CHAPTER - III
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE
OF
THE REGIONAL ECONOMY
Balangir district is relatively a backward and underdeveloped pocket of Western Orissa owing to its topography and accidents of history. As large as 61% of the rural families in the district (2,01,310 families out of 3,29,700 rural families) are below the poverty line.

The district was carved out by combining two former princely states namely Patna and Sonepur after merger of the feudatory states of Orissa in the province in 1948. After 55 years, the Balangir district has been bifurcated by the Government of Orissa taking Sonepur and Birmaharajpur sub-divisions out of it to form a separate Suvapur district, when the then Chief Minister, Biju Patnaik, announced a bold policy decision to restructure the districts enlarging the number from 13 to 30 from the 1st April 1993.

This district like many other districts of Orissa is named after the headquarters town of Balangir. Balangir town was also the headquarters of the Patna feudatory state since the eighties of the 19th century. The town was founded by Balaram Deo, the brother of Narasimha Deo, the 12th Rajah of Patna (State) and was named after him as Balaramgarh, from which the present name “Balangir”, is said to have been derived.

3.1 PHYSICAL FEATURES

The district of Balangir, situated in western part of Orissa, is flanked by the border of Chhatisgarh. The district finds its circumferential
3. A. MAP OF BALANGIR DISTRICT

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- BLOCK BOUNDARY
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- SUB-DIVISION
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- ROAD
- RAILWAY
- RIVER
- RESERVOIR
- CANAL
- HILL

MAP OF BALANGIR DISTRICT
limits within 20° 09' and 21° 05' north latitudes and 82°41' and 83° 42' east longitudes. It is bounded by four districts of Orissa - Bargarh in the north, Suvarnapur in the east, Kalahandi in the south and Nuapara in the west. The district stretches over an area of 6575 square kilometres, which is estimated as 4.23 percent of the total area of Orissa. In terms of area, the district holds the 10th position among the districts of Orissa.

The district may be divided into two physical divisions: (a) Hills of the west and south; and (b) plains of the north and east. In other words, the district is composed of two distinct zones, such as, Western Hilly Region and Eastern Reverine Plains. The Gandhamardan hills of the Ramayana fame are situated in the north-west of the district. The western and north-western boundary, formed by the magnificent Gandhamardan range hills, separates the district from Nuapara and Bargarh districts.

The district forms a part of the crystalline soil region of the Deccan Plateau: The western and southern part is an undulating plain, rugged and isolated with hill ranges rising in various directions. In the Ong-Tel basin, forming the eastern and northern part of the district, it is flat and slightly undulating. Isolated hills of no great altitude rise abruptly here and there.

The district consists of three sub-divisions, Balangir, Titilagarh and Patnagarh-which are divided into 14 Community Development Blocks. Recently in 1993, having been declared as a district by the Government of Orissa, Sonepur and Birmaharajpur sub-divisions have been detached from the Balangir district and have received a separate identity.
3.2 HISTORY

The modern history of Patna State begins with Ramai Deo (Son of Hamir Deo, a Rajput Rajah of Gurlasumbul), who established the Chauhan family, the last Ruling House of Patna, perhaps in the year 1159 A.D. During the early period of Chauhan rule, the state (Balangir) was a very powerful kingdom and had as many as 72 states under its sway. It was the head of a cluster of confederacy of states known as 'Athara Garajats (18 forts). Hiradhar Deo, one of the successors of Chauhan dynasty who usurped the throne of Patna in 1519 had two sons, Narasimha Deo and Balaram Deo. These two brothers divided the kingdom between them and decided to reign over Patna and Sambalpur amicably, river Ong being the dividing line between the two states. Balaram Deo, the Chauhan Raja set up a garh (Gada) in the name of "Balaramgarh" which is now popularly known as Balangir.

The states of Patna and Sonepur were under the occupation of the Marathas of Nagpur since 1755. These states were then occupied by the East India Company early in 1804 in course of the 2nd Maratha War. Under the British rule, these two states were first included in the 'South Bihar and Chhotanagpur Mahals' an administrative division created in 1819. After the creation of Central Provinces in 1861, Patna and Sonepur were included in the new province and were declared as feudatory states in 1863. The Maharajahs were designated as feudatory chiefs. In 1905, these states were transferred to Bengal to form a part of Orissa Division. The Orissa province was constituted in 1912 and the Orissa states continued to be under the Commissioner of Orissa Division till 1922 when a political agent was placed directly under the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. When provincial Autonomy was inaugurated under the Government of India Act, 1935, Patna and Sonepur were brought under the direct control of the Governor General, who exercised his
jurisdiction as Crown Representative through the political agent at Sambalpur.

The Patna state continued as a feudatory state till its merger in the province of Orissa on the 1st of January 1948 and after that new districts were formed in the province. The ex-states of Kalahandi, Patna and Sonepur were combined together to form a new district on the 1st of January 1948. But subsequently, on the 1st November 1949, the ex-states of Patna and Sonepur were separated and they together formed a new district called Balangir district.

The Maharajah Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo, ex-Chief Minister of Orissa, was coroneted as the king of Patna State in 1924 with due sanction of the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. Under the patronage of Maharajah Rajendra Narayan, promotion of industrial activity was initiated in the district since 1932. Thus, consequent upon the nature of political control and frequent changes in the administrative set up under the British Raj, the economic backwardness has been the prominent feature of the district in the pre-independence period.

3.3 CLIMATIC CONDITION

The district has an extremely hot and dry summer, ill-distributed rain with high humidity during the north-west monsoon seasons and a chilly winter. On the whole, the climatic condition of the district is extreme. The variation in the climatic conditions between summer and winter is large. Generally the temperature rises from the second part of February till May which is the hottest month in the year with the mean daily maximum temperature of 44.13°C, while November, December and January are the coldest months in the year, the mean minimum temperature being recorded
at nearly 8.17°c. The highest maximum temperature 48°c is observed during May and the lowest minimum temperature of 4.5°c during December.

The monsoon comes to the district in the middle of June and causes fairly heavy rainfall, which very often proves disastrous bringing floods in the rivers. Storms and depressions in the Bay of Bengal, during the monsoon season and in October pass through the district and cause widespread heavy rain and strong winds. Thunderstorms occur in the summer season mostly in the afternoon hours and in the month of October. The average annual rainfall in the district is about 1567.9mm.

Because of the adverse seasonal conditions and hot spells, agricultural operations cannot be continued throughout the year. As such, a vast majority of people dependent on agriculture is forced to remain idle for the considerable part of a year. Besides, inconsistency in rainfall causes drought frequently in the district. In other words, the wide variation in the precipitation and erratic distribution of rainfall accompanied by long dry spells are responsible for frequent crop failures.

Areas like Muribahal, Khaprakhol, Bangomunda, Tureikela and other parts of the district fall a regular prey to drought and famine.

3.4 RIVERS AND WATER FALLS

The principal rivers in the district are Tel, Ong, Suktel, Sungad, Lanth and Undar. River Tel and Suktel meet the river Mahanadi in the district of Sonepur. The river Tel forms the boundary between the districts of Nuapara and Balangir for a considerable distance after which it enters into Balangir district about two miles south of Tusra and flows only about 5 miles within the district. This river is fed by a number of tributaries of which those
flowing inside the district of Balangir are the Suktel, the Undar, the Lanth and the Sungad.

