CHAPTER III

PRISON ADMINISTRATION IN ORISSA
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The State of Orissa in its present geographical form came into being only in the year 1936 on 1st of April. Before that there was no separate unified territorial unit known as Orissa. From history of Orissa it is learnt that "in 1803, the Bhonslas of Nagpur ceded Orissa to the East India Company. Added to the Company's Bengal Presidency, the Orissa territory was designated as the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri. It was administered by an official who combined in him the functions of a Collector, Judge and Magistrate. In 1803, Cuttack, Balasore and Puri areas were brought under the 'regulations', or administrative laws enacted by the Governor General in Council at Calcutta. The remaining territories in Orissa were the non-regulation areas. These areas were administered by the tributary chiefs."1 Before discussing on prison administration and its history in Orissa, let us know about the position of Orissa in the Indian map. The State of Orissa in its present form lies on the eastern coast of India, surrounded by Bihar in the north; West Bengal in the north-east, Bay of Bengal in the east, Andhra Pradesh in the south and south-east and Madhya Pradesh in the west. The State has an area of

155707 sq.km. According to the 1991 census, it has a population of 31659736 of which 16064146 are male and 15595590 are female. In all, it consists of 30 districts, 58 sub-divisions, 147 tahsils and 314 blocks.

Prison administration in Orissa, under the British rule dates back to the year 1803 so to say. So far as history of Orissa Prison System is concerned, it is not systematic but piecemeal. Before 1936, the various regions of Orissa were with the other neighbouring States. The southern part of present Orissa was with the previous great State of Madras. The native States (Gadjats) were autonomous units (British administered provinces). The districts of Mugalbandi were with the Bengal Presidency. Likewise the western parts were with the previous Central Province. In 1912, Bengal became an independent State and the major portion of Orissa went into the province of Bihar. During that period, Orissa and Bihar became combined province. Therefore, during this period, due to the absence of a separate jail manual, the Bengal Jail Code of 1864 was in force for the new Province up till the year 1928. In this year the Jail Manual for Bihar Orissa Province was drafted. Orissa became an independent province in 1936 and in 1942, its own jail manual was adopted.  

After conquering Orissa, the Britishers confined the political prisoners in Fort Barabati at Cuttack. This Fort was under the charge of the military authorities. Ordinary, Civil and Criminal prisoners were kept in

huts at Lalbag - the old lines of European regiments which took part in the conquest of the Province. They were also kept in other similar buildings near magistrate's cutcheri, being utilised for the purpose as occasion required. The accommodation was generally insufficient and defective. The rules in force for keeping different classes of criminals separate from one another could not be strictly adhered to.\textsuperscript{3}

It is learnt that only in the year 1811, the Cuttack Jail became ready for occupation in the month of February. Similarly, the Balasore Jail which was of mud and thatch was not built until 1816. Prisoners in these jails were not provided any food and instead they were given a diet - allowance in terms of money.

They purchased whatever they liked from the jail Mundi. The scale for each prisoner was from 2 to 3 pice a day, according to the fluctuations of the grain market up to the year 1810. In that year it was fixed at 3 pice. Prisoners were supplied clothing and bedding.\textsuperscript{4}

The District Magistrate was to look after the internal administration and management of the jail. It is important to note that the jail code during this period consisted of eleven pages only which required the Civil Surgeon and the Magistrate to visit the jail at least once in a week.


\textsuperscript{4} Ibid.
In the matter of prison labour, profit was made subordinate to punishment. Prisoners were sentenced to public labour. They were fetters (at the discretion of the magistrate) and worked in gangs on the public roads. At night they were fastened like a drove of pack-bullocks, by a chain passing through the rings of their fetters. The prisoners sentenced only to private labour remained inside the jail. They pounded gur, made baskets, gunny, mats, etc. One fourth of the proceeds of their private labour were given to the prisoners as reward for their industry. The avowed object of public labour was to warn and deter, of private labour to reform. The Court specified in their sentences the nature of labour to be performed. This distinction dates from 1820.5

It is also learnt that the public labour performed by the prisoners was mainly in the town of Cuttack and the prisoners were not to work in Sundays. The work of the prisoners included the digging of tanks, draining of marshes, laying and repairing of roads and lanes.

