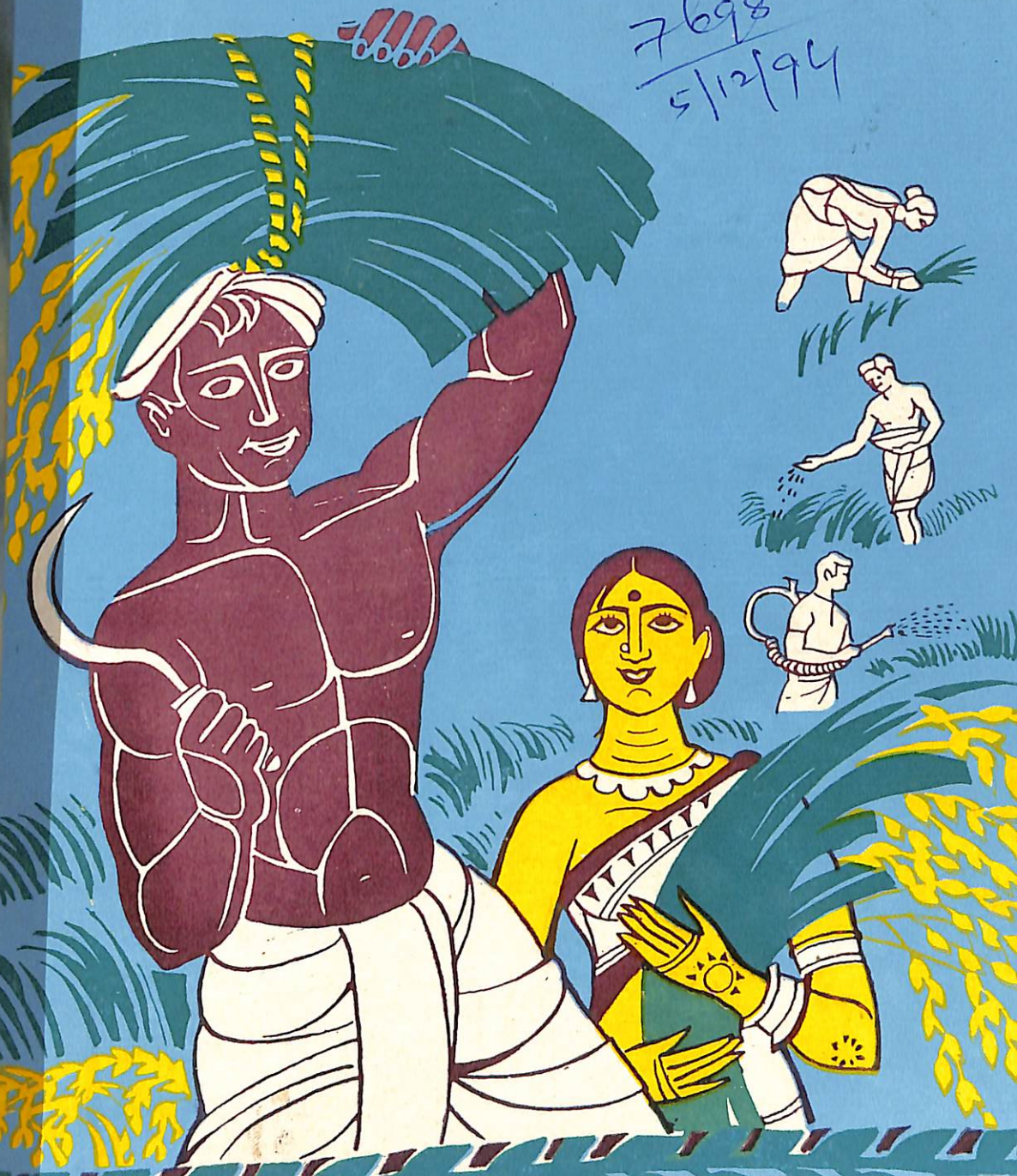


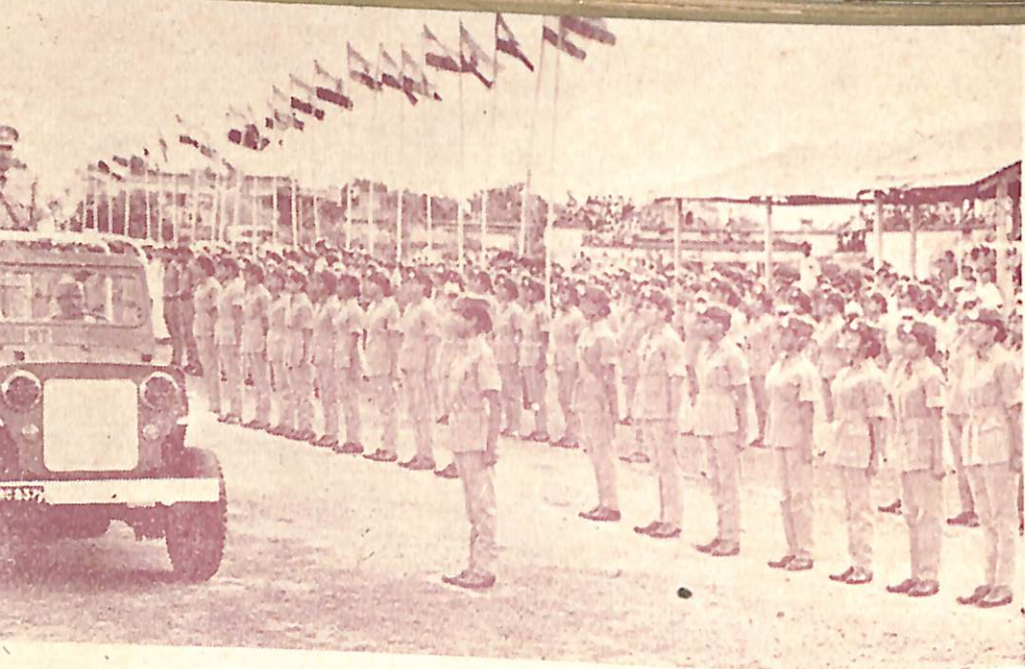


ORISSA REVIEW

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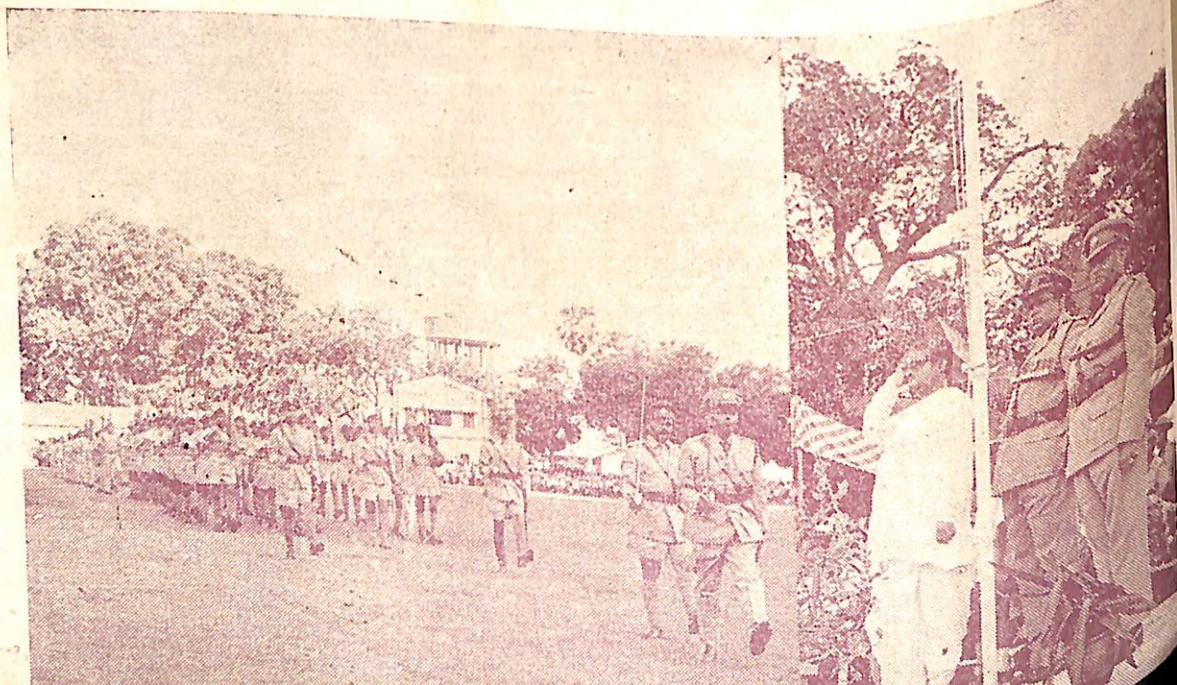
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Banamali Patnaik, Education Minister inspecting the Guard of Honour at the State Level Independence Day parade at Bhubaneswar

Shri Harihar Patel, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Public Relations is taking salute at the ceremonial flag hoisting at Sambalpur on the 15th August, 1970



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Editor :

H. N. Dasmohapatra, I.A.S.,
Director of Public Relations
& Tourism, Home Department,
Government of Orissa,
Bhubaneswar

Assistant Editor :

Samar Bilas Patnaik
Information Officer.

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OUR COVER

Artist : Shri Asit Mukherjee

Our Contributors

Shri Rajballav Mishra, Minister for Agriculture

Shri S. N. Bhoj, Director of Agriculture, Government of Orissa

Shri Nilamani Senapati, I. C. S. (Retd.)

Shri Anirudha Das, I. A. S. Secretary to Government of Orissa, Works and Transport Department.

Prof. Gouri Kumar Brahma, Chief Tourist Guide, Government of Orissa.

Prof. Madhusudan Pati, Department of English, Sambalpur University

Shri Kedarnath Mohapatra, An eminent historian

Shri G. Mohapatra, Soil Conservation officer, cuttack

Shri Dibakar Sahu, Soil Conservation officer, Kalahandi

Our Progress in Agricultural Production

The Third Five-Year Plan ended in March, 1966. But the Fourth Five-Year Plan had to wait till April, 1969 to begin formally. The plan programme, its targets and the respective financial outlays of the Fourth Plan have been finalised only recently. Thus the period from April, 1966 till March, 1970 was indeed a period without any long term plan programmes. This was also a period full of uncertainties with regard to financing the plan programmes. Three Annual Plans were implemented during this period and the programmes drawn for the first year of the Fourth Plan. Under the stress and strain of limited funds and restricted programmes, the progress in agricultural sector has been obviously halting. This unfortunately happened at a time when with the introduction of high yielding varieties of rice and certain other crops and the intensive agricultural practices, Orissa was poised for putting up a high rate of annual growth unprecedented in the past.

However, through certain Governmental measures which helped in streamlining the supply of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and above all credit facilities, not only the unfavourable situation created by lean finances and restricted programmes could be saved, some definite progress could be achieved in agricultural production. A brief account of the progress made in production of various important crops during the period from 1966-67 to 1969-70 may be relevant.

FOOD GRAINS PRODUCTION

Rice—Production of rice increased from 36.92 lakh tonnes in 1966-67 to 44.47 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. This spectacular increase of the order of 20.4 per cent within a period of three years was made possible by popularising the cultivation of high yielding varieties especially in Rabi—Summer season. The area under high yielding varieties of rice increased almost

five-fold during these three years from 36,000 hectares in 1966-67 to 1,70,400 hectares in 1969-70. But the total area under rice increased by 2.7 per cent only. The average yield of rice has been recording a steady increase too. From 8.68 quintals to a hectare it increased to 10.18 quintals.

Wheat—Although the area under wheat has recorded only a negligible increase since 1966-67, the production increased from 14,000 tonnes to 19,000 tonnes in 1969-70. Replacement of conventional varieties by high yielding varieties in a substantial part of the wheat area pushed up the average yield of wheat and increased the production by about 36 per cent. From 8.96 quintals per hectare in 1966-67 the average wheat yield increased to 11.77 quintals in 1969-70.

Maize—Koraput, Phulbani, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj continued as important maize growing districts. The total area under maize increased from about 53,000 hectares in 1966-67 to 70,000 hectares in 1969-70. But this increase was not shared by the hybrid maize varieties in spite of their higher yield potential. The high cost of seed of hybrid maize varieties and the necessity of buying seed for every crop did not make it popular among the cultivators growing maize. Recently composite maize varieties which give considerably higher yield than the local varieties have been introduced. Unlike hybrid maize varieties, seeds of composite varieties can be kept by the farmers from their own crops year after year. The production of maize increased from 49,400 tonnes in 1966-67 to about 60,000 tonnes in 1969-70.

Ragi (Mandia)—The area under Ragi increased by about 50,000 acres during the period from 1966-67 to 1969-70. From an area of 1.62 lakh hectares during 1969-70 an estimated production of 1.60 lakh tonnes of Ragi has been achieved. Ragi is the most important of all the millets grown in the State. Although it occupies about 39 per cent of the total area under millets, it shares 53 per cent of the total millets production.

Production of all cereals—All cereals grown in Orissa such as rice, wheat, maize, ragi, bajra, jowar, etc., taken together covered 48.01 lakh hectares and produced 47.66 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. During 1966-67 the coverage was 45.44 lakh hectares and the production was 39.20 lakh tonnes. A simple analysis shows that while the area under cereals increased only by 5.6 per cent, the production increased by 21.5 per cent during the period from 1966-67 to 1969-70. The efforts made in the direction of increasing agricultural production without increasing area under cultivation seems to have been fruitful to a large extent. Through intensive methods of cultivation, adoption of recommended package of practices, multiple cropping and high yielding variety programme, it has been possible to increase the production without increasing the area under cultivation. The increase in cropped area stated above was due to multiple cropping.

Pulses—Pulses such as Mung, Biri, Kulthi, Arhar and Gram as a group of crops are next in importance to rice in Orissa. The area under pulses has increased by about one lakh hectares from 1966-67 to 1969-70 and the production by 41,000 tonnes. While the area under pulses increased by 17 per cent, the production

eased by only 9.4 per cent. Diversion of the irrigated land from pulses to a second crop of rice pushed out pulses to a relatively less fertile land. As a result the pulses production could not keep pace with the increase in its area. Growing more of pulses in Kharif season in place of low yielding millets, cultivation of improved varieties with higher yield potential and use of fertilisers and bacterial inoculations will alleviate the depressing conditions in pulse production and maintain the balance between production of cereals and pulses.

Total foodgrains—Production of foodgrains increased from 43.55 lakh tonnes in 1966-67 to 52.41 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. This increase has been shared by almost all the food grain crops. Particularly the recent introduction of P. H. 1, a high yielding castor variety is expected to increase castor production considerably without increase in its area.

Sugarcane—The production of sugarcane increased from 17.70 lakh tonnes in 1966-67 to 21.50 lakh tonnes in 1969-70. There has been little increase in its area. The increased production has been achieved by increase in the yield per hectare which has been pushed up from 49 tonnes to 58 tonnes of sugarcane per hectare. During 1968-69 and 1969-70 the sugar factories in the State utilised their crushing capacities to the fullest extent. The price of gur has gone down considerably and therefore return from sugarcane crop has been adversely affected. Although the higher production from unit area has made up the

return to some extent, the repercussion of low price is likely to be felt in the following years. The cultivators have now shown reluctance and feel hesitant to adequately invest on inputs required for growing a successful crop of sugarcane.

A new sugar factory of a crushing capacity of 1,250 tonnes of sugarcane per day is under installation at Bargarh. Sugarcane cultivation over an area of about 4,000 hectares in the area within 20 kms. around Bargarh has to be developed within the next two-three years to feed that sugar factory adequately.

Jute and Mesta—During 1969-70 from an area of 45,000 hectares, 3.20 lakh bales of jute were produced (one bale = 180 kgs.). The average yield was 7.11 bales of jute per hectare. As compared to the position in 1966-67 the area under jute increased by only 2,000 hectares whereas the production increased by 37,000 bales. Similarly the production of mesta recorded a higher rate of increase in production to the increase in its area. The area under mesta increased by 8,000 hectares and the production by 62,000 bales. In 1969-70, from an area of 24,000 hectares, 1.22 lakh bales of mesta were produced.

Recently through centrally sponsored schemes efforts are made to push up the production of jute to help export promotion. Foliar feeding of nitrogenous fertiliser coupled with spraying of insecticides has been applied in large areas free of cost to achieve higher production of jute.

A statement showing the production of certain important crops is given in Table-1

TABLE 1

Production of foodgrains, oilseeds, fibre and sugarcane from 1966-67 to 1969-70

Crop	Unit	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Rice ..	Lakh tonnes	36.92	37.55	42.12	44.47
Other Cereals..	Ditto	2.29	2.63	2.99	3.19
Pulses ..	Ditto	4.34	3.39	4.46	4.75
Total foodgrains .. Lakh tonnes		43.55	43.57	49.57	52.41
Oilseeds (excluding-Lakh tonnes niger)		1.62	1.71	1.70	1.82
Sugarcane (in- Ditto terms of gur)		1.77	1.81	2.10	2.15
Jute and Mesta..Lakh bales		3.44	4.59	4.10	4.42

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

During the period of past three years from 1967-68 to 1969-70 certain changes in the policy of the Government have been brought about with regard to the supply of inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, plant protection chemicals and equipments, agricultural machineries and supply of credits. The most important change brought about by the State Government was in respect of the system of fertiliser distribution. Private manufacturers of fertilisers have

been inducted to take up the supply of fertilisers which was the monopoly of Co-operatives so long.

Since the Kharif season of 1969 fertilisers are being supplied both by the private dealers and Co-operatives. During a short period of only two crop seasons the merit of this changed policy has been proved beyond doubt. Fertilisers have been made available in adequate quantities at the time of need. It has been also possible to set the trend in the direction of balanced

lisation with the three major plant namely, nitrogen, phosphorus and ssium. Supply of complex fertilisers taining together more than a single

plant nutrient has paved the way towards balanced fertilisation.

Consumption of fertilisers in tonnes from 1966-67 to 1969-70 is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2
Consumption of fertilisers

Year	Nitrogenous (C. A. N.)	Phosphatic (Single Super)	Potassic (Muriate of Potash)
56-67	63 923	22,377	2,030
67-68	70,575	28,089	3,140
68-69	78,586	32,652	3,714
1969-70 (estimated)	95,000	37,500	5,000

From 1966-67 to 1969-70 consumption of nitrogen has increased by 50 per cent, phosphate by 68 per cent and potassium by 150 per cent. Although the rate of increase in fertiliser consumption appears to be apparently satisfactory it is far from the level of adequacy. Therefore, efforts are made to facilitate availability of credits and intensify sales promotion measures to increase fertiliser consumption speedily.

Production and supply of improved seeds are mainly the responsibility of Government Agencies. A seed act has been recently promulgated to ensure production and supply of good quality seeds. Certification of seeds has been also undertaken.

As in case of supply of fertilisers, the private traders have been allowed to deal in plant protection chemicals. This has

made it available in a wider area. The Agro and Small Industries Corporation has been entrusted with the supply of agricultural machineries and equipments

Through special schemes for particular purposes, credits in kind are made available to the farmers by the Government directly through the Department of Agriculture. Credits in kind and in cash are also channelised through Co-operative Societies. Apart from the Governmental sources, various other financing agencies such as Land Mortgage Banks, Agricultural Refinance Corporation and Commercial Banks have recently entered into the field of financing agriculture with both short term and long term credit facilities.

SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

In recent years the strategy for increasing agricultural production has been

based primarily on intensive cultivation measures and high yielding varieties. Special schemes such as High Yielding Variety Programme (H. Y. V. P.), Intensive Agricultural Area Programme (I. A. A. P.), Intensive Agricultural District Programme (I. A. D. P.), Package Programme on groundnut, jute and mesta have been launched to popularise intensive cultivation measures and high yielding varieties.

Under the H. Y. V. P. efforts were made to bring more areas under the high yielding

varieties of rice, wheat, maize and jowar along with adoption of intensive cultivation measures. Special attention was paid to application of fertilisers in recommended doses and plant protection measures to the high yielding varieties, the success of which depends particularly on these two measures. The area of operation of the programme has expanded from 42 C. D. Blocks in 1966-67 to 80 Blocks in 1969-70.

The area brought under high yielding varieties is shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3
Progress under high yielding varieties programme

Crop	(Area in hectares)			
	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
Rice	..	..	..	1,70,400
Wheat	36,000	85,200	1,44,400	7,200
Maize	1,200	3,600	4,400	5,200
Jowar	5,200	4,400	4,400	880
..	240	270	1,000	..
Total	..	42,640	93,470	1,54,200
				1,83,680

The area of operation of the Intensive Agricultural Area Programme (I.A.A.P.) has expanded from 40 C. D. Blocks in 1966-67 to 96 Blocks by the end of 1969-70. About one-third of the area in each of these Blocks has been covered under intensive cultivation measures.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programme (I. A. D. P.) was launched in the district of Sambalpur in

Hirakud ayacut in 1962-63 with the help of the Ford Foundation of U. S. A. Its area of operation has covered 23 C. D. Blocks having assured irrigation supply. The broad objective of this programme is to achieve an all out development of agriculture through adoption of scientific farm production plans. During the period between 1966-67 and 1969-70 farm production plans covering about 20,000 farm families and about 60,000 hectares

been put into operation. Besides, an area covered under farm production a much larger area is covered with a needed package of practices. The progress of this programme has indeed transformed the agriculture from an ancient subsistent farming to a modern production one in the area of its operation.

The progress in agricultural sector in the past three years from 1966-67 to 1969-70 has been encouraging in spite of natural calamities such as the drought and coupled with heavy rains swept over the coastal belt of the State during 1967-68 and in Ganjam district in 1968-69 and the floods and

droughts affecting different parts of the State. The attention paid to the development of agriculture through special schemes has been fruitful. The change in the Governmental policy with regard to supply of agricultural inputs has paid rich dividends even during a very short period. More and more attention is being given at present to build up the requisite infrastructure, especially development of minor irrigation and rural electrification to strengthen the agricultural economy of the State. With the enthusiastic support and involvement of the farmer community, the progress in agriculture will continue still at a higher pace than achieved ever before.



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'Nabanna' or 'Nuakhai'

'Nabanna' literally means the 'new food'. Rice being our staple food, the general import of the word 'Anna' has been narrowed down to the particular connotation of 'rice'.

Nabanna is the annual festival of an agricultural people, celebrating the first maturing of rice in the 'early variety' plants. Actually, the economic significance of this festival is lost in the regions where irrigation facilities have helped the cultivation of a series of crops round the year. Elsewhere, the poor yeomen have waited in great privation, toiling through the scorching summer and the torrential rains, for the mother-earth to send up their nourishment through the rice-plants. Now that it is time for the early crop to be harvested, the festival marks both a communal jubilation over it and an economic recognition that it is time to redress the poor man's need. Both the ideas are reflected in the convention of big farmers making substantial presents of rice and cloth on

this occasion to their dependents, and to the poor people in the village, generally.

It is a festival of the entire State of Orissa. But only in the Western region of the State does it evoke a picture of gallop preparations and grand celebrations. Whereas in the other parts of Orissa the festival is celebrated by individual families according to their convenience over a period of six months, in the Western region the whole population celebrates it within a much shorter span between the second and the thirteenth days of the moon in the month of 'Bhadra' (broadly speaking, the month of September). This short span is there to provide elbow room to the various localities for their regional conveniences. But it has also an ulterior, esoteric justification. A locality is supposed to celebrate it on the day that is found to be auspicious either to the regional deity, for example, Samaleswari at Sambalpur, or to the ruler of the old princely state, for example, Shri R. N. Singh Deo, the present Chief Minister, at Balangir. Patna

ill; whose fate the fortune of the people as supposed to be bound. Traditionally, the festival marks an auspicious annual worship together, of the deities of the field, the family of the clan, of the locality, and of the universal Goddess Laxmi, for ushering in happiness and prosperity for the year to the individuals and the community as a whole.

The festival is in the tradition of the worship of 'Ariana' as enjoined by the Vedas. Moreover, its central inspiration having stemmed from the ancient fertility-rites, the 'Nabanna' ceremony can be found to have its correspondence in various festivals all over the world, both current and ancient. Whatever be its metaphysical justification, the custom fosters excellent communal harmony and family unity. As a social occasion the Nabanna or 'Nuakhai' as it is called is of incomparable joy and significance in the life of the people of the Western region of Orissa. In order to feel the real pulsation of it, however one has to go to the villages. The towns celebrate it all right, eating heavily and going gay in groups. But then the impacts of secularisation, of materialism, of political bigotries (even 'Streetism') and of an increasing divorce from the contact with Nature, have all combined to create a feeling of part-indifference and part-fashion. For a sensitive soul who has migrated with his family from the village, there is an awful lot of nostalgia and regret on this day.

In the villages, the manifold preparations for this function begin quite a few days before the auspicious day. The entire house and all the utensils and clothes are cleaned—the rich give a white-wash to their walls; the poor plaster coloured soil and cow-dung over the floors and the walls,

and then decorate them with flowery patterns and pictures of deities. The weekly market which falls prior to the Nabanna is a stirring affair. A variety of things are to be purchased, and the poor swain who goes there with a tall order and a modest purse has to be endlessly making his small arithmetics, moving from stall to stall, finding out the cheapest and the best. Ghee, oil, potatoes, spices, molasses, soap, scented oil, 'Alta', bangles, clothes, and so the list lengthens. It marks one of the most crowded and busy market—days in the year.

The series of preparatory activities culminate almost in a frenzy on the penultimate day. For, then, all the articles necessary for the ritual, and what is more exacting, the commodities for a gala feast spreading through the whole of the next day, are all to be kept ready. If the auspicious hour happens to fall sometime on the early part of the day, the housewife can hardly afford the luxury of a wink of sleep. The ritual needs very ordinary things, may be, but making the arrangements is really troublesome as the items are quite large in number—'duba' grass, mango-leaves, (for hanging above the doors is a mark of holy welcome), coloured powders of various sorts, fruits of many kinds, sandal-wood paste, wicks, nibara and pasari (varieties of wild growing rice) to make puffed rice with, etc. etc. Similarly, for purposes of feasting, the vegetables are all to be placed and kept ready under cover of wet clothes, spices are to be powdered or ground into pastes, rice grains are to be shifted, a few types of cakes are to be kept prepared as offerings (such as, Arisa and Suarri), and so on. Usually, hands are not wanting for these activities because on this day the entire

family is there. Since this is the most important annual festivity, all the members of the family are required together. But there is an amount of social compulsion, too. The custom of the 'Nuakhai' involves the participation of the whole family. If someone is absent the festival is dislocated for the entire family—that is, if they go by orthodox standards. One can, of course, celebrate it with his family on some other auspicious day that is found convenient. But, in that case, it becomes a most trying thing—according to the existing convention, one becomes ostracized from the community in matters of food and drink. One is supposed to neither receive from nor offer food and drink to a person who has not yet solemnised his 'Nuakhai'. Till one has had it, one cannot even take the services of the menial servants—for even the water they touch can no longer be drunk by such a person. Only if some one of the family in living memory has died on some 'Nuakhai' day, they are exempted from celebrating it with all others. Thus both on grounds of sentiments as well as convenience it is rather hard for a family to miss the day's rites and revels.

The much longed-for Nuakhai finally arrives. Long before the morning star dims, the housewives are already at their regular posts—with this difference, may be, that no one has any thing to complain this day; in unusually large quantities, a variety of dishes are made ready. Much before the Sun is up, the children and others who have still defied the resounding clang and bustle, are made to leave their beds. While someone herds the children to the well or the tank to scrub them to their fairest, all the beddings are neatly stacked to one corner, and the house is once again thoroughly swept and cleaned. With day,

everyone is shining—attired in new garments. Fresh and beaming, they all join the chore. The housewife now looks after the deities; usually, she is only in charge of the worship of goddess Laxmi and other household Gods.—It is the master of the family who has to go to the fields to do some worship there, and on return, to attend to the worship of the family deity. The worship over, each one goes to pay obeisance to the deities. The estates are then kept ready, and they wait fasting till the auspicious hour arrives. Then leaf plates are spread for the entire family. With a lump of pasty preparation in the middle of each plate, the various items offered to the gods are served.

This is the only occasion when all the male and female members of the family sit down together to eat. They lift the pasty food—made out of molasses, bananas, ghee, pasari 'puffed rice' and a few grains either powdered or whole, of rice with the husks—with all the five fingers narrow ing to it, and at one time all of them eat it. After taking the 'prasad' they once again bow down before the deity. Then each one bows to his or her elders in the family. Indeed, on this day, one is supposed to meet and seek the blessings of all one's senior relations in the locality for a happy and prosperous year. There is a local saying which means—we shall exchange good-will once again if we are alive for another year'. The elderly ones usually make this poignant remark while meeting the young.

With this, the sacred ritual is over. But the secular affairs still remain. Eating, playing both indoor and outdoor games and revels follow in an endless succession for the whole of the day and far into the

ht. If one has the appetite for it, one really taste hundreds of preparations this day—for exchange of delicacies between families is an established custom. Another interesting feature of the day's dining consists in the preparation of tton-curry in the evening. Prices usually go up for 'Nuakhai' is not felt to be complete without the consumption of very quantities of meat the same evening.

By the time the revels are all ended, the new garments have gone dirty, the faces are pale with too much gaiety, and after almost twenty-four hours of busy festivity, everyone is impatient to take rest. 'Nuakhai' is over for a year. The problems of life are again to be reckoned with from the next morning. Till then, there is the sleep of exhilaration.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG ENGINEERS AND DIPLOMA HOLDERS
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Managing Director
Orissa State Financial Corporation
Barabati Stadium,
Cuttack-5

State of Indian Agriculture

Abundant satisfaction at the present performance with a record production for the third year in succession on the agricultural front and cautious optimism for a bright future is the Keynote of the Union Agriculture Department's Annual Report for 1969-70. Assured of an all time high record production of 100 million tonnes of foodgrains, it mentions of progress towards a break-through in the production of high yielding varieties of paddy and hybrids of jowar, bajra and maize, and considerable improvement in the production of commercial crops including jute.

It is expected that the foodgrains production during 1969-70 will touch a new high level of about 100 million tonnes, which exceeds the previous record production of 95.1 million tonnes in 1967-68 by about 5 million tonnes. This increase is mainly due to the enthusiastic response of farmers to the adoption of new technology. Although the achievements in regard to high yielding varieties of paddy and hybrid varieties of jowar, bajra and maize are not as spectacular as in the case of wheat, there is every indication that progress is being made towards a break-through. The production of rice and wheat in 1968-69 touched new record levels and production of wheat this year is going to be substantially higher than the record production of 18.7 million tonnes in 1968-69. Similarly, the production of

rice in 1968-69 also touched a new record level. In the current year 1969-70 the jute production at 56.1 lakh bales shows a distinct recovery from the very low level of 29.3 lakh bales in 1968-69. The production of other commercial crops is also expected to register increases over the previous year's level. The report also emphasized the need to strengthen and extend the new agricultural strategy to cover wider areas through a long-term programme aiming at developing supplementary foods, bridging the protein supply, promoting extensive programmes of soil conservation and land development, completing the process of land reforms, and stepping up irrigation from the current level of 36 million hectares to the maximum potential of about 82 million hectares.

most important among the follow-up measures initiated by Government, the second step is of giving attention to the

of small farmers, submarginal lands and the landless labour. This pattern is beginning to influence formulation of area schemes of agricultural development by commercial banks

The third aspect relates to development of dry farming in areas with deficient rainfall and yet higher production potential

In the beginning this new strategy for improving dry farming will be implemented in selected areas in compact blocks and, belonging to private farmers. For chronically drought prone areas also, a scheme involving Rs. 100 crores in four years up to 1973-74 is being envisaged under the Plan. The main emphasis of the programme will be on permanent development works and not on temporary relief measures, and on providing remunerative work to rural labour in these areas. Usually, greater emphasis is being placed on the concept of integrated area development as demonstrated not only by the IADP but also by experiments like the Andhra Project.

Area development has become significant for two reasons. Firstly, in view of the quick results it can yield in areas of new irrigation works (or areas served by cluster minor irrigation works such as tube-wells) by an integrated organisation

of the various inputs, demonstrations, training, marketing, storage, etc., secondly, in view of the need for integrating development of animal husbandry, poultry, piggery, sheep, etc., with crop development in mutually beneficial programmes. Several schemes on these lines with proper adjustments to suit local conditions in different States and regions of the country, are to be implemented during 1970-71.

STRATEGY FOR DRY LANDS

A two-pronged effort for development of agriculture in dry areas include research for evolving special techniques for maximum returns from the available soil and moisture resources of dry areas, and organisation of necessary infrastructure and training.

MINOR IRRIGATION

Significant advances are being made in the development of minor irrigation particularly in harnessing groundwater resources through extensive use of electric power in remote rural areas.

Measures for survey in the assessment of groundwater sources were intensified and it is proposed to establish in 1970-71, three more Regional Water Management Pilot Projects, in addition to the three already in hand.

The question of extending the IADP Project concept to spearhead total agricultural modernisation programme for the country as a whole, as recommended by the Expert Committee is under active consideration of the Government.

In regard to the production of pulses, oil-seeds, cotton and other commercial

crops, efforts are afoot to evolve high-yielding varieties of seeds and a new package of practices and field traits are being pursued on selected basis.

SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

The centrally sponsored scheme for the provision of market complexes and rural roads is being implemented in the command areas of Kosi, Nagarjunasagar and Tungabhadra as an integral part of a comprehensive agricultural development programme. Pilot Projects for desert development involving schemes of soil conservation, afforestation, minor irrigation and agricultural development were initiated in Gujarat and Haryana. Such schemes for arid areas of Rajasthan are under consideration.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Integrated programmes of soil and water conservation have been taken up in different rainfall zones in all States, soil conservation schemes in the catchment areas of 13 major River Valley Projects and Pilot Projects for reclamation of ravine lands were initiated in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

FERTILIZERS

The report mentions of a very satisfactory situation in the matter of supply of inputs, specially fertilizers. A nation-wide campaign has been launched to promote fertilizer consumption on large scale. Measures like Centrally Sponsored National Demonstration Programmes, training of farmers in techniques of fertilizer application and publicity through audio-visual aids were initiated besides

strengthening the existing soil testing facilities. The distribution system of fertilizers was liberalised. Extension and other measures were organised for promoting balanced use of fertilizers. Measures for provision of larger amounts of credit through institutional sources for greater fertilizer consumption have also been taken.

SEEDS

As a result of co-ordinated efforts to produce quality seeds, the country is now in a happy position to meet not only all the internal demands but also the demands from some external markets. The National Seeds Corporation has played a key role in the production and certification of quality seeds. The Corporation exported small quantities of seeds, maize, jowar and vegetables to Ceylon, Malaysia and Ghana and wheat seeds to Denmark. The Corporation has also encouraged and assisted the indigenous industry to develop and manufacture seed processing equipment like seed cleaners, driers, elevators, shellers and moisture meters.

In the sphere of plant protection significant headway has been made in aerial operations. The strength of the fleet of agricultural aircraft has increased more than three-fold to 66 and 2.9 lakh hectares of cropped area were treated against pests and diseases.

Agro-Industries Corporation have been set up in all the States except Nagaland under an integrated programme for development of farm mechanisation. New dimensions have been added to farm mechanisation by the setting up of machinery-hiring centres and customer-servicing

tractors in some States. The production of tractors in the country is expected to rise to 22,000 as compared to 15,500 in the previous year. In addition, about 35,000 more tractors are being imported. Large-scale import of power tillage implements, tractor tyres, spare parts and disc harrows has also been arranged.

CREDIT

Further advances have been made in the institutionalisation of agricultural credit through a 'multi-agency approach'. The quantum of credit supplied by co-operatives is expected to rise to Rs. 640 crores in 1969-70. The Agriculture Refinance Corporation has stepped up its assistance for minor irrigation schemes and is also providing assistance for construction of godowns and silos. The Agricultural Finance Corporation sanctioned loans totalling Rs. 87.92 crores by the end of November 1969 to various programmes including mechanisation of irrigation wells.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Two new high yielding long duration varieties of paddy, namely, Jagannath, and Lakshmi, ideal for cultivation during kharif season, even in areas which were subjected to frequent water logging, have been approved for release. Sugarbeet cultivation has shown good results and the crop appears to be suitable for fitting into the cropping schedules in the northern region. For wheat, attempts are being made to develop new varieties called 'triple harvest'. It has been indicated by research that the new high-yielding varieties of rice, wheat, jowar and bajra perform better than local varieties even in soils of low and normal fertility. Three

new agricultural universities—the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat; the Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola and the Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar were established during the year. A number of colleges in Uttar Pradesh have switched over to three-year degree course.

EXTENSION AND TRAINING

Special mention needs to be made for massive farmers' training programme under the centrally sponsored scheme. Nearly 3 lakh farmers have participated in over 8,200 production-cum-demonstration camps. Training arrangements in the specialised fields of plant protection marketing, farm machinery, forestry, sheep and wool development are also helping to make available larger number of trained hands in these fields.

LAND REFORMS

To remove impediments in the way of progress of new technology and for ensuring greater measure of social justice, special attention is being given to land reforms. It was decided in consultation with the Chief Ministers of States, to abolish all the remaining intermediary interests and estates, mainly religious tenures and Inams by the end of 1970. Measures will be taken to bring tenants into direct contact with the State and to enable them to obtain institutional credit. Preparation and revision of records of tenancies and subtenancies will receive high priority. The right of resumption by land owners will be further restricted. The State Government will take measures to enforce the ceiling legislation and give priority to consolidation of holdings, specially in the irrigated areas. Available surplus land and

Government fallow lands will be distributed among landless agricultural labourers.

The report also mentioned the efforts of the Government to improve the organisation of collecting vital agricultural statis-

tics, allied economic data and market intelligence. It was also revealed that India would participate in the Third World Agricultural Census sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

FERTILIZER PRODUCTION IN 1969-70

During 1969-70, the production of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country increased to 716,000 tonnes in terms of nitrogen as compared with the production of 543,000 tonnes in 1968-69. This shows an increase of 32 per cent.

While only 42 per cent of country's requirement was being produced indigenously in 1968-69, the ratio went up to 57 per cent in 1969-70. As a result of this improvement, imports of nitrogenous fertilizers were reduced by 21.2 per cent from 847,000 tonnes in 1968-69 to 667,000 tonnes in 1969-70.

