CHAPTER - XII

ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE REGION
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3.1 Area and Location

With an area of 6,764.6 sq. miles or 17,520.3 sq.k, Sambalpur, the second largest district of Orissa, is situated in North-Western part of the State. It lies between 20°-43'N and 22°-11'N latitudes and between 82°-39'E and 85°-15'E longitudes. It is bounded by Dhenkanal district (Orissa) in the East, Raipur and Raigarh districts (Madhya Pradesh) in the South and Sundargarh district (Orissa) in the North.

3.2 Regional Variation

Sambalpur can be divided into two homogeneous regions based on certain socio-economic characteristics such as cropping pattern, crop intensity, irrigation intensity, occupational pattern, density of population, urbanisation, percentage of backward population etc. Of the seven Taluks, while Sambalpur, Bargarh and Jharsuguda belong to region 1, the Taluks of Padampur, Kuchinda, Deogarh and Rairakhol constitute region 2.

Region 1 is inhabited by more than 57% of the population of the District. This region is marked by higher population density (almost twice that of region 2), a higher

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literacy rate and better infra-structure and is blessed with one of the largest irrigation projects in the country namely the Hirakud Dam Project. There is not much variation in the ratio of working population. Region 1 is characterised by greater diversification of economic activities than region 2 (two). Only 41% of the workers in region 1 are cultivators as against 56% in the region 2.

3.3 History

The district is named after the headquarters town Sambalpur which according to O'Malley derives its name from the presiding deity Samalai, installed by Balaram Dev, the first Chauhan king and founder of Sambalpur township. According to some historians, the territory was formerly known as Sambal (which probably explains the name of Samalai) and the suffix 'pur' was later added when it came under the rule of Chauhans. It is also stated that 'Sambalpur' of Bengal mentioned in the writing of the seventeenth century French traveller Tavernier and also in a book, Decline and Fall of Roman Empire, written by historian Edward Gibbon (1737-1794) is none other than the present district of Sambalpur. It was a region rich in diamonds which catered to the needs of Rome. There are places like 'Hirakud', the diamond island and 'Motijharan', the emerald spring in the district. Sambalpur does not have at present mines of precious stones. But

Asiatic Annual Register, London (1799) speaks of Motte's visit to Sambalpur at the command of Lord Clive to initiate a regular trade in diamonds. Major Ousley writes in the same journal in 1840 on the process of washing for gold-dust and diamonds at Heera Khoond', an island in the river Mahanadi. Sambalpur was taken over in 1850 and the Government of India published notification in the Gazette to lease prospecting right to anyone who made eligible offer. Recently some precious stones have been discovered by the zoologists of Government of Orissa in the Sambalpur-Bolangir border area. In 1979-80, acting under the orders of Directorate of Mines (Northern Zone), Government of Orissa, consequent upon news in the Dailies about clandestine mining of precious stones, they discovered 16.5 Kg. of crystals, out of which there are 2 pieces, each weighing 2.5 Kg., of Emerald variety, (green colour) called Berillium Aluminium Silicate (Be$_2$Al$_2$Si$_6$O$_{18}$).

3.4 Culture

Sambalpur is the heartland of artistic culture. Sambalpur sarees are world famous for the unique 'tie and dye' style of weaving and splendid designing in cotton and tassar silk. People of the area speak an Oriya dialect which has poetic accent. Their songs are lyrical and an under current of pathos runs through them. The people who live in 3,736 villages are simple, law-abiding and God-fearing. Most of the people live in mud plastered and khaparli houses which are
clean and beautiful. They celebrate a number of festivals among which Nuskhai, Shai Jauntia and Sital Sasthi are famous. Having lived with nature for centuries, their culture has merged in nature. During moonlit nights, villagers particularly the tribal folk dance to the tune of dhola and mahuri and their songs and music are wafted in the Mahula rinsed breeze.

Economic development has caused a break in the circular flow economy but has hardly changed the life style of the people. This cannot adequately be explained by the lagged cultural response to economic expansion and the limited thrust of development. More plausible reasoning lies in the nature of development itself. Unlike industrialisation, agricultural growth, introduction of mechanisation and M.Y.V. programme not withstanding, causes minimum homeostatic imbalance and disturbances in the socio-cultural environment. Growth of rational attitude coupled with transmission of new technology which lifts the economy from age old stagnation does not run counter to cultural ethos of the people.