In 1853, Henry Ricketts, Member, Board of Revenue wrote about Cuttack Jail that the ward for female prisoners was in the middle of the jail with wards for male prisoners on both the sides. The civil jail was a room of 70 feet long and 34 feet wide, capable of containing nearly a hundred people. Since for some years past the average number of civil prisoners had been eight only.6

5. Ibid.
6. Reports on the Districts of Midnapur and Cuttack-1853 (Henry Ricketts, Member, Board of Revenue), John Gray, Calcutta Gazettee Office, 1858, pp.81-82.
Mr Ricketts recommended for dividing the existing ward for civil prisoners by erecting a wall and by providing a separate cook-room for confining the female prisoners. He also suggested that women prisoners were to be employed inside the jail unlike the male prisoners.7

Similar picture of Pooree Jail was given by Mr Ricketts. He remarked that the jail's outside wall was made of mud and the doors of the wards were the common jilmill doors used in dwelling house. Also he reported that no separate ward was there for female under-trial prisoners. The civil prisoners were housed in one of the wards of the criminal jail. The hospital facility too was totally unsatisfactory.

About Khoordah Jail, Mr Ricketts mentioned that it was merely one large ward, built of mud and surrounded by mud wall. This jail was entirely unfit for the reception of women prisoners. Under the orders of Government, dated 12th February 1850, all prisoners from Tributary Mahals sentenced to less than one year's imprisonment, were sent to Khoordah jail. Because of the high mortality which occasionally took place amongst Hill people in the Cuttack Jail, some prisoners should be transferred to Khoordah jail and for such purpose he recommended the construction of one good ward of masonry capable of containing fifty prisoners.8

7. Ibid.
In the district of Balasore, the Balasore Jail was not painted for years. The women's ward was inside the walls of the jail. The Civil Jail and the Jail Hospital were functioning inside the criminal ward. Inconvenience was experienced for the want of a hospital for the sick Paika Corps, stationed at Balasore Jail.9

J. Mouat, the Inspector General of Jails, Lower Provinces inspected the Cuttack Jail on 22nd January 1859. In his inspection report he had given a detailed description of the administration of Cuttack Jail. According to him, the ventilation in the jail was imperfect, it was badly placed, too much surrounded by buildings, and arrangements of its wards rendered classification impossible. There were 334 prisoners in Cuttack Jail. They were being classified as labouring, non-labouring, hajut, State prisoners and lunatics.10

The Inspector General of Prisons was greatly dissatisfied with the existing night privies and wanted them to be replaced on Agra Plan. He wanted the lifers to be removed to Alipoor Jail. The existing practice of employing prisoners outside the jail did not impress him. He wrote, "I am afraid that too many prisoners are employed on the roads and too few inside. If other manufactures are not sufficiently profitable, the

9. Ibid., pp.50-51.
weaving of cloth for the whole jail and for Pooree and Balasore prisoners will certainly afford suitable and remunerative employment.\textsuperscript{11}

The Inspector General of prisons also regretted the absence of a jail garden and felt that a garden inside the jail surely would provide good work for sickly convicts from Sambalpur.