In achieving the production targets for the year 1969-70, the Nangal Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, the Kota Unit of the Delhi Cloth Mills and the Gorakhpur Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India ranked first, second and third respectively and, in fact, overfulfilled their targets.

Above-average production was achieved by four public sector units and three private sector units.

On the other hand, fertilizer units which showed large shortfalls from targets were the Ennore Unit of EID Parry Ltd., Kanpur Unit of Indian Explosives, the Rourkela Unit of Hindustan Steel, and Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.

Agricultural Development— Changing concepts in Approach

Agriculture has been the basic profession of the human race. Industry and other professions came sometimes later after the supply of food was met. With the passage of time and development of technical knowledge, approach to higher agricultural production has been changing in varying degrees in different parts of the world. All these approaches aimed at the development of a self-generating economy through higher production from unit area in unit time and provision of all the production needs of a farmer. Since the era of planned development began, efforts are continuously being made to build a strong base for higher agricultural production. Such efforts are reoriented from time to time depending on the needs of the country and advances made in technical knowledge and the development of resources.

In the first two plan period, the developmental efforts mainly consisted of increasing the areas under different crops, expan-

ding the irrigation facilities through major and medium irrigation projects and popularising the use of improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. Agriculture continued to remain at a subsistence level and the farmers were not attracted to the small increases brought about in the production through use of improved seeds and application of fertilisers and pesticides, etc. This necessitated a change in the approach for obtaining higher agricultural production to meet the needs of the increasing population and to build up the economy of the country through exports to foreign countries. The emphasis for higher production was naturally switched over to intensive cultivation measures through programmes like I. A. D. P. and I. A. A. during the third plan period. Towards the end of the third plan period and during the succeeding annual plans preceding the fourth plan, a break through in agricultural production has been achieved through introduction of high yielding varieties and

multiple cropping practices a new concept which is now the main strategy for increasing agricultural production and to build up the economy of the country in the shortest possible time.

With the introduction of high yielding varieties and other new techniques of multiple cropping, the profession of agriculture has been lifted from subsistence level to commercial production. This revolutionary change in the pattern of agricultural production has been attracting a large number of people including educated young men to revert back to farming, contrary to the earlier trend of settling in government or private jobs in urban areas. This changed outlook of the people coupled with the limitations on providing employment through government and other agencies created the need for a revised thinking in the approach for development of agriculture. The mere supply of inputs in adequate quantities or concentrating on higher production in selected areas is no longer sufficient to meet the current needs of development. The hunger for more water to irrigate the crops, the need to remove the disparity between small farmers and the big, the demand for credit to meet the higher investments on inputs and development programmes, the urge for better marketing and processing facilities to obtain economic returns for the investments made on the land and several such problems resulted in reorienting the policies for development of agriculture. The emphasis is now switched over to the development of infrastructure already existing, to provide conditions for higher production from the agricultural farms and to reduce the disparities between the big and the small farmers and between the farmers in the irrigated areas and those

in the non-irrigated areas. An awareness among the farmers has already been created in a large majority of the areas to increase production through improved technology. Expansion of irrigation facilities, availability of credit in time on liberal terms, adequate marketing facilities and price support for the agricultural produce are some of the immediate requirements identified, to create conditions for higher production.

The government both at the state level and at the centre have recognised such needs and steps have been taken to implement schemes providing conditions for higher production and to raise the economy of various class of farmers. Some of the important programmes that have been drawn up in the revised concept towards development of agriculture are briefly enumerated in the following paragraphs.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

The finance available from government sources are very much limited to meet the massive needs of developmental programmes and input requirements of the farmers. The farmers' needs have to be met through other sources if the desired development is to be brought about. This has been recognised. The nationalised banks have been set on the task. Till a few years ago, co-operatives were the main sources for advancing credit to the farmers for purposes of agricultural production. Now the commercial banks have come forward to advance such credit to farmers in addition to co-operatives to meet their short and medium term requirements. Land Development Banks are actively participating in advancing the long term needs of the farmers like sinking tube-wells, purchase of tractors and land improvement

programmes. In addition to these institutions, Agricultural Refinance Corporation and Agricultural Finance Corporation have been sponsoring a number of schemes where these corporations would provide refinance facilities to institutions through which loans for the specific schemes are made available. Such developmental loans are made available either to individuals or societies or joint undertakings or corporations against adequate securities and soundness of the programmes. Crop loans with minimum guarantees are made available through co-operatives and commercial banks. This is a great advancement in the approach to help small farmers obtaining the benefits of new technology.

DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION

Irrigation is recognised as the main factor responsible for agricultural production. But it is well-known that development of irrigation by utilising the surface and underground water resources cannot be entirely left to Government in view of the restraints on its financial resources. The major and medium projects have to be taken up by government agency whereas the minor irrigation projects including lift irrigation points, surface well, etc., have to be developed through individual or joint private efforts. To assist such private enterprises funds are made available through credit institutions, Agricultural Finance Corporation and Agricultural Refinance Corporation, etc. Government provides the technical assistance in locating the underground water or drawing up plans and executing programmes to utilise surface water through lift irrigation and such other minor projects. The Rural Electrification Corporation provides money through State Electricity Board for draw-

ing up L. T. lines for energising the lift irrigation points, tube-wells, etc. The Land Development Banks and other financing banks advance credit for purchase of pump sets whereas the Agro-Industries Corporation is going ahead to arrange for the supply of pumping sets, spares and maintenance services. These are specific steps to increase the irrigation potential and provide facilities for the maintenance of such projects.

SMALL FARMERS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The benefit of planning has so far mostly gone to the farmers having holding sizes of five acres and above. The small farmers having holding sizes below 5 acres accounting for major portion of the cultivating families could not take advantage of the facilities provided in the past, to become viable. This imbalance between big and the small farmers is sought to be removed by setting up small Farmers Development Agencies in the Districts of Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Phulbani and Bolangir. Under this programme top priority is given to development of irrigation, strengthening of credit structure, assisting in establishing subsidiary occupations and development of markets, etc. Assistance in the form of subsidies, credit and technical services will be directed to improve the economic condition of the small farmers having holding sizes between 2.5 to 4.9 acres. This may be relaxed a little under special circumstances.

SUB-MARGINAL FARMERS AND LAND-LESS AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

Schemes to develop sub-marginal farmers having holding sizes below 2.5 acres and landless agricultural labourers are also

under contemplation. Under this programme, emphasis will be on provision of adequate rural employment through construction of village roads, land reclamation and soil conservation works, and by assisting the farmers to take to subsidiary occupations like dairying, poultry, goat-keeping, processing of vegetables, etc. This programme will be mostly confined to areas adjoining urban centres where there is scope for consumption of the products like milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit products.

AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Till now the emphasis in irrigated areas has been on increased production through efficient utilization of water and increased use of inputs. It is felt that this is not adequate to bring about the desired prosperity to the producer. Development of markets, communications, processing industries, establishment of agricultural machine hiring centres and workshops and other ancillary programmes are considered vital to develop the area on an integrated basis. A scheme to develop the Salandi Ayacut on the above lines has been drawn up which is yet to receive approval of Government of India. Similar area development programmes are also in view in the ayacut areas of other major and medium projects.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

The problem of unemployment and under-employment of the educated youngmen has been worrying the Government in recent times. Government resources being limited for providing employment to all the educated youngmen several schemes are under contemplation to provide facili-

ties to agricultural graduates to take to farming with their own resources or with institutional finance. One of the programmes is to provide agricultural graduates about ten acres each to take up farming with credit facilities from financing institutions. They have to develop the lands themselves and take up farming for which Government assistance will be made available in the form of technical services, supplies and minimum housing facilities. They will also be assisted to have subsidiary occupations like dairying and poultry. Another important programme in view is to encourage agricultural graduates to take up retail sale of fertilisers. Government will stand guarantee up to Rs. 5,000 in respect of such graduates so as to enable them to obtain credit for purchase of fertilisers. Similar programmes to help the agricultural graduates to take to farming or trades relating to agricultural development are being encouraged by Government not only to find suitable employment to the agricultural graduates but also to increase agricultural production either directly or indirectly.

To conclude, the concepts for development of agriculture are continuously changing with the changes brought about by advances made in science and the needs of the people. The emphasis on supplying inputs and propagating package of practices over large areas continues to be important but development of other infrastructure to commercialize agriculture is the growing need of the current times. The pattern of development has to change and farmers have to take advantage of the different programmes to give agricultural farming a commercial status.

Co-operatives in Orissa—An Assessment

Co-operative movement in Orissa has gained momentum in course of the last years with vigorous Government support. In the field of credit, to which the movement was practically restricted in earlier years, it has now been called upon to play a pivotal role by liberalising the loan policies, passing of various debt relief and money-lender's acts. With the changes in the general economic conditions of agriculturists and to meet their new requirements, the co-operative movement is being reshaped. It would be interesting to study and investigate how far the movement has responded to the new calls.

ACTION PROGRAMME

As on the 30th June 1969, there were 77 Co-operative Societies of all categories functioning in the State with membership of 2 lakhs and working capital of Rs. 87 crores. These societies exclude those under process of liquidation. The total number of societies is decreasing every year due to the implementation of phased "Action

Programme" which envisages retention of only the active and economically viable units. The percentage of rural population covered by the agricultural co-operatives was 42% and the total population covered by the co-operatives of all types was 54%.

LONG-TERM CREDIT

To facilitate and meet the credit needs of the agriculturists who are responsible for stepping up agricultural production, long-term credit is being advanced through Primary Land Development Banks. 90% of such loans are advanced for purchase of pump sets, tractors and other agricultural implements which have direct bearing on agricultural production. During the financial year 1969-70, Rs. 2.94 crores were advanced and it is proposed to advance Rs. 6.00 crores during 1970-71. The rate of interest for this category of credit has been reduced to 9% from 9½%.

SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM-TERM CREDITS

The emphasis on this system of finance has been shifted from "Assets-nexus" to "Crop-orientation" with a view to step up agricultural production. Marginal and sub-marginal cultivators including bhagchasis are provided with loans to the extent of Rs. 2,000 without mortgaging their lands under short-term credit and up to Rs. 1,000, under medium credit. Rs. 10.77 crores of S.-T. loans and Rs. 2.48 crores of M. T. loans were advanced by the 17 Central Co-operative Banks of the State to agriculturists; through 4,471 primary agricultural credit societies during 1969-70.

MARKETING AND PROCESSING

In the marketing sector, 11 Rice-cum-Oil mills have already been commissioned and 10 more are to be commissioned soon.

There are two Co-operative Sugar Factories at Aska in Ganjam district and Bargarh in Sambalpur district. The factory at Bargarh is under construction stage and is expected to go into production by 1972-73. Government have contributed Rs. 28.00 lakhs towards the share capital of the Bargarh Sugar Mills. The Aska Sugar factory crushed 14.94 lakh tonnes of sugarcane during 1969-70. The percentage of recovery of sugar was 9.11.

A granular fertiliser mixture plant is going to be established at Bargarh in Sambalpur district. The State Government have sanctioned Rs. 4.50 lakhs to this unit towards share capital contribution during 1969-70 and a further sum of Rs. 3.75 lakhs is expected to be received as subsidy.

A Jute Marketing Co-operative Society functioning at Danpur of Cuttack district. The Society procured jute worth Rs. 50 lakhs during 1969-70.

41 Forest Produce Co-operative Marketing and Forest Labour Societies were functioning in the State. The object of organising these societies is to provide employment to the underprivileged adivasis. These societies take care of minor forest produce like hill broom and tamarind, etc. During the current year a special drive was launched in Koraput district to enrol more adivasis as members. There is one Apex Society at the State level to co-ordinate the activities of the primaries.

There are 31 regulated market committees in the State and one more is going to be established in Koraput district very soon.

There were 52 R. C. M. S. as on June 1969 with a membership of 18 lakhs and working capital of Rs. 2.39 crores. There is one Apex Marketing Society in the State. Its membership and working capital were respectively 181 lakhs and Rs. 1.00 crores.

CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES

Eight wholesale co-operative stores functioning in towns with population 10,000 and more. 7 districts out of 13 have already been covered by such Co-operative Stores organised under a centrally-sponsored scheme. Each of these stores has received assistance in share capital at the rate, Rs. 1.00 lakh. Besides of a sum of Rs. 0.10 lakh has been given as subsidy.

ORISSA REVIEW—SEPTEMBER

attack, Puri, Bhubaneswar and have received working capital 2 lakhs each. Besides these, the Stores were organised for the workers at Barbil in Keonjhar and Rourkela in Sundargarh. The Orissa State Consumers' Store, an apex store at Bhubaneswar, with procurement and uniform supply of all commodities among the stores.

Departmental store "Alka" is now at New Capital since August, other departmental store "Alka" has also started functioning at

Cuttack since March, 1970.

Under the rural programme, all the Regional Co-operative Marketing Societies were selected to act as central consumers' stores for distribution of consumer goods and essential commodities in rural areas through primary service societies affiliated to them. Each of the Regional Co-operative Marketing Societies was given managerial subsidy of Rs. 5,000 in a period of 3 years. During 1968-69, an additional share capital of Rs. 3.70 lakhs was given to 37 Regional Co-operative Marketing Societies at the rate of Rs. 10,000-00 each to take up consumer business.

GROWTH OF CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES AS ON JUNE 30, 1969

	Apex	Wholesale	Primary
No. of societies	1	10	429
Membership	37	8857	90,416
Working capital (Rs. in lakhs)	4.63	44.81	40.17
Value of purchases (Rs. in lakhs)	3.92	152.12	155.18
Value of sales (Rs. in lakhs)	3.83	154.70	181.47
Profit (Rs. in lakhs)	0.19	1.71	5.56
Loss (Rs. in lakhs)	..	0.98	2.49

ENGINEERS' CO-OPERATIVE

It has been decided to organise one Engineering Co-operative Society in each district in order to provide employment to skilled unemployed engineers. One such society has already been organised in the urban district.

Working capital and working capital were respectively Rs. 17,622 and Rs. 20.84 lakhs. There is one Central Society, viz., 'Central Fishermen Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., functioning at Balugaon. Its membership and working capital were respectively 122 and Rs. 18.13 lakhs. The value of catch and sales were respectively Rs. 10.66 lakhs and Rs. 12.66 lakhs.

On 30th June 1969, there were 154 Engineering Co-operatives, whose membership

INDUSTRIAL AND WEAVERS' CO-OPERATIVES

With a view to ameliorate the general economic condition of the skilled rural people, a number of Industrial Co-operatives were organised. There were 1,208 such societies with membership and working capital of 58,690 and Rs. 2.18 crores respectively. The values of production and sales were Rs. 1.26 crores and Rs. 1.45 crores respectively.

Orissa is renowned for her artistic filigree works and Sambalpuri handloom fabrics. These articles find good market abroad. One filigree Co-operative Society is functioning in the State with a membership of 109 and working capital of Rs. 32,676. There were 417 Weavers' Co-operative Societies which include 403 Cotton Co-operative Societies, 7 Silk Co-operative Societies and 7 Power-loom Co-operative Societies. Their membership and working

capital were respectively 48,897 and Rs. crores. The value of production sales were respectively Rs. 1.75 crores and Rs. 1.67 crores. There were 10,188 weaving looms.

There were 87 Women Co-operatives with membership and working capital of 4,635 and Rs. 108 thousand. These societies earned net profit of Rs. 10 thousand.

There were 39 village community cooperative Societies with membership of 1,360 and working capital of Rs. 6.7. These societies were organised with a view to promote fellow feeling and integrity among the youths.

HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES

There is one Housing Corporation at the state level to co-ordinate the activities of the 498 Primary Co-operatives. Details of their working as on June 1969 are furnished below :

	Apex	Primary
No. of societies	1	498
Membership	426	20,925
Working capital (Rs. in lakhs)	182.31	160.83
Loans		
(i) Advanced (Rs. in lakhs)	3.02	2.74
(ii) Recovered (Rs. in lakhs)	3.35	5.11
(iii) Outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)	151.48	85.66
No. of houses constructed	..	1,624
Profit (Rs. in lakhs)	..	1.36
Loss (Rs. in lakhs)	..	0.53

From the preceding paragraphs, it is evident that perceptible progress has been achieved in different spheres in the Co-

operative Sector. This was possible due to active participation by the public and the Government as well.

SOIL CONSERVATION IN ORISSA

All Agricultural production starts with the soil. No amount of irrigation, fertilizer, improved seeds or pesticides have any value if the soil is not productive. It is therefore necessary that all our agricultural programmes for increased sustained production should primarily be concerned with the preservation of soil.

In Orissa, unfortunately the problem of soil erosion is very acute resulting in poor production. The various reasons contributing to accelerated erosion in the State are as follows :

SHIFTING CULTIVATION

Shifting cultivation is not only the way of life for the tribals but is the main source of subsistence or living. The tribals generally clear and fell patches of forests in the month of January to March. They burn the forest litter after these are dried up under the hot sun. Subsequently they raise one or two crops in such cleared forest lands and abandon the area in

search of a new patch. This form of raising crops on hill slopes is known as 'Roma', 'Bringo', 'Podu', 'Gudia', or 'Dangar' 'chassa' in different parts of Orissa. It has been estimated that about 12,000 square miles which is equivalent to one-fifth of the total land surface of Orissa, is subjected to such type of cultivation. Soil erosion caused due to shifting cultivation has been engaging the attention of not only the Government but also people from various walks of life, such as the social workers, the administrators, the engineers and the soil conservationist.

STREAM BANK EROSION

The problem of erosion of agricultural land due to meandering streams and nalas, in the coastal districts is very serious. Every year hundreds of acres of valuable agricultural land are grabbed due to erosion of the stream banks. Besides meandering streams in the plains, the torrents in the hilly regions of the State play havoc and destroy valuable cultivable land by either sand casting or by erosion.

WASTE AND THE PASTURE (GOCHAR) LANDS

In Orissa there are about 5.4 million acres of cultivable waste land besides huge acreage of gochar (Pasture land). The cultivable waste and the gochar lands in the State remain neglected and are subjected to over grazing. As such these lands have become the major *foci* of erosion.

UP LANDS UNDER SHEET EROSION

The up lands specially in the hilly districts of Keonjhar, Kalahandi and Koraput, etc. are cultivated without any bunds or terraces. As such these lands are subject to sever arosion and some times the up lands are cropped once in two to three years in order to avoid uneconomic yield.

SOIL EROSION IN COASTAL AREA

In the coastal areas of the State, the shifting sand dune threatens every year specially during summer, the adjoining agricultural land and make them unproductive. Besides, the problem of shifting sand dunes are also met along with the estuaries of the rivers like the Mahanadi, the Brahmani and the Baitarani etc.

EROSION ON THE MINE SPOILS

In Orissa large scale of mining operations to extract iron, chrome iron, kaolin and china clay, etc., are in progress. During exploration of various ores, it is observed that the spoils are dumped in hunge quantity nearby. Erosion from these spoils pose a serious problem to the agricultural land nearby. It is therefore of paramount importance to stabilize these mine spoils by developing special techniques in order to check the erosion.

SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

In order to plan and to execute the soil conservation programme in the State moderet beginning was made in the year 1953 when a Soil Conservation Division was created under the Forest Department. Nucleus staff of one Soil Conservation Officer, two Forest Rangers, one Deputy Ranger and one Forester were posted to implement the programme. With the sanction of the new soil conservation schemes and in view of the importance of soil conservation planing in agricultural lands, the organisation was transferred to the Agricultural Department in the year 1956.

