of 1st class powers and some other magistrates with 1st or 2nd class powers.

The Bench continued to exercise its powers in all criminal matters till the 3rd July, 1945, when a common High Court for Orissa and the Chhatisgarh ex-States was formed.

Before 1943-44, about seven to eight courts of the ex-State were exercising civil powers. The District Judge was first appellate and there was provision for second appeal to the Bench. There were Sub-Judges and Munsifs to hear original suits in their respective territories. But at the end of September 1943, the system of territorial jurisdiction of civil courts was abolished and the number of courts with civil powers was reduced. This was done to maintain a higher standard in administration of civil justice.

Up to the date of merger, this ex-State had only two courts exercising civil powers. These were the court of the Sub-Judge at the headquarters, and the Court of the Subdivisional-Officer-cum-Munsif in Nagra. The Munsif of Nagra was empowered to try civil suits up to the value of Rs. 200.

During 1940-45, the criminal department of the ex-State of Bonai was under the charge of the Assistant *Dewan* who was also the District Magistrate. The *Dewan* of the ex-State was empowered to hear all appeals against 1st class Magistrates, and take up cases triable by the Court of Sessions. The Political Agent, Orissa ex-States, was exercising powers of a High Court in all criminal matters. Besides, there were a number of subordinate Magistrates with 1st, 2nd or 3rd class powers to deal with all criminal cases.

The entire fabric of the administration of civil justice in the ex-State consisted of (a) Court of Subdivisional Officers vested with powers to try civil suits up to a value of Rs. 250, (b) Court of Assistant *Dewan* vested with powers to try civil suits upto a value of Rs. 1,000 and (c) Court of the Subordinate Judge with unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction and small cause court powers up to Rs. 50. The *Dewan* as the Civil Judge was exercising appellate jurisdiction on civil and rent suits. He was also exercising special jurisdiction in guardianship, succession, certificate and intestate cases.

The Court of Political Agent, Orissa ex-States, was exercising the final appellate jurisdiction on all civil appeals arising from the ex-State.

The powers of a District and Sessions Judge which were hitherto being exercised by the *Dewan* of the ex-State were, with the appointment of a Common States Civil and Sessions Judge for the ex-States of Keonjhar, Saraikela, Kharsuan, Bonai, and Pal-Lahara vested in the latter with effect from the 15th June, 1945.

So also the Political Agent, Orissa ex-States, continued to exercise the powers of a High Court in all civil and criminal matters till the

3rd July, 1945 when with the constitution of a common High Court for the Orissa and Chhatisgarh ex-States, the latter functioned as the High Court for Bonai ex-State.

Since 1948, the District and Sessions Judge, Sambalpur-Sundargarh with his headquarters at Sambalpur is functioning as the District and Sessions Judge for the district. He has powers to dispose sessions cases, criminal appeals and criminal revisions of the district.

Criminal
Courts

The Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge was created at Sundargarh on the 24th November, 1969, and since then it is continuing. The Additional District and Sessions Judge has got concurrent jurisdiction with the Sessions Judge to try sessions cases on transfer and to hear criminal appeals and revision cases and criminal miscellaneous cases arising in the district.

One Special Judge in the status of a District Judge has been posted since October 1971 at Sambalpur to hear mainly corruption cases referred by the Vigilance organisation in the districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Balangir, Kalahandi, and Koraput.

From the date of merger the court of the Sub-Judge, Sundargarh, was functioning till the 9th December, 1948, when due to insufficient work it was abolished. Again this court was created on the 3rd April, 1963, and is continuing. From the 10th September, 1971 another Sub-Judge's Court has been opened at Rourkela. The Sub-Judges have been vested with powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge.

Before the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the District Magistrate was in charge of the criminal department of the district. All the Subdivisional Officers and a number of other subordinate Magistrates were vested with 1st, 2nd or 3rd class powers to deal with criminal cases

The statement below includes the number of subordinate Magistrates empowered to deal with criminal cases, cases instituted with and disposed of by them during 1948—52 in the district.