W.W. Hunter in his book, 'The History of Orissa' mentioned that Cuttack was the most civilised of the three districts and furnished the highest proportion of criminals. The average jail population of the Central Prison at Cuttack and the sun-divisional lockups (Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur) were 415 in the year 1868. About one person always in jail to every 3,116 of the population. Of these only 16 were women, or one woman to every 80,818 of the population. In Balasore, the proportion of persons in jail was one to every 121278 of the population. Puri district, however, the seat of the so called abominations of Jagannath would blush to own such an overwhelming criminal population, including both the Central and Sub-divisional jails at Puri and Khurda.\textsuperscript{12}

It is also found from the same source that the average of number of prisoners in Balasore Jail and Bhadrak sub-jail were 144 in 1868. Out of them only four were females or about one person always in jail to every 3375. There was one female to every 121728 of population. The

\textsuperscript{11} Ibid., p.261.

constant rate of sickness was 2.77 percent of the jail population and the death was 2.77 percent. The great majority of the prisoners belonged to the labouring and lowest agricultural classes. Balasore had much larger number of Muhamadan prisoners in comparison to Puri or Cuttack district.\textsuperscript{13}

W.W. Hunter, also gave a very gloomy picture of jails under the princely states in Orissa after the British annexation. He visited Dhenkanal Jail in 1868 and found that prisoners were allowed to work on road. The jail consisted a Court yard with low thatched sheds running round three sides and the guard house on the fourth. The shed roof came so low that a child might have jumped on to them and thus got over the wall ... inside there were sixynine prisoners. The prisoner's gang was divided into two sections, each of which had a shed to itself on the opposite sides of the Court. There was a shed on the third side used for cooking. Of the first two sheds the first was monopolised by ten men, whose light complexion declared them to belong to the trading class. They looked at great ease and in good clothes in their prison house.\textsuperscript{14}

In the other shed the crowded fifty nine remained. They were packed as closely as sardines and with no other clothing except a narrow stripe round their waste. Being asked about this distinction regarding the treatment of the prisoners, the maharaja replied that these ten men

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{13} Ibid., p.58.
  \item \textsuperscript{14} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
were the plagues of the State. They consisted of fraudulent shopkeepers, who received stolen goods and notorious lead characters, who organised robberies. The other fifty nine were poor pans and other jungle people, imprisoned for petty theft, or as the tools of the ten prisoners on the opposite side. But then, the ten were respectable men and of good caste, while the other fifty nine were mere woodmen. It was proper to maintain God's distinction of caste.\textsuperscript{15}

It is also learnt that except one, a lame man, all the prisoners were in iron fetters. "Those sixty nine prisoners had an allowance of a hundred pounds of rice per diem, with goat's flesh once a fortnight, fish twice a month. Besides they had the little allowance of split peas and spices to season their food.\textsuperscript{16}

The old jail of Ranpur State was nasty, dangerous and unhealthy. During the year 1885-86 it contained 114 prisoners out of whom 113 were male and 1 was woman. The prisoners were engaged in preparing some roads and constructing a new jail building. They manufactured clothes for their own use. They also harvested paddy and grew vegetables for their own consumption.\textsuperscript{17}

It is learnt that in 1836, a committee on prison reforms was formed

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{16} W.W. Hunter, \textit{op.cit.}, pp.109-110.

\textsuperscript{17} Annual Administration Report for 1885-86 of Ranapur District, submitted to the Raja Saheb of Ranapur by his Dewan published in Utkal Dipika (Oriya Daily), 25 September, 1886, Cuttack, pp.10-11.
with eminent persons like Lord Macaulay as members to make amendments to prison manual. Another committee with almost the same objective was brought into existence in 1864. However, nothing much was done in this direction.

Following a conference of experts on prison administration held in 1877, another committee was appointed by the Government of India in 1888 leading to the enactment of Prison Act 1894 (Act of IX of 1894) and the Prisoners Act 1900 (act III of 1900). Some kind of uniformity in the prison administration in different parts of the country came into existence for the first time.¹⁸

In the year 1912, Orissa and Bihar provinces were separated from the Bengal presidency and the new province of Orissa and Bihar was created. It is during this period that the prisoners lived in insanitary condition without the ordinary amenities. Most of the political prisoners of Orissa received rough treatment at the hands of the Government during their stay in jails. The treatment meted out to the Oriyas by the Government left unhappy memories. Their welfare was overlooked by the Government whereas for the people of Bihar it remained beautiful.¹⁹

