

## CHAPTER X

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The relation between the Kalahandi State and the British Government were regulated by the Sanad of 1867. This, however, was revised in 1905 when the State was transferred to the Orissa Division. In matters of general administration the Chief possessed full powers in criminal matters, but capital sentences had to be submitted to the Commissioner of Orissa Division for confirmation. The Chief in many other matters had supreme powers and the pattern devised by him in the analogy of other feudatory States had great semblance with the British pattern of administration. The machinery relating to Revenue, Forest, and other branches of administration is dealt in respective Chapters. For the purpose of general administration the Chief had various departments, each in charge of an officer who was ultimately held responsible to the Chief through the Dewan. During the period when the State was under the administration of the Government and its affairs were managed by the Political Agents, there were a Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent assisted by a staff of Revenue Officers. These revenue officers were responsible for managing matters relating to the general administration. The Superintendent exercised the powers of the Chief except the sentences passed by him exceeding 7 years which were required to be submitted to the Political Agent for confirmation. The Assistant Superintendent exercised the powers of a First Class Magistrate. There were good and commodious office buildings at headquarters and the various branches of administration were in charge of capable and qualified officers.

After the merger of the ex-States with the Province of Orissa in 1948, the ex-States of Balangir, Sonepur and Kalahandi constituted a new district called the Balangir-Patna district. In 1949 Kalahandi formed a separate district with three subdivisions, viz., Bhawanipatna, Dharamgarh and Nawapara. The entire Khariar Zamindari which constituted the Nawapara subdivision of Sambalpur district was separated from it and was tagged to the newly formed Kalahandi district for administrative convenience. Each of the three subdivisions of the district is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer of the rank of a Junior Class I Officer. The district comes under the overall supervision of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Southern Division.

General administration of a district mainly rests with the Collector and District Magistrate. In the new set up, the Collector and the District Magistrate is in overall charge of the general, revenue, and development administration of the district. He is assisted by one or more than one Additional District Magistrates and a team of other

Administra-  
tion at  
District  
Level

district level officers. He occupies the pivotal position in the district administration. He is the guardian of law and order, and the promoter, helper and adviser of the social welfare institutions. He also supplies adequate technical support and facilities to the district level officers. He being the co-ordinating and guiding functionary at the district level, co-ordinates and guides the activities of different departmental officers in the district for the smooth and efficient implementation of different programmes of the Government. He is the Chairman of the District Development Committee of which the officers of the different departments of the Government posted in the district are members. He as the Chairman of the District Development Advisory Board advises the Government of the programmes required for the overall general development of the district.

The primary function of the Collector, as indicated by his very designation, is to collect the land revenue and other dues of the Government. Generally, Government dues of other departments are also collected by him by virtue of his powers as the Certificate Officer of the district under the State Public Demand Recovery Act and the Central Revenue Recovery Act. Being the Chief Revenue Officer of the district he is responsible for the management of Government land and Estates and for the maintenance of Land Records. He, as the District Magistrate, is also responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the district. Besides, a lot of other miscellaneous business relating to almost every sphere of administration keeps him constantly preoccupied. Immediately after Independence and during the first two Plan Periods (1951—1961) he was responsible for almost all development works implemented in the district. The 'Captain' of the development team, as he was called, he had to co-ordinate and supervise all development and welfare works in the district. But with the introduction of the Zilla Parishad Act, 1960,\* the role of the Collector changed to supervision and guidance as the guardian of Government interest.

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\* With the abolition of the Zilla Parishad with effect from the 1st April, 1967, a District Advisory Council was constituted which was called the District Advisory Council, or the "Zilla Paramarsadata Samiti." The functions of the District Advisory Council as defined in Resolution No. 2694, dated the 1st July, 1968, of the Community Development and Panchayat Raj (C. D.) Department, Government of Orissa, were as follows :

- (a) To advise the Government regarding developmental and other activities referred to it by Government from time to time and,
- (b) to consider and advise Government as to how best the developmental activities can be expeditiously and efficiently executed and suggest ways and means to remove the bottle-necks in the execution of the developmental works.

A new set-up called the District Development Advisory Board has replaced the Council since the 14th November, 1970.

The Collector is assisted by officers of various other departments like the Superintendent of Excise, the Civil Supplies Officer, the District Public Relations Officer, the District Panchayat Officer, the District Welfare Officer, etc.

The Collector of Kalahandi district is under the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Southern Division, with headquarters at Berhampur. The Collector, in revenue matters, is under the control of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner who has power to revise some of his orders, to supervise his work and to give him general directions. Above the Revenue Divisional Commissioner is the Member, Board of Revenue, who is responsible for the efficient running of revenue administration throughout the State. The Collector is responsible for the collection of Government dues and for the maintenance of Government properties.

After the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the District Magistrate no longer tries criminal cases. Separate Judicial Magistrates have been posted to the district and they are functioning under the supervision of the District and Sessions Judge with headquarters at Balangir. The Subdivisional Judicial Magistrates at Nawapara and Dharamgarh also function as Munsifs for their respective areas. The Subdivisional Judicial Magistrate, Bhawanipatna, has, however, no Munsif powers. This power is exercised by the Subordinate Judge stationed at Bhawanipatna. Besides, two Executive Magistrates for Dharamgarh and Nawapara have been appointed as Special Magistrates to act in the absence of the Subdivisional Judicial Magistrates. They, however, do not try cases. They remain in charge of the routine business and dispose of urgent criminal matters. They also maintain law and order. Besides, they are also required to record confessional statements and to hold T. I. parades and to record dying declarations according to law. The Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Magistrate, however, have been vested with powers to try offences under the Orissa Money Lenders Act and Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act, 1976.