The Suktel emerges from the slopes of the Gandhamardan range and flows through the sub-divisions of Patnagarh and Balangir. It meets the Tel a few miles south of its confluence with the Mahanadi. The Suktel is identified with river Suktimati, which finds mention in the Mahabharata and Puranic literature. This river flows for a short period during the rainy season and thereafter, its sandy bed dries up again almost at once.

The river Ong rises from the hills of Borasamber in the district of Sambalpur and is fed by the streams flowing down the northern slope of the Gandhamardan range. It enters the district of Balangir near Agalpur and joins the Mahanadi a few miles above Sonepur town. A portion of its course forms the boundary between Sonepur and Balangir district. This river carries considerable volume of water during the rains, but it soon dries up in winter season.

The river Undar comes from the Nuapara district and drains the Southern part of the Titilagarh sub-division.

The Lanth and the Sungad are the local streams and come down from the north-western belt of hills of the district.

The rivers in the district are the major sources of lift irrigation.

There is only one waterfall in the district at Harishankar, which has its origin in the Gandhamardan Hills. On the southern crest of this hill range springs the famous stream, which descends to the foot of the hill in fine
cataracts and finally reaches the plains at Harishankar, a sacred and famous place for pilgrimage.

3.5 SOIL CONDITION

The district has various soils which may be classified according to their texture, such as (i) deep black and medium black soil, (ii) red sandy soil, (iii) red laterite soil, (iv) mixed red and black brown soil, (v) sandy loam, (vi) mixed red and yellow soil-Khalia soil, and (vii) forest soil and alluvial soil.

The soil of the southern part – Titilagarh, Bangomunda and Sindhekela blocks - is laterite in character. The central part of the region has also similar soil but with patches of black earth. The sub-soil in Loisingha region consists of detritus petrified flour compressed hardened and argillite. It is very white and is locally known as Chhui. Yellow soils and mixtures of red and black soil are also found at places. The soils are deficient in phosphate especially in the surface and are generally deficient in nitrogen.

The soil composition of the district indicates that the soil is not fertile all throughout the district.

3.6 POPULATION
3.6.(a) Size

Balangir district supports a population of 13.36 lakh according to 2001 census, out of which 6.74 lakh are males and 6.62 lakh are females. The district has 3.64 percent of the total population of the state and it occupies 11th position in this respect. The density of population is 203 per square kilometres of area in the district as against 236 and 324 of State and National average respectively. Out of the total population, 1.54 lakh live in urban areas, whereas 11.82 lakh live in rural areas and their percentages to total
population of the district come to 11.53 and 88.47 respectively. There is a predominance of rural population and the district is much behind the urbanisation process going on in the country.

3.6.(b) Growth Rate

Population growth rate of the district is 8.63 per thousand as against 15.96 and 21.34 of State and National average respectively. Sex ratio of the district is 967 per thousand as against 972 and 933 of State and National average respectively.

3.6.(c) Composition

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are mostly backward class population in the district. According to 2001 census, they constitute 2.26 lakh and 2.76 lakh respectively, the percentages of which are worked out at 16.92 and 20.66 respectively. The figures reveal that the district has a high percentage of the people belonging to the weaker sections. Their percentage is the highest (39.4%) in Khaprkhol block followed by Tureikela block. Among the three sub-divisions in the district, the Scheduled Tribes population in Patnagarh sub-division is the highest, i.e. 35.5% of the total population followed by Titilagarh sub-division (24.5%).

3.6.(d) Occupational Distribution.

The primary occupation of the people of the district is agriculture. Workers are engaged in the agricultural sector in greater proportion than in secondary and tertiary sectors. About 31 percent of the total population are engaged in cultivation and about 40.25 percent of the total population are agricultural labourers. In total, cultivators and agricultural labourers constitute about 71% of the total population. As the avenues for employment have not increased substantially, the workers are forced to fall back on
agriculture, thereby reducing the productivity per worker in this sector. Cottage and Small Scale Industries absorb 4.41 percent only and the rest 24.54 percent of the workforce are in other occupations.

The district has the concentration of a good number of skilled workers consisting of weavers, carpenters, blacksmiths and potters. Weavers are concentrated in places like Patnagarh, Belpara, Khaprakhol, Saintala and Bangomunda. With little guidance and diversification, these skilled workers can switch over to sophisticated engineering products instead of traditional ones. Though the socio-economic condition of the people of this district appears to be good, perennial drought during the last few years has shattered the rural economy. Finding no other source for livelihood, people are gradually shifting from rural to urban areas.

3.7 AGRICULTURE SECTOR

This mega sector is an amalgam of three sectors: (a) agriculture; (b) activities allied to agriculture and (c) forestry of the district.

3.7.a. Agriculture

Agriculture is the most dominating sector of the district economy. So far as the rural area of the district is concerned, it constitutes the backbone of the people who are supposed to born in agriculture, live on agriculture and die in agriculture. The economics of the district depends on this vital sector.

3.7.a.(i) Area Under Cultivation

The district economy is essentially and predominantly agricultural in character when judged by number of persons depending on agriculture for their livelihood, volume of employment in this sector and the value of its
output. About 71 percent of the population earn their livelihood from agriculture. Out of the total geographical area of 657.5 thousand hectares, net area shown is 280,527 hectares of land, which comes to 42 percent of the total area. Since crops are grown more than once in some areas, the total cropped area is 3,45,475 hectares which is roughly 52.54% of the total geographical area. Barren land, cultivable wasteland and grazing land share 13,349 hectares, 18,868 hectares and 37,544 hectares having percentages to total area at 2.03, 2.87 and 5.71 respectively. Land put to non-agricultural use is 46,479 hectares which constitutes 7.07 percent of the total area.

3.7.a.(ii) Operational Holding

The total number of operational landholders in the district is 1,93,395 with occupational holding of 2,77,771 hectares and average land-holding of 1.43 hectares. Small and marginal farmers constitute 78.2 percent of the landholders having command over 43.44 percent of area while the big farmers constitute 22.05 percent of the total landholders and are in possession of 56.56% of total area.

3.7.a.(iii). Rainfall and Irrigation

Despite its overwhelming importance in the district economy, agriculture is a gamble in the monsoon, which is irregular and unpredictable. Very often monsoon plays foul with the people and pushes the cultivators into the vagaries of either drought or flood. Rainfall in the district being insufficient and its duration very short, most particularly covering only two months, i.e., July and August of the year, makes agriculture a prey to scarcity of water, as the availability of irrigation support is also limited to only 10.6% of the cultivated land. Where single crop is not assured of, multiple cropping is unthinkable for the remaining 89.4% of the rain fed cultivable land.
3.7.a.(iv) Major Crops

The main crops in the district are paddy, jute, groundnut, rape, wheat, mustard, potato, sugarcane, ragi, maize, bajra, cotton fibre, mesta, sunhemp, mung, biri, kulthi, mandia, kudo, arhar, massor, chana, til, onion, garlic, ginger, chillies, turmeric, tobacco and vegetables.

Paddy

Paddy is the major agricultural product in the district and cultivated in about 2,14,773 hectares of land during both the seasons-Kharif and Rabi putting together, which accounts for 62.17 percent of total cropped area. The production of paddy in the district was 11,66,465 quintals during the year 2000-01.