Year	No. of Magistrates	Institution	Disposal
1948	17	1,528	1,121
1949	18	1,441	1,268
1950	23	1,893	1,677
1951	20	2,084	1,934
1952	22	2,471	2,263

Up to October 1961, there was not any remarkable change in the judiciary system of the district. There were 20 Magistrates in each of the years of 1958 and 1959. In 1960 and 1961, the number of

Magistrates were 18 and 22 respectively. 664 cases were pending before the Magistrates at the beginning of 1959 and 2,808 cases were brought to trial during this year against 3,268 cases of the previous year.

In 1960, and 1961, the cases brought for trial before the Magistrates were 3,528 and 4,939 respectively, and they disposed of 2,875 cases in 1960, and 3,631 cases in 1961.

Separation of
the Judiciary
from
the Executive

The Judiciary in the district was separated from the Executive from the 25th October, 1961. At the beginning there was one Subdivisional Magistrate posted in each of the three subdivisions of the district. Besides, one 1st class Magistrate for Sundargarh, and one 1st class and one 2nd class Magistrate for Panposh subdivision were also appointed.

There were six Magistrates working in the district during 1962. They included three Subdivisional Magistrates, two 1st class Magistrates and one 2nd class Magistrate. There is no change in the number of Magistrates since then. During 1970, besides the Subdivisional Magistrates (Judiciary) posted in each of the subdivisions, there were two Magistrates at Panposh and one at Sundargarh with first or second class powers. At present the Munsifs of Panposh and Bonaigarh are the *ex-officio* Subdivisional Magistrates (Judiciary) in their respective subdivisions. For administrative and other purposes, the judiciary of the district has been placed under the supervision of the Additional District Magistrate (Judiciary), Sambalpur-Sundargarh with headquarters at Sambalpur who in turn is made subordinate to the District and Sessions Judge, Sambalpur-Sundargarh. The head of the judiciary in the State is the High Court.

Statement showing number of criminal cases, criminal appeals criminal revisions, etc. in different courts of the district from 1966 to 1970 are given in Appendix I.

Civil Courts

As stated earlier, a Subordinate Judge's Court was functioning in Sundargarh district after the merger. But as there was no sufficient civil work, it was abolished with effect from the 9th December, 1948. This Court was again established in April 1963. A Munsif's Court was also established in 1948 and he was invested with powers to try cases up to a limit of Rs. 4,000. Another Munsif's court, established at Bonaigarh after the merger was abolished within a short period due to want of sufficient civil work and the Subdivisional Officer, Bonai was allowed to function as *ex-officio* Munsif for the area to try un-contested civil suits. But for contested civil suits, the subdivision of Bonai was tagged to the court of Deogarh Munsif.

The District Judge continues to be the head of the civil courts of the district. He hears civil appeals upto Rs. 5,000 in valuation and tries suits and cases under special acts. The Additional District Judge posted at Sundargarh has concurrent jurisdiction with the District Judge to try suits under special acts and hear appeals. The Sub-Judges stationed at Sundargarh and Rourkela try suits and cases relating to their respective areas of unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction. They also hear and dispose of cases under the Insolvency Act and Indian Succession Act. They are vested with powers to hear cases under the Land Acquisition Act, as Tribunal under the Estate Abolition Act, and Hindu Marriage Act. Besides, there are Munsifs posted in each of the three subdivisional headquarters of the district. They have power to hear civil suits and cases upto a pecuniary limit of Rs. 4,000 in their respective areas.

A detailed statement indicating the number of different types of civil suits instituted and disposed of and appeals heard by different courts of the district from 1966 to 1970 is given in Appendix II.

There were lawyers in the ex-State of Gangpur since 1910. A regular Bar Association was formed at Sundargarh in 1948. The Association at present consists of 30 Advocates as members. The Association has been provided with a room by the State Government.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Bar Association, Sundargarh

A Bar Association was formed with three members i. e., one pleader and two Mukhtars practising in Panposh subdivisional courts in the last quarter of 1952. At present the Association has 35 members. The Bar has its own library. The State Government have provided one room for the Association.

