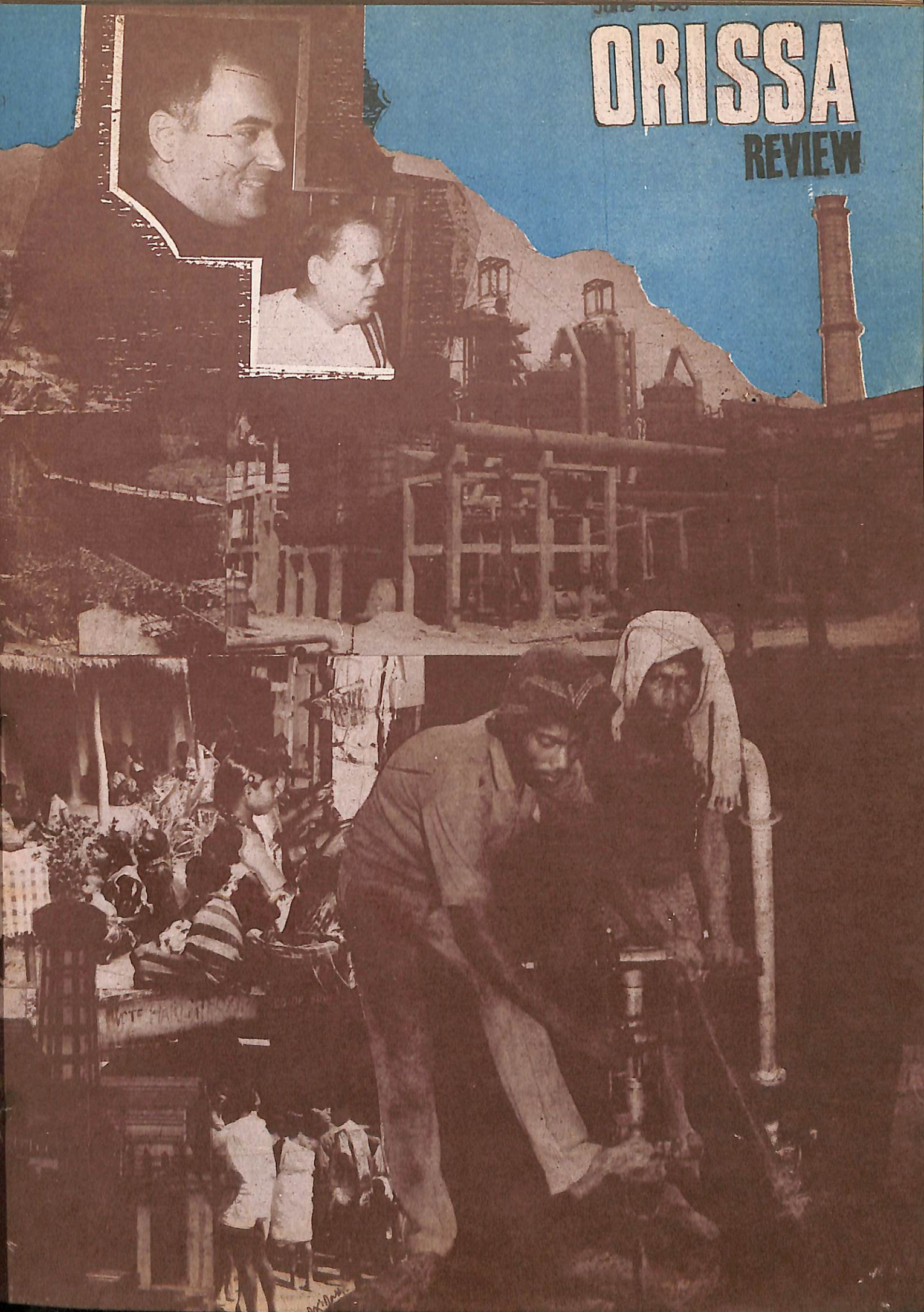
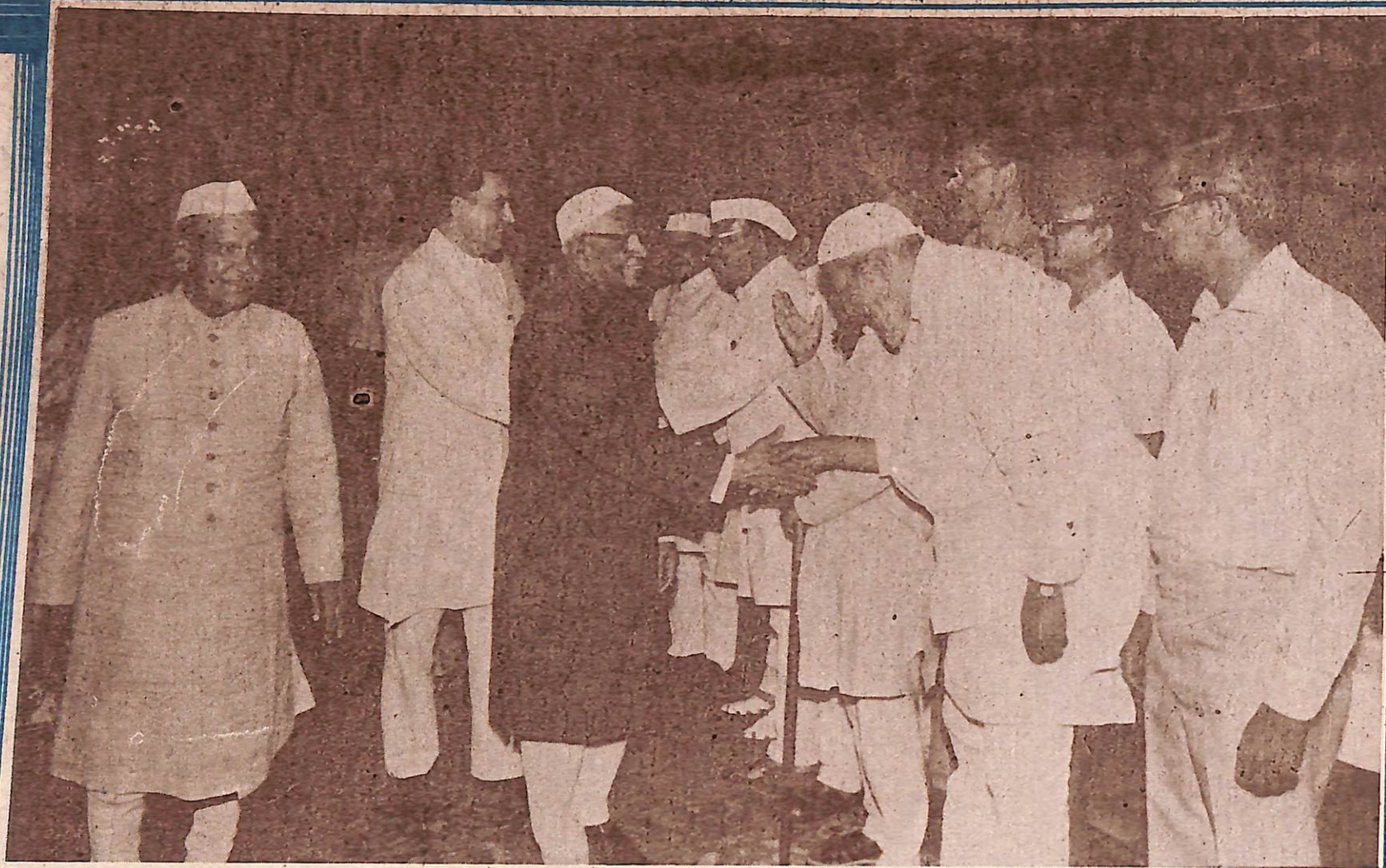


June 1953

ORISSA

REVIEW





The President, Shri R. Venkataraman hosted a dinner to eminent persons of the Muslim community on the occasion of Id'ul Fitr at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 16, 1988.

Photo shows Shri Venkataraman, the Vice-President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma and the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi greeting some of the guests.

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EIGHT YEARS ARE ONLY A BRIEF SPAN OF TIME IN THE LONG HISTORY OF AN ANCIENT RACE.

BUT FOR ORISSA, THE EIGHT YEARS BETWEEN 1980 AND 1988 HAVE BEEN A PERIOD OF GREAT RESURGENCE, OF SPECTACULAR GROWTH, OF STABILITY AND PEACE, OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

THE EMERGENCE OF J.B. PATNAIK GOVERNMENT IN 1980 AND ITS GLORIOUS RE-EMERGENCE IN 1985 NOT ONLY BROUGHT ABOUT POLITICAL STABILITY FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE, BUT ALSO REFLECTED THE WILL AND DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS ORISSA. THE GOVERNMENT IS DEDICATED TO THIS PRIME OBJECTIVE AND DESPITE FREQUENT NATURAL CALAMITIES, ORISSA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS A BRIGHTER TOMORROW REMAINS UNABATED.



**ADDRESS OF SHRI JANAKI BALLAV PATNAIK,
CHIEF MINISTER, ORISSA, AT THE FARMERS'
CONVENTION HELD AT BHUBANESWAR ON MAY 7, 1988**

Dear farmer friends,

You have come from all the panchayats and villages of the state. As you all know, new efforts have been initiated to bring about a revolution in agricultural production. It is through you that this revolution would take place. "Full of paddy, wealth and flowers is this, our Earth," sang the poet. We have to fill this land of Orissa with paddy and wealth, and every farmer of each and every village has a role to play in fulfilling this pledge. The farmers of each panchayat would themselves decide what crops they would raise considering the quality of their land and the water resources. We would accordingly find ways to provide them with appropriate water resources, fertilisers, seeds, insecticides etc. and this would enable us to achieve our goals.

(a) In order to bring about a change in the economic conditions of the people, there is no alternative to agriculture, for seventy percent of Orissa's population depend on agriculture. We have undertaken a large number of programmes during the last eight years for the development of agriculture. Provisions of better irrigation, introduction of improved varieties of seeds for cultivation of paddy, wheat, groundnut etc., use of more fertilisers, higher remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, extending loan facilities to more and more farmers through the co-operatives are some of the important measures taken by

the government. As a result of these measures, the production of rice has exceeded 52 lakh tons in the state during the last eight years, and this is a new record. Production of rice in our state was 9.61 quintals per hectare in 1960-61, and it was 10.26 quintals per hectare in 1980-81. But during 1980-85, this has increased to 12.26 quintals per hectare. The rise, which was only 4 percent in 20 years, reached 20 percent in five years.

(b) High yielding varieties of paddy are being cultivated in forty percent of the state's cultivable land.

(c) Wheat cultivation in Orissa has become quite popular and the rate of production of wheat today is 2 tons per hectare which is higher than the national rate.

(d) The rate of production of sugarcane and jute in our state is also higher than the national rate.

(e) Production of pulses has now doubled in comparison to the production before 1980.

(f) Orissa has achieved a new record in the country in the production of groundnuts. Not only that more and more land is being utilised for the cultivation of groundnut, but also the rate of production of groundnut, which is 2 tons per hectare, is the highest in the country.

All this has been possible on account of your firm determination, dedication, skill and hard work.

DIFFICULT TIMES

Today, we are passing through very difficult times. Last year, due to the unprecedented drought, crops in about 24 lakh hectares of land have been destroyed. The production of paddy, the main crop, has come down by 13 lakh tons compared to last year's production. We have always fought against the caprices of nature. There are floods, drought and cyclones almost every year. But these adverse natural conditions have not been able to weaken our will and determination. We have to prepare ourselves for future by effectively managing the crisis due to last year's drought. With this aim in view, we have declared the next two years as the Irrigation Year. The Prime Minister has also announced that the next two years in India would be treated as the Year of Agricultural Production. Among the states he has in mind in this context, Orissa is one. He has set the target that Orissa would produce ten percent of the additional foodgrains to be produced in the whole country. His target is to raise the production of foodgrains from 160 to 175 million tons, and Orissa's share in this additional production of 15 million tons is one and a half million or 15 lakh tons. With the basic infrastructural facilities extended to them, the farmers of Orissa can certainly reach this target. The conference convened today

aims at ensuring your participation in this great revolution in order that we succeed in achieving the desired goal.

Though there has been a great deal of improvement in agriculture during the last eight years, we are lagging behind in the production of paddy. At present, Special Rice Cultivation Programme with the aid of the government of India is being implemented in 63 blocks of the state. During this year, this project is being extended to 179 blocks of the state. This would include all the blocks of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Ganjam and Sambalpur districts and 32 blocks of the remaining eight districts. Emphasis is being given on the use of improved varieties of seeds and fertilisers, irrigation and provision of agricultural loans where necessary. Steps are being taken to supply various components of agriculture in subsidised rates. Greater attention is also being given to improved techniques of farming.

IRRIGATION YEAR

As I have already said, the next two years will be treated as Irrigation Year. Our objective is to put greater emphasis on those projects which can be completed soon so that the farmers can obtain benefit from them within these two years. These include expediting the repair of canals, creation of greater irrigation potential by extending the canals where possible, completion of incomplete projects, special emphasis on lift irrigation and projects relating to the creation of reservoirs, ponds and wells. The aim is to provide irrigation facilities, during these two years of the Seventh Plan, to 2 lakh 42 thousand hectares of land, in addition to another 1 lakh 30 thousand hectares of land through the current emergency programmes. Thus irrigation for the Khariff would be for 3 lakh 72 thousand hectares of land. Further, with these two programmes, 2 lakh hectares of land would be irrigated for the Rabi Crops. The programmes also envisage expansion of Delta Irrigation Projects so that there would be 40 new distributory canals and 12 drainage systems in Cuttack and Puri districts. Steps would also be taken to repair and clean the Hirakud canal, delta canal and Salandi canal.

FACILITIES TO THE FARMERS

The State government, with the assistance of the Central Government, has announced a package of special facilities for the farmers :

(1) Tribal and harijan farmers as well as small and marginal farmers (whose annual family income is less than Rs.4800/-) would be given Rs.9300/- as full financial assistance to dig dugwells for irrigating their own lands under the Jeevan Dhara scheme. In Orissa there would be 25000 dugwells during the current year with an expenditure of Rupees 23 crores 25 lakhs.

(2) Small and marginal farmers of the districts of Cuttack,

Puri, Balasore, Ganjam and Sambalpur, which are included under the special Foodgrains Production Programme, would be given financial assistance during the current year under the PMMP for digging shallow tubewells or dugwells. Non-government and voluntary agencies would be associated in this programme.

(3) At present, under the PMMP, non-tribal marginal farmers are getting 33 percent subsidy for digging shallow tubewells and dugwells. This would be raised to fifty percent through the ERRP programme of the state government. It is hoped that with this special assistance there would be at least five thousand shallow tubewells or dug-wells in the state.