3.5(1) Geographical setting

The district is geographically divided into three natural tracts. Firstly, there is the flat plain boundary in the South-West covering the greater part of Bargara subdivision. It is noted as the granary of northern Orissa, because the soil is highly fertile and the area is well-served by a network of canals from the Hirakud reservoir, resulting in intensive,
profitable cultivation. The country is well drained by two large tributaries of Mahanadi, namely Danta and Jira. The second is the undulating submountain tract with isolated hills rising abruptly from the plains and with rocky ridges here and there, and deep ravines cut by drainage channels. There is a perceptible slope falling from nearly 700 feet on the north to 479 feet at Sambalpur town. The tract, which has good cultivable land, is restricted in area to the valleys of Mahanadi, Ib, Champali and Tikra and to the limit of Sambalpur-Jharsugada road. The third natural tract is the tableland with rugged ranges of hill on the north and the east, traversed by hill streams running in confusion in all directions.

The Mahanadi is the main river in the district. It originates in the district of Bastar of Madhya Pradesh. After crossing the border, it flows from North-West to South-East of Sambalpur for a distance of nearly 90 miles. The district forms a part of the central basin of the river. The rocky bed and presence of rapids below Hirakud dam make navigation difficult. The Bramhani is the second biggest river in the district which passes through Deogarh subdivision from North to South dividing the Barkot Tahsil into almost two equal parts. The principal tributary of the Mahanadi in the district is the Ib which enters Sambalpur from Sundargarh district in the North. The river Bheden (Bonam) which flows

4. ibid P. 1.
from Kuchinda sub-division and joins it near Rampur is its main tributary. The Maltijhar, Hared and Jamli are other important tributaries of the Mahanadi on the Eastern side. Then, there are minor rivers like the Tikra, Kharala, Malti, Gohira and Motuali Nāla. The river Tikra which flows in the Southern part is drained to the Mahanadi by the Karandijhar, Surubali and Harihar Nalas. Kuchinda sub-division is a hinterland of the Mahanadi. It is drained by four important rivers, namely Sapai, Bheden, Kharla and Malti. In the West, two important tributaries of Mahanadi, Jira and Jhaun flow through the Bargarh plain. The river Ong (Ang) which enters Borasambar area from Navapara flows in a wide semi-circle from West to East before leaving the district near Gaisilat to join the Mahanadi in the Sonapur subdivision of Bolangir district. The principal relevance of our study of the river system of Sambalpur lies in their potentialities for future agricultural expansion and industrial growth.

3.5(2) **Spring**

There are no natural lakes in the district, although there are natural springs. The Pradhanpat waterfall supplies water to Deogarh town throughout the year. The Koradkot fall generates electricity for the town and is the oldest hydro-electric project in India. It was started by Raja Sir Sudhal Deb at the beginning of the 20th Century. Both Koradkot

* Nāla means a rivulet.
and Idamura falls facilitate irrigation to the neighbouring areas. Koradkot irrigates 50 acres of land while Lismura irrigates about 30 acres.

3.5(3) Hirakud Dam

The Hirakud dam, situated 9 miles from Sambalpur upstream river Mahanadi, is stated to be the largest artificial lake in Asia. It has a water spread of about 777 Sq. Km. at high level and a shore line of 251 Km. It is a multipurpose reservoir which functions as a flood control, hydro-electric and irrigation project. The gross storage capacity of the dam is 6,60 million acre-feet of which 1,38 million acre-feet form a dead storage providing the minimum head for power generation. The remaining capacity of 4,72 million acre-feet provides a sufficient reserve for flood control, live storage for irrigation and power generation.

After construction of the dam, the Cuttack delta and Sambalpur riverline villages have hardly experienced ravages of flood in the Mahanadi. Flash floods which used to take great toll of human and animal life have been fully controlled. But at times some areas get inundated on account of high discharge of water from the reservoir following heavy rains in the upper catchment area.