Bar Association, Rourkela

Established in the year 1949, the Bar Association at Bonaigarh consists of 9 members. The government have allotted a tin shed for the Association. There is a small library.

Bar Association, Bonaigarh

APPENDIX I (A)

Statement showing the institution and disposal of Sessions Cases, Criminal Appeals, Criminal Revisions, in the district year-wise from 1966 to 1970.

Year		Institution	Disposal
<i>Sessions Cases</i>			
1966	..	40	50
1967	..	41	35
1968	..	48	26
1969	..	51	45
1970	..	50	74
1971		52	55
<i>Criminal Appeals</i>			
1966	..	104	94
1967	..	62	57
1968	..	80	82
1969	..	101	89
1970	..	101	157
1971	..	101	92
<i>Criminal Revisions</i>			
1966	..	7	1
1967	..	7	..
1968	..	2	3
1969	..	7	2
1970	..	5	9
1971	..	4	2

APPENDIX I (B)

Statement showing the Criminal Cases tried, Criminal Appeals heard, and persons involved, acquitted and convicted by each Court for five years (year-wise) ending 1971.

Year	Particulars of Court	Types of cases or appeals	Tried or heard	Persons	
				Acquitted	Convicted
1966	Sessions Judge, Sambalpur—Sundargarh; Sambalpur.	Sessions Cases Criminal Appeals	50 94	87 58	49 146
	<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i> Sub-divisional Magistrate, and Magistrate, First Class.	Criminal Cases	4,474	2,369	1,146
	<i>Panposh Subdivision</i> Subdivisional Magistrate, and Magistrate, First Class.	Criminal Cases	2,873	766	3,027
	<i>Bonai Subdivision</i> Subdivisional Magistrate.	Criminal Cases	554	149	411
1967	Sessions Judge, Sambalpur-Sundargarh; Sambalpur.	Sessions Cases Criminal Cases	76 57	65 65	36 37
	<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i> Subdivisional Magistrate, and Magistrate, First Class.	Criminal Cases	4,146	2,529	3,990
	<i>Panposh Subdivision</i> Subdivisional Magistrate; Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate, Second Class.	Criminal Cases	2,512	988	2,467

Year	Particulars of Court	Types of cases or appeals	Tried or heard	Persons	
				Acquitted	Convicted
<i>Bonai Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate.	Criminal Cases	581	138	474
1968	Sessions Judge, Sambalpur—Sundargarh; Sambalpur.	Sessions Cases Criminal Appeals.	26 82	23 141	45 115
<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate, Second Class.	Criminal Cases	4518	2998	5819
<i>Panposh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate, Second Class.	Criminal Cases	2840	1383	2475
<i>Boni Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate.	Criminal Cases	606	304	418
1969	Sessions Judge, Sambalpur-Sundargarh, Sambalpur; and Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sundargarh.	Sessions Cases Criminal Appeals.	45 89	50 49	40 100
<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, Sub Judge, and Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate, Second Class.	Criminal Cases	4354	2921	3443

Year	Particulars of Court	Types of cases or appeals	Tried or heard	Persons	
				Acquit- ted	Con- victed
<i>Panposh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, and Magistrate, First Class.	Criminal Cases	2704	1624	2063
<i>Bonai Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate.	Criminal Cases	791	309	696
1970	Sessions Judge, Sambalpur—Sundargarh, Sambalpur; Additional District and Sessions Judge, Sundargarh; and Assistant Sessions Judge, Sundargarh.	Sessions Cases Criminal Appeals	74 167	37 103	97 180
<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, Sub Judge, and Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate, Second Class.	Criminal Cases	7592	3322	2970
<i>Panposh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate, Magistrate, First Class; and Magistrate Second Class.	Criminal Cases	1869	1412	1183
<i>Bonai Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magistrate.	Criminal Cases	686	453	706