(4) Pumps etc for the wells dug under the above mentioned schemes would be provided to the beneficiaries through the ERRP programme.

With the success of these programmes, irrigation facilities would be available to another one lakh hectares of land. We must therefore take full advantage of these programmes and work towards their effective implementation.

The government has already implemented a number of programmes, and has undertaken some more, to help the farmers through cooperative loans :

(a) The tribal farmers of the ITDA areas who had arrears up to Rs.250 on their loans as on 30.6.85 are being assisted to redeem their loans, which means, they are being exempted from paying back the loans. This has benefitted about 80 thousand tribal farmers.

(b) The government has decided that other farmers who redeem their agricultural loan by the ensuing October will be given an exemption of five percent by the Orissa State Cooperative Bank.

(c) Orissa is the first state in India to implement the Crop Insurance Scheme at the Panchayat level. One lakh twenty thousand farmers who have been affected by the last year's drought would be benefitted by this crop insurance scheme. The government is negotiating with the Insurance Companies to expedite the payment of compensation. This would enable one lakh twenty thousand farmers to be free of the loans they had taken last year and to be eligible for fresh loans this year.

The farmers of the 179 blocks, where the Special Rice Production Programme is being implemented, are provided with certain special facilities :

(a) Farmers are being supplied with 5-kg packets of seeds (minikits) for encouraging cultivation of improved varieties of paddy.

(b) Fertilisers are being supplied at 50 percent subsidy (maximum Rs.100 per hectare per farmer).

(c) Pesticides and insecticides are being supplied at 50 percent subsidy (maximum Rs.100 per hectare).

(d) Sprayers and other agricultural equipment are being supplied at 50 percent subsidy.

(e) Special training is being imparted to the farmers, women farmers and agricultural labourers on the scientific methods of cultivation.

(f) Six more sales centres per block have been opened.

In the other 135 blocks which do not come under Special Rice Production Programme, a subsidy of three rupees is being given on each 10 kg packet of fertilisers.

To encourage agricultural production in these 135 blocks, steps are being taken to give cash awards to the best 14 blocks at the rate of one lakh rupees each. These awards would be given on the basis of increased use of fertilisers and growth of productivity. Individual farmers would be given cash awards of Rupees One thousand each for their achievements in agricultural sector.

Cultivation of paddy requires a lot of water and is badly affected by drought. Therefore for higher production and for surmounting the difficulties due to drought, it is better to cultivate pulses and oilseeds in the high lands. Besides, arhar, groundnut, cotton and soyabean cultivation is more profitable in the dryland areas.

MORE FERTILISERS

Consumption of fertilisers per acre in our state is less than that of our neighbouring states. While consumption at the national level is 49 kg of fertilisers per acre, in our state, it is only 17 kg per acre. The main problems are lack of required number of sales centres, non-availability of fertilisers in the rural areas at the right time and lack of finance. For the success of the Special Foodgrains Production Programme, we have to raise the consumption level of fertilisers to 30 kg per acre. The government has taken up a special scheme to achieve this goal. The producers of fertilisers have been instructed to sell 10 kg packets and this has already started from the last Akshay Trutiya day. You will be happy to know that the state government has exempted licence fees on the storage and sale of these 10 kg packets of fertilisers. Any person or organisation in the villages can sell these 10 kg packets in the local markets.

The Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology is actively engaged in research in its regional research centres to evolve new ways and techniques to boost agricultural production.

Special attention is being given to obtain high-yielding varieties of seeds suitable to the local conditions of the soil and the climate, to find out ways for the optimum use of water resources, to check pests and diseases and to find more efficacious systems of harvesting and storage. The department of Agriculture is implementing a training and visit programme to ensure that the new scientific techniques of farming obtained from research studies reach 36 lakh agricultural families of the state.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

To accelerate the improvement of economic condition of our farmers, we have to reorient our agricultural tradition to accommodate adequate farming of money crops. It is particularly necessary to increase the rate of production per hectare in the unirrigated highlands of the interior districts. It is therefore essential to expand the cultivation of fruits. Considering the soil, climate and other natural conditions, it is possible to take up cultivation of different varieties of mango, plantain, coconut, pineapple, guava, lichi, lemon, jackfruit, sapota and pomegranate. If the cultivation of these fruits is taken up in an organised way and with the help of improved techniques, it would create permanent sources of income for the farmers.

The government has been trying, since the commencement of the Sixth Five year Plan, to expand the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Apart from the orchards that were already in existence, 36584 additional hectares of land have been brought under fruit cultivation during the Sixth Plan, including 4271 hectares of mango, 17132 hectares of coconut, 6952 hectares of papaya, and 6084 hectares of other fruits. The target for the Seventh Plan is to accelerate these efforts and bring another 39500 hectares of land under fruit cultivation which would include 6304 hectares of mango, 5000 hectares of plantain, 325 hectares of pineapple, 8750 hectares of coconut, 4000 hectares of orange and lemon, 2010 hectares of papaya and 13,111 hectares of other varieties of fruits. We have so far made good progress. Farmers are being provided with incentives through various schemes to take up fruit cultivation. Arrangements have been made to supply improved seedlings through the sales centres of the state Horticulture department.

To encourage the setting up of small orchards in the backyards of the Harijan farmers, the government is providing technical assistance and also financial assistance to the extent of one hundred rupees per family for purchase of plants, manure and insecticides. The tribals in the tribal areas are encouraged to set up orchards through subsidies on purchase of plants, manure and insecticides etc. Subsidies are also provided to the other small and marginal farmers through rural development agencies to set up orchards.

The government has adopted a special programme to introduce commercial cultivation of plantains. In the first phase,

the target to bring 3250 hectares of additional land under plantain cultivation is being pursued. With the help of this programme, at least 65 percent of the state's requirement can be met by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Potato is also an essential money crop. During the Sixth Plan, the target for potato cultivation was eight thousand hectares per year. From last year, its expansion has been taken up through a special scheme. Arrangements are being made to supply breeder potato seeds in subsidised rates and to provide insecticides free of cost. The target is to produce potatoes in 25000 hectares of land per year up to the end of the Seventh Plan. This is three times more than that of the Sixth Plan target. It is also hoped to improve the rate of production per hectare.

For the improvement of vegetable, farmers are being supplied packets of improved varieties of seeds free of cost under the auspices of National Horticulture Organisation. Last year, 17636 packets of seasonal vegetable seeds had been distributed. This programme would continue in future. Besides, assistance is given through tribal development agencies for cultivation of chilly, onions and other vegetables. Efforts are on to increase the coverage of land under vegetable cultivation by 2,18,373 hectares over the Sixth Plan coverage.

SOIL EROSION

Of the various natural resources, soil is an essential ingredient of agricultural production. According to an analysis of the pictures taken through satellites, more than half of Orissa's total area of land is suffering from soil erosion. Emphasis has therefore been given to check the erosion of soil and improve the productivity of land through Soil Conservation Programmes.

Various strategies have been adopted to encounter problems related to soil erosion. So far, 1 lakh 71 thousand 9 hundred 32 hectares of land belonging to the farmers have been developed and production in these lands has considerably increased due to soil and water conservation. Through extensive plantation in 1 lakh 27 thousand 9 hundred 39 hectares of fallow and eroded land, it has been possible to conserve soil and improve environment. In addition, the government has taken up an extensive water harvesting programme in the drought-hit areas. With the help of 4102 water harvesting structures, it has been possible to irrigate 63 thousand 1 hundred 30 hectares of land during drought. These water harvesting structures have not only helped in preventing soil erosion, but have also earned wide appreciation of the people who get irrigation facilities through conserved water. It is proposed to set up 2 thousand 3 hundred 30 more such structures during the next two years of the Seventh Plan.

It has been decided as a matter of policy to work out the soil conservation programme on the watershed basis. By adopting this method, it is possible to achieve higher production in

unirrigated lands by utilising rain water. Initially, Koraput district has been taken up under the National Watershed Development Project sponsored by the government of India. Besides, with the help of both departmental and non-departmental resources, soil conservation work has been accomplished through 346 watersheds.

Cashew plantation has been done in 72 thousand 1 hundred 43 hectares of land by the Soil Conservation department. For the economic rehabilitation of the poorest families, 20 thousand 1 hundred 88 hectares of cashew gardens have been distributed at the rate 2 acres per family. 17 small scale industries have come up in Orissa to obtain the kernel from the cashew nuts produced in the state.

Besides, sisal cultivation has been done in 4305 hectares of uncultivated land. 8 small scale industries have come up in Orissa to manufacture ropes from the sisal hemp.

The climate of the hilly areas of our state is suitable for coffee plantation. On the recommendation of the Coffee Board, coffee plantation in Orissa has been taken up in 1082 hectares of land. Government is taking special steps to expand coffee cultivation.

Tea plantation in Keonjhar district has been quite a success and this year steps are being taken for tea plantation in extensive areas of Kalahandi district.

WILL AND DETERMINATION

We have to work with determination for the accelerated development of agriculture in the state, in order to abolish poverty and turn Orissa into the best state of the country. If we have the will and the determination, nothing can stop us from achieving this goal. We possess the necessary intelligence, skill, know-how and ability to do hard work. All that we need is will and determination. Let us, on this historic occasion of the Farmers' Convention, proclaim our will and determination.



CHAKHI KHUNTIA: A NATIONAL HERO OF THE BRITISH PERIOD

The sacred Shamba Dasami of the year 1827. A male child was born in the famous Hajuri family of Puri Harachandi Sahi. His father was Raghunath Khuntia alias Bhimasen Hajuri, a servant of the Lord Jagannath. Since the child was born while his father was dressing the Lord with sandal-paste (Chandan) his name was given Chandan Hajuri. But he is better known as Chakhi Khuntia. His mother was Kamalabati, a pious lady.

In the childhood Chakhi Khuntia was very naughty. He was taught Oriya language and literature in a "Chatasali." He then learnt Hindi to enable him to communicate with "Yatris" (pilgrims) of Lord Jagannath. It is told that he had great interest in learning History and Geography of India, her hoary heritage and heroic tales of her national leaders. He was inspired by the biographies of the Indian heroes.

Chakhi Khuntia was learning rigorous physical exercises in the traditional Akhada or Jaga Gharas of Puri. He even learnt wrestling and indigenous military feats and skills. Although in the childhood he was very weak and lean, through these physical attainments he obtained a very well-built and muscular body.

Afterwards, he taught wrestling and military exercises to the Youth of Puri. He used to teach various indigenous defence and offence - mechanisms to the young people in many Jagagharas or training centres of physical exercises. He was regarded as a master wrestler of the time.

When he was only 12 years old, he was married to a beautiful girl named Sundarmani. He often accompanied his father in his sojourn to various areas in the northern India. In fact, he was thus exposed and oriented towards their traditional profession of guiding visitors to Puri and other places of pilgrimage in Orissa.

Chakhi Khuntia happened to be the family priest or religious guide (called Panda) of Meropanth, the father of Manubai who was renamed as Laxmibai after her marriage to Gangadhar Rao, the King of Jhansi. Chakhi maintained relations with Laxmibai even after her marriage and used to pay visits to the royal family at the time of religious trips.

During that period, the Missionaries with the support of the British rulers were preaching Christianity through various means. Even they were bitterly criticising the Gods of Hindus and deprecating idolatry and other religious practices. Chakhi Khuntia with others strongly opposed such denigration.

Gangadhar Rao, the King of Jhansi died untimely. Laxmibai had also lost her only son earlier. The British people prohibited her from adopting a son to inherit the throne of Jhansi. Subsequently, the British rulers took away all the powers to themselves and Laxmibai was left powerless. But she revolted against the British rule. She sought the assistance of Chakhi Khuntia and Khuntia extended all possible help to her.

Chakhi Khuntia played a very crucial role by fomenting resentment among the Indian soldiers called "Sepoys" and organised a mutiny which subsequently took a very violent shape.

Khuntia was well-known as the Panda of Sepoys or Hajuri Panda (religious guide of Indian soldiers). On account of his involvement in this first freedom struggle, Chakhi Khuntia was arrested many times and kept behind the bars.

The Magistrate of Puri wrote a letter dated March, 1858 to the Commissioner of Cuttack, "I have received a good though not official information that a Pandah of the town by name Chakhi Khuntiya, Wellknown as the Sepoy Pandah, has been executed up-country...."

The British suppressed this national revolt against the foreign rule with an iron hand and murdered a lot of Indian heroes in the encounters. Many were executed without trial and many more were imprisoned. An atmosphere of terror and massacre prevailed in many places of the northern India.

Whether Chakhi Khuntia was killed or not, his entire property was attached by the British Government. A letter dated 21st April, 1858 written by the Magistrate of Puri to the Commissioner of Circuit Cuttack said "I have the honour to request your sanction to dispose of a cow and calf which are attached among the attached property of Chakhi Khuntia alias Chandan Hazoorie Panda as the expense of their keep will swallow up their values." Subsequently, the cow and calf were disposed after approval of the Commissioner.

The Magistrate of Puri wrote to the Commissioner on 14th July, 1858, "I have just received information that a registered letter has been despatched by Chaki Khuntia alias Huzoorie Pandia from Gya (Gaya) to his brother Kissen Khuntiya here as this individual was in Lucknow notoriously aiding abetting the Rebels and mutineers.

I would suggest that information be sent by "Telegraph" for his apprehension-post would be useless as by this time no doubt information has been given him to make himself scarce."

Conveying great anxiety of the Magistrate the letter added, "I have directed the post master to detain the Regd letter pending your instruction. Perhaps it would be as well to send for the address and in his presence open and assure ourselves that the master there was not treasonable." Since the writer of the letter Chakhi Khuntia was taken as "a suspected rebel" the Commissioner directed the Post Master to hand over the letter in question to the Magistrate of Puri. As "nothing treasonable" was found in the same, it was delivered to Krishna (Kissen) Khuntia, brother of Chakhi.

The Commissioner made further investigations about Chakhi Khuntia and sent a letter dated 15th July, 1858 to the Magistrate of Gaya: "I have the honour to annex for your information copy of a letter No.182 14th instant from officiating Magistrate & Collector, Pooree regarding the ruffian's presence in Gya of one Chaki Khuntia alias Hazoorie Pandah, a rebel; he was the sepoy's Pandah at Pooree and is reported to have been engaged against Government at Lucknow." It was suggested that the so-called rebel should be "arrested, examined and dealt with as may appear necessary."

The Magistrate of Gaya actually arrested the "Pandah" and examined him and his movements during the past year (1857). He further examined two other men who were with him and took statements of all three and also seized papers found in the house of Chakhi Khuntia. The papers were found to be small sale deeds given by the inhabitants of Lucknow. The

enquiry, on the whole, could not prove the charge of rebellion but suspicion about his conduct was still there.

