CHAPTER VII

POLITICAL IMPLICATION
Man is not merely a social animal, he is a political animal too. His social and political instinct gets wide scope for development in democratic society and democratic state. In such a state it is primarily the political party which plays an important role in bringing about harmonious relationship between the people and various agencies of the government. How far the political parties, party leaders, Panchayat Samities, village Panchayats, tribal and other associations are involved in the activities of ITDP have become the subject matter of analysis in this chapter. To what extent the beneficiaries of different schemes have also been involved in political activities has also been highlighted. In short, attempt has been made here to deal with political implication.

7.1 Kuchinda ITDP :-

Before analysing the involvement of political parties in the activities of the various schemes of ITDP, definition of Political Party and its analysis is considered necessary in order to appreciate the activities of political parties in Kuchinda ITDP area. Burke defines a party as "a body of men united for promoting by their joint endeavours the national interest upon some particular principle on which they are all agreed". Thus, in order to form a political party a group of people must be united together and form an organisation.
The members must have some definite principles on which all of them agree to follow. The members of political parties are to promote the national interest but not the selfish interest of any group of people. If it would be so then it no longer becomes a political party; it becomes a faction.

The political party which has formed the government in the state of Orissa and also the opposition parties in the state have their party organisation at the block and sub-divisional level. All the political parties have their party principles on which they agree. But promotion of national interest or greater interest which forms one of the most important characteristics of political party has not been properly realised by the political parties in Kuchinda ITDP area. This fact came to limelight when the beneficiaries were asked to tell how they had been introduced to the various schemes of ITDP. Not a single tribal beneficiary came forward to reveal the fact that the political parties either in power or in the opposition had propagated about the merits of the various schemes meant for their development. Atleast the opposition parties should expose the lacunae of any scheme introduced in the ITDP area so that the government could bring about necessary modification of the scheme for the development of the tribal people. They should have close contact with tribal beneficiaries so as to point out the defects of the government in relation to the various schemes to the tribal people and the electorate as a whole. As such activities were not performed by the opposition parties that the political consciousness of the tribal community in Kuchinda ITDP area is at its lowest ebb.
It was also observed that the political parties were neither involved in the selection of beneficiaries nor in the implementation of the different schemes of ITDP. Thus it can be said that the role of political parties in relation to the operation of the schemes in Kuchinda ITDP area is very negligible.

7.2. Political Leaders

The recognised leaders of Political Parties in the ITDP area may be ascribed to the members elected to the Legislative Assembly of (M.L.A.) Orissa and to the members of the House of the people or (Lok Sabha). The whole of ITDP area falls under Kuchinda and Laikera Assembly constituencies which are reserved for scheduled tribe candidates. It also comes under Deogarh parliamentary constituency which is a general seat. These three elected members are made members of project level committee of ITDP which is an active body in formulating and approving schemes and policies for the tribal area. It is expected that these M.L.As and M.P. should create and generate political awareness among the people by their participation in these activities meant for the development of the tribal people. Table-1 given below illustrates this aspect.
Table-1 showing the participation of the M.L.As and M.P. at the P.L.C. meeting in 4 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of meeting held in a year</th>
<th>Participation of M.L.A. Kuchinda constituency in the meetings</th>
<th>Participation of M.L.A. Laikera constituency in the meetings</th>
<th>Participation of M.P. Deogarh constituency in the meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table-1 reveals that the M.L.A. from Kuchinda constituency did not attend any of the P.L.C. meetings held in the year 1977 and 1978. The M.L.A. from Laikera constituency was not present in all the meetings held in 1977 and 1979. It was only in the first year of the working of the I.T.D.P. schemes that the M.L.A. of Kuchinda attended two meetings and that of Laikera was present in all three meetings. The M.P. from Deogarh constituency never attended any of the meetings held within a period of four years. Two reasons may be advanced for it. As the M.L.A. of Kuchinda and Laikera constituencies are not the inhabitants of Kuchinda town or its neighbouring villages and the M.P. of Deogarh constituency is not a resident of Deogarh or Kuchinda towns or
its neighbouring villages, it was presumed that they did not attend these meetings regularly. Secondly, they might not have been interested to take part in the development of the tribal people. Thus it is aptly clear that the political leaders of the area did not exhibit their interest in the functioning of the various schemes of the ITDP and the tribal people did not get any inspiration for undertaking political activities.