With an object of diversified use of soil and land resources in the State, the Soil Conservation Organisation has been attempting to undertake various soil defence measures, such as: Contour Bunding, Gull Plugging, Construction of diversion weirs Land levelling and Land Shapping in the ayacut areas, Construction of farm ponds, Stone Wall terracing, Bench terracing, Field bunding & Stream bank protection measures.

Besides, the said organisation has also undertaken an organised effort for growing commercial crops like Cashew, Sisal, Pine-apple, Coffee & Soyabean, etc.

PROGRESS

Till the end of the financial year 1968-69, 2.75 lakh acres of up lands have been contour banded under different soil conservation schemes. It is estimated that apart from increased yields which some times runs to 25 per cent or more these up lands have been made fit to be

opped every year. Previously these lands re being cropped once in two to three yrs. Moreover by contour bunding these lands have been saved from further deterioration.

In tribal areas where pressure on land more bench terracing on hill slopes has been done on more than 3,240 acres. Here shifting cultivation is still in process and random rubbles are available, one terracing are being constructed to check erosion. Till the end of 1968-69, 599 acres of hill slopes have been stone traced.

Construction of small farm ponds by loss bunding small streams and gullies have been very popular in the drought affected areas. Till the end of the finan-

cial year 1968-69, 40 Nos. of such farm ponds have been constructed.

Pilot schemes for control of stream bank erosion were executed in different parts of the State with much success. 766 of such units have been implemented till the end of the year 1968-69.

Besides these, steps are being taken for plantation of cashew over 22,000 acres of eroded land. Sisal which is a good fibre crop have been planted over 3,000 acres and the State has almost a monopoly in sisal plantation in India. Last year (1968-69), the sisal fibre has fetched an amount of Rs. 4-00 lakhs. Besides cashew and sisal, pilot projects for plantation of pine-apple over 140 acres and Coffee plantation over 400 acres have also been undertaken.

HINDU MUSLIM UNITY

"That unity is strength is not merely a copybook maxim, but a rule of life is in no case so clearly illustrated as in the problem of Hindu-Muslim unity. Divided we must fall. Any third power can easily enslave India so long as we Hindus and Mussalmans are ready to cut each other's throats. Hindu-Muslim unity means not unity only between Hindus and Mussalmans, but between all those who believe India to be their home, no matter to what faith they belong."

(Young India, May 11, 1921)

District Gazetteers— Then And Now

A District Gazetteer is a complete and comprehensive account of the district from insects to elephants and from scoundrels to saints. It misses nothing whether under the ground such as minerals or on the ground such as rivers and mountains or in the air such as winds and clouds. It takes all human activity into account from the birth of the child to rites after death. While giving a contemporary account, it traces the history of human activity so far as it can from earliest times. It can be seen that the work of writing a Gazetteer envisages a great deal research.

For thirteen districts, Orissa will have thirteen Gazetteers and each district will have 19 Chapters. Some will have special additional Chapters or appendices such as Dandakaranya in Koraput, diamonds in Sambalpur, Jagannath of Puri, Juangas in Dhenkanal etc. Out of thirteen districts only five had Gazetteers written many years ago. Ganjam has a manual 88 years old. Even Koraput, now revised was written 25 years ago. Seven had sketchy notes written 64 years ago. Though the old gazetteers were written by very competent people, revising a gazetteer is no easier than writing a new one particularly in Orissa where not a single district has remained unaltered and seven new districts have formed.

Considering the magnitude of the task and various degrees of difficulties encountered at almost every stage, Orissa has done well in bringing out three Gazetteers and putting one in the Press. I will enumerate only a few of the difficulties. The greatest of all is finding suitable and willing Officers. There is no glamour in Gazetteers. You have no favours to distribute. You do not catch the eye of the Minister or of the public except perhaps once in a year. No body comes to you. If I may use a slang word, writing a Gazetteer is donkey's work. I may say with no reflection on modern officers there are to-day no Hunters or Omalleys who wrote Gazetteers with joy in their work and set about in missionary zeal.

ve the Imperial Gazetteers and Gazetteers of old. Another difficulty getting a quick and correct report from some offices. It took two years and from me to get an answer from an office 60 miles away. I had to write four times to an officer to get a correct answer. The main problem is the system of our administration. I write to the Head Office. It passes down to the junior clerk who drafts the answer. What comes to me is the draft of the most clerk. An important problem is the language of the draft. The standard of language has so deteriorated that even clerks write without an eye on accuracy. Officers do not know the use of 'and' and the use of the word 'and' as if grammar is not taught.

problem which is almost insoluble is to correct the first typed script. It is re-typed and comes back with other mistakes which were not there before. I give up in despair and leave it to the printer. Then comes the headache of reading. The first proof is read in the Head Office. It is done twice again in the Head Office. Even after all these, the final print comes with many mistakes which have to be left to the reader's patience. I may be pardoned for dilating on the difficulties. My excuse for this is to explain the charge of slow progress in Orissa. A work which will last and endure for a century should not be hurried through in a hurry.

It is being planned to add a supplement in 10 years to bring it up-to-date. It is planned to bring out a State Gazetteer for Orissa. When the Imperial Gazetteers were written, Orissa was a junior partner in the Indian Empire and got very inadequate mention.

It is now time to write a full account. Generally the District Gazetteer is of interest to administrators, legislators, research scholars and those of the general public who may want to know any particular aspect of the district.

The first Chapter starts with an introduction bringing out the important features of the districts. It goes on to give general geographical description of the district, its geology, minerals, flora and fauna, forests and climate.

Chapter II is history from the earliest times to the present day. Chapter III describes the people, their language, customs, festivals, dances and recreation, religion, etc. Chapter IV is on agriculture and irrigation. Chapter V deals with industries old and new, small scale and large scale. Chapter VI concerns banking, trade and commerce old and new and includes private banking houses. Chapter VII is on communications whether on land, on water or in the air and includes wireless, telegraphs, telephone and tourism. Chapter VIII lists miscellaneous occupation such as carpenters, potters, etc., and includes teachers, medical practitioners and photographers. Chapter IX deals with economic trends. It discusses prices and wages, employment exchanges and in the nature of things some speculation. Chapters X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI deal with different branches of administration. Chapter XVII is on social services and includes labour welfare, welfare of backward classes and charitable endowments. Chapter XVIII is on public life and voluntary social service organisation and deals with political organisation, parties in legislature and journalism. Chapter XIX is on places of interest which was previously known as Gazetteer in old Gazetteers.

I mention now certain findings of research by the Gazetteer staff :—

- (1) The Bhanja dynasty of Mayurbhanj may or may not have come out of the egg of a pea-hen. But they certainly ruled a kingdom in Orissa, Bihar and Bengal long before Rajputs appeared in Rajputana. Indeed the Bhanjas have ruled a kingdom longer than any other dynasty in the world.
- (2) Commissioner Ravenshaw did great good to Orissa by saving Oriya language from the onslaught of Bengali and by encouraging higher education. But he was a bad Revenue Officer and was no friend of Orissa politically. He was indirectly responsible for a million deaths in the Na-anika famine of 1866. He gave away half of Mayurbhanj to Bihar. Had it not been for the astuteness of Maharaja Krushna Chandra Bhanj, that half would have been lost for ever.
- (3) The bullet wound of which Maharaja Sriram Chandra died was an accident caused by his brother-in-law Saral Sen.
- (4) Chodaganga's battle of Tatnapur was not fought in Mayurbhanj and Chodaganga did not win.
- (5) Leaf wearing Juanga women and topless Bonda, Lanjia and Kandha women are neither indelicate nor immoral. They have a standard of morality and musical sense higher than of some of our advanced groups.
- (6) Samlai is not a deity merely of Samaleswari temple of Sambalpur. She is an all pervading spirit ruling three districts.

- (7) The original name of Patna (of Balangir, not of Bihar) was Kuanri-Patna or Kumari-Patna and its Capital Patnagarh was the seat of seven Tantric maidens one of whom was banished from Sonepur.
 - (8) Sonepur has a wealth of archaeological materials waiting to be explored.
 - (9) Tiger and wild buffalo are fast getting extinct in Orissa.
 - (10) The green revolution caused by Hirakud irrigation has put unexpected wealth in the hands of farmers. Unless there is economic outlet for the surplus cash, it is likely to lead to litigation of which there are indications.
 - (11) Absentee land-lordism of immigrant intermediaries who do not live in the district but come only to collect their share of crop and sell it, is likely to lead to trouble as it is doing elsewhere.
 - (12) While Sambalpur and Bargarh Subdivisions have become affluent Padmapur Subdivision is drought hit every 4th year and remains in poverty. This economic imbalance will also lead to social imbalance.
 - (13) Statistical analysis of rain fall at Titilagarh shows recurring drought every 4th year. This phenomenon covers Nuapara Subdivision of Kalahandi district, Padmapur Subdivision of Sambalpur district and Patnagarh Subdivision of Balangir district.
- We welcome information from whatever source it may come and whatever nature may be. We also welcome suggestion to improve our work.
- (Courtsey: All India Radio, Cuttack)

PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN ORISSA

Provision of employment opportunities for all those who enter into the labour force from time to time is a social obligation. The Social structure in India as well as in Orissa has so far been built on such a traditional base that there is little scope for absorbing the additional labour force in gainful activities. Rapid growth of population and consequent addition to labour force, displacement of labour from different sectors due to mechanisation and technological advancements, and lack of diversification of the employment opportunities present the most serious problem before the society as well as for the State government.

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

Before thinking of any realistic approach or solution of such a gigantic problem it is desirable to make a correct measurement of its dimensions both in the rural

and urban sectors. The First Plan being primarily designed to correct imbalances in the economy which emerged from war and post-war period did not give much importance to the problem of unemployment. In Orissa the Second Plan started with a back-log of about 1.64 lakhs of unemployed with the anticipation of adding about 3.26 lakhs to the labour force within the five-year period. Therefore, the additional job requirements by the end of the Second Plan was estimated at 4.90 lakhs. The Second Plan envisaged generation of additional job opportunities to the tune of about 0.50 lakh in agricultural sector and 2.51 lakhs in the non-agricultural sector making a total of 3.01 lakhs*. The new entrants to labour force being about 3.26 lakhs and the generated job opportunities being roughly 3.01 lakhs it was thought that the Second Plan could be successful to a large

*Employment trend and prospect—Statewise and analysis report of Planning Commission.

extent to arrest the growth of unemployment during the period. But the actual employment opportunities generated by the Second Plan in Orissa as estimated by the Bureau of Statistics and Economics, Orissa, was only 1.83 lakhs. On this basis, it was estimated that at the beginning of the Third Plan the impact of unemployment on account of back-log was perhaps 3.07 lakhs. This was however confirmed subsequently through the findings of 16th Round National Sample Survey which gave an estimated figure of unemployment of 3.15 lakhs in 1961.

During the Third Plan the number of new entrants to the labour force was estimated at 6.51 lakhs. The problem of unemployment assumed an unmanageable dimension during the Third Plan, which of course faced the challenge and took responsibility of creating employment to the tune of 5.22 lakhs as per the estimates formulated by the Bureau of Statistics and Economics. Therefore, the back-log of unemployment at the end of the Third Plan (i.e. beginning of the year 1966-67) was roughly 4.44 lakhs.

The Third Plan in its wake, left the signs of stress and strain everywhere and to relieve the unhealthy symptoms it was necessary to make suitable adjustments in the economic as well social sectors. The Annual Plan from 1966-67 to 1968-69 with a total outlay (expenditure) of about Rs. 170 crores is estimated to have created employment opportunities to the extent of about 3.90 lakhs. Though the back-log of the Third Plan could be substantially made good, the additional labour force during the three years period which was estimated at about 4.38 lakhs

increased the gap and consequently magnitude of unemployment at beginning of the Fourth Plan was of order of 4.92 lakhs.

PROBLEM IN THE RURAL SECTOR

Though nobody acquainted with the situation in villages would deny the existence of large scale under-employment, there is lack of unanimity in assessing its magnitude in quantitative terms because of conceptual differences and differences of yardsticks for its measurement. However, the All-India Estimates formulated on the 16th Round N. S. S. data (rural sector) was used to work out the extent of unemployment at the end of the Second Plan Period. In the rural areas of the State there were 44.78 lakhs of males and 45.7 lakhs of females in the age-group of 15-59 according to 1961 Census. On the basis of N. S. S. results on rate of unemployment in rural areas, it was estimated that number of unemployed males and females was respectively 1.06 lakhs and 1.37 lakhs making a total of 2.43 lakhs in 1960-61 which may have increased to 3.89 lakhs at the beginning of Fourth Plan with increase in labour force.

Under-employment in the field of agriculture and household industries (which are the main occupations of the rural labour force) is difficult to measure because of the tendency of the family workers to distribute the available work, irrespective of its size, among themselves. This is the most common feature in the rural sector that the additional labour force is not positively thrown out of employment but it gets absorbed in the existing work resulting in large scale under-employment. It is therefore very difficult to measure accurately

the scale of absolute unemployment in the rural sector. According to All-India estimates of National Sample Survey the number of idle days per working person was 104.9 days during 1952-53 and 1953-54 (including 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th rounds), 239 days for 1958-59 (14th round), and 239 days for 1960-61 (16th round). The cultural Labour Enquiry (1958-59) revealed that the intensity of unemployment was 135 days among the casual male workers and 239 days among female workers during the year. According to Farm Management studies conducted by the Government of India, it was found that a male family worker remains unemployed for 216 days in Orissa (1958-59)*. A study undertaken by the Bureau of Statistics and Economics, Orissa on the basis of available data on cost of cultivation and requirements of manpower per acre of crop area, the surplus workers dependent on agriculture during 1961** was about 80 lakhs. All these go a long way to show that the degree of under-employment in the rural sector is really very acute. In the absence of any firm and universally accepted estimates on the subject, the All-India proportion on the labour time disposition and distribution of gainfully employed persons according to work availability groups as obtained by N. S. S. studies may be adopted. The ratio of gainfully employed persons reporting availability for additional work varied from 14.41 per cent

in 1958-59 (14th round) to 10.71 per cent in 1960-61 (16th round). On this basis, the magnitude of under-employment in 1960-61 would have been 7.70 lakhs which would be about 9.45 lakhs in 1970-71.

PROBLEM IN THE URBAN SECTOR

In spite of several limitations, the Employment Exchanges still continue to be the only regular sources for information on the magnitude of unemployment for urban areas. The number on the live register at the end of December, 1968 was about 0.93 lakhs. This figure however requires adjustments for (a) registration of persons who are already employed in some capacity, (b) non-registration of some persons who are seeking employments but not employed, and (c) rural unemployed who have registered in Employment Exchanges. After making these adjustments the total number of persons unemployed in urban areas by the beginning of the Fourth Plan has been estimated at 1.03 lakhs. This coupled with the unemployment in rural sector (about 3.89 lakhs) gives the magnitude of total unemployment which works out at 4.92 lakhs in the beginning of the Fourth Plan.

To appreciate the problem of unemployment in the urban sector it is worthwhile making a study of the trend of unemployment. The Employment exchange data, in spite of their limitations, throw light on

*Rural Employment, unemployment and under employment—Published by Planning Commission.

**'An Employment approach of Planning'—Bureau of Statistics and Economics, Orissa.

the Urban unemployment trends. The on magnitude on unemployment in urban following table gives certain broad features areas from 1956 to 1968.

TABLE No. 1

Number of applicants on live registers; fresh registrations, and vacancies notified from 1956 to 1968

Year	No. of Exchanges	Applicants on the live register (on 31st December)	Changes from year to year (+) or (-)	No. of fresh registrations during the year	Vacancies notified	Per cent of vacancies to fresh registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1956 ..	3	9,593	..	32,701	8,180	25.0
1957 ..	6	12,914	(+)3,221	38,879	7,452	19.2
1958 ..	7	19,225	(+)6,311	50,766	12,851	25.3
1959 ..	9	20,992	(+)1,767	61,649	14,678	23.8
1960 ..	13	39,026	(+)18,034	81,589	27,296	33.5
1961 ..	13	70,370	(+)31,344	1,25,793	39,356	31.3
1962 ..	13	77,346	(+)6,676	1,59,536	43,687	27.4
1963 ..	13	82,836	(+)5,790	1,52,606	39,515	25.9
1964 ..	15	78,425	(-)4,441	1,53,255	44,169	28.8
1965 ..	15	87,874	(+)9,449	1,65,722	40,013	24.1
1966 ..	15	84,124	(-)3,750	1,67,335	34,303	20.5
1967 ..	15	94,383	(+)10,259	1,58,333	23,881	15.1
1968 ..	16	92,753	(-)1,630	1,40,236	21,379	15.2

There has been a more or less steady upward trend in the number of applicants on the live register of Exchanges. From 1956 to 1960 the number on the live register

(as on the last day of the year) was much less on account of lack of registration facilities owing to limited number of exchanges. From 1961 the increase has been

from 0.70 lakhs to 0.93 lakhs in 1968, with an average increase of about 4.54 per cent per annum. The number of fresh registrations also registers an increasing trend. The total number of registrations during 1967 & 1968 has however shown a significant fall from that during 1966 when it stood at 1.67 lakhs. The vacancies occurring during different years also exhibited a correspondingly increasing trend but those fell short of the registrations by a large margin every year. The percentage of vacancies notified to the number of registrations in Employment Exchanges however varied from 15 per cent to 33 per cent in different years which means that employment facilities were not available to about 67 to 85 per cent of the applicants. The

number of vacancies notified during 1964 was however the highest after which there has been a significant fall perhaps because of recession in industrial activities and squeezing of Plan expenditure in the public sector.

It may now be examined as to what types of people have remained unemployed in the urban sector over different years. The unemployment trend of job seekers coming under different occupational groups may be analysed so that it may give an idea about future employment planning. The following statement gives the trend from 1962 to 1968 for persons of different occupations remaining unemployed.

TABLE No. 2

Occupational distribution of Applicants on live registers of Employment Exchanges in Orissa

Occupation	Number on the live register as on the last day of the year						
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Professional, Technical and allied workers—	2,817	2,224	2,013	2,322	2,279	3,271	5,100
Administrative, executive and managerial workers.	278	274	48	75	94	196	98
Clerical and related workers—	2,033	1,810	1,997	1,476	1,169	1,812	1,920
Sales workers ..	67	9	6	2	3	11	13
Agricultural, dairy and related workers—	650	415	300	266	205	261	393

Occupation	Number on the live register as on the last day of the year						
	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6. Miners, quarrymen and related workers.	124	193	76	77	120	118	51
7. Transport and Communication workers.	1,687	1,569	1,730	1,961	2,022	2,401	2,066
8. Craftsmen and production process workers and labourers with work experience.	22,095	24,350	18,496	20,621	20,671	30,457	24,479
9. Workers without professional or vocational training or previous experience.	41,905	43,904	50,433	57,752	52,683	50,838	55,210
10. Service workers	5,390	8,085	3,323	3,323	4,898	5,018	3,423
11. Total	77,346	82,836	78,425	87,874	84,124	94,383	92,753

There has been a consistently increasing trend of unemployment for (a) workers in professional, technical and allied work, (b) transport and communication workers, (c) craftsmen and production process workers and labourers with experience and (d) workers without professional or vocational training. The magnitude of unemployment among workers in category (d) has been found to be largest followed by category (c). The total number in these two categories form almost 85.8 per cent of the total unemployment in the urban sector.