The Magistrate of Gaya in a subsequent letter to his counterpart at Puri concluded, "No proof here exists against the man. Kindly let me know what you wish to do with him and what you can prove against him. His account of himself is not satisfactory. He left Allahabad he says in Bysak or Jyesth last year and Ajudhya in Bysak this year, having been there a month. During the intervening eleven months, he does not say where he was, except at Mathura, where he does not pretend to have been so long a time."

Chakhi Khuntia was released from the prison by the order of the Commissioner but he was not allowed to enter his native place. He, however, defied the British Government order and arrived at Puri. The Magistrate of Puri reported this matter to the Commissioner on 10th November, 1858, "Chakhi Khuntiya has returned to the district and is now in safe custody." At that time, Queen Victoria proclaimed amnesty to the rebels and Chakhi Khuntia was released soon.

The Commissioner instructed the Magistrate of Puri to inform Chakhi Khuntia that "to the royal clemency only does he owe the staying of further proceedings against him as previously intended." The sale-proceeds of his property were however refunded to Chakhi Khuntia and his conduct was watched carefully for a long time.

Chakhi Khuntia spent the last part of his life at Puri. He was not allowed to go anywhere else. He devoted himself to the literary pursuits and religious rites relating to Lord Jagannath. He has composed a lot of poems, most of which are devotional songs.

Some of his songs express his great displeasure and deep indignation at the inhuman and suppressive measures of the British Government. Many of his writings are still unknown and might have been lost or damaged in the meantime. It is said that one of his palm-leaf manuscripts is entitled "Manubai" original name of Laxmibai, queen of Jhansi.

He breathed his last in 1870 at Puri. It is a great pride for us that an Oriya son of the 19th century was not only inspired by the heroic deeds of a host of Indians, but also he himself inspired a large number of soldiers with profound patriotic fervour who sacrificed their lives fearlessly at the holy altar of the Mother India. He will be ever remembered by us as an immortal poet, a national hero, a great patriot and renowned devotee of Lord Jagannath.

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FIVE YEAR PLANS-RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION-WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ORISSA

The roots of planning in India can be traced back to the beginning of the thirties of the 20th century. The following historical facts made the necessity of planned economic development in an underdeveloped country like India, more urgent.

(1) Phenomenal success of planning in Soviet Union

(ii) Depression of 1929 which made clear the consequences of unplanned growth.

(iii) The new deal in the U.S.A.

(iv) The 4-year plans in Nazi Germany

2. In 1934 Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the renowned Engineer-statesman published a book called "Planned Economy for India" in which he formulated a 10-year plan for the economic development of the country. In 1938 it was decided in a conference of Ministers of Industries of various provinces to draw up a comprehensive scheme of National Planning and for that a National Planning Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Prof. K.P. Shah was its Secretary.

3. The Post-war Reconstruction Committee was appointed in June 1941 to prepare a plan for post-war reconstruction under the Chairmanship of Sri Ramaswamy Mudaliar. In 1943 some eminent industrialists

prepared a document called "Plan of Economic Development for India" popularly known as "Bombay Plan". In the report of the Post-war Reconstruction Committee, the Government explained the measures that they were planning to adopt for India's economic development. Shri M.N. Ray, the eminent leftist leader, published a 10-year plan known as "People's Plan" which gave more emphasis to agricultural and consumer goods. Mahatma Gandhi published Gandhian Plan which laid emphasis on self-sufficiency of every village as a Unit.

5. When the National Government came to power on 15th August 1947, in the Industrial Policy statement of April 1948, Govt. of India outlined the future pattern of development, and gave a promise for appointment of a National Planning Commission and it was ultimately set up in March 1950.

Objectives of Indian Planning

6. The planners have set out four objectives for Indian planning, they are:

- (1) Increase of production to the maximum possible extent so as to achieve highest level of national and per capita income,
- (ii) achieve full employment
- (iii) reduce inequalities of income
- (iv) provide social justice.

7. The basic aim of economic planning in India is to bring about rapid economic development and development of agriculture, industries power, transport and communication and all other factors of economy for raising the national and per capita income. The second basic aim is the reduction of inequalities in income and creation of conditions in which every one will have equal opportunities in the matter of education and employment and there will be no exploitation of one man by another.

8. The objectives and strategies of democratic socialism have been built into the methodology of planning in India. They are the following:

- (i) Removal of poverty through a continuous high level of production
- (ii) Reduction of inequalities of income and wealth
- (iii) A large scale programme of rural works for generation of employment during slack seasons to provide work to the rural folk.
- (iv) A system of mixed economy with emphasis on public sector to subserve the social needs such as checking concentration of economic power and checking growth of monopolistic tendencies
- (v) Not private profiteering but social gain should be the basic criterion of economic decisions

9. It is with these broad objectives and strategy that the 5-year plans were embarked upon. The principles imposed and achievements made in different 5-year plans are detailed below in brief:

1st 5 Year Plan

- (i) Post war and post-partition rehabilitation of the economy.
- (ii) Solving the food crisis and easing raw material position particularly in jute and cotton.
- (iii) Checking inflationary tendencies
- (iv) Building economic overheads such as roads, railways, irrigation and hydro-electric works.
- (v) To build up administrative and other organisational needs for carrying out the programme of development in India.

10. The Planners had rightly argued that without substantial increase in the production of food and raw materials needed for industry, it would be impossible to sustain a higher tempo of industrial development. The achievements of the first plan are summarised below :

- (i) National income rose by about 18% and per capita income rose by 11%
- (ii) Rate of investment improved from about 5% in 1950-51 to about 7.3 in 1955-56.
- (iii) Over 40 % of the total outlay was for agriculture for which the crop production increased to 20 %

(iv) The annual growth in industries was about 10 %

(v) On the rural development front, the introduction of community development projects throughout the country with the objective of increasing agricultural production and raising the standard of living of people is an important achievement. Village Panchayats and Cooperatives were created on large scale so that people could have a sense of participation in the plan programme.

(vi) Reform of tenancy, legislation for protecting the rights of tenants was another step towards securing social justice to millions of cultivators.

The Plan was a real success in its aims, as shortage in economy were removed and the general price level came down to 13% by end of the 1st plan.

2nd Five Year Plan

11. The second plan was conceived in an atmosphere of economic stability. When agricultural targets had been achieved, the price level had registered a fall and the announcement of industrial policy in 1956 accepted the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society as the goal of the economic policy. The objectives of the 2nd plan were as follows :

- (i) to secure an increase in National income by about 25 % over the 5 years
- (ii) To enlarge employment opportunities at a rate

sufficient to absorb the increase in the labour force consequent on increase in population,

(iii) Rapid industrialisation with particular emphasis on development of basic and heavy industries

(iv) Development of labour intensive industries and decentralisation of industrial structure by developing cottage and small industries.

(v) Reduction of inequalities of income and wealth and more even distribution of economic power.

Agriculture was accorded a lower share and only 20 % of the total outlay was spent on agricultural irrigation. Transport and communication received the same proportion of total outlay in both the plan periods.

12. Achievements of 2nd plan

- (i) National income increased to 19.5 % as against target of 25% and as against the achievement in the 1st plan of 18%
- (ii) Per capita income increased by 8 % as against the 1st plan figure of 11 %.
- (iii) There was a set back in agricultural production and prices of foodgrains rose all over the country and food import became obligatory. The increase of 10.3% in population during the second plan period and the Suez crisis were responsible for some of the failures of the 2nd plan.

Third Five Year Plan

13. It became necessary that agriculture should be assigned again a top priority since by the end of 2nd plan it was felt that the economy had entered the take-off stage. The third plan had its goal to establish a self-reliant and self-generating economy. The objective of the 3rd plan in brief were as follows :

- (i) to secure an increase in the National Income of over 5 % per annum
- (ii) to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains and increase in agricultural production, to meet the requirement of industries and exports.
- (iii) to expand basic industries and establishment of machine building capacity,
- (iv) to ensure a substantial expansion in employment opportunities,
and
- (v) to establish greater quality of opportunities and bring about reduction in disparities in income and wealth,

14. In the 3rd Plan period 36 % of the outlay was allotted to agriculture, irrigation and power, transport and communication using relatively a small share i.e. 20 % as against 28 % in the 2nd plan. The relevant share of industries and minerals continued to be 20 % as in the 2nd plan.

Achievement of 3rd Plan

15. The Chinese invasion of India in 1962 and the hostilities with Pakistan in 1965 very badly affected the course of development during the 3rd plan period. More-

over 1965-66 was an exceptionally bad weather year.

(i) Food production during the 3rd plan increased at an annual average rate of 2% which is much below the targetted rate of 5.4 % per annum. Industrial production rate grew at an annual average rate of 5.7 % against the targetted rate of 14 % per annum.

(ii) As against the additional employment created of 14.5 million the labour force increased during the 3rd plan by 17 millions and the back log of unemployment at the beginning of the 4th plan was about 10 million. Taking into account the unemployment figures at the end of 2nd plan which estimated at about 7 million.

(iii) The rise of prices more especially of food and essential consumer goods, was another disquieting feature. The prices of foodgrains and other food articles rose by 48.4 %.

Annual Plans

16. From 1966-67 to 1968-69, for a period of 3 years, there were 3 Annual Plans mainly to meet the twin requirement of defence and development. It was considered imperative to reframe the 4th Plan which was to be introduced in April 66. Of these 3 years, the year 66-67 was the year of severe drought but the process of recovery set in 67-68 and continued during 1968-69. The National income rose by 8.9% in 67-68 and the evidence of improvement

could be found in a return to stability in prices and improvement in the balance payment position.

17. 4th 5 Year Plan 1969-74

The objectives in brief are as follows :

- (i) 5.5 % of annual growth in National income by raising agricultural production, more especially the food production,
- (ii) To bring about economic stability by stabilising foodgrain production and price level in general by attaining self-reliance.
- (iii) Since fiscal measures were inadequate for bringing about reduction in inequalities of income it was intended to attain this social objective by a greater defusion of enterprises and the ownership of means production of by widening the opportunities of work and employment available to the common man and particularly the less privileged sections of the society.
- (iv) To create more employment opportunities in rural and urban sectors so as to absorb the entire labour force which would be achieved by taking up labour intensive schemes such as minor irrigation, soil conservation, special area development programme and providing low cost houses to the poorer sections.
- (v) Increase in efficiency and profitability of public enterprise.

18. It was in the 4th plan that for the first time specific target group programmes such as the Small and Marginal Farmers Development Agencies, Area Development Programmes such as the Drought Prone Area Programme and Tribal Development Programmes got started. Moreover by the programme of Housing Schemes, a direct attack on poverty of the target group got started. Therefore, even though poverty alleviation was not specifically mentioned in the objectives of the 4th 5 year Plan, the programmes and the strategy vlearly brought out the necessity for achieving social justice and equality for the less privileged sections of the Society.

19. The achievements of the 4th 5 year plan can be summed up as follows :

- (i) The rate of growth of National income was on an average of 3.3 % as against the target of 5.5 %. The growth of per capita income was only 1.2 % per annum as against the 2nd plan achievement of 8 % and 1st Plan achievement of 11 %.
- (ii) Growth of agricultural production was only 2.8 % per year as against the target of 5 % per annum.
- (iii) Monsoon failed continuously in 71-72 and 73-74 in different parts of the country and the output of foodgrains also declined to one of the lowest. As against the target of growth of 8 % per annum for industrial production, the actual achievement was only 3.9 % per annum.

5th 5 year plan - 1974-79

20. The refugee problem from East Pakistan and the war of 1971 distributed the forecast of economic development substantially during the 4th plan and as a result of the disappointing progress of the 4th Plan the problem of rural employment became acute. Therefore, the draft of the 5th 5 year plan mentioned at the very outset that removal of poverty and attainment of self-reliance are the two major objectives that the country set out to accomplish. The main objectives are as follows :

- (i) 5.5 % overall growth rate of gross domestic products
- (ii) National programme for Minimum Needs covering elementary education, drinking water, medical care in rural areas, nutrition, house-sites for landless labourers, rural roads, rural electrification and slum improvement and clearance
- (iii) Emphasis on agricultural activities, key and basic industries producing goods for mass consumption
- (iv) Adequate public procurement and distribution system for assured supply of essential consumption goods at least to poorer sections at reasonably stable prices.

The Fifth 5 year plan was terminated in the year 1978 by the Janata Party which came to power.

21. Achievements of Fifth Plan

- (i) The annual average rate of growth worked out

to 3.9 % as against a target of 5.5 %.

(ii) The revised 5th plan targets were achieved only for foodgrains and cotton cloth.

(iii) There was growth rate of only 2.25 % in foodgrains and 2% in cereals.

On the whole the success of the 5-year plan inspite of the much acclaimed achievements during the emergency, was minimal. There was again a rise in the general price level by 33.5 % and a rise in the consumer prices of foodgrains by 33.2 % during this period. This proved that the real income of the poor did not show an increase and there was no decline in unemployment.

Rolling Plan

22. The 5th Five Year Plan was terminated on completion of 4 years. The Planning Commission started a rolling plan for 78-83. and the revised draft 5 year plan was presented as Draft 6th 5 year plan 78-83. With the fall of Janata Government and its replacement by Congress (I) Government in January 80, the new Government decided to terminate the 6th plan of the Janata Government and formulated the new 6th Plan for the period 80-85. Thus between the 5th Plan and the 6th Plan there were two years 78-79 and 79-80 which could be called the Rolling Plan period. It is in these two years that in 78-79 an important programme called I.R.D.P. was introduced in selected Blocks, which is now the major anti-poverty programme during the current plan period and is likely to continue in the 8th Plan as well. Food for works programme was started in 1977-78 which later became NREP in 80-81.

24. When compared to the objectives of all the earlier Plans, it can be seen that the task of removing poverty particularly in rural areas features in the set up of objectives at 6 places out of 10 in the Plan document whereas in the earlier 5 year Plans the objectives never mentioned anything significant about poverty eradication or removal of regional inequalities, at least upto the 4th Plan. It has been now realised that the growth by itself is not sufficient and other programmes and policies will need to be compared with the specific aim of improving the living conditions of the masses to bring about reduction of inequalities of income and wealth. Again for the first time peoples' participation and involvement in the process of development has been recognised as one of the main objectives of the 6th 5-Year Plan.