Prior to coming of the Dam, Sambalpur district had no canals and the cultivators were depending largely on rains
water for Kharif crops and on the tanks, katas, wells and rivulets for the rabi crops. The years in which there was scanty rain fall, they suffered on account of reduction in agriculture output. The rabi crop in particular was seriously affected. The scene has largely changed and the Hirakud canals command a cultivable area of 454,000 acres. The canals are spread over 10 Community Development Blocks in Sambalpur district and 3 Blocks of the neighbouring Bolangir district with a gross command area of 6 lakh acres. The average net irrigated area is 230,000 acres in Sambalpur district and 90,000 acres in Bolangir district. The canals irrigate on an average 540,000 acres annually in the district of Sambalpur and Bolangir. Due to more mileage of canals in Sambalpur district, the irrigation facilities are available to 320,000 acres on an average every year whereas it is 220,000 acres in Bolangir district. The Hirakud ayacut has covered 600 villages out of which 400 are in Sambalpur district and 200 are in Bolangir irrespective of the size of villages.

The Hirakud power house is located at the right end of the dam. Presently it has four generating units with an installed capacity of 123,000 K.W. Power is generated and conveyed through high tension transmission lines to different consumption centres. The total length of transmission lines is 524 route miles and there are 9 grid-substations which

cover the entire mineral and industrial belt of Orissa. The powerhouse has potential for further expansion. There is a powerhouse in Chiplim, 17 miles down stream the power channel of the Hirakud Dam which belongs to the Hirakud power system too. It has 3 units of 211000 K.W. each. Variation in generation of electricity in both these power stations occurs in different seasons due to availability of different heads of water.

Some of the important consumers of Hirakud electricity are the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and Fertilisers, Rourkela, Indian Aluminium Hirakud, Ferromanganese Plant, Joda, Electric Traction of the Railways, Orient Paper Mills, Rajgangpur, Orissa Textile Mills, Kalinga Tubes and Titagarh Paper Mills at Chowdhar, Refractories Factory, Belpahar and the I.D.C. units at Hirakud and Bargah. Apart from these, there are many medium and small scale industries. In the rural areas, Hirakud power is being utilised for purpose of lift irrigation.

3.5(4) Land

The most usual classification of the land of the district is based on their position or level. In this connection, it is worth while mentioning that the Mahanadi divides the district into two regions - the land slopes from North-East to South-West in the Northern region and from South-West to North-East in the Southern region finally meeting
the Mahanadi. The most fertile land of Sambalpur is known as 'Bahal'. It is the lowest land and holds water for long. 'Berna' is the next higher land and is fertile. The third type is a high land with slopes and is called 'Mal'. The fourth type is known as 'Att' which is high land and the top of the soil is so hard that water flows down without going deep. It is suitable for Rabi crops only.

3.5(5) Soil

The soil is mostly of clay, loam, sandy and their combinations sandy-loam, clay-loam and sandy-clay. The soil can also be classified as (a) red forest soil (b) brown forest soil (c) sandy soils (d) clay loam and clay soil and (e) black cotton soil. The district has mostly red soil, but a small patch of mixed red and black cotton soil appears in the southern part. Most of the soil in Mirakud ayacut area is red soil which is fertile and responsive to irrigation. Red forest soil is found extensively in Rairakhol, Deogarh, Jamunkira and Cobindapur Blocks of the northern region. It is porous and rich in organic matters. It nortures forest plants as well as citrus and mango orchards. Sesameum and Arhar also grow well in this type of soil. Brown forest soil is found in Kuchinda Block and a part of Rengali Block. It contains low organic matter and obstructs free drainage. It is suitable for growing pulses and millets and fruit trees like mango, bel and Sapeta. Sandy soil is a feature of the high or Mal lands lying
on a watershed. It contains low organic matter and is
dependent on rainfall. This type of soil is useful for
growing groundnut and pulses (Mung, Biri and Kulthi). The
lower mal lands grow early varieties of rice well. Clay loam
soil is found in most of the Berna lands of the cultivated
tract. The term Berna denotes land towards bottom of a
depression which receives drainage from either side. Bahal
is a term used for identifying land at the bottom of a
depression on drainage line. While the former is narrow and
steep, the latter is wide and level. The clay loam soil of
the northern range contains large percentage of mica. It is
found in Rengali, Jharsuguda and Laikera areas. Another
type of clay soil with high percentage of calcium obtains in
Sambalpur community Development area. The clay soil that
occurs in the Rimal, Naktideul, Padampur, Paikmal, Bijapur,
Bhatli, Ambabhon and Gaisalat areas are rich in organic
matter contents. The main crop is paddy. Although neighbouring
Madhya Pradesh abounds in black cotton soil, it is found only
in Dhamra and Paikmal areas of Sambalpur. It contains quite
liberal amount of organic matter. Paddy is generally grown
in the Khariff season. During Rabi season, onion and sugar
cane are grown under irrigated conditions whereas Mung and
gram are the non-irrigated crops.