Paddy is mostly sown by ways of broadcasting and the sowings known as (a) Kharidi (dry sowing) which takes place before the break of monsoon, (b) Batri (wet sowing) and transplanting.

Other Cereals

Besides paddy, other cereals like ragi, jawar, small millets, maize and wheat are also grown mainly in the southern and central parts of the district.

Pulses

Pulses produced in the district are mung, arhar, biri, kulthi and other pulses. Khesari Chana (Gram) is another important crop included in this category. Jhain mung has been introduced with the advent of irrigation. About 19,414 quintals of pulses on an average has been produced in the year 2000-01 in the district, which is merely sufficient for consumption.
Oil Seeds

The major oil seeds grown in the district include groundnut, castor, mustard, rapen seed, til, etc. As the southern and eastern fringes have laterite soils, oil seeds are usually grown there. Til is mainly grown in Patnagarh, and Titilagarh sub-divisions. Groundnut is extensively grown in Agalpur, Loisingha, Balangir, Patnagarh, Belpara and scatteredly grown in Bangomunda, Titilagarh and Saintala blocks. The total area under oil seeds in the district is 10,769 hectares and the products constitute 22,142 quintals in the year 2000-01.

Fibre Crops

Fibre crops in the district are jute, cotton, mesta, sunhemp, etc. The production of jute, cotton, mesta and sunhemp in the district is on an average 50 bales, 728 bales, 20,000 bales and 6,787 bales respectively. Recently, the Cotton Compact Area Programme has been successfully implemented in the district.

Sugar-Cane

Sugarcane is the major commercial crop in the district. The production of sugarcane was 7,74,518 quintals in the year 2000-01 over an area of 1306 hectares. Sugarcane is usually grown in Patnagarh, Khaprákhola, Balangir I and II, Loisingha and Agalpur blocks extensively. With the establishment of Ponni Sugar Mill at Deogaon, intensive cropping has been taken up in blocks like Deogaon, Gudvela, Saintala, Balangir, Puintala, Loisingha and periphery area of Patnagarh, Belpara, Muribahal and Titilagarh blocks to feed sugarcane to the mill.
Vegetables

Varieties of vegetables grown in the district are Bhendi (ladies finger), saru, kakudi (cucumber), Panikakharu (ash pumpkin), Barbati (cow pea), Jahni, Lau (Bottle gourd), Baigan (brinjal), seem (beans), Kandamul (sweet potato), onion, garlic, turmeric, chillies, Dhania (coriander seed), tomato, potato, banana, cabbages, cauliflower, potal, etc. Cauliflower and Cabbages are grown in Titilagarh sub-division chiefly in the police station areas of Sindhekel and Kantabanji. Vegetable crops such as Potal, Brinjal, Tomato and Potato are generally grown in the river basin. Potal of this district feeds particularly to Raipur, Ranchi, Similiguda and other markets. Banana has been successfully grown in Belpara, Patnagarh, Muribahal, Loisingha and Deogaon blocks.

Onion and chilies are grown as Rabi crop. Tomato, Potato and radish are grown in winter. Summer vegetables like ladies finger and those belonging to pumpkins family are also grown. The average yield of brinjal and such other vegetables is about 8,000 pounds per acre. A special feature in the district is that tomato and ladies finger are cultivated in all the seasons of the year.

The district has long since become self-sufficient in vegetables. Vegetables generally go out to far off places like Bhilai. It is found that after domestic consumption, agricultural products like spices, sugarcane, oil seeds and fibres are also available as surplus. However, there is no surplus of cereals and pulses after domestic consumption.

Tobacco

Tobacco is grown in the backyard of the house in almost all the sub-divisions and the cultivators pay much attention to this crop. This crop
gives a good income, besides fulfilling the needs for smoking and chewing. This is one of the principal cash crops of the district and those who grow it, know the art of curing the leaves. 1.11 thousand hectares on an average are covered under this cultivation.

3.7.a.(v) Methods of Cultivation

Since mostly illiterate, unskilled, superstitious and indifferent groups of people operate cultivation in the district, it is mainly based on traditional and out-of-date technology. New Agricultural Strategy and modern methods of cultivation are not able to catch the sight of these people, which keeps the productivity per hectare and per person extremely low in comparison to national and international standards. Yet steps are being taken to infuse the new and modern technology in the farmers for making them productive and efficient. Seeds being the basic input for farming is being supplied through 20 block level sales centres. Emphasis is being laid on the supply of High Yielding Varieties of seeds suitable for different climatic conditions of this district. In order to raise the consumption of fertiliser and pesticides, these things are being canalised to the farmers through 418 Co-operative and Agro Industries retail points and 17 whole sale points.

Diversion of cultivation from cereals to pulses, oil seeds and cotton in the high land and mixed cropping of pulses with oil seeds, cotton, etc. are being introduced and successfully executed, which are expected to produce better results in the immediate future.

In addition, the farmers are being educated with up-to-date technology through training and T & V Programme. The Village Agricultural Workers (V.A.Ws) who are described as the friend, philosopher and guide for the cultivators visit them every 4 days in a week. Demonstrations of Minikit
on different crops and in different climatic zones are also being conducted to educate the farmers with the changing technology.

The entire agricultural programme of the district is monitored by the Deputy Director of Agriculture assisted by a number of specialists under different disciplines. There is also one Soil Testing Laboratory at the headquarters of the district. Special drive is also being taken to study the micronutrient profile and status of the soil.

3.7.a.(vi) Agricultural Finance

Finance constitutes an important ingredient of modern methods of cultivation. There are 117 Commercial and Co-operative Banks and 219 Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies to meet the credit needs of the farmers of the district. They provide easy and subsidised loans to the farmers for cultivation purposes.

3.7.a.(vii) Markets

There are 5 Regulated Markets in the district managed by RMCs and near about 126 unregulated but recognised weekly markets in the district. Besides, the private traders play a vital role in the marketing of agricultural commodities in and out of the district.

3.7.b. ACTIVITIES ALLIED TO AGRICULTURE
3.7.b.(i) Livestock

Animal husbandry plays a vital role in the upliftment of the rural poor of the district. As per quinquennial livestock census, 2001, the animal husbandry position of the district is as follows:
Table 3.1

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY POSITION OF THE DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>5,21,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Buffaloes'</td>
<td>1,25,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>2,99,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>1,28,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>9,55,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>55,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>1,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other Animals</td>
<td>32,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,20,368</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Veterinary Office, Balangir.

Rearing of sheep and goats has become very popular in the district as they provide supplementary incomes to the farmers. Rearing of sheep for collection of wool is yet to develop in the district and it is generally reared for mutton purpose. Under Special Livestock Breeding Project, sheep rearing scheme is being implemented in this district with close supervision of Asst. Project Officer (S.D.P), Balangir. Improved cross breed Rams are being supplied by the Animal Husbandry Department from Sheep Rearing Farm, Deogaon, Balangir to each of the sheep units consisting 20 - ewes. Goats and sheep are also purchased from local markets and other available sources.

The production of different types of livestock and animal husbandry products of the district during the period 1998 - 99 to 2000 - 01 is given below.

