CHAPTER - IV
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After the formation of Orissa as a separate province in 1936, elections were held for the District Boards which stood at the apex level in the three tier Panchayati Raj System in the sphere of rural local government in India. By the system of local Government, we mean the management of local affairs by such local bodies as have been elected by the people living in that particular locality. The importance of local government has been acclaimed by the political thinkers and the administrators over the ages.

The newly born Orissa province had not yet promulgated its own Local Government Act. Therefore as per the provisions of the Bihar-Orissa Local self Government Act elections were held for the District Boards of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Sambalpur. As the district of Koraput was in the Agency area the members of Koraput District Board were nominated by the Government. Election was held for the Ganjam District Board as in accordance with the Madras local self Government Act.

Berhampur town is situated in the southern part of Orissa. It is only 8 miles away from Bay of Bengal and twelve miles away from Andhra Pradesh. By virtue of its geographical position, it is the melting point of three districts Ganjam, Koraput and Phulbani. It came into existence in 1662 and the name ‘Berhampur’ is derived from ‘Brahmakhetra’. It is also stated that the name of the town is named after a Persian Ruler Berhamsaha.
Berhampur Municipality is considered to be the oldest Municipality in Orissa which came into existence on 1st April, 1864, by comprising thirty five nearby villages. In the wake of enforcement of the Orissa Municipal Act, 1950, which came into force on 16th April, 1951, the sanctioned strength of Berhampur Municipal Council was raised from 13 to 28.

In accordance with the New Act the election to Berhampur Municipal Council was held in December, 1951. Brundaban Nayak contested from Hillipatna ward and got elected as a councillor by defeating his rival Bairagi Sahu.

Nurshima Prasad Panda was elected as the Chairman of Berhampur Municipal Council but he tendered his resignation from the Chairmanship as he was studying law. The resignation was accepted by the council on 6th November, 1952.

Hence a special session of Berhampur Municipal Council was summoned by the Ganjam District Magistrate, Chatrapur on 28th November, 1952 at the Conference Hall of the Berhampur Municipality to elect the new Chairman.

Brundaban Nayak got elected as the Chairman of Berhampur Municipality by defeating his rival Balabhadra Mishra by 13 to 10 votes.

Election to Berhampur Municipal Council was held on 12th December, 1968. Binayak Acharya was elected as a Councillor. The other elected Councillors from different wards were Brundaban Nayak, Prabhat Kiran Deo, Jagannath Singh Deo, Mathurananda Sahu, N. Mohan Rao, Raghunath
Mishra, Satyanarayan Padhy, Raghunath Patra, Trinath Sahu, Neerod Chandra Panda, Gourahari Jena, Khalli Dalai, K.B.N. Rao, K. Kalimani, P. Suryanarayan Murthy, Narasingha Swain, Rama Chandra Madal, Sriharsa Panda, Ramahari Sahu, Raghunath Madhei and others.¹³

Subsequently, election for the Chairman of Berhampur Municipality was held on 9th May, 1969 at the Municipal Council Hall. The nomination of Brundaban Nayak for the Chairmanship was proposed and seconded by Binayak Acharya and Trinath Sahu, respectively. Brundaban Nayak retained the Chairmanship by defeating his rival by 23 to 5 votes.¹⁴

The next election for the Berhampur Municipality was held in the year 1973. Binayak Acharya and Dharma Mukhi were the two contestants in that election. The nomination of Binayak Acharya as the Chairman was proposed and seconded by Krushna Charan Patnaik and Sanyasi Sahu, respectively. The nomination of Dharma Mukhi as the Chairman was proposed and seconded by Dandapani Sahu and Ramahari Sahu, respectively. "Binayak Acharya got elected as the Chairman by defeating his rival by a margin of 14 votes. Acharya obtained 21 votes whereas his rival got 7 votes.