3.5(6) Climate

The climate of the district is characterised by hot, dry summer, chilly winter and well distributed rains during the period of South-West monsoon. Cold waves sometimes affect the district in association with heavy snow fall in the North India causing rain and sharp fall in temperature during winter season. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1527.00 mm. (60.11\textquoteleft\textquoteleft). So it comes under medium rainfall zone. The eastern half of the district gets more rainfall than the Western half of the region. The variation of annual rainfall from year to year is not large and there are about 70 rainy days in a year. Relative humidity is high during the rains, but during the winter, air is fairly dry. Winds are generally light to moderate in intensity. The force increases in the late summer and early rains. The level and pattern of present as well as future agricultural expansions and development of agro-based industries, particularly spinning and weaving, depend upon the climatic conditions and irrigation facilities of the district.

3.5(7) Crops

The principal crops of the district are paddy, pulses (mung, biri, kulthi), oil-seeds (groundnut, tol, mustard, caster), sugar cane, millets and wheat. The total cropped area is about 1485,000 acres (601,425 hectares).
After construction of the Dam, different varieties of vegetables are being grown in the district in large measure. However, what the King's Gazetteer pointed out in 1932 holds good to-day so far as fruit trees are concerned.

The light sandy soil of the district is most favourable for the growth of fruit trees of which mahula (Bassia Latifolia) is not only the most common, but also the most important. Its flowers are of great value as a food to the people generally and especially to the aboriginals, by whom they are dried in the sun and stored throughout the year.7

Fine mango groves are to be seen in every part of the district. The tal palm and Khajur or date Palms are a common sight on the bank of tanks. The guava is cultivated on the banks of nulas in many villages in the Baragarh Plain. Similarly tamarind and jujube are fairly common. Other fruits include orange, lemon, citrus, plantain, pine apple, pomelo, pomegranate, jack-fruit, leeschi and rose apple.

3.6 Current status of Agriculture

Agriculture is the mainstay of the population and contributes 43 per cent of household income. The cultivated area (net area sown plus current fallow) of the district is

7. Sambalpur District Gazetteer, F.C.King, 1932, p. 138-139.
around 670 thousand hectares. Due to uneven rainfall, the 
net area sown and also the gross cropped area are subject to 
fluctuations. The maximum gross cropped area achieved in the 
past has been 74 thousand hectares. 8

3.7 Allied Activities

Activities allied to agriculture, namely dairy, 
fishery, poultry, piggery and forestry have so far played a 
minor role in terms of their share in income. At present, 
income from these activities has only 5 per cent share in the 
total household income. This however, does not underestimate 
in importance of this sector since it provides the second 
line of defence to certain groups of households. 9

3.8 Forest

Forests cover an area of 2,428 square miles i.e. 
35.89% of the total area of the district. The nature of the 
forests is mainly that of northern tropical dry deciduous 
type, though in some parts in Deogarh moist deciduous species 
are found. There are three types of forests (i) Sal (Shorea 
robusta) which is the principal species, (ii) the dry-mixed 
forests and (iii) the bamboo forest. Assam (Terminalia tomentosa)

8. Study of Policy-Oriented Lending and Deposit Potential, 
and teak (Tectona Grandis) grow in the Sal forest. The common species in the dry forest are Karla (Cleistanthus Collinus), Anla (Emblica Officinalis), Kendu (Diospyros melanorylon), Char (Buchanania Lati folia) Bija (Pterocarpus marsupium), Nabul (Madhuca Latifolia), Gambhar (Gmelina arborea), Sisco or rosewood (Delbergia Latifolia) and Simul (Bombax malabaricum).