A declining trend in the unemployment has been noticed for (e) the administrative, executive and managerial workers, (f)

salesworkers, (g) Agricultural, dairy and related workers, (h) miners, quarrymen and related workers and (i) service workers. The volume of employment in the clerical and allied work has remained more or less static over the seven year period.

The occupational distribution of the unemployed gives only the types of workers seeking employment irrespective of their quality and educational standards. It may be desirable at this stage to determine the magnitude of educated unemployed and their ratios to the total size of unemployment in the urban sector. The data obtained from the Director of Employment Exchanges shows that the ratio

ated unemployed to the total number he live register increased from 8.87 per t in December 1961 to about 28.64 per t in December 1968. Even though the plute magnitude of educated unemp- ed is much less as compared to er major States, there has been, of late,

a markedly increasing trend of unemploy- ment among the educated persons. The following table gives the number of persons with matric and higher educational stand- ards on the live register and their ratios to the total unemployment reported.

TABLE No. 3

Number of applicants on the live register having matric and higher educational standards

Ordering e)	Matric	Inter- mediate	Graduates				Total educated	Percentage of educated to total number on live register
			Engine- ering	Medical	Others	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1					611	632	6,245	8.87
2	5,150	463	20	1	863	895	10,315	13.34
3	8,718	702	29	3	1,121	1,139	12,751	15.39
4	10,549	1,063	14	4	1,198	1,198	10,468	13.37
5	8,309	961	..	..	1,119	1,193	14,457	16.45
6	12,372	892	73	1	1,217	1,339	13,587	16.14
7	11,283	865	69	9	2,029	2,162	20,685	21.92
8	16,230	1,693	30	3	3,173	3,862	26,563	28.64
9	20,200	2,501	666	23				

The table given above presents a clear picture of the trend of unemployment in educated personnel belonging to different standards. The proportion of educated persons among the total unemployed is rapidly increasing indicating wastage of potentially viable manpower to a large

extent year after year. The results of the 14th round N. S. S. also furnished the information that 36.72 per cent of the urban population were in the labour force, but of these, roughly 35.93 per cent were gainfully employed. Therefore 0.63 per cent of the total urban population were

unemployed. By the end of the Second Plan, it was estimated that roughly 35.70 per cent of the total urban population were in the labour force of which 33.96 per cent were gainfully employed and the remaining 1.74 per cent were unemployed.

The Director-General of Employment and Training, Government of India collects data on the public sector employments in the States. The following tables give the size of such employment in Orissa.

TABLE No. 4
Employment in Public Sector in Orissa from 1956 to 1968

Branch of Public Sector	Number of employees as on (in lakhs)				
	31-3-1956	31-3-1961	31-3-1966	31-3-1967	31-3-1968
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Central Government (including Railways).	0.29	0.30	0.38	0.42	0.42
2. State Government	0.66	1.30	1.79	1.90	1.90
3. Quasi Government	0.03	0.29	0.55	0.56	0.57
4. Local Bodies	0.06	0.07	0.23	0.24	0.24
5. Total	1.04	1.96	2.95	3.12	3.13
Increase	..	0.92	0.99	0.17	0.01
Percentage Increase	..	88.46	50.51	5.76	0.32

During the Second Plan, the employment in the public sector rose from 1.04 lakhs in 1956 to 1.96 lakhs in 1961 with an annual increase of about 17.69 per cent. By the end of the Third Plan, about 99 thousand additional employment could be provided in the public sector which was roughly

50.51 per cent higher than in the beginning of the 3rd Plan. The rate of annual increase in employment size was about 10.10 per cent during this period. But during the year 1966-67, only about 17,000 jobs could be provided indicating an increase of only 5.76 per cent in the public sector.

r employments. In 1967-68 the situation became still worse when only about thousand posts could be created in the c sector during the year (with an ase of only 0.32 per cent). The scope e public sector has however been very ed to absorb the additional labour e and therefore private sector may have are the responsibilities.

ne impact of unemployment both in rural and urban sectors has fallen ily on the society as well as on the e Government. The recession in indus- both in public and private sectors and of resources for investment in public or, has resulted in limiting the employ-

ment opportunities during recent years. On the other hand, large scale unemployment especially among the educated, has resulted in wastage of enormous human resources which, if gainfully utilized could build up further economic resources for the State. The State Government are therefore faced with the problem of exploring all possibilities for profitable use of the potential human resources which are remaining idle and which are to be added from time to time with the growth of population.

Courtesy : Labour Statistics Section of the Bureau of Statistics and Economics, Orissa.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES FOR KHARIF CEREALS FOR 1970-71 SEASON

The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission in regard to the minimum support prices for Kharif cereals for 1970-71 season, and have accordingly decided as follows:—

(1) Minimum support price for standard variety of paddy will be Rs 46 per quintal. The minimum support price for other varieties will be fixed by State Governments in consultation with the Central Government after taking into account the qualitative differentials.

(2) Minimum support prices for jowar, bajra, maize and ragi will be Rs 45 per quintal.

Some facts about Animal Husbandry

Orissa is an agricultural state and its economy is largely dependant on agriculture and animal husbandry. Nearly 70 per cent of the state's income is contributed by agricultural sector of which animal husbandry forms a part. According to a census taken in 1966, the state had a live-stock population of 16 millions out of which bovine constitutes a major portion (10 Millions). The Animal Husbandry Department of the State Government is making best efforts to increase its contribution to the state's economy by raising the standard of live-stock population of the state. The programme of cattle development mainly constitutes of upgrading of the indigenous breeds existing in the State through better breeding programmes. Various schemes have been taken up for this purpose during the plan period which include schemes like Intensive Cattle Development, Key Village and Artificial Insemination Schemes. At present one Intensive Cattle Development Block, 19 Key Village Blocks and 306 Artificial Insemination Units are functioning in the state.

Under these schemes, it has been possible to provide improved breeding facilities to nearly 20 per cent of the breedable bovine population only. For production of pedigree bulls the department is running 15 Live-stock Breeding Farms with a total of 1,500 animals. Apart from producing 27,000 bulls, 27,000 litres of milk is also produced every month to increase the milk production of the state. The department also aims at supplying wholesome hygienic milk to the urban population through Milk Supply Schemes. The Cuttack Milk Supply Scheme at Phulnakhara is supplying milk to the townships of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. The milk plant was established during 1963. The average daily collection of milk during the period has increased from 100 litres to 4,000 litres. After implementation of Intensive Cattle Development Scheme in the milkshed area of the plant it is expected that the daily collection of milk will further be increased to 6,000 litres. It is proposed to set up such a scheme near Berhampur.

to look after the health of animals and control the various contagious diseases, department has 353 Veterinary Dispensaries and 1,139 Stockman Centres spread throughout the state. But these are sufficient as per the yardstick fixed by Royal Commission on agriculture. As the above yardstick we should have at least 660 Veterinary Dispensaries and 1,640 Stockman Centres.

To meet all the above deficiencies in the National Husbandry Programme, it has been proposed to establish one more medium-sized Intensive Cattle Development Block, one Key Village Blocks and 20 Artificial Insemination Centres for better breeding programme during the current year. It has been proposed to set up 2 new live-stock farms and to increase the live-stock strength of the existing breeding farms. For better control of diseases, it is proposed to set up 12 more Veterinary Dispensaries

and 9 more Veterinary Stockman Centres and to expand the Biological Products Institute for production of more and effective vaccines.

For production of more egg and chickens a number of poultry schemes are in operation. There are more than six poultry farms and twelve A. I. P. D. Centres which are being managed by the Department for better breeding and production of good quality birds. At present about 23,758 birds of improved strain in the departmental poultry farms. Two schemes for Intensive Egg and Poultry Production-cum-Marketing Centre are in operation at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela to facilitate both production and marketing of egg and poultry in these areas. This department is taking keen interest for production and supply of pre-mixed poultry feed to the interested farmers and different farms with a view to reduce the cost of production of egg and chicken.

N. D. A. SYLLABUS REVISED

The syllabus of the National Defence Academy, Dehra Dun, has been revised so as to enable the cadets to handle the latest equipment and weapons in Armed Forces.

The minimum educational qualification for joining the Academy has been raised to Higher Secondary with the age-limit of 16 to 18 years.

Soil Conservation in Tel basin

The river Tel, an important tributary of the river Mahanadi, takes its origin from the bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh and Koraput in Orissa and joins the river Mahanadi at Sonapur after traversing a distance about 170 miles. It has a catchment area of 7,864 sq. miles. Of these a total catchment area of 596 sq. miles lies in Madhya Pradesh and the rest 7,268 sq. miles lies in the State of Orissa extending over the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Phulbani. Suketel, Sonogod, Lanth, Under, Udanti, Ret, Sagada, Hathi, Motter, Utei, Raul and Kodago are some of the important tributaries of the Tel.

The catchment area of the river Tel is mostly mountainous and its undulating topography favours the process of soil erosion. Besides, in the district of Koraput, Kalahandi and Phulbani, the pernicious 'Podu' or shifting cultivation is practised by the Tribal population which further aggravates the situation and facilities accelerated erosion.

The unprotected crop lands in village forests and grass lands are mostly devoid

of vegetal cover and denuded. In these areas sheet and gully erosion have made their appearance and badly cut the land surface rendering them unfit for profitable land utilization. Further, primitive agronomic practices are also responsible for soil erosion.

Indiscriminate felling, uncontrolled grazing and annual forest fire have reduced both protected and unprotected forests as the foci of soil erosion.

There is a considerable pressure on land in the Tel catchment on account of intensity of population which is above the State average. This has resulted in people taking to cultivation even in marginal lands.

The grazing lands at present only serve as resting ground for the livestock and are devoid of grass and as such are exposed to evil hazards of soil erosion.

The problem of stream bank erosion has assumed vital importance and large tracts of land have also suffered from sand casting due to sloughing and sliding.

Tel bank through out its course. But a phenomenon is spectacular at Belandi and Tarabha. In the districts of Kalahandi and Bolangir, Boden, Sinapali, Jhansi, Khariar, Bongamunda Turikela, and Bhubaneswar Panchayat Samitis are some of the chronic drought affected areas. These areas can suitably be tackled by the adoption of suitable soil conservation measures as an insurance against drought conditions and to obtain assured crop yield.

In order to obviate these hazards a comprehensive Scheme of Soil Conservation and development of Tel basin has been drawn up by the Soil Conservation Division of Kalahandi. The Scheme envisages an expenditure of Rs. 4.5 crores during 4th and 5th Plan.

The scheme is drawn out in Soil Conservation and land utilisation principles aiming at control of soil erosion conservation of moisture and utilization of conserved moisture for successful crop production on sustained basis. The Soil Conservation measure to be implemented

in the scheme will reduce inflow of silt load both in the tributaries and the main river and will reduce the incidence of flood. The pernicious 'Podu' will be successfully controlled and replaced by permanent agriculture. By rehabilitating with suitable species of plants and grasses in the forest and grazing lands the yield potential will be improved. Stream bank erosion will be greatly reduced and sand casting of the adjoining agricultural lands will be prevented.

The scheme proposed to be operated in the most backward districts of the state will undoubtedly provide employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed tribals. This economy of these districts is mainly dependant on agriculture and forests. Large scale cultivation of economic and plantation crops will give rise to a number of agro-industries including fibre and rope making industry. Coffee processing, canning of fruits like Pineapple and Banana, manufacture of paper from Sabai and Bamboo, Soap and Vanaspati industries are also likely to come up.

BIRTHS PREVENTED

More than 5.20 million births were prevented till March 1970 under the family planning programme in our country, according to official estimates.

The birth rate has also shown a decline from 41.7 per thousand population to 37.9 per thousand.

LAND REFORM MEASURES

Several legal measures have been taken in Orissa with a view to reforming the laws relating to land tenures and conferring rights on agriculturists. Due to enforcement of O. E. A. Act, 1951, 4,21,021 big and small intermediary interests have been abolished. The O. M. S. (Laws) Act, 1950 was introduced in the ex-State areas for abolition of personal service jagirs and private lands of the rulers. Similarly the Orissa Merged Territories (V. O. A.) Act, 1963 was enacted to abolish the Village Officer system prevalent in the ex-State areas. With the introduction of the above acts, lands were settled with the tenants giving them the occupancy right.

With a view to protect the tenants from the oppression of the landlord, the Orissa Tenants Protection Act, 1948 and the Orissa Tenants Relief Act, 1955, were enforced. At last the Orissa Land Reforms Act, 1960 (except Chapter IV) came into force in the latter part of the year, 1965 with an aim to confer better rights on the tenants and to provide security of tenure, regulation of rent, control of eviction of tenants, and

prohibition of future sub-leases, etc. The Chapter IV of the O. L. R. Act dealing with the ceiling and disposal of surplus land has not yet been enforced as the judgement in respect of some cases are still pending with the Supreme Court.

PROGRESS ON LAND REFORMS

Till the end of last April, 219,091 cases were instituted under different sections of the O. L. R. Act. Out of those, 195,593 cases have been disposed of leaving 23,498 cases pending for disposal. Steps are being taken to dispose of them quickly.

LAND COMMISSION

According to the provisions under section 53 of the O. L. R. Act, the Land Commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member, Board of Revenue, Orissa with Director of Land Records & Surveys, Orissa, Shri P. N. Mohanty, I. A. S. (Retired), Shri S. N. Bhanja Deo, M. L. A., Shri B. Mahapatra, and Shri M. Bohidar, as members to advise Government in the various land reforms matters. The Land

Commissioner is the Secretary of
mission.

MENT OF COMPENSATION

result of abolition of estates. an
of Rs. 5,73,94,284 was paid as
ation till the end of 31st March
Besides interests to the tune of
1,483 was paid.

During the current financial year (up to
the end of May, 1970), a sum of
Rs. 3,85,536.00 towards compensation and
Rs. 1,99,705 towards interest was paid.

The approximate amount of compen-
sation that remains to be paid together with
interests comes to about Rs. 2.39 crores.

STRENGTH OF MONUMENT ATTENDANTS TO BE INCREASED

The Government proposes to strengthen the staff of monument
attendants in a bid to protect the national monuments against pilferage
and vandalism by tourists.

The staff of monument attendants is proposed to be increased to 3,300
from the present strength of 1,100.

The Government also proposes to produce a documentary on monu-
ments in order to make people behave more responsibly towards national
monuments. The film will depict the undesirable effects of irresponsible
activities like scribbling names and disfiguring monuments.

A NEW COPPER PLATE GRANT

A new copper plate charter probably of the early part of the 11th Century making a gift of a village has come to light. While examining the antiquity of a temple of Lord 'Siva' in the village of Bargaon at a distance of about 15 K.ms. from Bhan-nagar Town in the district of Ganjam in Orissa, this author was informed that there was a copper plate in the possession of a cultivator in the village, Odhaibargaon situated at a distance of about 2 Kms. from the village Bargaon. This old temple itself with beautiful carvings and motifs and beautiful images of Hindu deities and Buddhist and Jain images is interesting and its construction may be rightly assigned to the Bhauma period in the history of Orissa, roughly between the 7th Century and the 9th Century A.D. The temple appears to be contemporary to the older group of temples in Bhubaneswar Town such as Parasurameswara, Satrugneswara, etc. which were constructed earlier to the famous Lingaraj Temple. It appears that this temple was constructed at a time when Buddhism gave way to Saivism so that the images of the Buddhists could be depicted on the walls of this Siva Temple of Bar-

gaon. The history of the Bhauma Kin shows that the earliest Rajas of this royal family were Buddhist as their very titles indicate such as Parmopasaka, Maharama, Khemankara, his son Paramatathagata, Sivakaradeva alias Unmattakeswari; the latter's son Subhakara Deva bore the title Paramasaugata, Parameswara, Paramabhattacharaka, Maharajadhiraj, Paramaheswara indicating that he was devoted to both Buddhist and Hindu religion. The subsequent Rajas and Ranis, however, abandoned the Buddhistic title and assumed only such designations to show that they were Saivas. It will be interesting to note that the Ladies of the royal family of this dynasty assumed the reign of administration and ruled Orissa then extending from the Ganges at least up to the hill range called Mahendragiri in the district of Ganjam. At the main entrance of the temple, there is a small inscription with indistinct letter.

As regards the copper plate grant found from the possession of Shri Maheswari Bisoi, a farmer of the village, it

ed by Shri Bisoi that some years back recovered it from a paddy land which the villagers' common land along with an iron chain. It was learnt from the villagers that from this locality many years back they dug out two brass vases containing silver coins and out of their sale-proceeds they have constructed a new temple at village Bargaon. It was confidentially learnt that these paddy lands contain hidden treasure in brass vases till now and people are afraid of digging them for the purpose of appropriation due to a common superstitious belief.

The very name Shri Bisoi indicates that his forefathers at one time were the administrators of a revenue unit called Visaya equal to a small district of the present day. In those days the revenue divisions were called *prastha* meaning the country, *Mandala*, meaning a Division under a *Mahamandaleswar* corresponding to the area administered by a Governor. The smallest unit was called *Bhukti* or *Khanda* equal to a small subdivision.

On examination it was found out that this is completely a new copper plate grant of *Mahamandaleswar* *Nettabhanjadeswar* issued from a place called *Khollipata*. This copper plate grant consists of 3 plates and they have been strung together by a circular brass ring through a beautifully prepared round hole in each plate. At the place where both ends of the brass ring have been shouldered, there is a *kalasa* (Vase) indicating the royal emblem. Each plate measures 7.4" × 3.5" and the diameter of the brass ring is 2.5". The first plate and the last one contain inscriptions on inner pages only whereas the middle one contain engravings on

both the sides. Except the last page which contains 5 lines other pages contain 9 lines each. The language is Sanskrit. The inscription was deciphered by Shri S. N. Rajguru, the eminent Epigraphist of Orissa. The following is the test:—

Lines 1—4 contain a verse invoking the *Kula-devata* *Narayana* of the *Bhanja* Kings. From lines 4—7 the King *Nettabhanja*, son of *Mangalakalasa* and grandson of *Mahamandaleswara* *Nettabhanjadeva's* *prasasti* is recorded: he declared a grant from *Khollipati* in *Khinjalimandala*. From lines 8 to 10 the name of *Ataigrama* in *Vasava-Khanda* within *Khinjalimandala* is given as a gift. It is declared to have been granted before the *samantas* and inhabitants of the village.