25. The 6th Plan had set an aggregate growth rate of 5.2% and this object has been achieved. Information on the incidence of poverty as available from the surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation established that the percentage of rural population below the poverty line which was 51.2% in 1977-78 had gone down to 40.4% in 1983-84. The main reasons for this trend are the higher rate of economic growth and increase in agricultural production supplemented by massive expansion of the IRD Programme, which was expanded to cover all development blocks in the country and also providing employment in rural works through the NREP and RLEGP. The objectives of social justice are also served by the Minimum Needs Programmes which aims at improvement in living conditions of the poor and their access to education and health. There is evidence to suggest that the process of economic growth and the anti-

23. (i) Removal of poverty became the foremost objective of the 6th Plan even though it was recognised that given the magnitude of the task, it could not be accomplished in a short period of 5 years.

(ii) A significant step up in the rate of growth of economy and improving the productivity

(iii) A progressive reduction in the incidence of poverty and unemployment

(iv) Improving the quality of life of the people in general with special reference to economically and socially handicapped population through the Minimum Needs Programme whose coverage was designed as to ensure that all parts of the country attain within a prescribed period, a nationally accepted standard.

(v) Strengthening the distributive bias of public policies and services in favour of the poor. contributing to a reduction in inequalities of income and wealth.

(vi) A progressive reduction in regional inequalities in the pace of development and in the diffusion of technological benefits

(vii) Promoting active involvement of all sections of people through appropriate education, communication and institutional strategies.

poverty programmes have made a significant dent in the problem of poverty. At present the NREP, the IRD Programme and the RLEGP constitute the major elements of the anti-poverty programme. It is, however, necessary to emphasise that the anti-poverty programmes cannot by themselves be expected to remove poverty on a sustained basis.

26. The resource and capabilities needed for running such programmes cannot be generated in the system unless the economy itself is buoyant and there is a sustained increase in the national income. The demand for goods and services produced by the poorer household enterprises rises significantly in response to the overall increase in income in the country so that the viability of the household enterprises depend critically on the sustained increase in national income.

7th 5 Year Plan and Poverty Alleviation

27. To sum up, the short-comings brought out by the evaluation studies in IRDP are that -

- (i) The financial allocation and physical targets under the programme were determined on an uniform basis per block without regard to incidence of poverty,
- (ii) There was wrong selection of beneficiaries for pecuniary gains or under political pressure.
- (iii) There were complaints of out-right leakages and corruption.
- (iv) There was non-involvement and lack of awareness amongst the beneficiaries.

- (v) There was compression of repayment schedules and also insufficient investment in terms of project cost .
- (vi) There was concentration on particular activities without provision of adequate forward linkages.
- (vii) Inadequacy of banking infrastructure gave rise to nonsupervision and after care and support from Banks lack of proper follow up and after-care support from blocks was also another factor.
- (viii) Absence of cluster or group approach which led to wastages of money and manpower.

28. Under NREP,

- (i) the weaknesses marked under 6th Plan are their growing propensity to take up all kinds of building work under local pulls and pressures,
- (ii) Growing of nurseries and distribution of saplings to all and sundry without adherence to the objectives of social forestry programme.
- (iii) Improper planning in utilisation of 10% of the outlay earmarked for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.
- (iv) Construction of roads without any priority such as continuing to M.N.P. norms.

29. In the 7th Plan the measures proposed for overcoming these inadequacies are as follows :

further in the 7th Plan and coverage of at least 30% women beneficiaries will continue to be pursued.

- (i) There will be adequate strengthening of development bureaucracy at the grass root level for detailed household surveys with maximum involvement of local community by organising beneficiaries into groups.
- (ii) There will be emphasis on group approach and cluster approach and adoption of total household approach in providing multiple assets .
- (iii) There will be maximisation of integration of all benefits of the ongoing programmes for the target group .
- (iv) Concrete steps will be taken to step up activities in industries and service sectors giving a low priority to milch animal and petty business schemes.
- (v) There will be preparation of infrastructure sub-plan as an integral part of the sub-sectoral Dist.Plan,
- (vi) The training of youths in TRYSEM will be expanded and TRYSEM infrastructure will be strengthened. which would be funded separately,
- (vii) The new scheme would develop Composite Rural Training and Technology Centre in each district as nodal institution,
- (viii) There will be higher involvement of CAPART in the IRD Programme
- (ix) The programme of DWCRA will be strengthened

30. It has also been decided that IRDP, NREP and RLEGP will have to be viewed as an integral part of total package which would imply that an effort would have been made to monitor the wage employment opportunities accruing from this programme to members of the target group including those identified for assistance under IRDP.

31. The central element in the development strategy of the 7th Plan is thus (i) generation of productive employment which would be achieved through

(a) increase in cropping intensity made possible by increase in viability of irrigation facilities,

(b) expansion of new agricultural technology to low productivity regions and to small farmers through measures to make the rural development programmes more effective,

(c) creation of productive assets through expansion of labour intensive construction activities for providing housing, urban amenities, roads and rural infrastructure through expansion of primary education and basic health facilities and through

(d) changes in the pattern of industrial growth.

32. In the context of Orissa which presents a somewhat bewildering picture of poverty amongst plenty, the following factors need to be noted, for any long term planning for poverty alleviation:

(i) The State has rich soil endowments for agricultural purposes and as

much as 40% of the total geographical area is available for cultivation. Not the whole of it utilised for various reasons.

- (ii) The identified irrigation potential of the State is 59 lakh hectares comprising of 36 lakh hectares under medium and major irrigation projects and 23 lakh hectare under M.I. Projects. The exploitation of this potential is not adequate.
- (iii) Orissa's percapita income in prices level of 1984-85 is Rs.1534/- as against the national average of Rs.2344/-. The national average is almost 50% higher than the state average.
- (iv) The length of surface roads per 100 Sq.K.Ms. in Orissa is 10.6 K.Ms. as against the national average 21.1 K.Ms. Hence the national average is almost the double of the state average.
- (v) Orissa has 12.7 K.Ms. of railway track for every 1000 M.M. area, the national average being 18.6 K.Ms., which is 50% more.
- (vi) Contribution of agriculture to net domestic products in Orissa is roughly 62 to 63% when compared to the National average of 39.5%. The heavy dependence of the state on agriculture is borne out by this indicator clearly.
- (vii) Out of the total working population of Orissa

as high as 80.4% depend on agriculture against the national average of 72.5%. All development strategies should take care of this aspect.

- (viii) Small and Marginal farmers taken together, who constitute 74% of the total cultivators, operate only 38% of the total cultivated area.
- (ix) This means that the strategy on agriculture has got to be such that the productivity increases both in small and marginal holdings and the bigger farmers are also not neglected. To presume that bigger farmers are able to take care of their credit and other needs all by themselves is also wrong. "A big farmer" is not necessarily a rich farmer in our state. Within a period of 10 years from 71-81 about 2% of the firm households have left agriculture and presumably joined the class of landless agricultural household. This means that there is as urgent need to make agriculture a more attractive occupation.

33. There is wide gap between irrigation potential created and actual irrigation supplied. By end of 6th Plan irrigation potential created covered 27% of the net sown area whereas the national average was 47.62% of the net sown area. Even in normal rainfall areas the actual irrigation falls short of the potential created due to lack of onfarm development work for which water does not reach many plots and is wasted

in a few others. The potential created through lift irrigation is severely constrained by power shortage, erratic supply of power, theft of transmitter and conductor wires, and non-availability of timely repair facilities in remote areas.

34. With these basic features, integration of programmes like IRDP, ERRP, SMFP, NREP, and RLEGP should have two goals in common i.e.

- (i) increasing irrigation potential along with maximisation of utilisation of the potential created and
- (ii) improving the communication net work. All other objectives and goals

should take a back bench. Unless and until we at least reach the national average in the above two respects, target chasing in coverage of beneficiaries in IRDP, ERRP, expenditure in NREP, RLEGP generation of mandays etc. would not take up anywhere to eradication of poverty from the rural areas. Even after the working of all 5-year Plans and these antipoverty programmes, Orissa would continue to lag behind the developed States.

Shri Ajit Kumar Tripathy, IAS
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MAHARAJA PURNA CHANDRA BHANJ OF MAYURBHANJ

In the crowded columns of the history of the Feudatory States of Orissa, Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj of Mayurbhanj occupies a lofty position as a ruler par excellence. An enlightened and benevolent administrator he was a many splendoured genius. His eight years of rule (1920-1928) forms a landmark in the history of the Mayurbhanj State.

Born in 1899 Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj, being the eldest son, succeeded his father Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj after his death on the 22nd February 1912. But he did not assume power as he was then a minor, hardly a boy of thirteen. So the State was brought under the Court of Wards. After attaining majority Purna Chandra was formally installed on the throne on the 13th November, 1920 at the age of 21, although the administration of the State was made over to him by the Government on the 9th August, 1920 in a Durbar.

Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj proved to be the worthy son of an illustrious father by following his footprints. Inheriting many qualities of head and heart of his father he became a generous ruler whose progressive outlook was reflected in almost all branches of administration of the State. Although he ruled hardly for eight years, his regime witnessed many-fold developments.

Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj realised the necessity of improving the water supply of the town. So, soon after the assumption of power he granted two lakhs of rupees, the interest of which amounting to Rupees 10,000 was to be utilised annually for the improvement of protected water supply in Baripada town.

Simultaneously he made elaborate arrangements for the electrification of the town. It was the first arrangement of its kind. However it was completed in the year 1928. As many as 174 street lights were provided entirely at the cost of the State Government. He was also keen to introduce the tele-communication system in his state. So at his instance during the decade 1921 to 1931 the construction of semi-automatic telephone line of 120 miles connecting the important places with Baripada was completed.

The Maharaja with his enlightened outlook felt the necessity of improving the communication facilities of his state. With this end in view he extended the Rupsa-Baripada Railway line which was opened in 1905. He extended it from Baripada to Talbandh, a distance of 38.69 miles through narrow gauge (2'-6"). This extension was sanctioned by the Government of India under Notification No.261, dated 14th September, 1915. In this year a company named Mayurbhanj Railway Company was formed to take over the existing Railway from Rupsa to Baripada and subsequently the new extension from Baripada to Talbandh. Messers Hoar Miller and company of Calcutta were the managing agents of the company. Furthermore the Maharaja was also responsible for the extension of Tatanagar Gorumahisani broad gauge line from Anlajori to Badampahar. It was opened to traffic in 1922. The Maharaja was equally interested in the development of roads. Of course it was during the Court of Wards that the Public Works Department created earlier was placed under the control of the Agency Engineer of Orissa Feudatory States. The Maharaja brought about further development in the Department. He used to sanction finance from year to year for the construction of inter-state roads. A part of this sum was given to Nilgiri State towards the share of building inter-state roads. In 1920 he purchased a Ford car for inspection of roads and other public works. Similarly in 1922 seven plat boats were constructed and supplied to seven river ghats for ferrying the Motor cars. Despite all these measures the Maharaja was not satisfied with the progress of the work. So in 1924-25 a new public works Department subdivision was created. Five such Subdivisions came into being. He made redistribution of jurisdiction among the old and

new subdivisions. Furthermore, it is known from the Administrative reports during the rule of the Maharaja that every year financial allocations were made for the improvement of existing and construction of new roads. All those measures eloquently testify that Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj was immensely interested in the works of public utility.

It was for the benefit of the common people that Maharaja undertook a few other humanitarian measures. He raised a permanent fund by his own donation of Rs.200,000. Its interest at the rate of 5 percent amounting to Rs.10,000 was separately kept to be utilised for digging tanks, wells and constructing of Bunds throughout the State. Again it was with his personal initiative that Haldia Irrigation Project was completed in 1921. It was a dam constructed across the river Chepot with 13 distributaries. Furthermore the daily market which was opened in 1910 in Baripada town was further extended in 1920-21 with the increase of stalls from 60 to 66 and from 66 to 76 in 1925. Some permanent shops were also constructed at the State's cost. The pucca drains were also constructed in 1924 at a cost of Rs.3,104. In 1924 the ruined temples of Khiching were renovated. In 1921 the medical building at Bahlada was completed. The Maharaja also took steps to increase the percentage of literates in his state. In 1921 and 1931 the number of literates rose to 21,047 and 27,983 respectively by his efforts which was 15,775 in 1911. The first Upper Primary School for girls was started in Baripada at the initiative of the Maharaja. He also awarded a scholarship of Rupees 50 a month to the residents of Mayurbhanj for technical education. For this purpose a scholarship fund was instituted named after him. For imparting

technical education to the students of his State he laid the foundation of an Industrial School at Baripada. After his death it was opened on the 16th July, 1931. The Dowager Maharani Saheba donated a sum of one lakh of rupees for its maintenance. It was dedicated to the memory of Purna Chandra Bhanj. Another remarkable contribution of the Maharaja to the cultural domain was the organisation of Khiching Museum in 1922 and the establishment of Baripada Museum in 1923. He did it for the study and preservation of ancient arts and monuments of Mayurbhanj State. For the proper organisation of the Museum, invited to his State R.P.Chand, the Superintendent of the Archaeological section of the Indian museum. A native of Baripada Paramananda Acharya was engaged to assist him in the matter. Both of them were also sent by the Maharaja to London at the State cost to consult the records in India House Library. They also got a few records printed. Thereby he rendered a great service to the future researchers.

Maharaja was also a great sympathiser of the poor and the distressed. In 1927 the highest flood recorded in the history of Mayurbhanj took place in the wake of 7 inches of rainfall on the 29th July. It caused terrible devastation to the crops and properties in the villages. The Maharaja was known to have adopted all possible measures for relieving the distress of the affected people.

Lastly two other measures of Maharaja have glorified him as a ruler of outstanding ability. Those were the introduction of election in the Baripada Municipality and the establishment of Judicial Committee as the highest court of appeal. A democrat in his outlook, the Maharaja introduced a new constitution on the 27th December 1922. It provided an election system

in the Municipal body which was constituted on the 1st July 1905 under the Mayurbhanj State Regulation Act of that year. Under the new constitution, the Maharaja introduced the Municipal body which was to consist of 8 elected and 3 nominated Commissioners besides one Chairman to be appointed by the Chief. Their term was to expire after 3 years and fresh election was to be held. Thus the Maharaja for the first time paved the way for the democratisation of the public bodies. Similarly he brought about some salutary innovations in Judicial and executive set up of the State. He constituted a Judicial Committee with the ruling chief and the Dewan or any other member of the State Council whom the Chief would nominate. It would hear appeals against the order of all courts. Thus it was made the highest appellate Court. Similarly the State Judge held the overall judicial powers of the administration under him remained all Magistrates, Munsifs, Subjudges and Subdivisional officers in the capacity as Deputy Magistrates. The Maharaja also brought about a spectacular progress in the Police administration of the State.