7.3. **Leaders of villages, Panchayats and Panchayat Samities:**

Sarpanch at the Panchayat level and Panchs or Ward members in a village levels are the leaders of the people at the Panchayat and village respectively. These leaders did not play any effective role in mobilising the tribal people to undertake the different schemes. Nor did they fight for the tribal people to get benefit under different schemes. However, the aspirants for the post of Chairman of Panchayat Samities did exert a little influence in selecting their men to become beneficiaries of some schemes. In this connection it can be said that some beneficiaries of Input Assistance from Guchhara Panchayat in Kuchinda Block expressed that they could get the benefit because of the influence and pressure of ex-Chairman, Kuchinda Panchayat Samity.

7.4. **Tribal and Other Associations:**

Each tribe has its own caste association consisting of elderly persons who may be representing the different
regions of the area. For example, the Kisan tribe has such type of association known as 'Kisan Yati Mohasava'. In course of informal discussion with some beneficiaries of Gughar Panchayat it is observed that the various associations of different tribes functioning in Kuchinda ITDP area devote much of their time on discussions relating to marriage, divorce and other social functions. They do not discuss the activities of the various schemes introduced in the ITDP area for their socio-economic development. However, the Christian Missionary Association has been engaged in doing some work for the tribals in some parts of the ITDP area. It has been providing educational and medical facilities to the tribals who have accepted their religion. No other association is working within the ITDP area.

7.5. **Involvement of Beneficiaries in Political activities**:

It is pointed out in Chapter-V, page-116 that 97 percent of the beneficiaries do not belong to any political party. This is a clear indication that most of the tribal beneficiaries are not affiliated to any Political Party. Even if one is not a member of any Political Party, it can show sympathy to any of the political parties. Sympathy of the beneficiaries in each scheme can be shown in Table-2.
Table-2 reveals that in Crop Demonstration 57%, in Input Assistant 33", in Bee-Keeping 7%, in Goat-rearing 4% and in Horticulture 3% beneficiaries have sympathy for political parties. In a few schemes namely: Land Reclamation, Land Development, Dug-well and Poultry, the beneficiaries are in different towards political parties. In course of informal discussion with these beneficiaries, the reason of their indifference could be revealed. They expressed that they did not see and observe the activities of any of the political parties in the ITDP area. It is also observed that political parties and their organisations have not been well developed within the jurisdiction of Kuchinda Sub-Division for which the

| Responses | Land Recl | Land Dev | Crop Demon | Dug-Deon | Well Assi | Input | Goat-Assi | Rear | Bee-Keep | Horti-Cul | ment |i
|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|-------|----------|------|----------|----------|------|---
| Yes       | 24        | 20       | 16          | 6       | 1        | 1     | 1        |      |          |          |      |---
|           | (100%)    | (100%)   | (57%)       | (33%)   | (4%)     |       | (7%)     |      |          |          |      |---
| No        | 12        | 12       | 25          | 24      | 29       | 39    |          |      |          |          |      |---
|           | (100%)    | (100%)   | (43%)       | (67%)   | (96%)    | (93%) |          |      |          |          |      |---
| Total     | 24        | 20       | 28          | 38      | 18       | 26    | 24       | 30   | 40       | (100%)  |      |---

TABLE-2. Showing the Responses of the Respondents' sympathy for political party under different schemes.
tribal people are not attracted to become members of any political party. Thus, neither the ruling party nor the opposition parties are involved in the activities of the various schemes introduced in Kuchinda ITDP area. The M.L.A.s and M.P. who are formally associated with Planning, Coordination and smooth functioning of the various schemes by becoming members of the P.L.C. meeting of the ITDP were found to be reluctant in attending such meetings. The leaders of the villages, Village Panchayats and Panchayat Sanities were also not interested to develop active interest among tribal beneficiaries to adopt the different schemes. The various associations of the tribes had no effect on creating political awareness among the tribal people for which the tribal beneficiaries were not involved in Political activities. Thus the Schemes of ITDP are free from Political interference.

Political Parties have intimate connection with administration. The party in power plays an important role in formulating the policy of the government and controlling the administration which is responsible for implementing the various schemes meant for tribal development. Therefore, the next chapter will highlight on administrative implication of ITDP.