In lines 10 to 13 it is stated that the said village was separated from communal lands (*Koshtha*) for the purpose of donating the same together with lands, forests, bushes, dry lands, ponds, etc. for the increase of merit of the king's father, mother and

First plate—Inner page

- १। ॐ स्वस्ति यस्माच्च गदासि शङ्खधनुषः श्रीवत्सता श्रोत्र—
- २। पि द्योतन्ते दितिजाधिनाथ बनिता वैधव्यदीक्षारतः
[१] सोपी भक्त जनाय ।
- ३। मोक्षफलदः श्री भञ्जवन्सो (इशो) भवान (न)
पायाद्वः कुलदेवता प्रतिदिनं नारा—
- ४। यणो भूभुजः [१] खोल्लिपाटीतः परम वैष्णव शङ्खैक
सुन्दर निदान ।
- ५। समानन्दित-मत्तमयूर
महामण्ड—

तूर्यबोत्रासितान्नातिचक्र

६। लेश्वर—श्री नेट्ट भञ्ज देवस्य पौत्र राजपुत्र मङ्गल
कलशस्य सु—

७। त महामण्डलेश्वर श्री नेट्ट भञ्ज देव पादाःकुशलिनः
[I] खिञ्जिलि—

८। मण्डलीय वासेवखण्ड प्रतिवद्ध आटइ ग्रामे सामन्त—
सामवा—

९। यि प्रमुख निवासनः समत्स जनपदान् समाज्ञापयन्ति

Second plate—First page

१०। विदितमस्तु भवतां ग्रामोयं कोष्टाद्यकृश्य चट भट
प्रवेश स—

११। जल स्थल सविटप सगुल्मलता सपद्मारण्य समत्स्य
कष्टपश्चतु—

१२। ७ सीमा परिच्छिन्नः मातापित्रोरात्मनः पुण्ययशो
विवद्धये ।

१३। आचन्द्रार्कं समकाल यावत् (त) महादेवी श्री श्र
माहायी युवरा—

१४। ज श्री पृथिवी भञ्ज सन्धिविग्रही श्री भीमामण्डल २७
समवा—

१५। यि-श्री गामडा-महासामन्त-भीमलिल-दञ्ज नायक-गब्भ
(भं) ध्वर ।

१६। बासुलि-देवदास सूपकारिणी-विद्यामती गर्भ (भं) रूप
सप्तशत दारि—

१७। का परिवाराभिजन प्रभृतीनां व्यवहरण परिज्ञानयो
हरपुर वि—

१८। निर्गत पिङ्गल गोत्राय पञ्चा (ष) रूपि प्रवराय आय्य
(र्य) कुलिने अक्षप—

Second plate—Second page

१९। —टलि नरसिंह दत्त पौत्राय टाकर बाहुदत्त
पुत्राय अक्षपटलि—श्री दामोद—

२०। र दत्त स (श) र्मणि पुत्र प्रपौत्र प्रभृति
अत्यन्त क्लिष्ट भक्तिपरा—

२१। धीनाय उत्तरायण संक्रान्त्यां परमाखेटन (व)
ताम्र (म्र) शास—

२२। नीकृत्य प्रदत्तोऽस्माभिरतः ताम्र (म्र) संदाज्ञित
कौ (कै) रपि बाधा न करणी—

२३। या (त) [I] ये के (न) घित (त) कालाघाति
भविष्यन्ति लिखितमयथादया परिपाल—

२४। नीयमिति [I] किंच तथाचोक्तं भूमि यः प्रति
(ह्णा) ति यश्चभूमि प्र—

२५। यच्छति उभौ तौ पुण्यकर्माणौ नियतौ स्वर्गयानिनी
स्व—

२६। दत्तां परदत्ताम्वा यो हरेद्वसुन्धरां स
कृभिर्भूत्वा पि—

२७। तृभिः सह पच्यते [I] गामेकां खणमेकञ्च भूमि
(द्) म—

Third plate—Inner page

२८। जलं हरन्नरकमाप्नोति यावदाहूति संप्लवं [I] मा
फल स (श) ।

२९। द्वावः परदत्तेति पार्थिवाः [I] यस्य यदा भूमि
त—

३०। स्य तदाफलं * [I] आ (अ) स्मद्वन्सा (ह्शा)
न्यवनस्ते (डे श्से) वा यः कश्चित् (त) वृपतिर्भव ।

३१। बेत् तस्याहं पादलम्बोस्मि ममदत्तानुपालने [I] तस्य

३२। त् ३ साध व दि ७ ।

The following is briefly the meaning of
the above Text—

father mother and himself, which lion should continue till the exist- of the moon and the sun. es 13 to 17 it is stated that the grant made in the presence of the Mahadevi Mahayi, Shri Prthvi Bhanj, the raj; Shri Bhimamandala, the Sandhi- hin; Shri Gamada, the Samavayika; iali, the Mahasamanta; Garbhesvara, Jandanayaka; Devadasa, the Vaguli; amati, the female cook or Supakarini ding 700 female members.

lines 17 to 20 it is stated that the e Damodardatta Sarman, son of sura Vehudatta and grandson of usinhadatta, who belonged to Pingala- t, Pancharishpravara of Arya tribe who is designated as Akshapatala and is a great worshipper of the gods is tted the gift.

lines 21 to 22 it is stated that the it was made on the occasion of Uttara- a Sankranti. Then from lines 22 to 31 ow some verses prohibiting hinrances he grant and these verses have been ted from Dharmasastras. In lines 31 33 the date is given as Samvat 3, ghavdi 7, that is in the regnal year 3, l in the 7th day of the dark fortnight of gha.

ome new facts have come to light in s copper plate grant. In the hilly and est areas of Orissa the Bhanja dynasties several branches had been ruling under amount powers and where as such vers were extinct after reigning for a tury or two, the Bhanjas as their oordinate chieftains have continued till w in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Daspalla

The first line and the second line of this stanza

ruling an area called Khinjalimandala where deprived of their powers during the last century under the British rule.

Nettabhanja in this copper plate grant cannot be identified with any Nettabhanja of the different lines of the Bhanjas ruling in other places. The Bhanjas used such common and popular names like Sila- bhanja, Nettabhanja, Satrubhanja, etc. The genealogy which has been indicated in this copper plate grant shows that Mangala Kalasa, the father of the grantor of this copper plate grant has been stated as Rajaputra i.e., prince, from which it may be presumed that his own father reigned for long years with the result that he died before succeeding him. The word 'Khollipata' may be the modern name of Khalikote a town in Ganjam district. It is for the first time that Khollipata appears in this copper plate although the Bhanjas had issued many copper plates. It is Boudh and other places. The Bhanjas of Kolada in Ganjam district who had been interesting to note that a piece of land with an extensive area with forests, dry- lands, tanks, etc. was separated from the Kostha land of the village or the Rajas own land preserved for their purpose. This is something new. In this epigraphical record the village so called appears to have been named as Atoi which can be identified with the present village, Atarai about 7 or 8 miles away from Bhanjanagar. The donee hailed from Harapur, and this Harapur can be indentified with the present village Haripur at a distance of 7 to 8 miles from Bhanjanagar. At the time of issuing the grant along with the Maharani, the crown prince, the ministers and other

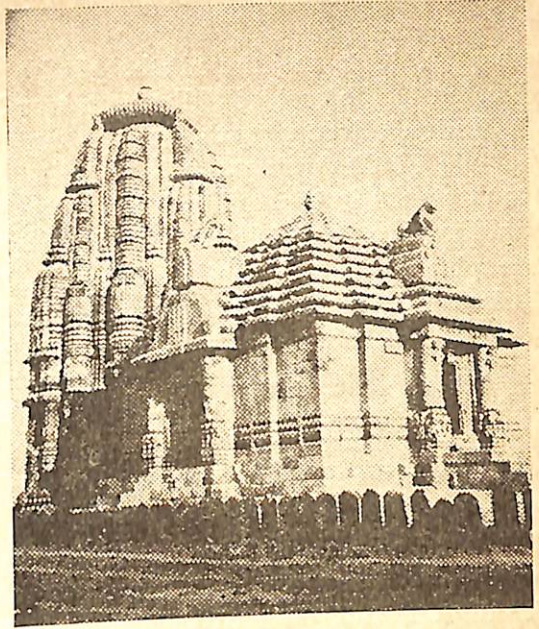
belong to two different stanzas.

high officials, the female cook, Vidyamati along with 700 ladies were present. It is quite significant that ladies of the harem and Vidyamati, perhaps the head female cook were also given an important position in the administration of the State.

According to Shri Rajguru on palaeographical consideration the charter belongs to the 11th Century A.D. It is interesting to note that it is for the first time in the alphabates of Indian language abbreviation of 'A' appears in a copper plate belonging earlier to the 12 Century. This is something new. The copper plate grant ends with the date of issue indicating the regnal year of the King such as Samvat 3, Magha. The grant was issued on the occasion of Uttarayana or Mankarsankranti. From the ephemeris of Shri Swami Kannuapillai it has been found that in the 11th century there were two dates on which Mankar Sankranti occurred in the month of Magha on the 7th day of the dark fortnight. The first date was on the 23rd December, 1016, Sunday and the second on the 24th of December 1035, Wednesday. We are not sure, however, in which of the two years the gift was made. In any case, if it was made in the year 1016 or in the year 1035 it was made on the 3rd regional year of

the king and so deducting two years, it would be either in 1014 A.D. or 1033 A.D. on which the Raja ascended the throne. It appears that Bhanjas used to follow the Amanta i.e. counting the dates from Amabasiya to Amabasiya and not the Purnimanta, counting the dates from the full moon day to the full moon day as is followed in South India.

The Bhanjas claim great antiquity of their race. The controversy arose for the dating of the Seetabhinji fresco painting in Keonjhar of Maharaja Disabhanja proceeding in a royal procession on an elephant with a single line of writing as Maharaja Shri Disabhanja. Shri T. N. Rama Chandran has put it in the 4th or 5th century A. D. while Dr. D. C. Sirkar thinks that the character of the epigraph belongs to a much later date between the 8th and eleventh century A.D. It is significant to note that after Shri Das recovered the unique image of Lord Siva in dancing pose with 13 lines of inscription in Brahmi script of the 4th century A. D., from Asanpat an interior tribal village of Keonjhar and brought to light the contents of the inscription, it has been proved beyond doubt that the Bhanjas are an ancient race.



Rajarani (Indresvara) Temple of Bhubaneswar

In the sacred 'Ekamra Kanana' or Bhubaneswar, the city of thousands of Siva temples of different ages each having the prefix of 'Isvara', the name of 'Rajarani' for a famous Saiva shrine seems anomalous. To find out the real original name of the Rajarani temple, evidences from the various works describing the sanctity, glory and antiquity of different shrines and tanks are to be collected. Basing on these materials, it can now be proclaimed without any fear of contradiction that this temple was known as Indresvara from the beginning.

In the 'Ekamra Puranam' a Sanskrit work written in the fourteenth century and

regarded as an authority on the temples of 'Ekamra Kshetra' or Bhubaneswar, it is stated that this attractive and beautiful ମନୋଲଳି ଗୁରୁଦେଶନ temple of Indresvara was built by Indra at a short distance to the east of the Siddhesvara temple (Ekamra Puranam—24th chapter). Another treatise in Sanskrit, the 'Svarnadri Mahodaya' belonging to the 15th or 16th century gives a detailed description of all the temples of Svarnadri or Bhubaneswar, dividing it into eight units (Ayatanas). It is stated in this work that the temple of Chakresvara stands to the east of Siddhesvara. Not far from this temple is seen the temple of Indresvara (12th Chapter). In the next

chapter, it is mentioned that Indresvara located to the east of Sidhesvara was built by Indra. Even now the small dilapidated temple of Chakresvara with a silted up tank stands in the paddy fields in between Siddhesvara and Indresvara (Rajarani) temples. The information available from this work gives a clear idea about the location of the Indresvara temple which is no other than the present Rajarani temple.

The latest work so far known, describing the sanctity and significance of the temples of Bhubaneswar is the 'Ekamra Chandrika'. Written in Sanskrit, this work was compiled with the materials taken from the Ekamra Purana and Svarnadri Mahodaya some time in the 16th or 17th century. In the seventh chapter of this work, it has been stated that Visvakarma, erected this Indresvara temple for the worship of Indra not very far from the east of the Siddhesvara temple.

The famous Oriya poet Sarala Dasa in the Vanaparva of his monumental work 'Mhabharata' in Oriya (1458—60 A.A.) has spoken about Indresvara as one of the famous eight Siva's (ଅଷ୍ଟଶିବ) of Ekamra Kanana or Bhubaneswar

ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରେଶ୍ଵର ଲିଙ୍ଗ ବିଜେ ଅନଳର କୋଣ
ଏହି ଅଷ୍ଟଲିଙ୍ଗ ଜମ୍ବୁଦ୍ଵୀପକୁ ଧାରଣ

Thus, Rajarani was undoubtedly known as Indresvara from the days of its construction at least till the advent of the British into Orissa.

It is not definitely known as to when Indresvara began to be known as Rajarani. But this much is certain that it was called by its present name, when Raja Rajendralal Mitra, an eminent historian of Bengal visit-

ed Bhubaneswar in 1868-69 A. D. for collection of materials for writing his monumental work *Antiquities of Orissa* in two volumes. Shri Mitra without making any reference to the literary works cited above tried to explain the word Rajarani by attributing its construction to a Rani queen of one of the Kesari kings and called it the temple of the Royal Queen. On seeing the incomplete carvings on the temple walls he hastily arrived at the conclusion—"The cause which prevented the completion of the carvings, likewise prevented the construction of the structure." The conclusion of Shri Mitra that the construction of the Rajarani temple was not completed is disproved by the references cited above and as such it is untenable.

INDRARATHA, THE BUILDER OF THE INDRESVARA TEMPLE—

Indraratha as a powerful king of the lunar dynasty (Somavansa) ruling from 'Yajatinagara' finds mention in twelve epigraphic records of the reign of Rajendra Chola (1012—1044 A. D.) in which it is stated that this great Chola conqueror captured Indraratha, of the ancient race of the moon together with his family in a fight which took place (at) Adinagara (Yajatinagara) a city whose great fame knew no decline." This invasion of Rajendra Chola has been assigned to a period from 1022 to 1024 A.D. Before this invasion Indraratha had given a tough fight to Bhoja (1010—1042 A. D.) the Paramara King of Malava, who led an expedition into Orissa from the west. In spite of these informations furnished by the ephigraphic records of the contemporary kings, scholars could not correctly fix Indraratha in the genealogy of the Somavansi kings of Orissa so far known.

d were giving divergent views. But all speculations about Indraratha have been at rest after the discovery of his copper plate grant from Banapur in the district of Puri in the year 1960. From the geneology given in this charter, it is known that Indraratha the son of Yayati I, the ruler under of the paramouncy of Somavansa (Somavansi vansa) all over Orissa had four sons, namely, Dharmaratha from his first wife and Indrarath, Vakrrath and Samkararatha from his second wife. When Dharmaratha died childless, Indraratha, who was a governor under Dharmaratha, occupied the throne of Orissa and ruled it from Yajatinagara after defeating the rival claimants for it. The date of the Banpur grant issued in his sixth victorious regnal year has been calculated by me as *the 25th October 1006*—Kanya Samkranti from which it can be concluded that his rule began from 1001 A.D. Thus, it is now convincingly proved that Indraratha ruled over Orissa from Yajatinagara from 1001 A.D. to 1024 A.D.

It was Dr. K. C. Panigrahi, an eminent archaeologist of the State who first of all wrote that "the magnificent temple of Rajarani originally bore the name of Indresvara. It is possible that it was named after Indraratha who was its builder". The presumption made by Dr. Panigrahi in 1961 was proved to be true in 1967, when the Banapur charter was edited and published by Dr. K. B. Tripathy.

Indraratha who was the most powerful ruler of the first line of Somavansi kings beginning from Janamejaya and bravely fought with two great heroes of India, namely, the Paramara monarch Bhoja and the Chola sovereign Rajendra Chola, built this magnificent Indresvara temple to commemorate his name a few years before the close of his rule over Orissa. The abrupt end of his reign due to the sudden attack by Rajendra Chole prevented him from completing the carvings, which are generally done after the completion of the construction of the temple. The example of the Mohini temple built by Mohini Devi, a queen of the famous Bhauma Kara family of Orissa, on the right bank of the Vindusarovara of Bhubaneswar may be cited here, as an example where the carvings on the body of the temple are left unfinished though the construction and conservation of the temple were completed by this Bhauma queen. Following the examples set by his forefathers like Isana Deva and Nanna Deva and father Bhimaratha, who built the Isanesvara, Nannesvara and Bhimesvara temples respectively, Indraratha constructed the celebrated Indresvara temple in the holy Ekamra Kanana, which had been adorned by many Siva temples long before his reign. The building of Gauri and Mohini temples at Bhubaneswar by Bhauma queens like Gauri Devi and Mohini Devi respectively also inspired him to perpetuate his memory by naming this attractive Saiva Shrine built by him as Indresvara.

The Rourkela Tourist Complex

The beauty-spots of Orissa constitute a perennial source of attraction for tourists. The 'Golden triangle' consisting of Bhubaneswar, Puri and Konarka is no doubt the most popular of the several tourist complexes of Orissa. But some other complexes deserve immediate attention for speedy development. One such complex on the northern border of Orissa may be taken up as an integrated scheme with the Steel city of Rourkela as the basis of operations. It may be called "The Rourkela complex for tourists" with the Khandadhar Water Fall, the Vedavyasa and the Mandira Dam as its constituent units, not excluding the Steel city itself replete with tourist possibilities.

The Rourkela tourist complex presents a striking combination of admirable human achievements and the most animating natural scenery. The steel city itself deserves to be seen for various reasons. It is one of the few well-planned cities of modern India. From a small hamlet of less than 150 huts, it has now developed into a populous city of more than two lakhs of people. Two hills stand side by

side in between the Steel Plant area and the township. As a visitor enters the township, he sees before him the two hills looking like ever-green arches on both sides of the road leading to the township. In course of a decade or so, the hills will be encircled by human habitations completely as may be well foreseen from the nature of the construction work now in full swing.

KHANDADHAR WATER FALL

The Khandadhar mountain range is located to the east of Rourkela. It is approachable by two routes. The route that is preferable is via Lahunipada and Barsua from Rourkela. Lahunipada is about 60 K.Ms. from Rourkela and there, Barsua is 24 K. Ms. beyond Lahunipada. A few K. Ms. of the road near the village 'Kalaiposh' where we are to go by the left-hand bifurcation of the road; the left-hand road leads to Tensa. But in order to go to the waterfall area, we will have to take to the right-hand route. The road is not good

therefrom and it is only jeevable. A distance of about 20 K.Ms. is to be covered up to go to the top of the mountain where the waterfall will be beautifully enjoyed. After about 5 K. Ms. from Barsua begins a ghat-road. Thus, as we descend by jeep from Barsua, we will have to cross a small stream with a current of about 9 inches depth and about 6 feet in breadth beyond 18 K. Ms. (from Barsua).

The second route to Khandadhar waterfall may be indicated thus—

From Rourkela, we proceed to Lahuniapada, then to Kalaiposhi, then proceed by right-hand route and reach the Lalai ghat; therefrom we turn to the left and proceed through the villiges of Kurda, Dogra liha and finally arrive at the foot of the mountain and see the waterfall from the quarters. Thus from Lahuniapada, Khandadhar is about 32 K. Ms. and from Lalai, the road is not in good condition.

As we cross the stream and proceed further through the forest, we will see a few minutes later the stream transforming itself into a series of dazzling and glittering waves, getting crushed into small bubbles of water almost every next second. After a few minutes, we would reach the summit of the mountain overlooking the valley down below. After getting down from the jeep, we shall have to proceed a few steps forward and lo! we would be met by a large number of waterfalls. A rough calculation would convince us that we would be seeing the waterfalls from a height of about 1,500 feet from the ground level. Further, from the same spot, we

will be able to see the river Bramhani flowing majestically in a serpentine manner encircling the town of Banai partially. The roaring noise arising out of the waterfall reverberates in the forest area nearby and the visitor feels for some time that he is transported into a sort of dream-land. The emotional experience of a real lover of natural beauty at that place cannot be expressed in words; the scenery something that is to be seen, enjoyed and appreciated. It infuses into the visitor a spirit of discovery of a hidden treasure of nature. Big trees down below appear to be bushes. A student of Indian literature is likely to be reminded of Mahakavi Kali-dasa's famous sloka in the 'Sakuntala' which begins with 'Yadaloke' (Act I) while going from Barsua to the top of the mountain.