The principal forest produce are timber, firewood, bamboo and Kendu leaf. The Orient paper Mills at Brajarajnagar and twentytwo saw mills in the district owe their existence to bamboo and timber of Sambalpur forest respectively. Bidi making which is a flourishing cottage industry is based on Kendu leaf and the district is noted for trade in Kendu leaf. Lac, Silk cocoons, resin, bees-wax, honey etc. are gathered in considerable quantity from the forests of Deogarh and Kuchinda while Kusal (Pollinia argentea) is the common grass to be found in the forest. Khas (Andropogon Squavrosus) which is used as scented, heat dampener in the window panes and Tikhari which yields aromatic rusa oil are the rare species. Careful husbanding of forest resources together with action against secret tree fellings, jungle clearings and aforestation would go a long way in protecting flora and fauna, checking soil erosion, preventing greater run-off of water, raising water level, restoring homeostatic balance and accelerating the pace of agricultural and industrial growth in the District.
3.9 Minerals and Ores

A large variety of minerals and ores occur in the Sambalpur district. These include bauxite, beryl, clays, coal, dolomite, graphite, limenite, iron-ore, galena, limestone, mica, ochres, quartz, etc. Coal, fireclay, limestone and graphite are under active exploitation. Building stones and Kankar are available in abundant quantities. The average iron-ore contains about 55% to 60% iron, 0.67% manganese and 0.31% phosphorus. The total estimated reserves is about 20 million tons. It is yet to be mined. Occurrence of lead and silver in four places is reported, but it is not of economic importance. Location of diamond bearing sand near Burla, where the Sambalpur University is situated, is an exciting news.

3.10 Industries

More than 6% of the work force is engaged in household industries. The important household industries in the district are cotton textiles (handlooms), food products (hand producing), non-metallic mineral products (pottery, brick-making etc), wood products (carpentry) and metal products (bell metal). There are more than 1900 small industrial units in the Sambalpur district of which 70 exist in the official Register. The small scale industries include food products (bakery, confectioner, chuda mill, factory, oil mill, sugar candy, cattle feed and rice huller), textile products (hosiery,..
manufacturing and servicing of ready-made garments), wood and wood products (saw mills), paper and paper products and printing, rubbers, plastic and chemical products, metallic and non-metallic mineral products and miscellaneous units like sisal rope manufacturing and radio assembly etc.

Bargarh-Hirakud-Brajarajnagar region is noteworthy for the presence of a number of large-scale industries. Important among them are Indian Aluminium Company, Hirakud, Aluminium Industries, Hirakud, Orient Paper Mills, Brajarajnagar, Belpahar Refractories, Belpahar, Orissa Weavers Co-operative Spinning Mills, Tora, Hira Cement Works, Bargarh, Bargarh Co-operative Sugar Factory, Bhaskar Textile Mills, Jharsuguda, Rerolling Mill, Hirakud, Hira Cables, Hirakud, and Hirakud Industrial Works.

3.11 Road System

In the past, the river Mahanadi was the famous trade route connecting Sambalpur with Cuttack. There was also the old Cuttack-Sambalpur road. There were roads connecting Sambalpur with Nagpur, Bilaspur and Calcutta too. The road that connected Sambalpur with Ganjam was known as Salt road. Communication in the district has considerably developed after Independence. Most of the important roads are bridged, black-topped and well maintained throughout. New roads have been added. The Public Works Department presently maintains 1,443.97 kms. (894 miles 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) furlongs) of
road in the district which include 309.52 Kms. (192 miles and 2 furlongs) of National Highways (National Highway No. 42 and No. 6 pass through the district), 439.09 Kms. (272 miles 6 furlongs) of Major District Roads and 472.11 Kms. (292 miles) of other district roads. The roads maintained by different Panchayat Samities, Municipalities and Forest Department come to about 2,329 Kms., 292 Kms. and 880 Kms. (1447, 182 and 550 miles) respectively. Sambalpur district is served by railways. Calcutta-Madras line branches off at Jharsuguda junction. Calcutta-Bombay trains, Delhi bound Kalinga and Utkal Expresses coming from Puri pass through Jharsuguda. Local people derive immense benefits from the local trains playing between Titlagarh to Rourkela and Jharsuguda to Sambalpur. The Talcher-Sambalpur Rail route is under survey. If it is constructed, it will unify Orissa's economy and polity.