There are 28 milk collection centres in the district. There is a District Poultry Breeding Farm at Balangir with a strength of 1000 parent stock for production of commercial chicks. Apart from this, during 1990 - 91, a
Table 3.2
LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRODUCTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Milk (in ltrs)</td>
<td>38,520</td>
<td>37,829</td>
<td>41,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Poultry Products (Egg)</td>
<td>2,68,604</td>
<td>2,72,937</td>
<td>2,89,301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Veterinary Office, Balangir

Broiler Hatchery Unit has been established in this farm, considering the growing demand for commercial broiler chicks in the district. To meet this demand, parent stock of broiler has been procured from Central Poultry Breeding Farm, Chandigarh. In addition to this, birds are being procured from Bhubaneswar, Angul and Sundargarh. So far as Piggery in the district is concerned, boars are supplied to the beneficiaries for breeding purpose procuring the same generally from Government Farm, Chiplima.

Hides are collected in the district mainly by people belonging to Scheduled Caste/ Tribe. Procurement takes place through the hide collection centres run by the Leather Corporation of Orissa and private traders. Hides collected in the district are transported mainly to Kolkata and Chennai for processing. Besides, the tanneries located at Titilagarh in this district and that at Boudh (district headquarters of Boudh) depend upon the hides collected in this district.

There are one veterinary hospital, 20 veterinary dispensaries, 114 Livestock Aid centres, 65 Artificial Insemination Centres and 48 Milk Cooperative Societies. At district level, the C.D. V.O. is in overall responsibility for successful implementation of livestock development programmes in the district.
3.7.b.(ii) Fisheries

The main sources of fish supply in the district are the tanks and rivers like Ong, Tel, Suktel, etc. Fish harvesting by the traditional fisherman communities is taken up almost throughout the year from these tanks and rivers. Black cotton nature of soil, which exists in most part of the district, supports pisciculture and gives good profit to the fish farmers.

The sources available in the district for pisciculture are given below:

**Table 3.3**

**SOURCES FOR PISCICULTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Water Area in hectares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>G.P. Tanks</td>
<td>7,404</td>
<td>5,592.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Private Tanks</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>356.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>397.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Large Water area</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>312.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8761</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,658.59</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Planning Office, Balangir.

The main varieties of fish available in the district are Rohi, Bhakur, Bilati Rohi, Mirkali, Seula, Gadisa, Magur and Singhi. There are six fish farms in the district under the supervision of the District Fisheries Officer, Balangir for production of quality fish seed. There is a proposal for setting up a fish seed farm at Harishankar under DPAP grant. There are also a good number of big M.I.Ps which are either under the control of G.P. or minor irrigation department. It is programmed by the Fish Farmers Development Agency, Balangir to take up pisciculture in these water bodies by setting up fisheries co-operative societies at Khaprakhola, Agalpur and Gudvela block.
The Fish Farmers Development Agency, Balangir, which started functioning in the year 1978-79 and the Fisheries Department, Government of Orissa are providing incentives for promotion of pisciculture in the district.

3.7.b.(iii) Horticulture

Besides the above noted activities, the farmers attach their attention to horticulture. Mango and banana are the main fruit crops of the district. Around 20 thousand hectares of land are utilised for fruit cultivation. Annual production of fruit in the district is around 15 thousand tonnes on an average. The surplus fruit after domestic consumption can be utilised for industrial use.

3.7.C. FORESTRY

Forest covers 1543.85 square kilometres constituting 23.48% of the total geographical area of the district and is found mainly on the western and southern parts of the district.

The forest of the district can be grouped under five categories, such as (i) sal forest, (ii) low mixed forest, (iii) alluvial mixed forest, (iv) teak forest, and (v) bamboo forest.

Sal forest is seen in the Gandhamardan ranges. Low mixed forests having trees like Sahaj, Kendu, Sisoo, Hiland, Bija, etc. are found in almost all the areas. Teak forest is confined to the southern part of the district, mainly to Tureikela block. Bamboo forest area covers the dense forest of Lathor P.S. and Sikerpat. In the eastern and northern part of the district, there are no forests of any great extent.
The forest of the district is of xerophilous nature due to several factors, chief amongst which are a poorly distributed rainfall, sandy and dry soil condition, intensive shifting cultivation in the past and recurring forest fires.

The combined effect of all these factors and illegal tree fellings has been the depletion of the forest. This in turn has reduced precipitation and increased soil erosion resulting in low agricultural productivity.

The classification of forest in the district by legal status is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Area in Sq. Kms.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reserve Forests</td>
<td>1105.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demarcated Protected Forests</td>
<td>3.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Unclassified forests</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Other forests</td>
<td>434.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1543.85</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

3.7.c.(i) Forest Products

The major forest products consist of timber, firewood and kendu leaf, whereas the minor forest products are sabai grass, bamboo, brooms, mahua flower, myrabolam, neem, sal and kusum seeds, babul and genduli gums, tamarind, etc. Forest is of vital importance for the district as it provides a source of livelihood to a large number of tribal families. However, consequent upon nationalisation, collection and marketing of the major and minor forest products are taken up by the Orissa Forest Corporation, which is a Government of Orissa Undertaking. The annual average income from forest
product is about Rs.80 lakh. The major forest products, which contribute to the rural economy of the district, are Kendu leaf and Mahua.

The table given below indicates the position of forest resources in the district:

**Table 3.5**

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Forest Products</th>
<th>Quantity Collected (in quintals) 2000-01</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mahua Flowers</td>
<td>1,36,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Siali fibre</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Siali leaf</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tamarind</td>
<td>1,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thoth Broom</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Genduli gum</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Myrabolam</td>
<td>1,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sal seed</td>
<td>729,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mahua seed</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Kusum seed</td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hill broom</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Neem Seed</td>
<td>8,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dantari bark</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ban Tulsi</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>5634 cu.m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bamboo</td>
<td>4169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kendu leaf</td>
<td>8537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Source: Divisional Forest Office, Balangir.

The major spices, which pass to outside market in good quantity are Sal, Teak, Bija, Sisoo and Hiland. The soft wood spices, Viz., Mai (Odina Wodier) and Salai (Boswellia Sewata) have also found market. Simul (Bombax malabari-cum) has a good market but the number of trees available are very few. Asan (Terminalia tomentosa) logs are exported to South Indian market like Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry. Miscellaneous spices like Dharua (Anogeissus latifolia), Bandhan (Ougeinia) are not exported. The
importance of timber is felt much for purposes of construction of houses and bridges, manufacture of furniture and other wood industries.

Firewood is consumed locally. A small quantity is exported from Khaprakhol R.F. to Raipur. The quantity of annual consumption varies between 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 cft.

Bamboo forests in some parts of Khaprakhol and Mohakhand ranges have been leased out to M/s Bengal Paper Mills Ltd. and Orient Paper Mill Ltd., Brajarajnagar. Bamboos from the rest of the Division are consumed locally. Large number of people earn their livelihood by making bamboo baskets, mats and other things. Use of bamboos in the construction of houses particularly in rural areas is found to be considerable.

Kendu leaf brings the largest revenue to Balangir Forest Division. The Bidi industry is based entirely on this forest produce. It is mainly exported to South India. Besides, it provides employment to a large section of people during the plucking season.

Sabaigrass had a good market in the paper making industry. A considerable quantity of this grass used to be exported to Raniganj in the past. But due to its poor yield of pulp, there has been a decrease in its demand.