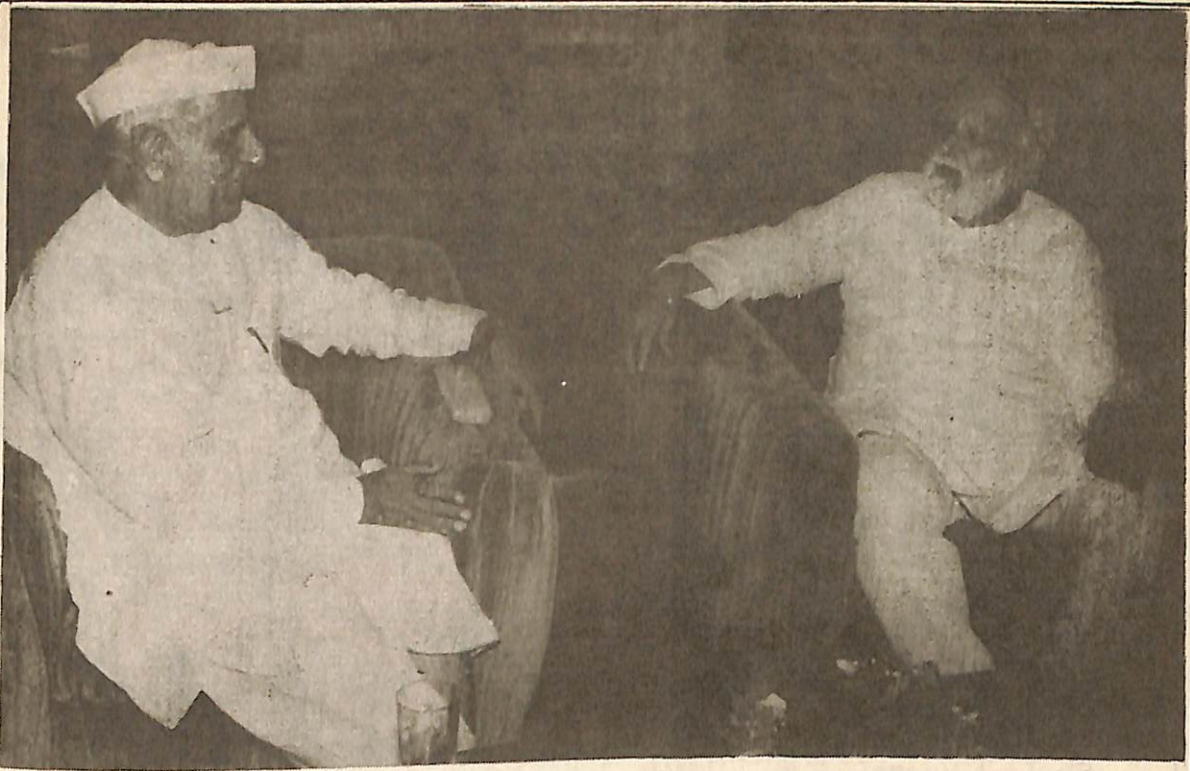
Thus all those measures of Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanj bear eloquent testimony to the fact that he was a benevolent ruler. He would have contributed still more in giving his State a splendid look had he been spared by death for some more years. It was most unfortunate that he died on the 21st April, 1928 at the green young age of 29. He was then at Bombay to attend a conference of the Princes in connection with the Butler Committee. He being childless was succeeded by his younger brother Pratap Chandra Bhanj. Purna Chandra

had acquired so much of popularity that after his death some of the institutions were named after him. One such institution was the first college established at Baripada in 1948-49. Similarly the new chief Pratap Chandra, to perpetuate the memory of his brother, donated Rs.8000/ to Gopal Chandra Prahraj

to publish the lexicon of oriya language which was named as the Purna Chandra Bhasa Kosha.

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Vanivihar.





Shri Shyam Lal Yadav, Union Minister of State for Agriculture called on Shri B.N.Pande, Governor of Orissa at Rajbhavan on May 19, 1988.



Shri J.Vengal Rao, Union Industries Minister and Shri J.B.Patnaik, Chief Minister, Orissa, met in the office of the Chief Minister on 14.5.88.



Shri J.Vengal Rao, Union Industries Minister went round the Sootri Plastic Industries after its inauguration at the Industrial Estate of Bhubaneswar on May 14, 1988.



A dance recital programme was presented by Kumari Nilakshi at Sochana Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on May 10, 1988. The programme was organised by Pragati- a leading cultural organisation at Bhubaneswar. Shri B.N.pande, Hon'ble Governor of Orissa attended the function as Chief Guest. Sri Bhupinder Singh, Minister of State for Information & Public Relations and Irrigation and Sri Sarat Rout, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism attended as guests of honour.



Shri J.Vengal Rao, Union Minister of Industries addressing representatives of Industries Association at Hotel Swosti, Bhubaneswar on May 15, 1988. Sri Niranjan Patnaik, Minister, Industries and Shri Sudhansu Bhusan Misra, Commissioner & Secretary, Industries were also present.



Shri H.L.Agrawal, Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court inaugurated the Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Madanpur-Rampur in Kalahandi district on May 10, 1988. Shri Bhupinder Singh, Minister of State for Information & Public Relations and Irrigation attended as the Chief Guest.



Shri Bhupinder Singh, Minister of State for Information & Public Relations and Irrigation distributing prizes on the occasion of the 2nd Orissa State Chess Championship of the deaf held at State Municipal Guest House, Bhubaneswar on May 15, 1988.



Sri Rashbihari Behera, Minister, Agriculture and Co-operation addressing the State Level Farmers' Convention at Bhubaneswar on 7th May 1988. Also seen in the picture are Sri Bhupinder Singh, Minister of State Information & Public Relations and Irrigation and Sri Nalinikanta Panda, IAS Chief Secretary, Orissa.

TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS ORISSA: EIGHT YEARS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & SOCIAL PROGRESS

Orissa accounts for 4.7% of the area of the country and 3.85% of the country's total population. The total population of the state according to 1981 Census is about 2.64 lakhs and it is estimated that by the end of this century this would rise to 3.48 lakhs.

Since 1980, the government of Orissa has been dedicated to achieving its prime objectives of building a prosperous Orissa and carving out for the people of the state a path of higher economic growth and social progress. A series of growth-oriented policies combined with stability, firm direction and determination, have contributed stupendously towards the amelioration of rural poverty, generation of employment opportunities, rise in industrial and agricultural production and an all-around socio economic growth.

The eighties have indeed been a period of great socio economic resurgence. Despite losses due to natural calamities, Orissa's economy has shown spectacular growth. The Compound Growth Rate of the state income which was 2.8% in the 1st Plan, 4.1% in the 2nd Plan, 4.5% in the 3rd Plan, 4.1% in the 4th Plan, and 2.9% in the 5th Plan rose to 5.6% in the 6th Plan (1980-85). This is higher than the national growth rate of 5.3%. It is also an all-time record for the state.

Viewed in the context of the pre-6th Plan situation (1979-80), increase in the state per capita income is significant. The step-up in 1985-86 was about 27.8% compared to 20% at the national level. Even at current prices the increase in

the state and the national per capita income worked out to 127.5% and 95% respectively.



AGRICULTURE

In Orissa, agriculture provides employment to about 74.7% of the work force and contributes nearly 60% to the state income.

Orissa has made significant strides in agricultural development. Despite adverse natural conditions, the foodgrains production which was less than 39 lakh MTs. during 1979-80 increased to 70.01 MTs in 1983-84. The production of foodgrains in 1985-86 was 69.72 lakh MTs, marking a step up of 24.34% over 1984-85.

The total increase in production of foodgrains in the state from 1978-79 to 1986-87 was of the order of 21.46% and in oilseeds, the increase was 84.77%.

The Special Rice Production Programme, National Oilseeds Development Project, National Pulses Development Programme and Soyabean Development Project are some of the major schemes which have accelerated the production of foodgrains in the state.

Co-operatives have played a major role in reaching out agricultural in-puts to the cultivators. More than 90% of the agricultural families of the state have been

covered by the cooperatives. Soil conservation measures like tree plantation, gully control and farm ponds have been implemented on a massive scale and this year the state has taken up the centrally sponsored National Watershed Development Project. Improved agricultural implements are distributed among small and marginal farmers at highly subsidised rates. A comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented in the state. Orissa is the first state in the country in implementing the Crop Insurance Scheme at the Panchayat level. About 1.20 lakh farmers who have been badly affected by drought would be benefitted by this scheme.

Special incentives are provided for the cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, coffee and rubber. Agricultural development programmes like, HYV expansion, minikit distribution popularisation of non traditional crop, dryland farming etc have also been given high priority.

The state has achieved a new record in the production of rice. While in 1980-81 production of rice was 10.26 quintals per hectare, during 1980-85 this has increased to 12.26 quintals per hectare. The rise which was only 4% in 20 years has reached 20% in 5 years.

Orissa has achieved a new record in the country in production of groundnuts. The production of groundnuts in the state which is 2 tons per hectare is the highest in the country.

Despite the unprecedented drought last year and the frequency of natural calamities like floods, drought and cyclones, government of Orissa has been taking determined measures for the development of agriculture and to bring about a change in the economic condition of the farmers and agricultural workers.



INDUSTRY

The Industrial Policy of 1980 produced a great sput of industrial activity in the state and catalysed creation of basic infrastructure for industrialisation. The state government's industrial policy during the 6th Plan aimed, besides growth of industrial output and employment, at wider dispersal of industries, removal of constraints on capacity utilisation, reduction in industrial sickness and promotion of industries in the de-centralised sector. In the new Industrial Policy of 1986, the major thrust is on development of sophisticated industry, upgradation of technology, modernisation of existing units, development of functional industrial areas, dispersal of industries to backward areas, fostering entrepreneurship and promotion of technical, managerial and operative skills at various levels.

In pursuance of these policy initiatives, a large expansion has already taken place in the industrial base of the state and appreciable progress has been achieved in the areas of entrepreneurship development and industrial training.

Upto the end of 1986-87, the total number of small industries in the state was 29,432 of which 14,318 were established during 1980-85 and 5,995 thereafter. In 1987-88, 1,504 new industries have been started upto the end of December 1987.

Expansion in artisan sector has been still larger. The total number of artisan unit to which assistance was provided increased from 31,528 before the commencement

of the 6th Plan in 1980 to 3,97,444 at the end of the 6th Plan. A further addition of 2,27,913 units were made in 1985-86 and 1986-87 to bring the total to 6,25,357 at the end of March 1987. During the current year assistance has been provided to 80,914 units upto the end of December 1987.

By 1980 there were only 58 large and medium scale industries in the state. By the end of 6th Plan in 1985 the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation (IPICOL) had promoted 160 medium and large industries. By the end of 1986-87 125 industries have gone into production including 19 in 1986-87 itself. 62 more industries were in various stages of implementation and promotion of 85 more was examined. 19 industries are expected to go into production during 1987-88, and 48 more industries may go into production in different phases in 1988-89.

An electronic industries complex would be set up in Bhubaneswar by the Electronic Development Corporation during 1988-89 for promoting electronic units by small entrepreneurs. The output of various types of minerals in the state would be of the order of 22 million tonnes during 1988-89, Gem stone based industrial activities are proposed to be initiated in gem stone bearing areas of the state through the Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. The Chrome Factory at Brahmanipal has gone into commercial production. A chrome ore beneficiation plant is proposed to be set up by the Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. based on ore from Kaliapani Chrome Mines.

The state sector undertakings have played a pivotal role in the process of Orissa's industrial growth. The Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation, Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, State Financial Corpora-

tion, Orissa Small Scale Industries Corporation and the Industrial Development Corporation etc have all acted as catalysts to the industrial development of the state.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

88.2% of the population of the state lives in villages against 76.3% in the country and forms about 4.4% of the country's rural population.

The government of Orissa have been making serious efforts to combat the scourge of poverty in the state. The emphasis in rural development measures is on employment generation in the form of self-employment and wage employment, to enable the poor to cross the poverty line. Fully aware of the fact that alleviation of rural poverty is crucial to the socio-economic transformation of the state, the state government has undertaken a number of measures to improve the quality of rural life. Some of the main programmes of rural development are as follows:

Economic Rehabilitation of Rural Poor

This programme is the outcome of the recognition that the poorest of the poor sections of the population need the first attention in development. The scheme stipulates selection of the poorest families (20 or 20 per cent of the families residing in the villages whichever is higher) having income of less than Rs.2000- per annum by the villagers themselves, provision of assets without any loan component and development of the assets till they reach the optimum level of income generation. Of the total number of 3.36 lakh families covered under the programme during the Sixth Plan. 1.02 lakhs each belonged to the scheduled castes and sched-

uled tribes respectively. In 1985-86 and 1986-87 assistance was provided to 1.77 lakhs more families including 0.47 lakh belonging to the scheduled castes and 0.58 lakh to the scheduled tribes. During the current year, 0.82 lakh families have been covered up to the end of December, including 0.22 lakh from scheduled castes and 0.26 lakh from scheduled tribes.

Integrated Rural Development Programme

The object of the programme is to assist the families living below the poverty line in taking up self-employment ventures through a package of income generating assets and working capital. Where necessary, the programme also helps in strengthening the existing asset base of the beneficiaries. The large array of schemes covered under the programme includes minor irrigation, pisciculture, sericulture, horticulture, farm-forestry, small industries, services and business etc. During the Sixth Plan assistance was provided to 9.21 lakh persons including 2.20 lakhs from the scheduled tribes and 1.91 lakhs from the scheduled castes. During 1985-86 and 1986-87, assistance was provided to 3.81 lakhs more including 0.98 lakh and 0.85 lakh from the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes respectively. The programme for the current year envisages assistance to 2.09 lakh persons of whom 1.31 lakh persons have already been covered up to the end of December.

Assistance to small and marginal farmers

The programme is specifically intended for assisting the small and marginal farmers in increasing the production and productivity of their land through improved methods of farming and adoption of better technology. Subsidies are, therefore, envisaged for several

components like wells, pump-sets, plantations of fuel, fruit orchards etc. Further supplementation is also provided through the distribution of minikits of seeds and fertilisers. Up to the end of the Sixth Plan, assistance under the programme was provided to 3.77 lakhs small and marginal farmers including 0.70 lakh from the scheduled castes and 0.98 lakh from the scheduled tribes. In 1985-86 and 1986-87, 2.53 lakhs more beneficiaries were covered including 0.40 lakh from the scheduled castes and 0.73 lakh from the scheduled tribes. During the current year, the coverage up to the end of December is 0.61 lakh.

Distribution of ceiling surplus lands and assistance to the assignees of the surplus lands

Under the provisions of the Orissa Land Reforms Act, 1960, Ac.131.074 ceiling surplus land distributed to 106,552 persons up to the end of the Sixth Plan, including 36,758 persons from the scheduled castes and 39,855 from the scheduled tribes. Ac.13,196 more distributed to 14,192 persons up to the end of 1986-87 of whom 4,868 belonged to the scheduled castes and 4,921 to the scheduled tribes. The current year's programme envisages distribution of 2,000 acres of land.