3.12 Banking Services

Like anywhere else, history of indigenous banking in Sambalpur is the tragic story of borrowing by agriculturists on account of general poverty, cattle mortality, ancestral debt, sickness and social ceremonies and exploitation by Sahukars, Mahajans, gountias and Kabuliwallas. The first bank, a central Co-operative Bank came into existence in 1945. Now there are 18 financial institutions operating in the district and usury has been minimised. Excluding Orissa State Financial
Corporation, District Co-operative Central Bank, Land Development Bank and Life Insurance Corporation from the list, we find that there are 14 commercial Banks in the District. They lend to the farmers in distress and finance expansion of agricultural and allied activities in the rural area. Although the commercial banks are now aiming to finance industrial growth, their traditional interest has been credit supply to trade and commerce. The State Bank of India is the Lead Bank of the district. It has 22 branches. The Balangir Anchalika Gramya Bank has opened highest number of branches (25) in the district.

3.13 Trade and Commerce

Rice is the staple export item and is sent principally to Calcutta, but also to Tatanagar, Bombay, Chotnagpur and Berar. Other exports include coal, oil-seeds, hemp, hides and forest product such as timber, Kendu leaves and Mahua flowers. The principal imports are salt, sugar, kerosine oil, piece goods, cotton clothes, cotton yarn, various cereals and coal for the railways. Kerosine oil is brought from Calcutta and Bombay mills. Wheat, gram and arhar are also imported as they are not grown locally in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. Sambalpur, Bargarh and Jharsuguda are the principal centres of internal and external trade.

3.14 Income

There is non-availability of official data on income of the district. The operation Research Group of Baroda which prepared the credit plan for Sambalpur district had to rely on household survey. Of course when income is calculated at the household level, it does not take into account that part of profit in the non-household sector which is reinvested in the enterprise. But since the value of such investment would be very low, the household income would give a fairly good estimate of the district income.

The total household income is estimated to be Rs.9141.7 lakhs in 1972-73, the per capita income being Rs.468. The low-percapita income in 1972-73 is due to a bad agricultural year. Among different sources of income agriculture has the maximum share (43.2%) followed by service/labour (38.9%), trade and commerce (6.8%) and forestry (3.5%).

3.15 Income Distribution

Per capita income does not adequately reflect the economic status of the population. It is necessary to know the distribution of income among various income groups. The operation Research Group accepted Rs.2000/- per annum as the poverty line at the existing price level and for average

household in the district and estimated that 54% of the population lived in abject poverty. The magnitude of poverty is higher in rural areas (59.0%) than their urban counterparts (19.7%). Except the income group of Rs. 2001/- to Rs. 3000/-, there is a wide gap between rural and urban households for all other income groups. 12

3.16 Population

3.16(1) Size and Growth Rate of Population

According to latest Census estimates (1981), population of Sambalpur district is 22 lakhs 74 thousand and 125, which is 8.66 percent of the total population of Orissa. Thus Sambalpur holds the fifth rank in the demographic map of the State. The growth rate of population during the fiscal period (1961-71) was 22.29. During the last Census decade (1971-81), it has increased to 23.27.

3.16(2) Sex Ratio

Male persons number 11 lakhs 52 thousand 7 hundred 35 and number of female population is 11 lakhs 21 thousand 390. The sex ratio (females per 1000 males) is 973. It was 977 in 1971. Therefore the ratio has changed in favour of males.

3.16(3) **Size of Rural Population**

There are 1,920,967 individuals who live in villages while 353,158 persons belong to urban areas. So 84.47 per cent of Sambalpur reside in rural areas. This is lower than the percentage of rural people living in Orissa (88.18) and higher than the Indian average (76.26).

3.16(4) **Literacy Rate**

A literate person is defined by the Census of India (1981) as one who can read and write. So all children belonging to 0-4 years age group are left out of literate category. There are 553,101 male literate persons and 220,630 female literate persons in Sambalpur district. The male, female and aggregate literacy percentages are 47.98, 19.67 and 34.62 respectively.

3.16(5) **Population Density**

A population of the size of 2,274,125 live in an area of 17,520 sq.km, so the density of population per kilometer is 130 which is less than 169, the all Orissa density figure.13

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3.16(6) **Participation**

Nearly 38% of the population was reported to be employed in some gainful activity. This is higher than the average for the State (31.2%) as well as the country (36%). The participation rate is higher both among males and females. However, this is more marked among females. The number of unemployed seeking work constitutes less than 1% of the population and is on the increase. 14