As mentioned earlier, the district has been divided into three subdivisions, namely, Bhawanipatna, Dharamgarh and Nawapara. Each subdivision is in charge of a Subdivisional Officer. He is mainly responsible for general and revenue administration and for the maintenance of law and order in his area. The Executive Magistrate posted under him is entrusted with the disposal of criminal cases under the preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and maintenance of law and order. Trial of criminal cases are left to the Judicial Magistrate of the subdivision.

Administra-  
tion at  
Subdivisional  
Level

The Subdivisional Officer has general control over the subdivisional staff of all other departments as well as of the Panchayat Samitis and the Grama Panchayats in his subdivision. He is directly responsible for the smooth implementation of the programmes of the Panchayat Samitis.

As the Chief Revenue Officer of the subdivision, he is responsible for the proper administration of the Tahsils. He has also the powers of control and supervision over the police administration. The Subdivisional Officer also acts as the Estate Officer for all Government properties. Besides, the Subdivisional Officers are also notified as Subdivisional Magistrates under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Each Subdivisional Office has sections like (1) General and Miscellaneous, (2) Development, (3) Revenue, (4) Establishment, (5) Nizarat, (6) Record Room, (7) Election, (8) Judicial, (9) Welfare, (10) Grama Panchayat, (11) Civil Supplies, (12) Public Relations, etc. These sections are managed by gazetted officers subject to the overall control of the Subdivisional Officer.

The district has 6 Tahsils, each in charge of a Tahsildar. For better management of revenue administration, there are two Tahsils under each of the three subdivisions. The Tahsil offices are located at Bhawanipatna and Lanjigarh in Bhawanipatna Subdivision, Dharamgarh and Jayapatna in Dharamgarh subdivision, and Nawapara and Khariar in Nawapara subdivision. The Tahsildars are assisted by Additional Tahsildars. A Tahsil is further divided into some Revenue Inspector Circles which are the lowest land revenue units for the collection of land revenue and are in charge of Revenue Inspectors.

Except Bhawanipatna, each subdivision has a Sub-Treasury which is in charge of a Junior Officer of the State Finance Service. They are designated as Sub-Treasury Officers. Bhawanipatna being the headquarters of the district has got a Treasury which is manned by a Senior Officer of the Orissa Finance Service who is designated as Treasury Officer.

Community  
Development  
Blocks and  
other Offices

To implement the Community Development Programmes the district has been divided into 18 Blocks each in charge of a Block Development Officer. The Blocks are located at Bhawanipatna, Kesinga, Narla, Thuamul-Rampur, Madanpur-Rampur, Karlamunda and Lanjigarh (in Bhawanipatna subdivision), Dharamgarh, Junagarh, Koksara, Jayapatna, Kalampur and Golamunda (in Dharamgarh subdivision), and Nawapara, Komna, Khariar, Boden and Sinapali (in Nawapara subdivision).

A list of the various sections in the district office is given in Appendix 1. These sections are in charge of district level officers subject to the overall control of the Collector.

Other State Government offices and offices of the Government of India located in the district are shown in Appendix II.

APPENDIX I

**Different Sections of Kalahandi Collectorate**

1. Revenue
2. Touzi
3. General and Miscellaneous
4. Judicial
5. Establishment
6. Welfare
7. Emergency
8. Land Acquisition
9. Compensation
10. Development
11. Election
12. Nizarat
13. Land Record and Record Room
14. Mining
15. Public Relations
16. Civil Supplies
17. Panchayat
18. Excise
19. Library
20. Regional Transport Authority

## APPENDIX II

## Offices of the State Government

1. District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, Bhawanipatna
2. District Statistical Officer, Bhawanipatna
3. District Labour Officer, Bhawanipatna
4. District Agriculture Officer, Bhawanipatna, Khariar
5. District Survey Officer, Bhawanipatna
6. District Industries Officer, Bhawanipatna
7. District Inspectors of Schools: Bhawanipatna, Dharamgarh, Nawapara
8. District Panchayat Officer, Bhawanipatna
9. District Public Relations Officer, Bhawanipatna
10. District Welfare Officer, Bhawanipatna
11. District Employment Officer, Bhawanipatna
12. District Treasury Officer, Bhawanipatna
13. District Development Officer, Bhawanipatna
14. District Jail Officer, Probation Officer, and Prison Welfare Officer, Bhawanipatna
15. Divisional Forest Officers: Bhawanipatna, Khariar
16. Divisional Forest Officers (Kendu Leaf): Bhawanipatna, Khariar
17. Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Bhawanipatna
18. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Khariar Road
19. Executive Engineer, National Highways, Bhawanipatna
20. Executive Engineer, Electrical, Bhawanipatna
21. Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings, Bhawanipatna
22. Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Organisation, Bhawanipatna
23. Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Bhawanipatna
24. District Transport Manager, Bhawanipatna
25. Regional Marketing Officer, Bhawanipatna
26. Chief District Medical Officer, Bhawanipatna
27. Superintendent of Police, Bhawanipatna
28. Superintendent of Excise, Bhawanipatna
29. Superintendent of Fisheries, Bhawanipatna
30. Soil Conservation Officer, Bhawanipatna
31. Commercial Tax Officer, Bhawanipatna
32. Project Officer, Rural Industries, Bhawanipatna
33. Principal, Kalahandi College, Bhawanipatna
34. Principal, Industrial Training Institute, Bhawanipatna
35. Civil Supplies Officer, Bhawanipatna

## Offices of the Government of India

1. Central Intelligence Office, Bhawanipatna
2. Income-Tax Office, Bhawanipatna
3. Field Publicity Office, Bhawanipatna
4. Posts and Telegraphs (Head Post Office), Bhawanipatna
5. Telephone Exchange Office, Bhawanipatna