Assistance to the assignees of ceiling surplus land for land development and ancillary improvement is provided under a centrally sponsored scheme.

Rehabilitation of bonded labour

Under the the scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour, rehabilitation assistance was provided to 24,871 bonded labourers up to the end of the Sixth Plan. During 1985-86 and 1986-87, 12,113 more labourers were rehabilitated. During the current year, rehabilitation assistance

has been provided to 2,500 labourers up to the end of December.

National Rural Employment Programme

The centrally sponsored National Rural Employment Programme aims at providing employment opportunities to the needy in the rural areas where the problems of unemployment and under-employment are deeply entrenched. The programme is of specific benefit to those who do not partake of beneficiary oriented schemes and depend largely on wage-employment. Besides gainful employment, the programme also envisages creation of durable community assets. During the Sixth Plan, the total employment generated under the programme was of the order of 674.77 lakhs mandays. During the first two years of the Seventh Plan, 329.60 lakhs more mandays were generated. The progress up to the end of December during the current year is 141.46 lakhs mandays.

By the end of the Sixth Plan, afforestation measures taken up under the programme covered an area of 0.64 lakh hectares and raising of 1.34 crore seedlings. 3,045 drinking water wells, 5,167 tanks, 30,000 Kms. of rural roads and 12,260 school buildings, 2,175 residential houses for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes were also constructed during this period. During the first two years of the Seventh Plan, afforestation was taken up in an area of 0.40 lakh hectares and 9.29 crore seedlings were raised. 2,313 tanks, 3,075 drinking water wells, 1,660 minor irrigation projects, 9,541 Kms. of rural roads, 4,377 school buildings and 1,919 residential houses for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribe families were also constructed. During the current year, afforestation has been taken up in an area of 0.18 lakh hectares up to the end of December. Construction of

303 irrigation tanks, 118 irrigation wells, 20 Kms. field channels, 1,272 drinking water wells, 4,164 Kms. of rural roads, 1,428 school buildings and 991 houses for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have also been taken up.

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme aims at tackling the hardcore of rural poverty in a direct and specific manner by providing employment opportunities to all able bodied persons who seek employment in the rural areas. In actual operation, the programme is dovetailed to the requirement of other development programme like rural link roads, social forestry, soil and water conservation, construction of school buildings and irrigation projects, renovation of old and derelict projects, construction of residential houses for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families etc. Up to the end of the Sixth Plan 73.22 lakh mandays of employment were generated under the programme and in the first two years of the Seventh Plan, 297.23 lakh mandays more were added. During the current year, employment generation up to the end of December is of the order of 112.11 lakhs mandays.

IRRIGATION

The irrigation potential created through major and medium irrigation projects by the end of the 6th Plan is eight times that of the irrigation potential created by the end of the 1st plan.

The total irrigated area in 1986-87 was about 17.88 lakh hectares, showing an increase of 41.34% over the pre-6th Plan period (1979-80) and an increase of 2% over 1985-86.

Of the total irrigated area, 8.68 lakh hectares (48.5%) represent the command medium and major irrigation projects, 3.41 lakh hectares (19.1%) that of minor (flow) irrigation projects, 2.21 lakh hectares (12.4%) of minor (lift) irrigation projects and 3.58 lakh hectares (20%) of other sources.

The total irrigated area which was about 21.19% of the cultivable area in 1979-80 increased to 27.07% at the end of the 6th Plan and further to about 27.66% in 1985-86 and 29.43% in 1986-87.

During the 1st 2 years of the 7th Plan the Rengali Dam Project and 9 other Minor Irrigation Projects have substantially been completed. Steps have been taken to complete as many as on-going projects as possible by the end of the current financial year. During this year., additional irrigation would be available for about 29,400 hectares in Khariff and about 43,000 hectares in Rabi seasons from major, medium, minor and lift irrigation sources.

Since 1980, irrigation facilities have been provided to 3,08,000 hectares for Khariff and 1,40,000 hectares for Rabi crops. Emphasis is being given for the fuller utilisation of the unutilised potential and development of command areas under large projects. Among all the categories of irrigation projects, the maximum potential (about 47.4%) was obtained during the first 2 years of 7th Plan from Lift Irrigation Projects underlining the trend in the increased exploitation of the groundwater potential.

POWER

By the end of 1985-86, the installed power generation capacity in the state was about 1134 MW against 914 MW in 1980. Thus the installed capacity increased by 24% over the year 1979-80.

In the 1st year of the 7th Plan, the installed capacity increased by 100 MW to 1234 MW and by the end of the 7th Plan the installed capacity is expected to be around 2000 MWs.

The state government has laid suitable emphasis on early completion of the on-going schemes such as, Rengali Stage-I, Upper Kolab Stage-I, Upper Indrabati and the Hirakud Seventh unit. New power projects like Rengali Stage-II, Upper Kolab Stage-II and Potteru are under investigation. The Ib Thermal Power Project has already been sanctioned. The Super Thermal Power Project of the NTPC at Talcher has been cleared from the environment management angle and the work on the project would gather considerable momentum during the 1980-88.

The percentage of villages electrified in Orissa has gone up from 36% in 1979-80 to about 59% by the end of 1987-88. Compared to 1979-80 when the total number of beneficiary villages was only 17,231 (about 37% of the total number). The increase upto the end of the current year is expected to be of the order of 22%. The coverage is expected to go upto about 66% of the total number of villages at the end of the 7th Plan.

In the agricultural sector power has been provided mainly for energisation of the pump sets. Against 12,958 pumps energised up to the beginning of the 6th Plan, the number increased to 30,002 at the end of the 6th Plan and further to 34,812 in 1986-87. Upto the end of December 1987, 1342 more pump sets have been energised.

Considering the growing demand for power in the state, serious efforts are being made to increase the availability of power by faster completion of new projects, improvement in the efficiencies of the existing units, minimisation of transmission and distribution losses and rationalisation of the use of power through suitable policy mix.

URBAN AND RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME

Out of 46,553 inhabited revenue villages, 42,221 villages have been identified as problem villages as per the norms of Government of India. Prior to 6th Plan, only 3,461 identified problem villages were covered with tube-wells. During the 6th Plan period, 22,357 problem villages have been provided with one or more sources of potable water. Thus by the end of the 6th Plan 25,818, identified problem villages have been partly or fully covered with installation of 76,140 tubewells. It has been estimated that by the end of 6th Plan about 60% of the 232.40 lakhs of total rural population as per 1981 Census have been covered with water supply facilities.

During the 1985-86, 3,573 problem villages have been fully or partially covered with installation of 6200 tubewells. Besides 2 piped water supply schemes were taken up to provide drinking water to tribal habitations. Another 454 tubewells were installed in unidentified villages. During 1986-87, about 4145 problem villages have been partially or fully covered drinking water supply facilities with installation of 6747 tubewells. During 1987-88 another 4800 problem villages are estimated to have been covered with drinking water supply facilities for which 11,895 hand-pump tubewells and 6 rural piped water supply schemes were programmed. In addition, 1900 tubewells were programmed during 1987-88 for installation in drought-hit villages in the state.

Programme for 1988-89 envisages coverage of another 600 problem villages with installation of 8347 hand-pump tubewells and 11 rural piped water supply schemes.

In Orissa there are 100 towns declared as Municipalities and N.A.Cs. Out of these 100 urban local bodies, so far 80 urban local bodies have been covered with piped water supply schemes for drinking water supply. The population of 100 urban local bodies as per the 1981 Census is estimated to be 30.40 lakhs and coverage of population through urban water supply schemes and sanitation schemes by the end of 6th Plan, is estimated to be a little over 17 lakhs.

During the 6th Plan, 11 schemes spilled over from the 5th Plan have been completed. Further 9 augmentation schemes out of 19 taken up in the 6th Plan have also been completed. It is hoped that 4 more urban local bodies will be covered with piped water supply schemes during the 7th Plan. The scarcity pockets in the urban local bodies where piped water supply has not been provided are being covered with hand-pump tube-wells to mitigate minimum drinking water problems. In this process so far by the end of January 1988, 4823 tubewells with hand pumps have been provided in 99 urban local bodies in 13 districts of the state.

HARIJAN AND TRIBAL WELFARE

1 About 37% of the state's total population are scheduled castes and tribes. 62 communities have been declared as scheduled castes and 93 tribes have been identified as scheduled tribes.

To ensure faster development of scheduled tribes more than 30% of the total plan outlay of the state have been flowing to the 120 tribal sub-plan areas which cover about 68 per cent of the state's total tribal population. During the Seventh Plan, investment in the Tribal Sub-plan Area will be in the order of about Rs 1177 crores.

Boarding schools at primary level are being established in each gram panchayat of the tribal sub-plan areas. Foodgrains are being supplied to the people of the tribal sub-plan areas at concessional rates and mobile vans are being used for supply of essential commodities to the tribals.

For the integrated development of scheduled castes, a Special Component plan has been in operation in the state from the beginning of the Sixth Plan. The Seventh Plan envisages an investment of Rs.296.13 crores for the development of the scheduled castes of the state.

About 55% of the budget of the Harijan & Tribal welfare sector is spent on educational development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Harijan and Tribal welfare department is at present running 1360 educational institutions in the state.

The state government has opened an atrocity cell under the supervision of a D.I.G. and has proposed to set up special courts for expeditious trial of atrocity cases.

For the welfare of the harijans, a state level Harijan Welfare Advisory Board has been set up.

The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been specially looked after under the various anti-poverty programmes of the state. About 15 lakh scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families have been assisted upto 1986-87 under various anti-poverty programmes. During 1987-88, about 3.30 lakh scheduled caste and scheduled tribe families are estimated to have been assisted. Economic assistance would be made available to more than one lakh tribal families in 1988-89 through schemes like IRDP,ERRP, and Special Central Assistance.

As a part of the 8th Finance Commission Award, 184 tribal villages in the state are being developed as model villages with provisions of communication, drinking water, education and health care. A massive programme of construction of houses has also been taken up during the last two years.

A number of innovative concepts and methodologies of development are being adopted in the state for the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The institutional arrangements for the purpose such as the scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Finance Corporation, Micro-Area Development Agencies, Integrated Tribal Development Agencies and Dispersed Tribal Development Programmes are being adequately funded in 1988-89.

A special programme with an outlay of Rs.31 crores over a period of 7 years is being mounted during 1988-89 in Kashipur Block for all-round development of that area. Funding of this project would be through the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The tribal sub-plan areas are likely to receive a support of a little more than Rs.255 crores from the provisions made in the State Plan, Central and Centrally Sponsored Plan for 1988-89.

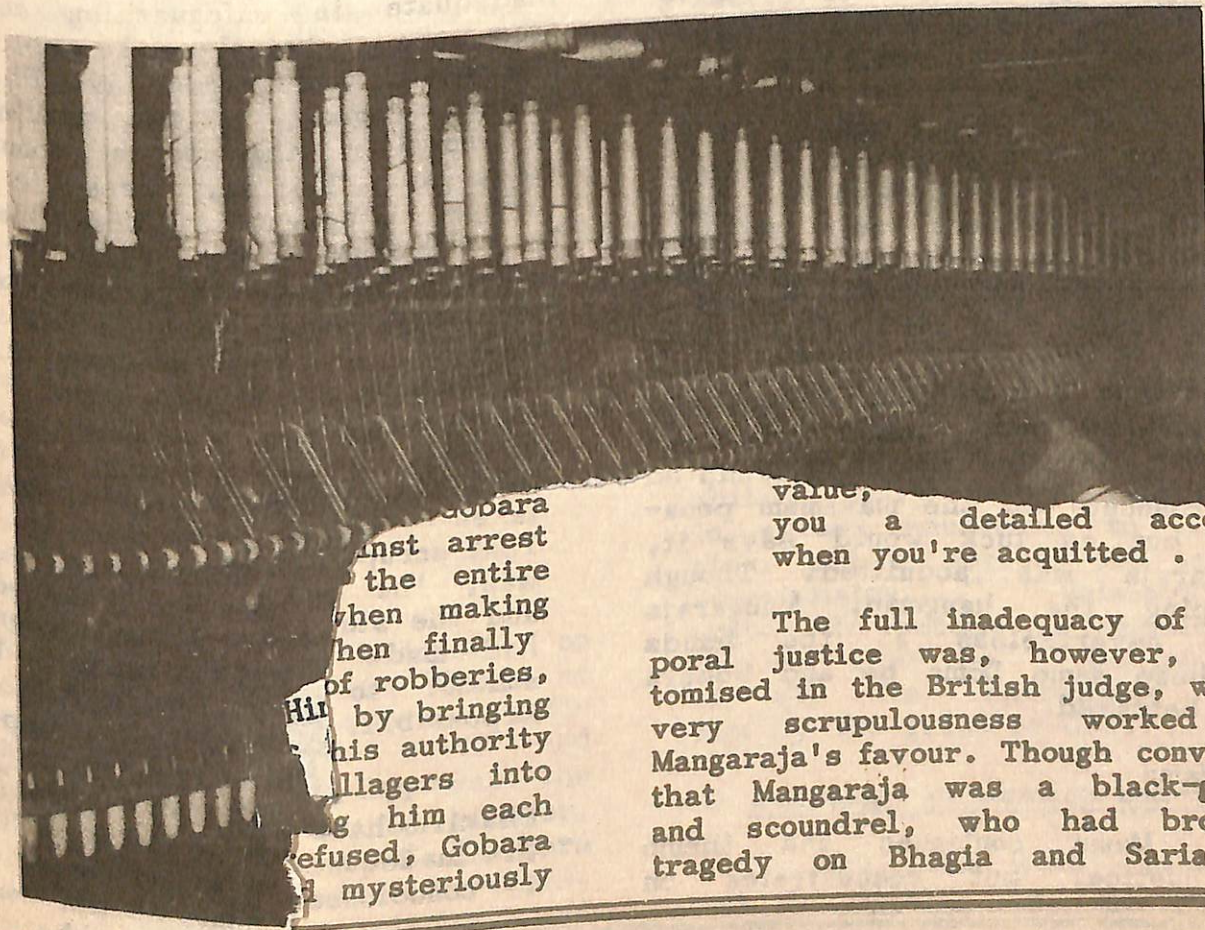
The upper limit of the loan redemption schemes for tribal defaulters for all types of loans under anti-poverty programmes has since been raised from Rs.200 to Rs.250. A composite land based irrigation scheme has also been introduced whereby each tribal beneficiary would be subsidised to the extent of Rs.5,000.