Though there were four central Jails in the province under the whole time Superintendents of Indian Medical Service with eleven district

jails, fifty one subsidiary jails and only one juvenile jail, the Orissa division was provided with only subsidiary jails and district jails. The only juvenile jail for youthful offenders was located at Monghyr in Bihar divisions. Orissa did not get the facility of juvenile jail.\(^{20}\)

The Government expenditure on the maintenance and welfare of the prisoners was niggardly. The amount spent annually by the Government for jail population did not achieve any tangible result for the minimum amenities of daily life were not provided to them. A large number of prisoners were suffering every year from Tuberculosis, Cholera, Dysentery and various epidemics. The steps taken by the jail administration to segregate the ailing prisoners and treatment was not satisfactory. As a result the death rate of the prisoners increased.\(^{21}\)

In the year 1936, an order in council of March 3, "called the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) order 1936, created a separate province of Orissa under a Governor within the federal scheme of the Government of India Act 1935. As constituted in 1936 the new province consisted of six districts Balasore, Cuttack, Puri, Ganjam, Koraput and Sambalpur. The Garhjats, the 26 princely states in the Eastern Ghat, the northern plateau and the western erosional plains, predominantly inhabited by Oriya speaking people, were excluded from the new province. These feudatary states were completely excluded

\(^{20}\) Ibid.

from the administrative control of the provincial Government and placed under the political department of Government of India.\(^{22}\)

In these princely states since the year 1908 the old fashioned jails consisting of a new thatched huts surrounded with a mud-wall were of the past. All the states possessed fair to moderate jails and the management was usually fair. The jails were in charge of a Jail Superintendent and Jailor.\(^{23}\)

The jail administration was placed under the charge of Director Health and Inspector General of prisons with the creation of the province of Orissa in 1936. The Cuttack jail had been functioning as a Central jail since April 1936 as there was no Central Jail in the province.

The province started with four permanent district jails at Cuttack, Puri, Berhampur and Sambalpur. In order to relieve the congestion, the jails at Balasore and Angul were treated as district jails. At the outset there were twenty seven subsidiary jails including two special sub jails at the head quarters of the Koraput district and Russelkonda in the district of Ganjam. The sub-jails at G.Udaygiri in Ganjam and Padwa at Koraput were abolished and a new sub-jail opened at Nauapara for the main part of the area transferred from the Central provinces. The total number of sub-jails remained at twenty six in 1937 and 1938.\(^{24}\)


It is learnt that no separate institution for juvenile offenders was there in the province and they were kept separately in the ordinary jails. The offenders below the age of 15 years were sent to the reformatory school at Hazaribag and others to the juvenile jail at Monghyr.

There was also no separate jail for habitual offenders like Buxar jail in Bihar. In South Orissa certain nonhabitual prisoners described as 'star' class were kept aloof from the other prisoners to avoid contamination. In North Orissa the introduction of this system was under consideration but had not yet been found possible.25

The Government of Orissa prepared a separate jail manual in 1942, incorporating therein, the relevant provisions of the Madras and Bihar - Orissa jail manual. This existing manual was based on the old concept on crime and punishment and detention in prison.26

The Congress Ministry of the newly created Orissa state tried to bring about change in the outlook of the jail officials and to diminish the rigour of rules that governed and controlled the life of prisoner before. It endeavoured hard to convert jails into centres of Cottage Industry, Vocational Education and Moral reforms. Old rules were revised and the distinction maintained among the three classes of prisoners was abolished. Even the ordinary criminals received better treatment and were provided

25. Ibid.
with larger facilities. Changes in the prison labour was introduced. Thus, "the iniquitous system of 'Ghani was done away with and prisoners were no longer forced to stand in the place of bullocks to turn it round to squeeze out oil. This was a piece of human labour, endemic in all jails. The humiliating and provoking custom of 'Sarkar Salami' was discontinued. It required a special kind of salute to every jail official or official visitor. Its breach was followed by punishment. Better food, better medical attendance and better dress and utensils proceeded from the new reforms. These changes were brought about to make prison life less intolerable and more humane.  