Year	Particulars of Court	Types of cases or appeals	Tried or heard	Person	
				Acquit- ted	Con- victed
1971	District and Sessions Judge, Sambalpur- Sundargarh; Additional Sessions Judge, Sundargarh; and Special Judge, Sambalpur.	Sessions Cases Criminal Appeals.	55 92	77 50*	58 79
<i>Sundargarh Subdivision</i>					
	Sub Judge, Sub- divisional Magi- strate, and Magi- strate First Class.	Criminal Cases	3841	1073	820
<i>Panposh Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magi- strate, Magistrate First Class, and Magistrate Second Class.	Criminal Cases	8657	1200	1049
<i>Bonai Subdivision</i>					
	Subdivisional Magi- strate.	Criminal Cases	758	216	258

*10 persons were sent back for fresh trial.

APPENDIX II

Statement indicating the number of different types of Civil Suits instituted and disposed of and appeals heard by different courts (Court-wise) for the district for 6 years ending 1971

Particulars of Appeals and Cases	1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971	
	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of
Court of the District Judge, Sambalpur												
Title Suits	..	6	1	1	2	2	..	1	4	2	..	..
Title Appeals	..	16	7	..	7	1	5	1	..	..	..	..
Money Appeals	..	5	..	..	12	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous Appeals	..	13	11	8	7	11	8	7	4	11	10	..
Miscellaneous Cases	..	12	3	8	2	..	3	9	2	7	3	..
Execution Cases
Court of the Additional District Judge, Sundargarh												
Title Appeals	32	2	23	14	14	27
Money Appeals	6	..	4	3	2	5
Miscellaneous Appeals	11	..	9	14	11	12
Miscellaneous Cases	1	..	3	1

31 Title Appeals, 6 Money Appeals, 11 Miscellaneous Appeals received on transfer during the year 1969; and 13 Title Appeals, 3 Money Appeals and 4 Miscellaneous Appeals received on transfer during the year 1970.

Court of the Subordinate Judge, Sundargarh

Particulars of Appeals and Cases	1966		1967		1968		1969		1970		1971	
	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of	Instituted	Disposed of
S. C. C. Suits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Money Suits	14	78	12	32	21	19	25	33	23	28	18	44
Title Suits	29	43	36	52	40	48	26	47	43	52	44	82
Miscellaneous Cases	61	59	88	78	58	70	81	75	83	78	88	93
Execution Cases	34	51	27	26	18	26	23	29	26	26	24	23
Miscellaneous Appeals	2	2	9	5	3	6	4	3	6	6	..	2
Title Appeals	10	14	5	11	..	9	7	2	9	4	..	..
Money Appeals	3	6	3	6	2	4	9	..	2	2	..	..

Court of the Subordinate Judge, Rourkela

Particulars of Appeals and Cases	1971	
	Instituted	Disposed of
Title Suits	..	14
Money Suits	..	2
Miscellaneous Cases	..	14
Title Appeals
Money Appeals	..	1
Execution Cases

Court of the Munsif, Sundargarh													
Money Suits	..	59	..	7	..	11	..	19	..	19	..	13	..
Title Suits	..	28	..	17	..	17	..	15	..	14	..	24	..
Miscellaneous Cases	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	..
Execution Cases	..	15	..	3	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Court of the Munsif, Panposh													
Money Suits	..	50	42	81	67	132	81	157	89	130	136	37	71
Title Suits	..	20	21	38	27	26	18	24	29	24	40	25	24
Miscellaneous Cases	..	21	13	33	33	20	8	36	42	46	50	37	40
Execution Cases	..	19	12	28	13	12	30	24	36	23	36	13	22
Court of the Munsif, Bonai													
Title Suits	..	7	9	..	2	13	3	7	6	4	8	12	2
Money Suits	..	5	16	7	5	24	20	7	5	11	13	4	2
Miscellaneous Cases	4	7
Execution Cases	6	6