Khair (Acacia catechu) is mainly required for tanning. The whole output now goes to the Government Tannery located at Titilagarh.

Myrabolam is a fairly important source of revenue. The market is however, fluctuating and its prices vary considerably. It is exported to Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam.
Other forest resources such as gum, char seeds, simul cotton, siali leaves, Mahua flower, horns and hide are also found in the district, though not in large quantities.

3.8 INDUSTRY

Industrial development in the district is far from satisfactory. Only about 14 to 15 percent income of the district is derived from manufacturing sector. Considering the index of industrial backwardness of the district, it has been declared industrially backward by the Planning Commission and subsequently reckoned as “No Industry District” since 1982-83.

There are one large scale industry, three industries of medium scale and 1333 units of small scale industries which provide employment to 10,633 persons. Ordinance Factory, located at Saintala, which produces explosives for the Department of Defence, Government of India is the only large scale industry in the district. It is a Central Government Undertaking with a total investment of Rs.1000 crore. Though it provides employment to 2354 persons, the employment of local people in this factory is very negligible.

Medium scale industries like Orissa Composite Board at Saintala, Spaa Straw Board at Titilagarh and M/s Pawmex Steels (P) Ltd. provide employment to 470 persons. M/s Pawmex Steels (P) Ltd., a joint venture of IPICOL and a group of Andhra Pradesh based technocrat entrepreneurs commenced commercial production in the early 1991.

The Handloom industry is the largest cottage industry in the district and ranks next to agriculture from the employment point of view. These small textile establishments are too small to come within the purview of
Factories Act. The number of artisan based industries has gone up to 14,274 which have generated employment for 27,874 persons.

Investment-wise and production-wise, there has been 24.5% growth in industrial productivity in the district which amounts to annual growth of 24.5% only during the last decade.

3.8.a. Industrial Estates

There are 3 Industrial Estates in the district located at Balangir, Kantabanji and Titilagarh in which 17, 6 and 15 numbers of sheds respectively have been constructed attending all the infrastructural facilities required for setting up small scale industrial units. The vacancy position of sheds in the existing industrial estates is given in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Industrial Estate</th>
<th>No. of Factory shed constructed</th>
<th>No. of sheds allotted</th>
<th>No. of sheds vacant</th>
<th>Land Available for allotment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balangir</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>90 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kantabanji</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Titilagarh</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Industrial Growth centres, Khamarmunda</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>553.53 Acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industries Centre, Balangir.

Besides, the Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation provides basic infrastructural facilities by way of acquisition of land, development of Growth Centres and construction of factory sheds and hence, plays a significant role in this regard. Meanwhile, the IDCO has
acquired a patch of land near Bijakhaman which has been identified as Growth Centre where the small scale industrial units are to be accommodated and infrastructural facilities like approach road, power, water, postal and allied facilities are to be provided. Developed plots in the Growth Centre are to be handed over to the needy small scale industrial units for construction of factory sheds out of their own investment. The other Growth Centres in the district are at Kantabanji, Titilagarh and Patnagarh. Such Growth Centres would also include development of industry complexes at different points in the district as necessary.

Thus in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of India, Ministry of Industrial Development, one Industrial growth centre is under implementation in the "No Industry District" of Balangir. Accordingly, out of 1000 acres of land proposed to be acquired, the IDCO has so far acquired 553.53 acres. Action has been initiated by the Government for the remaining portion so that the project would be completed early. The Industrial Growth Centre when completed would fulfil a long felt need of the district and would usher in a new era in the industrialisation process of this backward pocket of the state.

3.8.b Testing Laboratories

A new testing laboratory under the administrative control of Directorate of Export Promotion and Marketing, Orissa is functioning in the Industrial Estate, Balangir for controlling the quality of the product manufactured by the small scale industrial units of the nearby areas by way of testing of raw-materials and products. Requisite staffs have been posted and the machinery and the equipment installed. This laboratory has fulfilled a long felt need of the district.
3.8.c. Incentives for Industrialists

Both the Central and State Governments have realised that industrialisation would help to improve the economic conditions in the backward districts of the country. Some incentives, in the form of capital subsidy and tax relief, have been announced by the Governments in order to start industries in such districts. Considering the industrial backwardness of this district, it has been declared "No Industry District" by the Government of India. Industrial units established in this district are eligible for investment subsidy to the extent of 25 percent of the investment made in their fixed assets. The package of other incentives available for industries in Balangir district under Intensive Industrial Development Area Programme are as under:

1. Single window facilities to entrepreneurs to set up industry.
2. Grant of 1 percent to 2 percent subsidy to units for preparation of project reports by entrepreneurs.
3. Grant of subsidy to units towards technical knowhow fees upto a limit of Rs.1 lakh.
4. Grant of 5 percent additional investment subsidy to electric industries upto a limit of Rs. 5 lakh.
5. Exemption of Sales Tax on raw material and finished products for a period of five years.
6. Exemption of Octroi-tax on purchase of machinery and equipments for a period of 5 years.
7. Grant of all incentives to an existing industry, which has undergone expansion to the extent of 25 percent both in its investment and productivity limited to the extent of the expansion.
15. Supply of forest based and mineral based raw material to industrial units on long term lease basis and on payment of approved schedule price and royalty. Raw materials such as sisal fibre, raw cashewnut, etc. are reserved for allotment to local small scale industries for use as their raw material.

16. Essential raw materials such as coal, iron and steel, M.T.O. furnace oil, L.P.G., Non-ferrous metals, paraffin wax, mutton tallow, etc. are made available to industrial units on priority basis and at subsidised price.

17. Grant of market support to small scale industrial units is ensured by allowing 15 percent price preference on sale of their finished products to Government Departments and undertakings. The units registered with E.P.M. are exempted from payment of earnest money and payment of 50 percent security deposits for execution of supply orders to Government and Semi-Government Organisations. Quick payment of value of supply made by small scale industrial units is also ensured.

18. Grant of special incentives such as margin money loan (4 percent interest), soft loan (1 percent interest) and second dose of specific incentives for revival of potentially viable sick industries.

19. Special concessions to women entrepreneurs are given by grant of loan at lower Debt-equity ratio, with lower promoter’s contribution, without security for seed capital credit and at lower rate of interest.

20. Tiny industrial units having project cost less than Rs.5 lakh can be granted both term loan and working capital loan from O.S.F.C. under single window scheme. Such tiny industrial units are also eligible for grant of national equity fund from banks under refinance from IDBI for providing equity support to the unit.

3.9 MINERAL RESOURCES

A great variety of ores and minerals occur in this district. Of these, the important ones are graphite, manganese, galena (lead ore), bauxite,
quartz, limestone, china clay, gem stone, etc. The following table gives the details relating to the different types of minerals, their position and the places where these are available.