In the year 1952, Dr Eduard Galway, the U.N. Criminologist came to Orissa in the month of December to visit the jails in the State. In his report presented to the Inspector General of Prisons, he stated that the State should have a separate prison department and would include different correctional activities. "So long as the prison department was tagged into the medical department with the result that Director of Health who was the Inspector General Prisons could spare very little time to look to the interest of the Prison Department."

This source also suggested that, prison administration in the State from the time of its creation had not developed much. Prisons as before,

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27. Lal Mohan Patnaik, Resurrected Orissa, Cuttack, 1941, pp.94-95.  
28. Ibid.  
were to carry out only the custodial function of looking into the security and the safety of the prison inmates and almost no attention was given to the reformation of the inmates in custody. As such, in the year 1954, following the report of Dr Galway, the post of Inspector General of Prisons was separated in Orissa.

The Government of Orissa felt that the present system of Jail Administration in the State left considerable scope for reforms and improvements in the light of the research and advances made in other countries. They, therefore, constituted the Jail Reforms Committee in 1952 under the Chairmanship of Lal Mohan Patnaik.30

The Committee visited 26 jails in the State and selected jails in the State of West Bengal. Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay. It sent questionnaires to 419 persons in the States relating to their suggestion of which 69 replies were obtained. Also the Committee recorded the evidence of 118 persons who appeared before it. Finally, in the year 1955, the Committee submitted its report on prison reforms in Orissa. In its report the Committee suggested many valuable recommendations. The highlights of such recommendations are no doubt remarkable.

In the opinion of the Committee, segregation and correction are to be considered as main purpose of imprisonment and therefore, the Prison Act 1894 and Prisoners Act 1900 were to be amended.

The Committee recommended for the appointment of a whole time Psychiatrist for the Jail Department attached to Central Jail.

There should be a separate cadre of Medical Officers with training in correctional methods.

Every district jails should be provided with a mental ward having provisions for alleged lunatics. Besides, there should be a female hospital in Central Jail. Special attention should be given for separation of T.B. and Leper patients.\(^{31}\)

The Committee expressed its bitter dissatisfaction due to overcrowding in jails because of the inflow of undertrial prisoners and suggested that the cases of undertrial prisoners should be disposed of quicker and the period which they spent in jail may be considered while awarding imprisonment. It recommended for the classification of prisoners and the provision for separate enclosures for each class of prisoners.\(^{32}\)

It further suggested that Children's Aid Society should function. Moreover, it opined for the construction of Camp Jails in the forest areas of Orissa where prisoners with good behaviour would be allowed to stay. They would be able to utilise the forest resources for the benefit of the Society.\(^{33}\)

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The Committee felt Keonjhar Jail to be suitable for the establishment of a Model Prison there and recommended Vocational Training for prisoners including the setting up of a Jail Press. Side by side it emphasised on the training provision for the jail staff. On the issue of educational qualification it suggested graduation for an assistant jailor and at least upto M.E. standard for the warders. For political and women prisoners the Committee also suggested for separate jails.

A Children's Court for the trial of juvenile prisoners should function. The Committee also opined that there should be a Review Board which would advise the Government for carrying forward the recommendations of All India Jail Reforms Committee of 1920. It suggested that a Lady Welfare Officer should be appointed in every jail for looking after the personal family problems of prisoners till he was released. The Committee also recommended for the introduction of probation and parole system. It further recommended in favour of Prisoners' Aid Society for distressed prisoners. The Committee also recommended for Prison Panchayat to function in all district jails.34

From the above study it is learnt that the Committee report on jail reforms is no doubt a milestone in the history of prison reforms in Orissa after independence. In accordance with the recommendations made by the Lal Mohan Patnaik Committee Report, many concrete steps were

taken by the Government of Orissa in the direction of Prison Reforms. These may be discussed as follows.