The total number of wards during Acharya's period was 25. The other Councillors, at that time, were Jagannath Singh Deo, Trinath Sahu, Subha Chandra Pathi, Khali Hathi, Udaynath Nayar, Narasingha Swain, Bijay Kumar Sabat, Ramahari Sahu, S. Apal Swain, Basant Kumar Panigrahy, Kasinath Bhuyan, Hadu Pradhan, Basudeva Jena, Sudharshan sahu, Rama Krushna Goud and Dharmendra Mukhi.
Election of the Vice-Chairman was taken up. The nomination of P.S.N. Murthy for this post was proposed and seconded by N. Mohan Rao and J. Singh Deo respectively. The nomination of Bijay Kumar Sabat for the post was proposed and seconded by Udaynath Nayak and Radha Charan Sahu, respectively. P. S. N. Murthy was elected as the Vice-Chairman by defeating B. K. Sabat by 13 votes. P. S. N. Murthy obtained 20 votes while his rival got 7 votes. Murthy, having secured the largest number of votes, was elected as the Vice-Chairman of Council.

BINAYAK ACHARYA AS THE CHAIRMAN OF BERHAMPUR MUNICIPALITY

Binayak Acharya ardently believed in the spirit of collective leadership and pinned strong faith in decentralizing the system of administration in the Municipal Council in order to induct the element of cohesion and also for the smooth functioning of multi faceted development work of the town. For this purpose, he constituted the following committees.

These were the Finance, General Health and Dispensaries, Public Works, Education, Water Supply, Legal Advisory, Octoroi, Revenue, Vigilance, Selection Committees.

The members of Finance Committee were Bharat Mishra, Prakash Chandra Ratha, Khali Dalei, Krushna Chandra Patnaik, Basant Kumar Panigrahi, A. Subha Rao. This Committee was proposed and seconded by Gaganath Singhdev and Sanyasi Sahu respectively.
The members of the General Health and Dispensaries Committees were khali Hathi, S. Atal Swami, Trinath Sahu, Bijay Kumar Sabat, Sudharshan Sahu. The Committees was proposed and seconded by Jagannath Singh Deo and Ramakrushna Gauda, respectively.

The members of public works Committees were Jagannath Singh Deo, Kasinath Bhuyan, Mahammed Rajak Satar, Sudharshan Sahu, Radha Charan Sahu, Ramakrushna Gauda. This Committee was proposed and seconded by Bharat Mishra and Sanyasi Sahu, respectively.

The members of Education Committee were Jagannath Singh Deo, Sanyasi Sahu, N. Mohan Rao, Subhachandra Pathi, Udaynath Naik, Bharat Mishra. This Committee was pressed and seconded by Trinath Sahu and Sudharshan Sahu respectively.

The members of Water Supply Committee were S. Subarra, Khalli Dalei, N. Chandraya, Trinath Sahu, Basudev Jena. The Committee was proposed and seconded by Sudhanshu Sahu and Jagannath Singh Deo, respectively.

The members of Legal Advisor Committee were Krushna Charan Patnaik, Prakash Chandra Ratha, Hadu Pradhan, Jagannath Singh deo, Narasingha Biswal, N. Chandraya. This Committee was proposed by seconded by Trinath Sahu and Sudharshan Sahu, respectively.

The members of Octroi Committee were Basudev Jena, Sanyasi Sahu, Mohammad Rajak Sitara, Hadu Pradhan, Narasingha Swain and Kasinath Bhuyan. This Committee was proposed by seconded by Jagannath Singh Dev and Trinath Sahu, respectively.
The members of Revenue Committee were Trinath Sahu, Sudharshan Sahu, Ramakrushna Gauda, Jagannath Singh Dev, Dandapani Sahu and Kasinath Bhuyan. The Committee was proposed and seconded by Subha Chandra Pathi and Mahammed Rajak Sitara, respectively.

The members of Vigilance Committee were Trinath Sahu, Jagannath Singh Dev, Hadu Pradhan, Sanyasi Sahu, Dharmananda Mukhi and N. Mohan Rao. The Committee was proposed and seconded by Mahammed Rajak and Ramakrushna Gauda, respectively.15

Binayak Acharya along with his contingent of Councillors geared himself to the task of development of Berhampur town.