**Table 3.7**

**MINERALS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the mineral</th>
<th>Area of Occurrence</th>
<th>Exploited during the year 2000-01: (in M.Ts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>Raju and Tikhori R.F., Bender R.F., Boniamal Village, Telenpali and Phulmuthi R.F. (Khaprakhol, Belpara and Tusra region)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bauxite</td>
<td>Gandhamardan R.F.</td>
<td>9793.640 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>China Clay</td>
<td>Kurlumal village and Bender R.F.</td>
<td>350 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Quartz</td>
<td>Nuapara, Jhalap, Rajamara, Bhandra, Kadalimunda village, Kadalimunda R.F., Bankiamunda village, Kusa R.F., Sainitala and Telipali</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Manganese</td>
<td>Khutpali, Bharat Bahal, Telenpali, Khagsabahal, Dandpani village</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lime stone</td>
<td>Kantabanji area</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Action Plan for 1995-96 to 2000-01, District Industries centre, Balangir*

*Data relates to the year 1988-89.*

**Graphite**

Graphite occurs mostly in the form of disseminations, thin bands and pockets in the highly siliceous gneissic rocks in several locations in this district. Some of the important occurrences are listed as Raju and Tikhari R.F., Bender R.F., Boniamal, Telenpali, Phulmuthi village, Khaprakhol, Belpara and Tusra region. These graphites are mostly of flaky amorphous variety and contain about 30-35 percent carbon on an average.

There are 35 graphite mines in the district. The quantity produced in these mines are being consumed by the small scale industrial units existing...
in the district. During 2000-01, the total production and despatch from these mines come to 52 M.Ts with the value of output in money terms 217 lakh rupees and providing employment to 722 persons.

**Bauxite**

Extensive deposits of bauxite, the principal ore of aluminium have been found in the Gandhamardan Hill ranges on the border of Bargarh-Balangir districts by the State Directorate of Mines. At present six bauxite mines are in operation in this district. The production and despatch of bauxite ores from these mines during 1988-89 come to 9793.640 M.Ts. and 5571.494 M.Ts respectively. The main component of bauxite is alumina or aluminium oxide. Bauxite ore from this district carries 45.45 percent of alumina. The entire bauxite production of the district is being purchased by Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO).

**Quartz**

Quartz is being produced in 4 captive mines of the district, which is a basic input for large scale industries like M/s Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys and M/s Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd outside Balangir districts. Quartz deposits are found in Sainitala, Bhadra and Kadalimunda R.F. The component of quartz is silica, which has a share of 98 to 99.9 percent. Production of quartz in the district during the year 2000-01 amounts to only 3 million tonnes approximately with money value of Rs. 2 lakh and giving employment to 52 persons.

**China Clay**

China clay is mainly found in Kurlumal village and Bender R.F. The production of China clay in the district is approximately 350 M.Ts. per year.
Lime Stone

Chemical grade lime is available in the district and its composition is 89 to 99.5 percent \((\text{CaCO}_3)\). Around 3000 M.Ts. of lime stone is available in the district, mainly in Kantabanji area.

Manganese

Manganese ore available in the district is having high prosperous content, which can be used by chemical industries. Some of the important occurrences of this ore are at Gadshankar, Champasar, Bharatbahal, Babja, Bhaludunguri, Badipali, Barjhula, Salepali-Jhumimal R.F., Gerdi, Kumiapali, Tikrapara, Charmunda, Lohadunguri, Dunguripali, Kapilbahal, Tamian, Dandhpani, Dumerjharan and Thelkochhapar.

Manganese content in the ore is usually low, being around 30-35 percent. Besides, the ores are high in iron and phosphorous.

Galena (Lead Ore)

Lead mineralisation is noted in a set of quartz veins near Dunguripali, Badipara, etc., east of Saintala and near Limpara. The galena (lead sulphide) is of pure crystalline variety and contains traces of silver and zinc.

Mica

It is found to occur near Salebhata, Kutasingha, Ambapali, Rabanguda, Kuabanus and Siletpara.
Steatite

Both massive and laminated varieties of grey Steatite occur at Jibandadar. The material is locally used for making utensils and is found to be suitable for making refractory tiles and bricks, electric components, paints, rubber linoleum, asbestos products and insecticides.

Besides the above noted mineral resources, rock crystal is also found at Bahanpadar and Kadalipali area.

3.10 INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure refers to those basic facilities and services, which help production and distribution system of the economy and directly or indirectly help raise the national income or the income of the district economy in the present context. Development and expansion of infrastructure - both economic and social - in the economy are an essential pre-condition for increasing agricultural and industrial production of an economy. However, infrastructure in the district is relatively ill-developed.

3.10.a ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic infrastructure of the district consists of transport, communication, irrigation, power, etc.

2.10.a.i Transport Facilities

Roadways

Roads are rightly called the carriers of development. However, the road system in the district is not up to the mark. The network of roads maintained in the district may be broadly classified as roads maintained by
P.W.D. (Public Works Department), R.E.O. (Rural Engineering Organisation) and Local.

The length of National Highway in the district is very insignificant, i.e. 84 Kms. The State Public Works Department maintains State High Ways, Major District Roads (M.D.R) and other roads. State High Way No.2 and No.3 pass through the district connecting the district with the neighbouring districts like Sonepur, Sambalpur and Kalahandi. State High Way No.2 connects Bhawanipatna and Bargarh and State High Way No.3 connects Sohela, Nuapara, Khariar, Titilagarh, Belgaon etc.

The Major District Roads are - M.D.R. No.35, i.e. Balangir-Sonepur-Kantabanji - Chandutara road, M.D.R. No.36, i.e Patnagarh-Padmapur road, M.D.R. No.37, i.e. Patnagarh – Harishankar – Khaprakhol - Lathor road, M.D.R. No.40, i.e. Titilagarh-Saintala road and other roads like Titilagarh-Sindhekela road. Rural Engineering Organisation (R.E.O.) maintains village roads in the district, which constitute both fair weather and all weather roads. Municipalities, N.A.C., Panchayat Samities and Gram Panchayats of the district maintain and remain in charge of maintenance of the roads under their jurisdictions. They receive grants from the Government from year to year to affect annual repairs.

Prior to 1948, the management of the Motor Transport Services in the state was with private operators. In 1948, the Government of Orissa introduced the State transport Services in the district. The routes from the town of Balangir to Cuttack, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Titilagarh, Patnagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar, lathor, Sonepur, Agalpur, Bhawanipatna, Tusra, Boudh and Belpara were nationalised. Thus the district has road connection with the important places of Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Boudh, Phulbani, Ganjam,
Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Puri, etc. within the state. Vizianagaram and Raipur keep regular traffic in goods with Balangir.

The total length of roads in the district is 8813 Kms, which includes 1475 Kms of metallic roads (Pucca). The major categories of roads are State High Way (198 Kms), Major District Roads (126Kms), Other District Roads (184 Kms), R.D. Roads, (1136.27 Kms), G.P. and P.S. Roads (4336.18 Kms), Forest Roads (250 Kms), River Canal Roads (118 Kms) and Urban Roads (786 Kms). Despite the predominance of road as a mode of communication, some parts of the district are not accessible from the headquarters during rainy season. As per 2000-01 statistics, the road network in the district is 1.18 Kms/Sq.Kms., which shows the poor connectivity status in the district.

Railways

South-Eastern Railway line runs through the district with single line broad gauge railway track of 177 Kms. This length of railway track gives the average of only 2.3 K.Ms. of railway for every 100 square Kms of the area. The district has one Junction Railway Station at Titilagarh. The railway tract in the district consists of provision of two major routes, one connecting Vizianagaram to Raipur and the other Rourkela to Titilagarh. Out of 14 Railway stations in the district, the important railway stations having commercial importance are Balangir, Titilagarh and Kantabanji. The entire railway line in the district is only 8.37 percent of the state. A railway link to the state capital (Khurda-Balangir Line) is under construction.