In all the district jails, the inmates are given the voting right to elect their representatives to Prison Panchayat, which looks after the overall welfare of the jail inmates.

Prisoners also are permitted to go out on parole to visit their ailing relatives and also to attend their private affairs as provided under Orissa Parole Rule. Facilities are now provided to the female inmates for indoor games and outdoor games for male inmates. Side by side, apart from the daily radio-listening programme also dramas are staged and folk dances are arranged occasionally for their entertainment.

In the Circle Jails of Orissa, the Prison Welfare Service has been introduced. The Prison Welfare Officers are in charge of the welfare of their respective prison inmates and their family members. Another important improvement is found in the jail administration with the provision of training for jailors and assistant jailors.

According to Sri G.C. Pattnaik, former Inspector General of Prisons, Orissa, by the end of the year 1958 on the recommendation of Lal Mohan Patnaik Committee, one Central Home for women and seven District After Care Shelters had been opened. After care Societies were organised in different districts. As many as 179 released prisoners had
been successfully rehabilitated during the year 1958 out of 222 persons admitted in two District After Care Shelters.\textsuperscript{35}

In the year 1962, during the Second Plan Period the scheme "Probation Service" was introduced in Orissa in seven (undivided) districts of the State, such as, (1) Cuttack, (2) Ganjam, (3) Puri, (4) Balasore, (5) Sambalpur, (6) Mayurbhanj, and (7) Koraput, in the first phase. Subsequently in the remaining six districts, such as, (1) Sundargarh, (2) Dhenkanal, (3) Keonjhar, (4) Phulbani, (5) Kalahandi, and (6) Balangir, the scheme was extended in the year 1966. The scheme was introduced in compliance with the provision of the Orissa Probation of Offenders Act 1958 and Orissa Probation of Offenders Rule 1962.

The probation service in the district level is divided into two parts, viz., (a) Correctional Wing, and (b) Custodial Wing. In the custodial wing the Superintendent of Jail is the head whereas the District Probation Officer is the head of the correctional wing below whom work the 'After Care Officer' and the 'Subdivisional Probation Officer'. Again the three phase, i.e., (a) Pre-Care, (b) Care, and (c) After Care services are regulated by the District Probation Officer, the Prison Welfare Officer and the After Care Officer respectively.\textsuperscript{36}

\textsuperscript{35} Quoted in A. Mohanty & N. Hazary, \textit{op.cit.}, p.43.
\textsuperscript{36} Information given by Late Narasingham, Special Officer, Office of the Inspector General, Prisons, Bhubaneswar on 2nd December 1994.
The Pre-Care Service for prisoners is to continue from 1 year to 3 years time except life-convicts. However, it is the discretionary power of the court to direct to keep an inmate below 21 years in a Pre-Care home. In Orissa in all the 13 undivided districts, District Probation Officers are appointed. But in all Sub-divisions, Sub-divisional Probation Officers are not yet appointed.\textsuperscript{37}

The rule is that a child above 16 years of age, if convicted by the Court may go to the Probation home where he can stay for 1 to 3 years time according to circumstances. The probation hostel for such inmates is situated at Angul in the district of Angul. But boys below 16 years of age and girls below 18 years of age may be kept in the Observation Homes. Such homes are situated in Rourkela and Berhampur.\textsuperscript{38}

The District Probation Officers were under the administrative control of the Inspector-General of Prisons who acted as the Chief Probation Officer in the State. At the district headquarters they were responsible to the concerned district Magistrates.\textsuperscript{39}

It is to be noted that the main aim behind the probation service is to keep the first offenders away from the hardened criminals. For this the Probation Officer, under the direction of the court was to make

\textsuperscript{37} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{38} Ibid.

necessary preliminary enquiries and to supervise the probationers placed under their charge. Ultimately it aims at arranging for their adjustment in the Society so that they would never return to crime again.