The Medical College Hospital was located towards the extreme eastern side of Berhampur town. As a result, the people of western side of town were facing a lot of hardships for getting immediate treatment. So in order to provide better and efficient medical facilities to these people Acharya and the councillors felt the need and requested the government to take steps to open one city hospital in the vacant houses of old medical college hospital.16

Due to the rapid growth of number of students in Berhampur town, the only government college which was existing then, was unable to accommodate the students. The excess strength created disciplinary problems and a good number of students were deprived of higher studies. In view of this, Acharya and other councillors requested the government to start a new college on the western side of the Berhampur town. He suggested that the same college would
either be an independent one or function as a branch of Khallikote College.  

During the year 1973-74 sanctions were accorded to create new posts in a number of Municipal Schools. The schools were also permitted to open new classes. 

Festival advances were granted in the year 1973 to the class III and class IV employees of municipalities on specific conditions.

In the year 1973-74 Rs.30,000 and Rs.60,000 were sanctioned for light and market, respectively from Berhampur Municipality.

The estimate was granted to lay out 2 inches G.I. pipelines from the master plan area of the residence of district Judge. Sanctions were made for digging tube-wells at different places of Berhampur Municipal areas.

During the period Ankuli library was given monthly grant and a number of other libraries were also opened inside Berhampur Municipal areas.

Permission was accorded to use the rooms of Berhampur Municipal School for two days free of cost for conducting Rastrabhasa examination.

The extension was granted to daily wage posts who were getting Rs.3/- per day.

Sanctions were made both for the repair of Berhampur Municipalities School and their furnitures etc. Steps were
taken to grant loan to the Berhampur Municipal residence for construction of septic latrines.\textsuperscript{26}

By the initiative of Acharya resolution was passed to sanction required finance to accord reception to vice president, Gopal Swarup Pathak who visited to Berhampur during his period.\textsuperscript{27}

The appointment periods of the Berhampur Municipal workers were extended by 3 months by 01.09.1973 in anticipation of government approval.\textsuperscript{28}

The annual license fees of cycle, rickshaw and bullock cart were collected. Required amounts were sanctioned for repair of Berhampur Municipal roads.\textsuperscript{29} All the Berhampur Municipalities schools and libraries were supplied with a good number of books in boxes.\textsuperscript{30}

A number of electric equipments were purchased for Dakhinapur reservoir for it's immediate repair and making it irrigational.\textsuperscript{31} Sanctions were made for a number of electrification.\textsuperscript{32} A lot of money was spent for the construction of building of primary schools.\textsuperscript{33}

The proposal was given to purchase agricultural land located towards western end of medical college and to sell it for the residential areas after due improvement.\textsuperscript{34}

Minor changes were made as regards the boundaries of each council areas and the employees of Berhampur Municipalities were given extension of one year.\textsuperscript{35}
The co-operative homeopathic medical college of Berhampur had been given grant-in-aid in the year 1973-1974.36

Besides these different social organizations were given sufficient aid by Berhampur Municipality.37

Extension was given for one year to the temporary post offices running inside the Berhampur Municipal areas.38

The Berhampur Municipal employees were given dearness allowances during this period.39

It was decided that the government would bear 90% of the dearness allowances and to the rest 10% would be borne by the Berhampur Municipality.40

It was decided to sanction Rs.40/- as monthly grant and to provide 3 numbers of newspaper free of cost to all the Berhampur Municipal run libraries.41

The proposal was sent to the government to provide Rs.60,000 and Rs.30,000 towards lightening arrangement at market places and residential areas respectively.42

Acharya had made a proposal to elicit public opinion regarding the slaughter of animals for meat and other related issues on the subject.43

Municipal Executive Officer was permitted to cancel the license of any butcher without assigning any reason. It was the discretionary power of Berhampur Municipal
Executive Officer to lease out slaughter houses and to give license to meat vendors.\textsuperscript{44}

Acharya had requested the state government to give immediate grant of Rs.5/- lakhs to Berhampur Municipality for taking different developmental works inside Berhampur Municipal areas.\textsuperscript{45}

Acharya stated that Berhampur Municipality was using about 80 acres of land for it's different offices and the staff quarters of Berhampur Municipal employees located in different areas inside Berhampur Municipality. Due to non-availability of Gochar land inside Berhampur Municipal areas the cattle populations used to graze and roam about inside bazar and other public places. As a result, unhygienic conditions prevailed. As per rule the equal size of areas should have been made available for Gochar. Proposal was made to the state government to reserve the required areas of land in different areas for Gochar purpose.