Even now, the Barsua area is a dense forest, infested with wild beasts for miles together. As we go from Rourkela, we will see dense forests on both the sides of the road beyond Lahuniapada. During heavy rains, when hill-streams are in spate, it is not unlikely that a visitor would be stranded at some place for some time. As a visitor returns from the waterfall area, he moves physically forwards no doubt towards the Steel city but like Sakuntala's mind running in the reverse direction to see the King again, the visitor's mind also runs backwards to see the glittering waters producing a thundering noise, inculcating an emotional experience no words can express. Aptly has it been said in the 'Solitary Reaper':—

"I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more".

The top of the hill, as has already been described, provides no doubt a natural vantage point for the enjoyment of the beauty of the waterfall. But certain developments are necessary to facilitate a 'Happy trip' to the place. The road connecting Barsua with the vantage point referred to above may be developed first so that motor-cars may ply freely. A rest-shed and a canteen are two of the important things that may be provided next. Above all, deforestation to any extent and of any kind should be strictly forbidden on the top of the mountain as it may affect adversely on the volume of water that now flows in the stream at higher altitudes to be subsequently transformed into the famous waterfall of Khandadhar.

THE VEDAVYASA

The Vedavyasa is considered to be a place of great religious sanctity. It is only less than 5 Kms. from Panposh which may be described as the southern extremity of the steel city of Rourkela. Vedavyasa is the name of a small hill adorned with three temples dedicated to Siva and Rama and with some reminiscences of Vedavyasa who is known all over the world as the author of the Mahabharata in Sanskrit. It is the place where the Brahmani river has its origin. Two rivers known as Sankha and Koel meet at the foot of this small hill. Vedavyasa and at the point of confluence, the two rivers lose their identity. Therefrom, they are known as Brahmani. As we come from Rourkela along the Sambalpur-Cuttack-Bhubaneswar road, we cross the Brahmani river immediately after Panposh. About 3 Kms. beyond Panposh, there is a diversion to the right leading to Vedavyasa. Hence, Vedavyasa is on the right bank of the Brahmani at the point of its origin.

Tradition has it that the great Sage Krishna-Dwaipayana had his hermitage at Vedavyasa. At present, a visitor may very well comprehend, standing on the hill, that hundreds of years ago there was a long mountain range which the two rivers Sankha and Koel had to cut through near Vedavyasa. As we stand on the top of the Vedavyasa and cast our vision to the other side of the Brahmani, we see the extension of the hill in that direction too. The river Brahmani has eroded vast areas of the hill through centuries past on both its sides to widen itself. Now the Vedavyasa hill stands just on the river on the right bank and extends southwards. As we stand at Vedavyasa and look towards the point of confluence, we see the river Sankha on our left and the river Koel on the right.

There are three temples at Vedavyasa two of which are dedicated to Siva and the third, to Rama. The temple of Chandrasekhara is at the bottom of the hill. It is very close to the river on its right bank. On the body of the hill and at a height of about 60 feet from the ground level stands the temple of Balunkeswara. At the top of the hill there is the temple of Ramchandra. The two Siva temples appear to be very old. It may be that the Kesari Kings of Orissa who were the builders of several Siva temples at Bhubaneswar and other places had something to do with the two Siva temples at Vedavyasa but the temple of Ramachandra at the top of the hill is about a century old. It was built by the Jamindars of Kuaramunda. Both the Siva temples are comparatively small—the one above being smaller than the temple at the bottom of the hill. The temple of Rama is very small. In front of the Rama temple there is also a small temple dedicated to

uman who is commonly associated with Him. In the Rama temple, there are platforms for the deities to be seated. On the upper platform the Trio of the Dwaipayana has been installed. In the lower platform, we find the Orissan Trio of Jagannatha, Balabhadra and Subhadra.

WHY 'VEDAVYASA' ?

The famous author of the Sanskrit Mahabharata as well as of the 18 Puranas is traditionally known as Vedavyasa. It is said that his original name was Krishna and he was called Krishna Dwaipayana because he was born on a Dweepa at the point of confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati. Now, Dwaipayana is a combination of two words, Dweepa and Paayana meaning coming into Vogue (birth) on a Dweepa, i.e., an island. Here at Vedavyasa we have not only the confluence of the two rivers, Sankha and Koel, which are considered to be Yamuna and Ganga, but also a third underground current said to be the holy Saraswati. Kalidasa in his famous Raghuvansa Mahakavyam has described the Saraswati as follows :—

...adeemivmtahsalilam Saraswateem, i.e., the waters of the river Saraswati are never seen openly on the surface of the earth. It can be presumed reasonably that even in the days of Kalidasa about fifteen centuries ago, the current of the Saraswati was not visible to the eyes like that of the Ganga and the Yamuna. Here at Vedavyasa, we have a pond from where a small current flows towards the point of the confluence of the two rivers and this is known as the 'Saraswati Kunda'. Not far away from the temple of Balunkeswar on the heart of the hill is a small cave which is said to be most sacred place on

the hill due to the fact that there the old sage Vedavyasa sat and wrote the Mahabharata. Certain things said to have been used by Vedavyasa such as a book-stand, an Asabadi, i.e., a stick with an arm-like structure at its top on which the old sage used to take rest while dictating the Mahabharata, etc., have been preserved there. People who go there with deep devotion, may take things, as they come to them, for granted. But a critical mind may not be satisfied by traditional accounts given by the local guides during a visit to the place. The resting-stick and the book-stand are so very small in size that they cannot be taken to have been used by a grown-up man, much less by the author of the Mahabharata.

Actually speaking, there is no dweepa (island) at the point of confluence, though it is maintained in an atmosphere of devotional fervour that a portion of the present hill of Vedavyasa was surrounded by the two rivers Sankha and Koel as two arms encircling an object. However, it is also possible that at one time centuries ago there might have been an island some where near the point of confluence and that might have been believed to be the birth place of the great sage.

In this connection the common reader and the ordinary visitor to Vedavyasa may be told that Krishna Dwaipayana came to be known as Vedavyasa only after he had laid his hands on the classification of the Vedas. But then, we come to know from the Puranas that there were 28 Vedavyasas*. Traditionally it is believed that Vedavyasa was not only the author

*Astavinsatirityaite Vedavyasa Puratanah.'

of the Mahabharat but was also composer of the 18 Puranas. The present-day scholars and indologists hold the view that Vedavyasa or simply, Vyasa was used as a title of honour by many poets and writers of mythological works. Granting that the famous Vedavyasa who is commonly associated with the authorship of the Sanskrit Mahabharata was not really born either at Vedavyasa or on an island now extinct in the vicinity of the present hill, still it may be reasonably held that some great Vyasa must have established his hermitage on this hill and might have composed some mythological work which has not been discovered by modern history. In any case, the place is really charming. It is not only pleasant to the eyes to stand on the top of the hill and to cast a plastic vision in all directions but also aesthetically animating and invigorating for anybody to spend some time there. Natural beauty, religion, philosophy, mythology, all these have been intertwined into one consolidated cultural block. That is the reason why Vedavyasa has stood for centuries past as a great attraction for tourists, pilgrims, poets, historians and spectators alike.

Vedavyasa is a Tirtha (a place of religious worship involving a holy dip in the waters there) in as much as a dip in the holy waters at the point of confluence of the two rivers is considered to be conducive to spiritual bliss. Any visitor to Vedavyasa should remember that under no circumstances should he desire to swim in the water of Brahmani very close to the hill as the consequences would be fatal. A number of people have met with accidental death while swimming in the deep waters there. It is gathered

from people of the locality that there is a strong under current in the waters and if we go a little beyond knee-deep-water, sudden and accidental death would be inevitable. People, therefore, prefer to bathe in the Swaraswati Kunda. There is a sign-board at the Ghat which gives warning to the visitors for not swimming there.

When a tourist arrives at Vedavyasa, he may, as may be well presumed, require some drink or some such thing. There are no shops in the Vedavyasa area. There is a betel shop no doubt but its limitations are many. Since the place is visited by many people all through the year, something may be done to induce the local people to put up one or two shops so that the basic needs of a visitor immediately after his arrival may be provided.

There are particular days in the year when huge crowds of people gather round Vedavyasa. Since it is an essential Saiva Peetha (the centre of Siva worship), the largest conglomeration of visitors, devotees and pilgrims is seen on the Siva-Ratri Day which falls in February-March every year. On some other occasions too, people go there for a change, for picnic purposes and also for sight-seeing.

With the development of Rourkela, as a populous city, the importance of Vedavyasa as a picnic-spot is also steadily increasing. Some development projects may be undertaken in the hill-area. At present, people freely move about the hill-top. It is not unlikely that poisonous snakes, scorpions etc. may cause danger at any time, even though we are told that

ing like that has taken place so far. is now very interesting to find a gious minded man living in a small e at the top of the hill. Visitors like pend more time on the top of the which has commanding view in the ction of the confluence of the two rs. A number of cement-benches at erent places on Vedavyasa may be ructured to provide facilities to the tors to take rest during their visit. om Rourkela, a bus may ply at regular ervals to Vedavyasa so that people who ve leisure at their disposal would feel luced to visit the place conveniently.

When I visited Vedavyasa some time o, a particular thing was brought to my tice by a co-visitor. I was told that it is neither desirable nor decent on the rt of the builder of the Sri Rama temple the top of the hill to instal Sri Rama, xmana and Sita on a higher platform d have Jagannatha, Balabhadra and bhadra installed in the same temple a lower platform. I was further told. at, by this Jagannatha, Balabhadra and bhadra have been shown to be inferior o Sri Rama, Laxmana and Sita. I was ery much amused at the intelligent query ade with regard to the status of the two anels of deities. I was reminded of adumani, Orissa's most humourous poet f the 19th century who described the elative importance of two categories of hings in the following manner:—

"He who is heavy and great is down below as in the two pans of a balance. And he who is less heavy and small goes higher up".

I told my friend that to the poets of Orissa, Lord Jagannatha of Puri is the

Supreme deity who is comparable to the trunk of a big tree and all other deities are like the branches of that tree. Evidently, therefore, the builder of the Sri Rama temple at Vedavyasa must have drawn inspiration from the poets of Orissa in placing Jagannatha at a lower level than Ramachandra within a very small temple in asmuch as the trunk of a tree occupies a lower place than its branches. It is seen sometimes that humour enables us to present historical truths more colourfully and convincingly than scholarly discussions.

THE MANDIRA DAM

The Mandira Dam is located at a distance of 36 K. Ms. from Rourkela. It is a new dam constructed on the river Sankha which has its confluence with the river Koel near Vedavyasa. The dam area presents a beautiful spectacle. The length of the dam is 1,400 feet and its depth is 65 feet. Its height from the sea level is 708 feet. Two beautiful Guest Houses have been built there for the guests and visitors. The reservation authority is the Manager, Water-Supply Plant, Hindustan Steel Limited, P. O. Rourkela. A circular road connects the Guest Houses located at a considerable height with the main entrance where an officer issues permits for visitors to enter into the dam area. As a visitor stands on the terrace of the Guest House or moves about in the lovely garden near the Guest House, he sees all round a continuous chain of hills at a distance of 15-30 K. Ms. The Rajgangpur Cement Factory is clearly visible on the lefthand horizon, as we stand facing the lake dotted, at present, with numerous trunks of broken trees. The whole environment is highly refreshing. It is an excellent place for

holiday-goers. Taxis ply from Rourkela almost daily to the Dam area. It is an attractive place during hot summer noons and the rainy season can be best enjoyed from the Guest House. Boating facilities in the lake may also be arranged earlier through the Dam authorities. Compared to the Hirakud Dam at Sambalpur, the Mandira Dam is very small no doubt, but to get a complete and comprehensive idea about a modern dam within a very short time, the Mandira Dam constitutes a great attraction for visitors. The Mandira Dam as such may not attract visitors from distant places, but the Rourkela tourist complex including the Khandadhara Water Fall and the Vedavyasa hill (not excluding the progressive Steel City of Rourkela pulsating with life, light and lusture of industrial development) may attach great importance to the Mandira Dam in as much as it is a type of attraction by itself.

ROURKELA

As has already been stated, within the course of two decades, Rourkela has developed into a populous city from a tiny hamlet. It is one of the best planned cities in India. The Steel Plant and the general plan of the city may not constitute by themselves very great attractions for those who have seen many of the big cities of India, including the beautifully planned New-Delhi. But wonderful tourist possibilities await to be harnessed to make the whole area really worth-visiting. It is very interesting to note that there are two hills in between the Steel Plant and the old Rourkela area on the one hand and the new township on the other with well-planned roads and buildings. These two hills may be taken up for developmental work in the interests of tourism. The

distance between the two hills is very very small. It is almost equal to the breadth of the road with some space on both its sides. Plantations of Eucalyptus, Sal and Teak will not only add to the beauty of the hills considerably but also will be highly profitable in the long run even commercially. Circular roads may be designed on the body of the hills in order to facilitate vehicular communication to their top. In other words, in the case of each one of the hills, a road either from the present main road connecting the city with the Steel Plant or from any other spot may be constructed in such a way that a visitor can go by his car to the top of the hill and in the process of his journey to the top of the hill he will have to go round the hill several times. It would also necessarily mean the offering of greater scope to the visitor to cast his vision all around as he ascends the hill to develop in him a mixed feeling of wonder, enjoyment and adventure. Especially during the rainy season, he will experience the most in expressible joy of having been placed amidst the playful clouds.

The roads leading to the top of the hills may be well lighted on both the sides as has been done in some mountain cities of the World. Steps may have to be taken for the supply of water at the top. A good hotel with a number of suites may be constructed at the top of the hill. "The Hotel Hill Top" or "The Hotel Heavens" may be the name of the proposed hotel. When this is done even with slightly higher charges for boarding and lodging, there will be a heavy rush of visitors. Within 100 miles of Rourkela, we have a number of industrial areas. It is expected that the proposed hotel at the hill top will

ct industrialists, businessmen, officers the like all through the year.

urther, we may have not only a road ing to the top from the ground level, relying the hill but also some other ways of communication. First, we may have a t of steps leading to the top for the strians. Secondly, we may have the e system, i.e., we can make people get a specially made circular cabin and a distance of about half a K. M. from hill, lift them by an electrical contri- ce to the top of the hill, not perpendi- rly but diagonally. Thirdly, we may e a very steep railway line on the body he hill which will carry about a dred people at a time from the foot of hill to its top. The experience of such ailway trip is now possible in India only a few places like Darjeeling. Specially holidays and almost every day all ough the year, this railway carriage will act huge crowds. All these four devices e gained immense popularity in some es in other countries and daily erowds people go to the hill-top not only to have experience of the ascent of the hill, but) to have new experience from several nts of view.

Along with the development of the two ls as indicated above, one thing more y be done. At present, the distance tween the two hills is very small. It may t be difficult to connect the two hills with

a sort of overbridge about 100 feet high above the road level. When this is done, a tourist who goes round one of the two hills may not come down to the ground level to go to the other hill but will drive through the overbridge and go to the other hill. The over bridge, when constructed, may remind us of the Hanging Garden of the ancient world if it is made sufficiently wide to facilitate the growth of creepers and flowerplants.

What is lacking very much now at Rourkela for the ordinary visitor is the availability of accommodational facilities. The question of putting up of a good hotel with number of decent suites at a central place in Rourkela is considered to be an urgent necessity for the expansion of tourism in Western Orissa. The concerned authorities are perhaps aware of this desideratum and we may have a good hotel for tourists in the years to come.

Rourkela is speedily expanding in all directions. In addition to its magnitude, there should be magnificance to make the place more attractive. The possibility of a games sanctuary in a miniature scale may not perhaps be considered either unnecessary or undesirable, either on one of the hills or in some nearby place after about a decade or so and that will be another addition to the tourists' repertory at Rourkela.

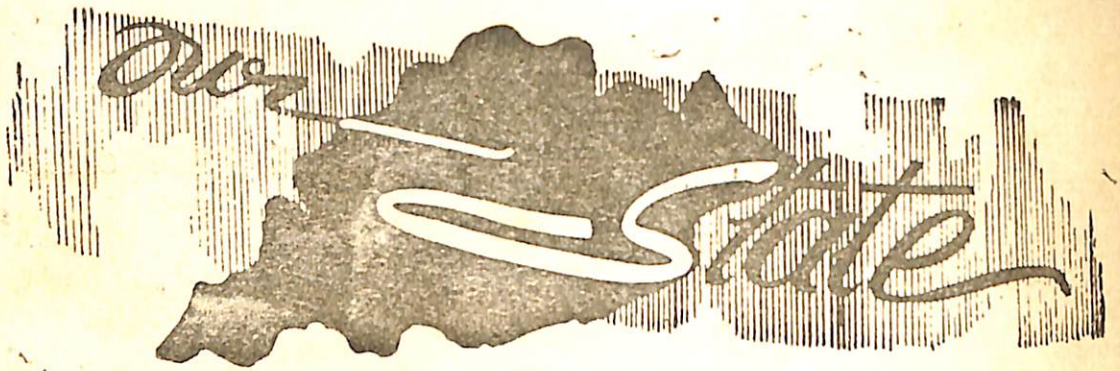
CALENDAR OF EVENTS—ORISSA
JULY, 1970

- 16-7-1970 ... An official delegation led by Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo called on the Prime Minister at Delhi to press the claim for location of the 2nd Steel Plant in the State but the Prime Minister rejected the demand.
- Mohan Guru Irrigation Project near Nayagarh was inaugurated by the State's Deputy Agriculture Minister, Shri B. Tripathy.
- 21-7-1970 ... Shri Tirthabasi Pradhan, a former Deputy Minister of Orissa passed away.
- 24-7-1970 ... A conference of Tribal and Rural Welfare Department Officers held at Bhubaneswar.
- 25-7-1970 ... The Orissa Planning Board approved an outlay of Rs. 222.60 crores for the Fourth Five-Year Plan of Orissa. The annual plan for the year 1970-71 also given green signal.
- 26-7-1970 ... Death anniversary of late Pt. Godavarish Misra was observed.
- 27-7-1970 ... Peaceful 'Orissa Bund' observed throughout Orissa in support of the claim for the location of the 2nd Steel Plant in Public Sector in the State.
- 30-7-1970 ... Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo inaugurated a two-day conference of Collectors at Bhubaneswar.

AUGUST—1970

- 3-8-1970 ... Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo inaugurated the L. Sohani Training Camp at Bhubaneswar.
- 4-8-1970 ... Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo inaugurated a two-day seminar on "long term credit" at Bhubaneswar, organised by the Orissa State Co-operative Bank.
- 6-8-1970 ... The State Committee of the Jana Congress adopted a resolution expressing itself in favour of a fresh election in Orissa.