118 additional P.H.Cs., one each in the 118 tribal villages selected to be developed as model villages, are being set up for providing better health care. Health

cards are being introduced in the educational institutions managed by the Harijan & Tribal Welfare Department and hostel facilities would be provided in a phased manner for primary schools in each Gram Panchayat in the Tribal Sub-plan areas for reducing the drop-out rate in the primary educational institutions. The rate of monthly stipend has been revised from Rs.150 to Rs.250 for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe trainees who intend to participate in the competitive examinations.

To enforce the provisions of the Orissa Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe) Act, 1975 more strictly, an amendment has been effected to penalise an appointing authority with fine which may extend up to Rs.1,000 and the scale of monetary relief for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe victims of atrocities has been enhanced from Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000.

The state government has laid suitable emphasis on early completion of the on-going schemes such as, Rengali Stage-I, Upper Kolab Stage-I, Upper Indrabati and the Hirakud Seventh unit. New power projects like Rengali Stage-II, Upper Kolab Stage-II and Poteru are under investigation. The Ib Thermal Power Project has already been sanctioned. The Super Thermal Power Project of the NTPC at Talcher has been cleared from the environment management angle and the work on the project would gather considerable momentum during the 1980-88.



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The full inadequacy of temporal justice was, however, epitomised in the British judge, whose very scrupulousness worked in Mangaraja's favour. Though convinced that Mangaraja was a black-guard and scoundrel, who had brought tragedy on Bhagia and Saria by

fascinated by a vision of Ramarajya, the ideal Hindu kingdom, where, as he saw it, the agencies of law, religion and finance were united in the person of the ideal feudal king, whose every act was geared to the welfare of his subjects. This was the vision Phakirmohana came to propagate in the last of his novels, Prayascitta.

Mohinimohana, various facets of whose character were aimed at in Natabara Dasa in Mamu and Govinda Chandra in Prayascitta, resented being preached at in this manner. In the editions of his father's works which he issued after his father's death he altered many passages, distorting the whole value system of the original and substituting for it much of his own, thereby ironically proving how 'crimeprone' his materialistic atheism had made him.

The Theme of Justice and Religion in Phakirmohana's Prose-fiction

1. Cha Mana Atha Guntha

Justice provides the theme of much of Phakirmohana's prose-fiction. The contrast between temporal and spiritual justice is the theme of Cha Mana Atha Guntha. Temporal justice as embodied in the local police and legal profession was venal, corrupt and inadequate. Local graft is typified by the village constable, Gobara Jena, a Pan (untouchable), living in the Dom quarter of the village. In league with Mangaraja and acknowledged thieves, the Doms, Gobara Jena insured himself against arrest by taking presents to the entire Police Station staff, when making his monthly report. When finally implicated in a series of robberies, he got himself acquitted by bringing the Munshi. He abused his authority by intimidating the villagers into taking turns in feeding him each night. If a villager refused, Gobara took the night off and mysteriously

during his absence that villager's home was robbed. Gobara was cunning, untrustworthy rascal, and it was he who eventually betrayed Mangaraja.

Legal corruption is personified by the lawyer, Rama Rama Lala. Phakirmohana's description of Mangaraja's home, one of his many digs at the legal profession, hints at the opulence of lawyers and the illegality with which that opulence was acquired.

At first sight Mangaraja's mansion could easily be taken either for the home of a western-educated lawyer, or for the spoils of four score other homes.

Rama Rama Lala and his breed has made of justice one more commodity to be bought and sold. At the end of a long interview with Mangaraja, Rama Rama Lala said,

Well, Mangaraja, we've got to buy them all, from the peon to the office-in-charge. It's a very tricky case. No other lawyer would touch it for less than ten thousand. It's only because I'm different that I'm taking it on. How can I let you down, when you look on me as a guardian? Right, I'll bear the whole cost, which won't be a penny less than ten thousand. Mortgage your estate to me. It won't cost the full value, of course. I'll give you a detailed account, when you're acquitted.

The full inadequacy of temporal justice was, however, epitomised in the British judge, whose very scrupulousness worked in Mangaraja's favour. Though convinced that Mangaraja was a black-guard and scoundrel, who had brought tragedy on Bhagia and Saria by

defrauding them of their small parcel of land, the judge nevertheless insisted that Mangaraja could be tried only on the charges preferred against him and that on the relevant evidence Mangaraja was innocent of all but one of them, the theft of the vow Neta.

Despite the inadequacy of temporal justice, there was, however, another law (dharma), whose workings were inexorable.

Man suffers the fruits of his misdeeds... The cunning delude themselves that what they do in seclusion and with stealth will go unseñ yet the tree that springs from it won't. That tree's fruits must be endured by you and sometimes by your family for generations.....8

Thus none could escape the consequences of their misdeeds. Champa who plotted the defrauding of Bhagia and Saria suffered the most hideous death in the whole of Oriya literature⁹. Govinda, the barber-lover, who murdered her, was eaten alive by a crocodile. Gobara Jena, who had rigged evidence of murder to frame Mangaraja, was jailed for perjury and slaughtered by the Doms he had helped Mangaraja to get falsely convicted to theft. And finally Mangaraja. He found himself on a murder charge facing a Munshi who bore him a grudge for failing to pay promised bribe. The Munshi determined to prosecute for the maximum penalty, but as luck would have it, Mangaraja was acquitted. Though escaping the hangman, Mangaraja died nevertheless at the hands of those same Doms he and Gobara had betrayed.

2) Mamu

Mamu continues the theme of justice, but concentrates on

reform rather than punishment. Cha Mana Atha Guntha had raised the possibility of Mangaraja's repentance in a memorable passage where Phakirmohana, citing Christian, Brahma, Vaisnavite and other Hindu scriptures, had meditated on the make-up of man and the causes of charge in his personality. Phakirmohana sympathised with Mangaraja and his self-caused sufferings, and held with Sanatana Brahma Dharma that sin (papa) was odious, not sinners.

The similarities between Cha Mana Atha Guntha in theme, plot and characterisation are great. Mamu's Natabara Dasa is a mere middle class version of Mangaraja, but the class difference was crucial, for Phakirmohana believed that class and morality were interdependent. For various reasons the rich and the poor exaggerated the importance of wealth to the detriment of both their own souls and society. Given a sufficiency of means as in the middle-classes and the benefits of morals instruction in childhood, a man had every chance of becoming good.

Enjoying these advantages, Natabara ought to have remained impeccable. Poverty had driven Mangaraja into crime, but Natabara was driven there by temperament. He was 'crafty and pleasure-loving,' and even in childhood had shown 'signs of meanness.' He had become convinced that 'life's sole purpose was the acquisition of wealth' which did not come 'like the rains from heaven,' but 'had to be taken from others by cunning. That scrupulousness known as Dharma was, 'he felt, only for the idle and the stupid.' These convictions had made Natabara a materialistic atheist to whom no crime was impossible.

It is at this point that Phakirmohana again meditates on the inadequacy of the law. Compared to conscience, the law was a poor

deterrent. A belief in an all-seeing, omniscient God, a sense of morality, and a tender and lively conscience could check a man's propensity to crime, but a fear was easily circumvented by a mere increase in caution. Thus given materialistic atheism and cunning circumspection a man might, like Natabara, be tempted to think he could commit the crime with impunity.

Nevertheless, Natabara was not beyond redemption. he came 'of stainless stock,' and therefore 'had some slight purity.....secreted

in his heart.' Released at the first touch of adversity this secretion stifled his materialistic atheism. 'It would seem,' Phakirmohana muses, 'that in order to return man's erring soul to the path of rectitude, God sends a powerful directive in the form of adversity.'

Consequently, when remanded in custody, Natabara was moved to repentance and a renewed faith in God, which at first lent him a startling composure and dignity in accepting the consequences of his misdeeds, but which later became so intense as to precipitate madness. Thus in the event Natabara did not reform, but the basis of reform had been there, a middle-class background, sound heredity and moral instruction in childhood. In Phakirmohana's final novel *Prayascitta* it will be seen how these advantages tended ultimately to dispose a man towards repentance, reform and finally expiation.

3) Prayascitta

Prayascitta continues on more or less the same theme as *Mamu*, but concentrates on conflicting claims of the world and the spirit. Govinda Chandra, the central character, is a younger, more romantic version of Natabara Dasa. He is upper-middle-class, western-educated, atheistic and

clime-prone. Like Natabara Dasa, Govinda too is touched by adversity in his case by a particularly savage beating, which lands him in hospital. There, while recuperating, he reviews his past life. His studies of western philosophy had inclined him to atheism, had made him arrogant and scornful of good advice. 'There's no crime an atheist is incapable of. Only the fear of the law restrains him,'¹³ his friend, Doctor Sukanta Ray, had once bluntly told him, but Govinda Chandra had ignored the warning. Now, however, having deceived his father, precipitated his wife's suicide and his mother's grief-

stricken death, he was consumed with remorse and determined to dedicate his life to meditation on God's name.

His father, Visnava Carana, dissuades him, however. Men, he said, had a duty to both the world and the spirit. It was completely proper that, as long as they were physically able, they should try to increase their happiness and comfort in lawful and socially approved ways. This was as God intended. But later it was equally proper that they should strive to improve their souls. But for Govinda Chandra that time had not yet come. It was too early for him to abandon the world. Dharma comprised both worship and service. Mankind was God's family. To serve man was therefore to worship God. God had granted Govinda great wealth, ability and knowledge. 'Use it to spread education, to tend the sick, and to succour the needy on your estates....'¹⁴ Visnava Carana urged. To become as ascetic would in his case be a selfish waste of all the capabilities granted him by the grace of God.

4) A Trilogy on Justice and Religion

Cha Mana Atha Guntha, Manu end in trials, but in both, the

trials are a mockery, for Mangaraja and Natabara are tried, not for their main crimes, but for minor ones. This is the defect of temporal justice, which regards crime as particular acts, restricts its attention to particular charges, and examines the evidence relevant to those alone; but Phakirmohana felt, these particular acts were only symptoms of a disease affecting the total personality. The disease was excessive worldliness. Its symptoms were greed, theft; robbery exploitation, mis-appropriation, vanity, callousness and cruelty. Its cure was pain, for worldliness led inevitably to suffering, either at the hands of the police, or of those one had wronged, or through one's own conscience. Suffering might however lead to repentance and reform, for it stimulated a man's more noble instincts, provided he believed in God. Without belief in God, the conscience could not operate and repentance and reform were rendered impossible.

In Cha Mana Atha Guntha Mangaraja does not repent. He is an evil man from the lower classes. He is thoroughly vicious and is punished both through the courts and through his victims by a kind of natural or poetic justice. In Mamu Natabara does repent and is also on the verge of reform, but goes insane under the stress of conscience. Nevertheless, reform was possible in Natabara, for he was middle-class and had enjoyed the advantage of religious instruction in childhood. In Prayascitta everyone eventually repents and reforms. Sadanada alone goes to prison to do so. The rest punish themselves through their consciences and strive to atone for their misdeeds by dedicating the remainder of their lives to Dharma through the service of either God or man, both of which constitute worship. Thus Cha Mana Atha Guntha, Manu and Prayascita constitute a trilogy on temporal and spiritual justice,

in the course of which Phakirmohana gradually moves away from temporal law in favour of eternal law (dharma), and the term 'crime' becomes imperceptibly replaced by the term 'sin.'

5) Cha Mana Atha Guntha:
A Satire on British Justice

The temporal justice gradually rejected in these three novels is that introduced by the British. At one level Cha Mana Atha Guntha is a subtle satire of British justice. Much of the satire lies in the style. Whole chapters are delivered, as it were, to a jury by Phakirmohana, the loquacious and discursive narrator-advocate, labouring to defend the integrity of Mangaraja. Phakirmohana's arguments, here put forward in mock-legal language and form, have an air of irrefutable logic, immense erudition and profound earnestness. Hindu and Biblical scripture, maxims of logicians and grammarians, scientific theory and jurisprudence are all ransacked for plausible bits and pieces of profundity to bolster Phakirmohana's ramshackle arguments, but ironically the more earnestly he urges his client's cause, the more his client's hypocrisy and malpractice are laid bare. In painting Mangaraja's religious sincerity Phakirmohana 'unwittingly' unveils a humbug and in analysing the causes of the cleanliness of the weavers' quarter he equally 'unwittingly' intimates that Mangaraja had stolen every single cow that quarter had possessed.

It is from Phakirmohana's skilled use of irony in the passages alluded to¹⁵ that the first muted notes of Phakirmohana's attack on the British legal system are sounded. The attack continues in a series of jibes against the rapacity of the legal profession itself and then finally bursts into the open in a single, highly significant

conversational aside on the building of the Dadhi Bamana temple on 'caste money,' on what 'caste money' means and on how it is raised.

'Caste money' means that if any member of the caste misbehaves, then the caste council fine him. The money is deposited with the headman. The temple was built with money of that kind. This wonderful system is fast dying out. We have courts nowadays, you see, because we are enlightened-civilised, so to speak. No one cares about the caste council. 'Watch your step, mate,' says English law. 'If you commit a crime and I get legal proof of it, then you're for it.' But I'll see to it that you don't,' says the clever man, and his barrister slaps him on the back and says, 'Have no fear. Cross my palm with silver, and I'll prove that black's white and white's black.' The result is that clever, rich men by the dozen are committing crimes by the hundred and getting off scot-free, whilst the poor and innocent are getting into hot water. Thanks to legal costs, both sides to the dispute are reduced to beggary. it's all money down the drain. You'd never pull the wool over the caste council's eyes like that. They'd see to it that the fine was collected from the real culprit and that it was put to good uses

Mangaraja's trial is the final irony. He is a black-guard and scoundrel, yet British justice can convict him only off the theft

of a cow; whereas implicit in the conversational aside, quoted above, is the assertion that under the old Indian system of justice he would not only have been convicted, but his conviction would have benefitted the whole community. The further implication is that under the British system only the innocent suffered, and only the legal profession benefitted.

6) Turning away from the Concept of 'Crime'

Implicit in Phakirmohana's condemnation of British justice is turning away from the concept of 'crime' in favour of the indigenous concept of 'sin.' Both Mangaraja and Natabara had committed crimes, but it was for their sins that they were punished, Mangaraja dying of a violent assault by a kind of natural or poetic justice and Natabara going insane under the stress of conscience. It is significant that when remanded in custody and awaiting trial, Natabara's conscience was troubled, not by the crime of which he was accused, but by the sins he had committed : his meanness to his mother, whom he denied her paltry supply of opium, which relieved her pain-racked body; his treachery towards Sarasvati Dei and his sister, whom he had caused great hardship; his oppression of his tenants of Naripur estate; his deception of his British superior Dawson, to whom he owed all his advancement; his unfaithfulness to his wife, Bisakha Dei; his recalcitrance towards his father; and finally his hypocrisy towards Almighty God. It is equally significant that Govinda in Prayascitta had committed no crime at all, only a transgression against the Hindu social code, an intercaste marriage, which would be regarded as a sin.