In comparison to the coastal districts of the state, the Road/Rail network in this district is very poor.
Air Ways

Air transport has a significant role to play. It offers saving in time that cannot be matched by surface transport over long distances. It helps optimise technological, managerial and administrative skills in a resource scarce economy. The Balangir district lacks air transport facility worth the name. There is only one mini-aerodrome at Tusra near about 25 Kms away from the headquarters of the district. Of course, the aerodrome is used occasionally when the Government V.I.Ps come to the district on official tours. Had that means of transport been developed, it could accelerate the tempo of economic development of the district economy.

Water Ways

Inland water transport comprising of a variety of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, etc. is lacking in the district. Since the rivers of the district remain dry most of the months of a year, they are not navigable.

3.10.a.(ii) COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Post and Telegraph

The district is covered with postal, telegraph and telephone facilities connecting all the towns in the district. There are 283 Post Offices including sub-post offices in the district. The average population served per post-office in the district at the end of 2000-01 was 36.53. The number of telegraph office, telephone exchange and PCOs amounts to 38; 35 and 21 respectively.

Telephone

The telecommunication facilities in the district have improved over the years. The traditional telecom system has been replaced by the optic fibre
lines. The mobile phone facilities are growing in demand. The district is a separate Telecom District having 35 numbers of telephone exchanges. The telephone connection per thousand of people in the district is 13.5.

3.10.a.(iii) IRRIGATION

Timely and assured water supply to crop is the most essential factor for increasing agricultural production. The total irrigated area of the district comes to 36,626 hectares from all sources, which is only 10.6% of the total cropped area.

Area under irrigation from major and medium irrigation projects comprises 16.59 percent of total irrigated area, whereas area under minor and lift irrigation comes to 83.41 percent of the total irrigated area.

Only four villages of Agalpur block receive irrigation water from Hirakud canal system.

The Ong medium irrigation project provides irrigation facilities to Bharsuja, Roth and Duduka Gram Panchayats. This project has irrigation potential of 8,167 hectares of land at present. There are also 178 numbers of M.I.P., 194 numbers of Lift Irrigation Points managed by Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporations and 3400 numbers of Private Lift Points.

Thus, the total area under irrigation is very insignificant and the majority of the area under cultivation is rain fed and dry. Needless to say, the success of agricultural crops in the district is a gamble of the monsoon.
The Lower Suktel Irrigation Project is in the process of construction, which after completion, may provide irrigation facilities to a large part of the cropped area in the district.

As already presented in section 4, the three tributaries of river Mahanadi like Tel, Ong, and Suktel are flowing throughout the district. Undar and Lanth are the tributaries of river Tel, which flow from western to eastern part of the district.

But the scanty and ill distributed rainfalls and drying up of the river beds in winter-summer seasons when water is most needed render 89.4% of the arable land fallow after Rainy Season which accounts for widespread poverty.

Out of 332 M.I. Projects, 163 are functioning which provide irrigation to 14,000 hectares in Kharif and 1292 hectares in Rabi. The remaining 169 projects are completely district projects. Similarly, there are 207 L.I. Points in the district till the end of 2001 with an ayacut area of 7628 hectares in Kharif and 7628 hectares in Rabi.

3.10.a.(iv) POWER

Balangir district is getting power supply from Hirakud Hydroelectric Project. A 132 KVA Grid substation located at Balangir and another at Kesimal draw electricity to the extent of 15 to 16 MVA and 5 to 6 MVA respectively. Nineteen (19) substations of 33/11 KVA are existing in the district and supplying power to both urban and rural areas.

It is a matter of satisfaction to note that 1613 villages out of 1761 inhabited villages and 4 towns in the district are electrified. The number of
villages electrified upto the end of 2001 constitutes 92 percent of the total number of villages in the district.

For providing irrigation, electric lift pumps are being installed by farmers in an increasing scale, specially in drought-prone areas. Upto the end of the year 2000-01, lift irrigation points energised were 4,847.

Further, the Government of Orissa has been assuring time and again the prospective industrialists that electricity will be made available even at concessional rates to all the newly started industries.

3.10.a.(v) DRINKING WATER

All the Municipalities and principal towns in the district are provided with protected water supply. To meet the demand of the villages, which face water scarcity during adverse seasonal conditions, tube wells have been provided and tanks are being dug by the Government.

3.10.b. SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Social infrastructure consists of education, health, banking, trade and commerce, etc.

3.10.b.(i) EDUCATION

Education is the sine-qua-non of progress in all fields. It is an instrument to achieve rapid economic growth and technological progress. But a vast bulk of the people of the district are still illiterates. The literacy rate of the district is 54.93 percent as against 63.61 and 65.38 percent of State and National average respectively. It is thus lower than both State and National average. Out of the total population of 13.36 lakh, only 7.34 lakh are literates
in the district. So far as female literacy is concerned, it is much lower in the
district, i.e. 39.27 percent. The percentage of literacy between the urban and
the rural area are nearly 79.34 and 30.52 respectively.

A large majority of the educated in the district have received only
general education, which might have either prevented them from migrating
to distant places in pursuit of gainful employment or failed to enthuse them
to take up self-employment activities such as, setting up small scale industries
within the district. Despite implementation of various programmes, the
number of unemployed persons, educated and uneducated both is gradually
increasing as it has not been possible to provide employment to all. Besides
the primary sector (i.e., agriculture), being overcrowded, non-remunerative
and a prey to the vagaries of nature, the alternatives left to provide
employment to the surplus population are the secondary and the tertiary
sector.

Majority of the adult illiterates are in the workforce. Hence, spread
of adult education has received the major thrust in the present education
system of the State Government. Integrated Functional Literacy Programme
and Total Literacy campaign have been introduced with the basic objectives
of reducing the percentage of illiteracy and in providing basic knowledge to
the people in the use of agricultural inputs and modern technology in
agriculture and industry. But a headway is still to be achieved in this field.

The spread of education in the district was not very remarkable
during the 18th and 19th centuries A.D. Wandering teachers called Abadhanas
were holding primary classes in towns and villages, where they were teaching
only reading, writing and arithmetic. It was in 1894 that an English School
was started at Balangir by the then Maharaja Ramachandra Deo. Both
Sonepur and Balangir had High Schools in 1912 and 1916 respectively. 15
The following table gives a picture of educational institutions that are rendering services to the people in the district.

Table 3.8
DETAILS OF THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN BALANGIR DISTRICT IN THE YEAR 2000 - 01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>No. of Institutions</th>
<th>No. of Students</th>
<th>No. of Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Primary Schools</td>
<td>1715</td>
<td>2,23,196</td>
<td>6,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Secondary Schools</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>39,858</td>
<td>1,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Colleges</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>14,381</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i). Men</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii). Women</td>
<td>04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The ratios of students to the number of teachers at Primary, Secondary and College education level are 1 : 36, 1 : 21 and 1 : 26 respectively in the district.