3.17 **Education**

The district was backward in education in the pre-independence period in the absence of massive attack on illiteracy and because a considerable proportion of the population was composed of aboriginals or semi aboriginals who preferred to put their children to work rather than sending them to schools. Now there are a large number of M,E,Schools and high Schools and a mushroom growth of general colleges. Before the inception of Sambalpur University, Sambalpur had a Medical College, an Engineering College besides Gangadhar Meher College and Women's College. Now, a large number of students are going in for higher education. There is a phenomenal increase in the number of male and female students in the P,G,Teaching Departments of the University. Reservation of seats and financial benefits to scheduled Caste

and Schedule Tribe students are attracting them for higher education. A noticeable trend, however, is the deterioration in the standard of teaching at the Primary and H.E. level. The Private Colleges, which are springing up from donations, are not able to reach minimum quality of education. As the pace setter of mass education in the district, the Government of Orissa is also financing adult education programme. But the most productive and development oriented education seems to be now imparted through the television.

3.18 Health

In the past, public health suffered mainly from epidemics such as cholera and smallpox and lack of knowledge about their cure. Now there are Sub-divisional hospitals and a large number of dispensaries over and above the V.S.S. Medical College Hospital situated at Burla. There are primary health centres, maternity and child welfare centres. Family Planning measures are being adopted to control population and there by reduce incidence of poverty. The State and the Central Government are working to create and maintain human capital. Homeopathy and ayurvedic methods of treatment are also available and recently a Homeopathy College has been opened in Sambalpur.
3.19 General Administration

In the past, Sambalpur was a part of Central Provinces and the Collector was called the Deputy Commissioner of the district according to the Central Land Revenue Act (1885). In the British India, the Collector had vast and varied powers. In the post-Independence era, powers have been decentralised to some extent but he continues to be the pivot of the District Administrative set-up. The Collector is also designated the District Magistrate and is therefore the highest authority in the district for the maintenance of law and order. The Collector, however, no more functions as the Magistrate for administration of criminal justice as this provision of the criminal procedure code ceased to exist on 1st May, 1961 with the separation of judiciary from executive organs of the state. Now the Magistrates subordinate to the Collector constitute an order different from the Magistrates belonging to Orissa Judicial Service. But the responsibility of maintaining law and order still continues to rest with the Collector. The responsibility also calls for certain Magisterial powers of an executive character. 15

As the Collector, he supervises the collection of land revenues at the district level. Apart from these, his major revenue duties include control of land records and staff of the Revenue Department and hearing of appeals against

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decisions of the sub-ordinate officers. For the Revenue administration, he is assisted by a hierarchy of officials of both Gazetted and non-Gazetted status.

In recent years, planning and development activities have assumed increasing importance in the field of Public Administration. The Collector as the Chief District Officer is responsible for the implementation of various developmental plans at the District level. The major developmental activities comprise agricultures and animal husbandry, irrigation reclamation, health and rural sanitation, education, social education, communication, rural arts and crafts, industries, tribal and rural welfare and refugee rehabilitation. Thus it may be seen that in the developmental field, the duties of Collector are wide and he plays a vital and all embracing role. 16

Co-ordination and supervision of the work of different departments, control over local self-governing bodies, contact with public in committees, execution of Government policies, and miscellaneous functions such as rationing and flood control and relief measures during calamities such as flood, drought and epidemics are all included in the functions of the Collector. Now with the creation of two posts of Additional District Magistrates, the Collector is relieved of several routine responsibilities

16. ibid P. 337.
thereby enabling him to devote more time to implementation of developmental plans and programmes.

For initiating and accelerating the pace of development and administering developmental schemes, the district of Sambalpur is divided into 29 Blocks. With the enforcement of the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act from 26th January 1961, the developmental administration was decentralised into three tiers viz. the Zilla Parishad at District level, the Panchayat Samiti at the Block level and the Gram Panchayat at village level with an elected body of members at each stage. On 1st November 1968, the Zilla Parishad was replaced by the District Advisory Council. It has now been replaced by District Development Advisory Board from the 14th November 1970. The Advisory Board is constituted by officials and the non-official members.

The Block-Development Officer in charge of a Block is an important link in the chain of developmental administration. He is assisted by ministerial staff and various technical officers from different departments such as Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Industry, Panchayat, Co-operation and Community Development. The Gram Sevak operates at the grass root level and is in charge of a group of villages. He is the lowest officer in the administrative hierarchy but he is a vital force to quicken the pace of agricultural transformation.