7) The wider Implications of Phakirmohana's Trilogy

A study of Phakirmohana's trilogy leads to the following conclusions. The Rule of Law had, Phakirmohana felt, undermined the old system of authority, which had survived in modified form from the days of independent India. In this system the combined authority of kings, aristocrats, caste councils and parents was reinforced by a code of ethics called Dharma, sanctioned by religion. In Western terms this meant the State (king and aristocrats), Church (caste council) and Family all co-operated to enforce morality. Since under this system most property was vested in one or other of these institutions, and since moral and secular law were virtually the same, law, religion and finance (the possession and control of property) had all been geared to the good of society.

The economy on which this system rested had been mainly agricultural, power residing land. Though merchants had been gaining in importance even before British rule, they had lacked real power. By a change in the tenancy laws, however, the British had enabled these merchants to invest in land. The old aristocracy had therefore given way to upstart land-owners, who bought up large landed estates in Calcutta. Unlike the old aristocracy these upstarts had no sense of responsibility for their tenants being businessmen, they viewed their estates purely as investments.

Thus Phakirmohana's novels contrast aristocrats like the Bagha Simhas of Ratanpur in *Cha Mana Atha Guntha*, Pratapa Udita Malla in *Mamu* and Vaisnava Carana Mahapatra in *Prayascitta* with upstarts like Mangaraja in *Cha Mana Guntha*, Natabara Dasa in *Mamu* and Sankarsana Mahanti in *Prayascitta*. The

aristocrats embodied the values of the old regime : the upstarts the materialism of British rule. The Bagha Simhas were noble warriors trusting in fighting skill rather than underhand cunning; Pratapa Udita Malla was an enlightened aristocrat, using Western agricultural methods to maximize his estate's yield, and dispensing justice and lending money to his tenants at low interest to save them from the rapacity of lawyers and money-lenders; and Vaisnava Carana was a pillar of piety, whose one fault lay in his excessive pride of birth. These three therefore show how law, religion and finance once combined in the ideal monarch and landlord. In contrast to them stood Mangaraja, Natabara and Sankarsana, manipulating the law and morality for selfish purposes.

The Rule of Law was, as Phakirmohana felt, a paradise for the exploiter and criminal. Admittedly there were, as he showed, points in its favour. British magistrates and police officers were scrupulously honest, though these advantages were offset by their failure to check the scheming of their Indian subordinates. Furthermore, legal costs were high. Litigation plunged even kings with vast estates into money-lenders' clutches. And only one class benefited, the lawyers. On the other hand, the old indigenous system had operated cheaply and benefited the whole community.

Phakirmohana therefore wanted a return to the old system. Knowing this to be politically impossible, he could achieve it only in fiction. So the authentic realism of early works like *Cha Mana Atha Guntha* and *Rebati* was usurped by visions of his ideal society in later works like *Prayascitta* and *Bagula Baguli*. *Cha Mana Atha Guntha* and *Rebati* had reeked of materialism, in which virtue choked and died, but in *Bagula*

Baguli the whole of society was bathed in generosity and good principles, emanating from the nightly readings of the Puranas in the village Bhagavata Ghara.

Phakirmohana depicts his ideal feudalistic society most clearly in Prayascitta, in which an upstart vies with an aristocrat for social pre-eminence. Lengthy litigations almost beggar their estates, before Indumati's suicide brings them to their senses. Both then realize their essential position as the trustees of God and arrange to run their estates in the interests of God's children, their tenants, who in future are to enjoy the estates' surpluses in the form of education and welfare, whilst Govinda and his friends, as managers, are to draw mere subsistence salaries.

Thus in the prose-fiction on this fundamental theme of religion and justice we see Phakirmohana groping back towards an ultimate unity in the agencies of law, religion and finance, such as he believed once existed in feudal society, as the basis of a just and happy life for the people of Orissa.

Notes

1. "It is with compunction and shame that I, a Hindu, am forced to confess..." ('Bauddhavatara Kavya,' in : Phakirmohana Granthavali, Vol.I, 1957, p.887 xiv).

2. Phakirmohana was once almost converted to Christianity (Atma-Jivana-Carita, 1961, p.67); apparently became for a while a Brahma (ibid. pp.67-69); and in 1898 attended as the representative of Balasore a conference of Unitarians in Madras (ibid. p.204).

3. Consider the following passages from 'Bauddhavatara Kavya' (Phakirmohana Granthavali, Vol.I, 1957 pp.877

xi and 877 aiii) for example. "All men are equal by virtue of their brotherhood as the sons of the Almighty. All distinctions such as Aryan and Non-Aryan, Hindu and Mlecha, Greek and barbarian. Muslim and infidel are man-made and observed by the uneducated and unintelligent alone."

"The history of religion reveals that everywhere on earth, in Europe Asia and Africa, thousands upon thousands of innocent people perished senselessly at the hands of arrogant fanaticism. Pious saints such as Ridley, Latimer and Cranmer were burnt at the stake in Europe for professing a faith they held to be true; the great Socrates was poisoned; the Pilgrim Fathers driven to America; Sadhu Hari Dasa publically flogged...; Jesus crucified; Muhammad alone escaped persecution."

4. In Phakirmohana's garden called Santi Kanana in Balasore stands a small temple proclaiming a synthesis of all religions and citing the teachings of Buddha, Caitanya, Kabir, Nanak, Christ and Muhammad. (Adhirajamohana Senapati, 'Smaraniya Phakirmohana' in : J.B.Mahanti 1955, p.8).

5. In his edition of Prayascitta, for example, Mohinimohana put the following words into the mouth of Govinda: "Individual and national progress is rarely advanced by religion.... The Aurangzebs of this world will always be crowned with laurels and the Christs with thorns." Quoted by Sarvesvara Dasa, 1958, pp. 114-5.

6. Phakirmohana Granthavali, Vol.I, 1957.

7. ibid. pp.289-90.

8. ibid. p. 306.

9. Surendra Mahanti, 1955; p.61.

10. Phakirmohan Granthavali, Vol.I,
1957, pp.278-9.

11. ibid. p. 114.

12. ibid, pp. 222-3.

13. ibid. pp.490-1.

14. ibid. p.501.

15. ibid. pp. 229-230 and 247⁸

16. ibid. p. 249.

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SUJATA MISHRA

Sujata Misra, wrote India Today in 1985, was "a sensational discovery" at the Angahar Odissi Dance Festival in New Delhi in 1985. Since then, Sujata has been acclaimed as a great Odissi dancer by various dance critics and journalists. The Free Press Journal, in its issue dated 3rd October 1986, commented that Sujata is "a Sanjukta Panigrahi in making," while the Madras-based Sruti in its November 1986 issue called her a "vibrant and vivacious dancer" who offers "something different from the all-too-common soft-grace package."

Twentytwo-year old Sujata Misra was a disciple of Late Debasprasad Das from whom Indrani Rehman, famous Bharat Natyam dancer, took her lessons in Odissi dance. While Sujata began presenting dance performances at the age of twelve, she drew the attention of many eminent gurus and critics for the first time at the Angahar Odissi Dance Festival at New Delhi in 1985. Commending her performance, the Patriot wrote, "The surprise package of the evening was Sujata Misra.... Apart from perfect postural control was the expressional aspect showing a

dancer who forgot herself in the rendition." Sujata also gave memorable performances in the YUVA UTSAV at Simla in April 1986 at the invitation of the Sangeet Natak Akademi as well as in almost all major critics of India. Her dance recital at the Ghungroo Festival at Bhopal in 1986 was held by many critics to be "the best part of the progra-

mme" as the Free Press Journal put it. In 1987, Sujata presented Odissi dance at the Pongal Festival in Madras and Kashi Yatra at Benaras.

Sujata Misra made an excellent debut in the famous Khajuraho dance festival in 1988. Impressed by her sculptural postures



and lyrical movements, the Indian Express said, "She certainly seems to be on the verge of joining the galaxy of Odissi dancers but with an edge over others..." Sujata achieves this edge by a faithful rendering of the district Odissi idiom of her Guru Late Deba Prasad Das who believed in retaining the purity of the Odissi dance form and in preserving it against attempts at modernisation or hybridisation.

An Honours graduate of the Utkal University, Sujata is at present in her Final year M.A. She has been awarded National Scholarship for research in Odissi dance in 1987 for a period of three years.

Sujata is now on a two-month tour to the USSR to present Odissi dance recitals as a part of the Festival of India in USSR.



Tie and Dye art of Western Orissa

The skilled traditional art in textile industry in Orissa is rich and full of poetic patterns. The designs in textile technology have chiefly been divided into two classes: (1) Decorative designs (2) Structural designs. Thousands of patterns on cloth are being produced, employing different skills and techniques in both of these categories. Tie and Dye art is one of the decorative designs. Many kinds of decorative designs are being woven on the fabrics in various ways and techniques. But, Bandha (tie and dye) art has a special and significant place among the decorative designs. If, in Orissa, and specially western Orissa, there grew up peerless craftsmanship in handloom weaving, it was because the weaver himself was an artist. His sensitivity to rhythm and colour, line and curve, size and shape makes him a perfect artist and designer. What he imagines he executes on the fabric. Hence, he envisages a design and a colour scheme and transforms his vision into reality by imposing distinctive harmony and beauty in the shape of fabrics.

This famous craft tradition was built-up and sustained against the storms of cheaper production of mills and western influence

in our outlook and taste from time to time. The mind of the tie and dye weavers attunes itself to this art, develop sensitiveness, conceives and perceives new images and weaves new pattern with beautiful motifs. Hence, the tradition of Bandha Art was preserved and gave birth to thousands of novel motifs and designs catering to the need, taste and outlook of the customers of this country and abroad.

Those who have seen the old Chandan Kura, Dui Phulia, Panch Phulia, Dash Phulia, Butadar Kaptas, Bichitrapuri, Shaktapar, Shachipar, Pattanayak par, Chanduapar and other sarees of the kind of Western Orissa, must have noticed how diverse designs like Ghaghara, Deuli, Creeper, Fish, Swan, Deer, Elephant, Lion, Lotus etc. adorn the 'anchal' of these sarees. Pictures other than these manifesting the artist's poetic disposition do not claim a place in the traditional Bandha Art of Western Orissa. In fine, these designs are not only beautiful to look at, but also have deeper poetic sentiments and inner meanings for our mind's eyes.

Now let us have some ideas regarding the preparation of this Bandha yarn. This tie & dye work is known as Kama or Bandha work in Western Orissa. Before the yarn is tied as per the design, the white yarn is straightened by the help of an wooden frame known as 'Kamada.' Prior to this, the yarn is warped according to its desired length. Then 'Anchaa' work begins and the ends are set separately in some portions known as 'Ganthies.' Now these ganthies are tied as per the design. Support, we are to tie a lotus flower. In tying the same, we will only tie half of lotus on Ganthies by extra yarn. The other half of the lotus will automatically come out as per the previous setting of the ends at the time of Anchaa work. But if we are to tie a creeper or swan design then we shall have

to tie the complete figure of the same.

Then the whole of this tied yarn is known as 'Chhanda.' If we are to give one colour to this chhanda like Ghaghara, then the whole chhanda will be immersed in one colour bath. If we are to give more than one colour to this Chhanda, then we shall have to cover some required portions of this Chhanda and dye in another colour bath. The work of covering the portions of the chhanda is known as 'Ghodani' in Western Orissa. In this way, this chhanda will be tied and dyed again and again to have its desired colours. Then this chhanda will be dried under a shadow or dark place as some colours fade in light and sun.

After the chhanda is completely dried, then the ghodanies' knots, and preliminary knots, will be untied and straightened and made ready for weaving.

This Bandha process affords unlimited scope for designing. With the use of synthetic dyes, a vast range of colours in various shades and different tone-effects can be introduced. A Bandha weaver envisions a design and a colour scheme, and takes days to translate his vision into a fabric of distinctive harmony and beauty. He transforms an ordinary thing into a golden beauty.

Unlike the tie and dye designs of other regions in India, the motifs and designs of Western Orissa are infinite in number and every motif or design is categorised under a special caption. No design is left without giving its name. It shows the creative minds of the Bandha weavers of this area.

In traditional fabric of Bandha Art, a lotus blossoms

at the centre of all the designs. It claims a central place as it has deep metaphysical and aesthetic implications. Lotus is a symbol of the 'Padminie' Nayika, i.e. women of lotus kind. Brahman is seated on lotus. Laxmi, the goddess of the ideal beauty and wealth resides in Lotus. So, She is known as Padmalaya. The face, eyes, navel, feet and palms of lord Vishnu are compared with the lotus. Again, he is also represented as holding a lotus in hand implying the sign of benediction.

The Taitteeriya Brahman narrating the story of creation says that at first there was water everywhere. In those waters the creator Prajapati saw a Lotus of light and he marvelled at it. Curious, he swam in the waters in the form of a divine boar until he reached it. Then he put some earth on the petals of that lotus. Later that lotus became the world of ours. Thus, lotus is held to symbolise "Creation." That which is the best, illimitable,

un-intelligible, immeasurable and that which is full of light should claim a place in the centre and the lotus legitimately claims that place in the Anchal of Bandha fabrics.

This tie & dye design retains its speciality and peculiarity in many ways. First, the face and back are exactly the same in every motif of this design which is quite impossible to get by the machine or other improved weaving devices like Dobby, Jacquard, etc. Secondly, no extra yarn is needed for the different motifs of this art. Thirdly almost all traditional motifs carry poetic ideas and aesthetic senses. Fourthly, its designs are many in number and every design is named. Apart from the richness of motifs, the harmonious blending of colours and their rainbow brilliance have made this process unique in textile world. Besides, both the ground and figure weave plain. The fabric is compact in texture, fast in colour, equal

number of warp and weft and hence has comparatively stronger weaving properties. So, it lasts long and hence has got hearty support of the women of Western Orissa.

But such artists had to face impediments in their profession. The art got stultified though the artisan lived preserving his skill. The advent of cheap millmade fabric made matters worse. The west influenced the outlook and taste of the customers and hence our craftsmen lost grip on the values and vogues that made them stand out distinctly superior. Simple and sometimes cheap designs, loud and not unoften offensive colour began to make inroads. Even in the jaws of such crisis, our Bandha Arts could stand firm on its foot.

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The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi
presiding over the meeting of the National
Committee on Women in New Delhi on May 17,
1988.