There is one B.Ed. College, one Sanskrit College, and an Ayurvedic College in the district. In addition to this, there are 3 Secondary Training Schools and a Private Law College. A large number of private educational institutions have also been started in the district. There is one Industrial Training Institute in the district having the trades:

(a) Stenography
(b) Draftsman (Civil)
(c) Draftsman (Mechanical)
(d) Blacksmithy
(e) Fitter
(f) Motor Mechanic
(g) Welder
(h) Wireman
The list of trainees who have completed their training under this institute since its inception (1981-82) is given below:

Table 3.9
LIST OF TRAINEES COMPLETING TRAINING IN I.T.I.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name of the Trade</th>
<th>Number of Trainees completed training since its inception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Stenography</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Blacksmithy</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fitter</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Draftsman (Civil)</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Draftsman (Mechanical)</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Motor Mechanic</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Welder</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Wireman</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Industrial Training Institute, Balangir (Ludkipali).

Under a centrally sponsored scheme “Training for Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM)”, rural youth and artisans belonging to the poor families have been imparted training for upgrading their skills and making them acquaint with the improved machinery and equipment. It appears that TRYSEM Scheme evoked a good response in attracting as many as 1564 entrepreneurs to undergo training for acquiring skills in different trades in order to pursue self-employment in industrial activities at places where they live. The State Government provides financial concessions to entrepreneurs who want to start small industrial units after completing their training programme.

From 1983-84, the Government of Orissa in Industries Department has appointed consultants for conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programme (E.D.P) in different districts. In a “No Industry District” like
Balangir, such EDP conducted by the approved consultants has tremendous influence on the entrepreneurs. The following table indicates the number of persons trained under E.D.P. during different years.

Table 3.10
NO. OF PERSONS TRAINED UNDER E.D.P.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name of the Consultant</th>
<th>No. of candidates completed E.D.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>SIET, Hyderabad</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>N.P.C., Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>N.P.C., Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>O.R.G., Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>I.E.D., Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Industries Centre, Balangir.

3.10.b.(ii) HEALTH FACILITIES

In a socialistic pattern of society, the basic responsibility of the Government is to provide adequate health care services to the citizens. At present, such services have been provided to some extent to those in the urban areas, but large bulk of our population live in rural areas where medical facilities are quite inadequate. All possible steps are being taken by the State Government to extend medical facilities to rural areas to remove this rural urban imbalance and to provide adequate medical facilities to the rural poor at large.

There are one district headquarters Hospital, 2 sub-divisional hospitals and 8 other hospitals in the district. Five Community Health Centres, 48 Primary Health Centres and 14 Mobile health centres are also in
operation in the rural areas. In addition to it, there are 16 Homeopathic Dispensaries, One Ayurvedic Hospital and 29 Ayurvedic Dispensaries functioning in the district. The total number of medical beds available for the patients is worked out at 551.

3.10.b.(iii) BANKING FACILITIES

A sound banking system is the backbone of a developing economy. However, no bank existed in the district till 1943. Village moneylenders like the Mehers, Agharias, Sundhis and rich agriculturists were lending small sums of money at exorbitant rates of interest. The Calcutta City Bank was the first bank to come to this district, which opened its branch offices at Kantabanji and Balangir in 1943 and wound up their business with enormous public and institutional deposits. In 1956, Balangir District central Co-operative Bank Ltd. came into being. The State Bank of India opened branches at Balangir and Titilagarh in the year 1957 and 1959 respectively.

At present, the State Bank of India has 26 numbers of branches in the district. The Balangir Anchalik Gramya Bank (now named as Utkal Gramya Bank) has the largest number of branches, i.e. 43. Likewise, the District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd. has 13 branches and the Co-operative Land Development Bank has 4 branches. Andhra Bank and Allahabad Bank have 3 branches each, followed by Central Bank of India with 2 branches. United Commercial Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Orissa State Finance Corporation are having one branch each. One Life Insurance Corporation also operate in the district.

Since the year of nationalisation of 14 major Scheduled Commercial banks and the introduction of Lead Bank Scheme by the Reserve Bank of India, there has been a rapid expansion of banking system in the district with
a sharp increase in total deposits and advances. The State Bank of India here, serves as the Lead Bank.

3.10.b.(iv). TRADE AND COMMERCE

The economy of the rural people rests on the transactions of the goods they produce. For this purpose they generally depend on the nearest market to dispose of their products. Thus the markets play an important role to improve the economic conditions of the rural population.

The main commodities exported from the district are paddy, rice, mung, biri, khesari, til, onion, Kendu leaves, timber, graphite, etc. to the states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Likewise, goods are also imported from Maharashtra, Gujrat, North Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal. The main commodities among them were cloth and yarn, wheat, sugar, kerosene, coconut oil, cement, potato, dry fish, stationeries and fancy goods.

The district has gradually assumed importance in trade and commerce after the opening up of Jharsuguda-Titilagarh and Raipur-Vizianagaram railway lines. In the district, particularly Kantabanji and Titilagarh are two business centres. Kantabanji is a terminal and assembling market for the produce of its own area as well as for the Padmapur area of Bargarh district, Khariar area of Nuapara district, the whole of Patnagarh subdivision and a portion of Balangir subdivision. This is the biggest exporting market for the agricultural produce under free trade. Titilagarh is the gateway of Balangir district. It exports and imports all controlled goods required for the district and handles agricultural produce. It has increased its importance as it is served by all weather roads to Balangir and Sambalpur.
3.11 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

For administrative convenience, the district has been divided into three sub-divisions and 14 community Development blocks, where the S.D.Os and the B.D.Os remain in charge of them respectively. The three sub-divisions in the district are - Balangir, Titilagarh and Patnagarh and the 14 blocks are Balangir, Piuntala, Agalpur, Deogaon, Gudvela, Loisingha, Belpara, Khapraikhola, Patnagarh, Titilagarh, Bangomunda, Muribahal, Saintala and Tureikela.

The District Collector is the over all in charge of the Government machinery in the district. His duty is to see that the Government schemes and plans are properly implemented apart from maintaining law and order. He also looks into health and sanitary condition of the district and provision of other merit goods namely education at different levels. He plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the district and presides over the meetings of the District Development Council.

There are four towns in the district, namely, Balangir, Katabanji, Patnagarh and Titilagarh. Out of these towns, Balangir town attains Class II category (with population of 50,000 to 99,999) and the rest three belong to Class-IV (with population of 10,000 - 19,999) category. There are 1,761 inhabited villages in the district. The Block Development Office of the concerned block looks after the rural development or the development of the villages.

2.12 TOURISM

The district has its own appeal for the visitors who opt to relax in the lap of nature. A cool bath in the perennial stream trickling down the flank of famous Harishankar temple; the view of Lord Hari and Lord Shankar in
one shrine; the sight of numerous temples dotting the rocky outcrop of Ranipur - Jharial; and the scenic Panorama of Patnagarh have no parallel in the state. Traditional hand woven textiles and native tribal life also allure the ethnic tourists. A drive to any place of tourist interest in the district always calls for passing through a forest cover.

On the basis of the facts presented above, it is clear that Balangir district provides everything which entrepreneurs would ask for - land, water, power, finance, subsidies on capital investment, tax reliefs and cheap labour. Above all, the district has got rail routes and surface roads which link it with many parts of the country providing a vital transport network for marketing of industrial raw materials and finished products. Thus it can be stated that the atmosphere prevailing in the district is congenial for rapid industrial development to take place.
REFERENCES


5. Ibid.


13. Annual Credit Plan, 1992-93, Balangir District (Orissa), Lead Bank Department, State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar, p.70