In the first year of the Third Five Year Plan it was proposed to convert Angul Juvenile Jail into a certified school with a view to give proper treatment to the youthful offenders up to the age of sixteen and to give them general education and training in different crafts and trades to facilitate their rehabilitation. It was proposed to establish one Probation Hostel at Angul during the year 1963-64.40

In Orissa, a Jail Reform Committee was to set up under the Chairmanship of Justice Harihar Mohapatra. The Government of Orissa in the Home Department Resolution No.10551/JLS 65-79/JLS dated the 2nd March 1979 constituted the above Committee for the revision of Orissa Jail Manual. This was done in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on Prison Administration set up by the Government of India in 1972 which suggested that the Prison Manual of the different States should be amended to keep pace with the changing pattern of prison administration and the recent thinking on criminology and social reformation. "By another resolution of the State Government No.53003/JLS-R-85/79/JLS, dated 3rd October 1979, the

Committee was also asked to recommend such amendments to laws as are within the competence of the State and as necessary for making appropriate provisions in the Revised Manual.\(^{41}\)

The Committee held its first meeting on the 3rd April 1979 and prepared an elaborate questionnaire involving different aspects of prison life and administration to elicit the views of the different sections of the people.\(^{42}\)

Out of 850 persons from whom opinion was sought through the questionnaire, only 163 replies came. Their suggestions were classified by the Committee which discussed the same in its meetings.

They also took into active consideration the recommendation of the All India Jail Manual Committee Working Group on Prison Administration, Dr W.C. Reckless’ observations, the Draft Model Prison Rules and the Report of the previous Committee appointed by the State Government. Members of the Committee visited some of the jails in the State to acquaint themselves with the prevailing conditions. They also discussed with some of the experienced Senior Prison Officers including some who had retired from Government service. They had also the advantage of visiting some of the prominent prison establishments of Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Nabha and Delhi.\(^{43}\)

\(^{42}\) Ibid., p.3.
\(^{43}\) Orissa Jail Reforms Committee Report, 1981, p.3.
The Committee has not only revised the existing Jail Manual of 1942, but also has drafted some new legislation such as the Orissa Prisoner's Release on Probation Act 1981. It has also revised the provisions relating to Children's Act 1960 for the establishment of certified schools for Boys and Girls.44

The Committee felt the necessity of a Central Prison in Orissa to be built. It too recommended for the repair, remodelling and extension of the existing building of some of the Sub-jails and Taluk jails which were not only very inadequate but also were in dilapidated condition.

It also pointed out that "with the increase emphasis on correctional service, rehabilitation and after-care programme, strengthening of the staff at headquarters is another urgent necessity. An under-current of discontent among the prison staff has now come to surface. Their duties are of arduous nature and confined to a monotonous area. Their scales of salary should be equated at least with those of the corresponding police cadre. Quarters within the vicinity of the jail campus should be provided for at least half of the staff to ensure immediate and punctual attendance when needed in a situation of urgency or unforeseen circumstances.45

44. Ibid.
The Government of Orissa, with the recommendation of the Committee has taken some steps for improvement of jail administration. Accordingly in the year 1984, on 20th March the Government opened the First Jail Training School inside the campus of Berhampur Circle Jail. Also from the year 1987, in various jails of Orissa, 'daily wage scheme' has been introduced.

In accordance with the Report of the Mulla Committee and also the report of Harihar Mohapatra Committee, the Government of the State has taken some steps for improvement of jail administration.

It is noteworthy here to discuss some of the measures taken by the State Government in improving jail administration of the State. In accordance with the Annual Administrative Report of the Home (Jails) Department for the year 1991, the following welfare activities for the prisoners are undertaken.