- 7-8-1970 ... Normal working of the train services paralysed in Khurda Road Division of S. E. Railway on account of strike by the employees.
- 8-8-1970 ... Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo opened the Regional Office of the State Bank of India at Bhubaneswar.
- 10-8-1970 ... Shri Sangram Keshari Ray, the first Oriya to become a Brigadier dies in a tractor accident.
- 12-8-1970 ... The House Surgeons of the three Medical Colleges in the State went on a 24-hour token strike demanding fulfilment of a 15-point charter of demand.
- 15-8-1970 ... 24th Independence Day celebrated throughout Orissa. The Muralijoro Bridge on the Bhawanipatna-Thuamul-Rampur Road in Kalahandi district and the Chipuli and Sandul bridges connecting Bhawanipatna with Narla Panchayat Samiti were opened by Shri D. Nayak, Minister for Works and Transport.
- 19-8-1970 ... The Chief Minister, Shri R. N. Singh Deo inaugurated the Rajgangpur College at Rajgangpur.
- 21-8-1970 ... A night Post Office opened at Berhampur in Ganjam district.
Mr. Govinda Munda, State's Deputy Minister for Health inaugurated a 6-bedded Hospital at Bisoi in Mayurbhanj district.
- 24-8-1970 ... Orissa State Council of the Swatantra Party rejects Jana Congress plea for a fresh poll in Orissa.
Sambalpur district has been adjudged to be the best in the inter-district swimming competition.
- 25-8-1970 ... The Yugoslavac Ambassador Dr. Slavko Komar accompanied by Mrs. Komar visited Orissa.
- 26-8-1970 ... Workers of Orissa State Electricity Board went on a 24 hour strike.
- 27-8-1970 ... A twelve-member official team from Orissa left Bhubaneswar for Expo-70.
Mottua, Taluk headquarters town of Malkangiri Subdivision remained cut off due to flood in Sileru and Saberi rivers.
- 31-8-1970 ... Shri B. C. Das sworn in as Judge of the Orissa High Court.



N. C. C. AIR SQUADRON BHUBANESWAR AWARDED SHIELD AT THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

The Air Squadron No. I of the N. C. C. based at Bhubaneswar has been adjudged as the best Squadron and awarded a certificate of merit in the 'Vayu Sainik Camp' for all India Senior Division Air Wing Cadets held at Madras during May 1970.

The Orissa Squadron is commanded by the Squadron Leader S. Ramachandran. This is for the first time that the Cadets from Orissa have earned distinction in an All India Camp. The Orissa contingent consisted of the following Cadets of the

B. J. B. College, Bhubaneswar which participated in this annual training camp
Shri Bijoy Bisoi, Shri Saroj Senapati
Shri Bhabani Mishra, Shri Aruna Jena
Shri Prabira Das, Shri Aswini Mohanty
and Shri Ajoy Mohanty.

In recognition of the honour brought by these cadets to Orissa, the N. C. C. Air Squadron has been awarded the Education Minister's Shield at the State Level Independence Day parade held on August 15, 1970, at New Capital.



Tribes Advisory Council met at Bhubaneswar on August 6, 1970. The Chief Minister Shri R. N. Singh Deo, presided over the meeting

NEWS IN PICTURES

The Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri R. N. Singh Deo, is addressing the Collectors' Conference in the morning on July 30, 1970 in the Secretariat Conference room, Bhubaneswar





Shri Harihar Patel, Minister for Industries and Public Relations is seen addressing Press Conference in his office room in the State Secretariat, Bhubaneswar on August 26, 1970

NEWS IN PICTURES

The fourth meeting of the State Apprenticeship Council was held at Bhubaneswar on August 3, 1970

Minister for Industries Shri Harihar Patel, Minister for Agriculture Shri R. B. Mishra, Deputy Minister for C. D. & P. B. Shri A. N. Singh Deo, attended the meeting.





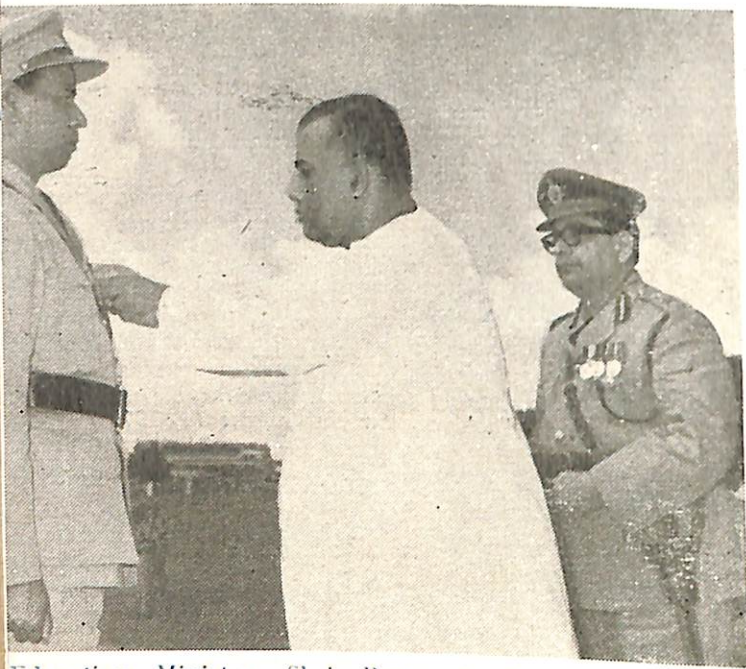
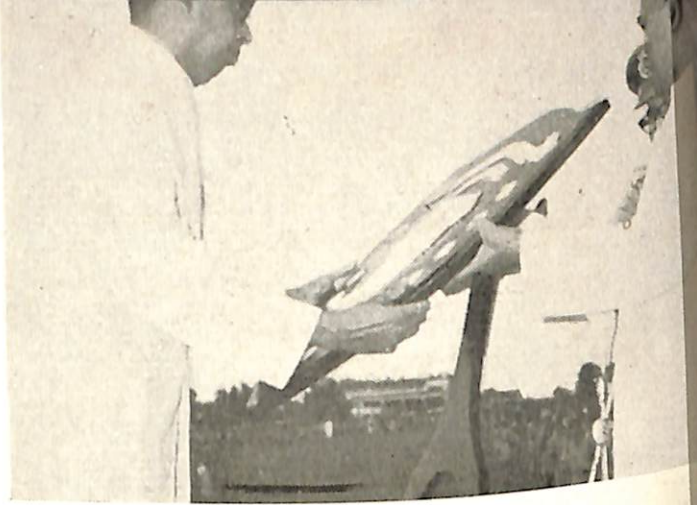
Shri H. Mohapatra, Minister Law, Orissa inspecting the Ceremonial parade on the occasion of Independence Day, 1970 at Bolangir

NEWS IN PICTURES

Chief Secretary Shri G. C. L. Joneja giving away prizes at the annual function of the Secretariat Recreation club at Bhubaneswar on August 14, 1970



Shri Patnaik presenting Vigilance Shield.



NEWS IN PICTURES

Independence Day Celebration at
the State capital

Education Minister, Shri Banamali Patnaik,
presenting the Police Medal



Education Minister giving away
Republic Day Parade Shield at the
Independence Day function.

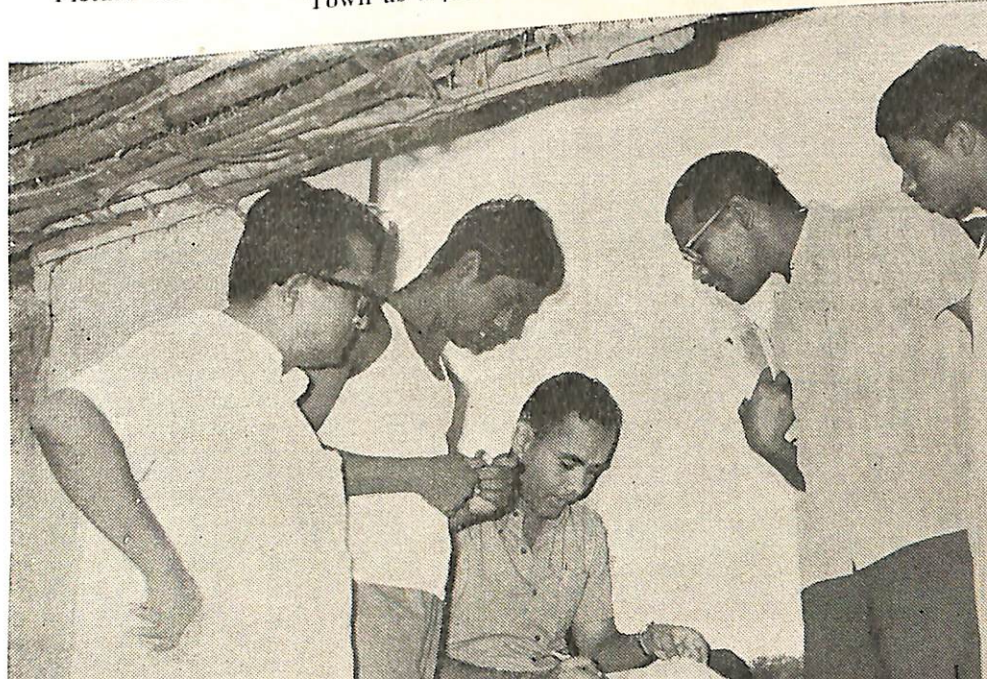


...k Singh, Executive Director of UNICEF discussing with the local officers and fishermen about development fishing in Chilka Lake.

NEWS IN PICTURES

A seminar on training of the District Census Officers, which was held on August 19 & 20, 1970.

Picture Shows : The District Census Officers taking house-hold Census in P Town as a part of the practical training

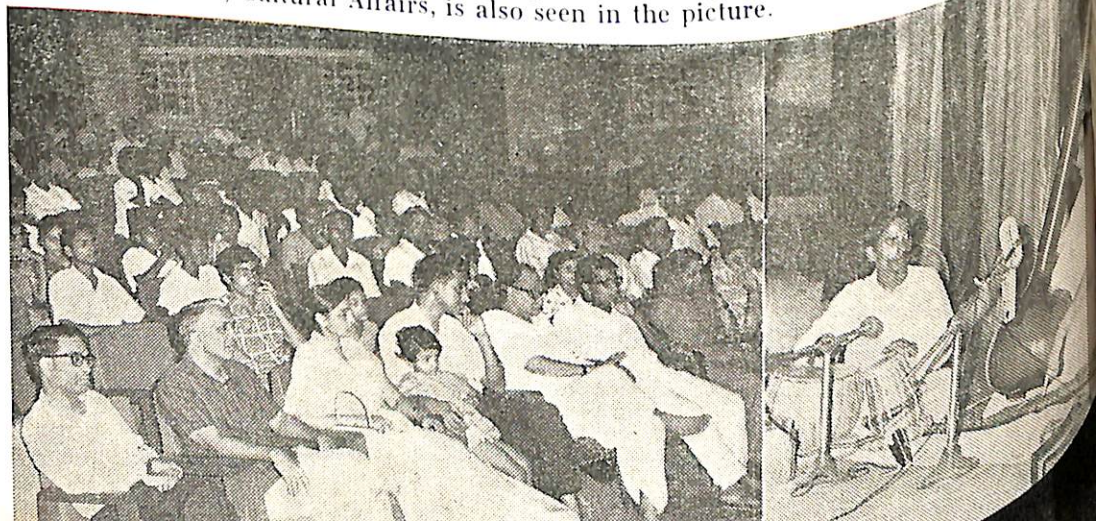




Scene from the drama 'Ashoka Stambha' by Shri Bhanjakishore Patnaik, staged by the Orissa Troupe at the National Drama Festival held at Bangalore on July 21, 1970.

NEWS IN PICTURES

Shrimati Girija Devi, a renowned classical singer of North India, giving a performance at Rabindra Mandap on 27th July 1970. Shri Nityananda Mahapatra, Minister, Cultural Affairs, is also seen in the picture.



BAN ON SHOOTING OF TIGERS

Life has come to us as a heritage and it is our duty to pass it on to posterity and hence their conservation in our country is of paramount importance. Unfortunately it is noticed that their number is gradually decreasing; especially the steady decline in the tiger population of our country has been causing us grave concern. The Indian Board for Wild

Life as well as the Standing Committee on Wild Life in Orissa have recommended for imposing complete ban on shooting of tigers in the State.

It has therefore been decided by the Government that the shooting of tigers (except man-eaters and regular cattle lifters) should be stopped throughout Orissa with effect from August 1, 1970 for a period of 5 years.

RESTRICTION IN HOMOEOPATHY PRACTICE

The Government of Orissa have decided to impose restrictions in the practice of the homoeopathic system of medicine by registered or unlisted practitioners in the State.

According to a notification issued under Section 50 of the "Orissa Homoeopathic

Act, 1956" no person other than a registered or listed Homoeopathic Practitioner shall practise or hold himself out whether directly or by implication as practising or being prepared to practise the Homoeopathic system of medicine after expiry of a period of one year from the date of notification in Orissa Gazette.

INCENTIVE AWARDS TO MAHILA SAMITIS

The Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Department of Community Development) have decided to encourage the economic activities of Mahila Samitis functioning in the State by grant of incentive awards to them for the year 1970-71. According to the scheme, all the Mahila Samitis in the State are eligible to participate in the competition. No entrance fee is charged

for the purpose. The period of competition is one year from 1st April 1969 to 31st March 1970. The selection committees constituted at Block, District and State levels shall conduct selection of the best Mahila Samitis entitled to receive the cash awards according to their gradation indicated below.

Such of the Mahila Samitis who have taken active part in pisciculture, kitchen

gardening, tailoring, knitting, organising feeding and mid-day meal programmes, family planning, Balwadi, radio rural forum and various cultural activities and are willing to participate in the above competition are required to fill up the *pro forma* prescribed by the Government of India which can be had from the Block office and to submit the same to their respective Block Development Officers. The Block Level Committee and District Level Committees will select the names of the Mahila Samitis in order of merit in A, B, C, grades and will send their recommendation to the State Level Committee. The State Level Committee after close scrutiny of the performance of the Mahila Samitis will make final selection of the Samitis

entitled to receive the following awards during the current financial year:—

19 awards of 'A' grade	Rs. 1,000 each
38 awards of 'B' grade	Rs. 600 each
133 awards of 'C' grade	Rs. 400 each

Central grant amounting to Rs. 95.00 is available during the current financial year for this purpose. All the registered Mahila Samitis of the State can participate in the competition for receiving these awards.

The Mahila Samitis interested to take part in the competition may contact their respective Block Development Officers or write to the Community Development Panchayati Raj (C. D.) Department directly for further details.

TREATMENT OF FEMALE & CHILDREN AT CITY HOSPITAL CUTTACK

The City Hospital, Cuttack, which is directly in charge of the Chief District Medical Officer and is functioning as the District Headquarters Hospital had no provision till 1st June 1970 to treat the female cases, maternity cases and the children patients as a result of which these cases were deprived of indoor medical aid in this hospital. Consequently these patients were seeking indoor medical aid in the S. C. B.

Medical College Hospital, Cuttack, cater to the needs of the local people as well as of the neighbourhood area. Government have decided that out of 100 beds of this hospital, 60 will continue to be male beds and 30 to be treated as maternity and the rest 10 as children beds. This arrangement has been made in effect from the 1st June 1970.

A STORY OF SUCCESS

Shri Chintamani Meher of Kermeli village has turned out to be the real 'INTAMANI' in vegetable cultivation. Recently, Bolangir, the headquarters of the district was depending for all on the supply from outside the district. Shri B. R. Nanda, while working as Block Development Officer at Bolangir, was seriously thinking why at all Bolangir could not get the benefit of having fresh vegetables in the market. He hunted out for a responsible cultivator and Shri Chintamani Meher of Kermeli, a good cultivator, any standard provided him with the answer. The Agriculture Extension Officer, Shri Govardhan Meher also extended his helping hand in this pioneering effort. Their cumulative effort was

crowned with success. This year, Chintamani has taken up Potal cultivation in an area of 0.80 acre. His total expenditure on compost, fertilisers and pesticides comes to Rs. 181-00 only. By the middle of July, 1970, he had earned Rs. 4,220-00 by sale of Potal.

The price of Potal ranged from Rs. 2 to Re. 1 per Kilogram. In course of four and half months commencing from March 1970, Shri Meher sold to the market 3,250 Kgs. of Potal and earned Rs. 4,220-00. The story of his success has been an eye-opener to other cultivators in the district and they are now eager to take up this lucrative trade.

FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME BENEFITS 8,298 PERSONS

The Orissa State Family Planning Bureau through its Centres and Sub-Centres performed as many as 3,169 sterilization operations and 2,230 loop insertions during the month of September, 1970. Besides, the Bureau also distributed 181,557 condoms, 5,304 foam tablets and 2,117 tubes of jelly to 2,899 persons during the month. In all 8,298 individuals were benefited by the programme.

To popularise the programme, the Bureau organised 65 film shows, 13 cul-

tural shows, 41 exhibitions, 2,555 group discussions, 1,530 meetings and 7,648 educational group meetings. Family Planning workers during the month contacted 20,916 individuals.

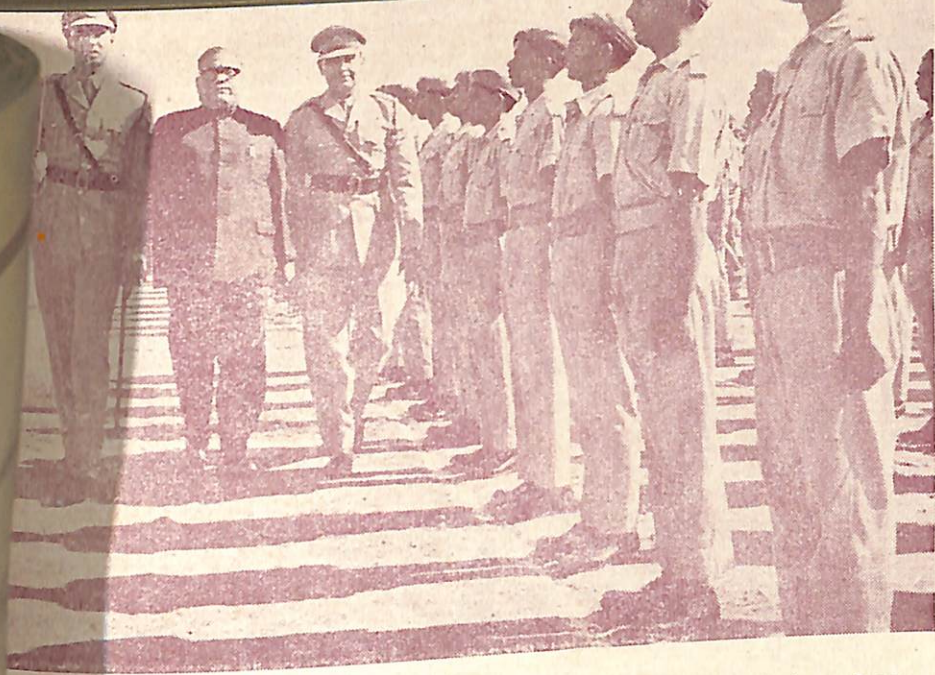
15 Medical Officers and 15 Field Workers (Female) were imparted special training in the programme at the Regional Family Planning Training Centres at Cuttack and Sambalpur respectively during the month.

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Rajballav Mishra, Minister for Agriculture is seen inspecting the Independence Day parade at Uditnagar, Rourkela

Shri A. N. Singh Deo, Deputy Minister for Industries inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Independence Day parade held at Chhatrapur, Headquarters of Ganjam district on August 15, 1970





Moments of ecstacy following rich harvest