On the health care issue it states that; "The medical and health services in the jails and sub-jails of the State were looked after by Medical Officers and Sub-Divisional Medical Officers respectively."46

Paid sweepers were engaged to keep the inside premises clean. Health preservation was ensured by maintenance of proper sanitation. The sanitation of urinals, drains, bathing platforms and kitchen was

maintained properly by regular use of disinfectants. All newly admitted prisoners were screened for their protection against small pox. These unprotected prisoners were given primary vaccination and others were re-vaccinated at regular intervals.\textsuperscript{47}

Extra special diet is being given to the sick prisoners suffering from deficiency diseases and those who loose weight in accordance with the provision of Orissa Jail Manual. Also games, recreational activities, physical exercises and film shows were organised in jails for promotion of mental health of prisoners. Benefits of listening radio programme were also extended to the prisoners in jails/sub-jails at Bhanjanagar as usual. Prisoners suffering from dental, eye disease and those requiring specialised treatment were sent to the Medical College Hospitals at Cuttack, Berhampur and Burla.\textsuperscript{48}

Apart from providing different facilities to the prison-inmates also the government has taken steps for providing funds for the welfare of the prison staff. According to the Report, "Funds were raised to an extent of Rs.4,10,043.84 paisa out of which a total amount of Rs. 30,323.00 paisa was expanded leaving a balance of Rs. 3,79,720.84 paisa at the close of the year 1991-92.\textsuperscript{49}

A very important step taken in this respect is the abolition of the system of "Locking in day time in sub-jails". Previously, a very bad

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\textsuperscript{47} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{48} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{49} Ibid.
practice of locking the inmates throughout the day in the sub-jails was practised which put a very depressing psychological effect on prisoners inside the crowded wards. Now it is no more there. Another important change is made in jails by streamlining the purchase of dietary articles. Previously, the private contractors were supplying these articles leading to corruption. Step was taken now so that most jails in Orissa are fed by Co-operative Consumer Societies which is an all Orissa Organisation.50

Better training and in-service course is now provided for jail staff. Also for better jail administration the Superintendents of Jails are asked to change their approach towards inmates of jails for a humanizing effect on them. On correctional front, care has been taken to establish relationship with the family members of the long term convicts through the District Probation Officers and Prison Welfare Officers.

Now the department is taking more interest in the implementation of literacy programme in jails in the State. As a result, 2 inmates from Bhubaneswar Special Jail had appeared the High School Certificate Examination and 1 inmate of Berhampur Jail did appear for the Master Degree Examination. Also in the Malkangiri Sub-jail, all the 35 Bonda (a local tribe) prison inmates were made literate.51

51. Ibid.
Now almost 8 thousand prisoners are residing in different jails of Orissa. Various steps are taken for their convenience, reformation and rehabilitation by which they are specially benefited.52

Everyday, a prisoner is provided with food worth Rs.11.50 and every Sunday they are given special food items like milk, fruits, eggs and horlicks with the advice of the doctors. Every district prison is now provided with a hospital along with one doctor, one pharmacist. A prisoner now gets Rs. 280/- for his annual medical expenses. Apart from other necessaries of life, they are also given clothes, cotton towels (gamuchha), blankets, bedding materials and utensils for use.53

For the Women Prisoners, Lady Prison Welfare Officers are appointed. A Women Prison also is established at Sambalpur for the women prisoners of the entire State, where they are given training in sewing and handicrafts. Teachers are appointed in every jail who are helping in eradicating illiteracy among prisoners. The Jail Panchayats are constituted in jails by the prisoners for listening to the grievances of the prisoners. Also Citizen Committee and responsible established citizens are bringing to the notice of the authority the difficulty and grievances of the inmates by keeping direct contact with them.

From the above analysis, it is learnt that in the State of Orissa, steps have always been taken for the welfare of the prisoners.\textsuperscript{54}

\textsuperscript{54} Ibid.