As per the decision of the Council, the state government and the Revenue Divisional Commissioner were moved to reserve 10\% of land of every area in the town for the purpose.\textsuperscript{46}

Binayak Acharya had a good stint as the Chairman of Berhampur Municipality from 04.08.73 to 18.03.74. This period was full of activities and many momentous steps were taken up in bringing about all round development of Berhampur Town as he considered it to be an important centre of South Orissa in particular and of Orissa in General.
He became the minister of Finance and Excise of Orissa on 06th March, 1974 and as well on 20th October, 1975 and achievements in this regard have been discussed in the third chapter.

CRITICAL PHASE DURING EMERGENCY

The political scenario of the country had entered into a very traumatic phase on account of national emergency when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. It would be pertinent here to make a short reference to the circumstances leading to such emergency. During this period Binayak Acharya was the Cabinet minister of the state holding important port folios.

Congress had ruled the state of India for a continuous 18 years under the strong leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru. After his death, Lalbahadur Shastri administered India for 18 months under the same party banner. After the sad and accidental demise of Shastri, Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India. She had administered the state very efficiently under the banner of Congress party. During the tenure of Nehru some ministers had to quit their posts under Kamraj Plan. They were subsequently brought back to the ministry by Nehru. Lalbahadur Shastri though younger in age than most of the cabinet members, had efficiently administered India with help of these experienced and dedicated friends. He had made India to win in Indo-Pak war and tried his best to bring solution in the Taskhent Treaty.

In the same way, though Indira Gandhi was quiet younger in comparison to other colleagues, she was made the Prime Minister with the help of Kamraj and other leaders. But in June 1969, differences of opinion emerged among
Congress leaders during the Presidential election of V.V.Giri. Most of the seasoned and experienced leaders split away from the party. Indira Gandhi formed a new Congress Party named as Congress(R). As a result the political differences and political conflicts became very much among these leaders. During 1967 election, the congress party under the leadership of Indira Gandhi became very weak.

In 1971, Indira Gandhi had dissolved the Parliament 14 months before the expiry date and fifth Lok Sabha election was held. She was immensely successful in this election & came with absolute majority. Congress had won getting two third of the seats in Parliament during election. Taking advantages of this majority she wanted to bring drastic changes in Indian Constitution.

She had become so powerful a leader that other senior colleagues had lost their importance in politics. No body could dare to oppose her either due to fear or humiliation. The youth Congress had emerged during this period. The youth congress became the competitor of the main congress and it started to function as fighting force of congress. In the course of the event, Sanjay Gandhi-son of Indira Gandhi, emerged as a youth congress leader and headed the youth congress. The different congress organisations asked to accord same type of respect and importance to Sanjay Gandhi as was given to the Prime-Minister Indira Gandhi. Due to this action most of the public felt that the youth Congress has became more powerful than the original congress. On one hand, while this type of system was developing on the other hand, the state emergency was declared in India on 25th June 1976. The emergency was declared after the defeat of Indira Gandhi in election case.47
It was declared due to a lot of internal disturbances, commotions and illegal attempts to dislodge different democratic governments. But however, it was published in some newspaper that since the verdict of Allhabad High Court had gone against Indira Gandhi and in order to overcome such verdict emergency was imposed stating different conditions. During emergency Indira Gandhi brought a number of changes in the constitution to keep her position intact as Prime Minister. The constitutional powers of different courts were restricted and it was decided that the election cases concerning the Prime Minister, President, Vice-President and speaker, would be tried by a special tribunal instead of Supreme Court. As a result, the trials of all the cases, falling under these categories, were held up till constitutional amendment. For this attempt Indira was criticized. It was alleged that she had used the great Indian constitution as doll.\textsuperscript{48}

A number of leaders of different parties were arrested at the midnight on the date of the declaration of emergency. A lot of restrictions were enforced on the newspapers in publishing public opinion. Newspapers were debarred even to publish the parliamentary and assembly proceedings without being properly scrutinised. As a result, the government officials became most powerful. Starting from family planning programme other programmes were executed in strong hand in different areas.

By this act, on one hand to some extent strong discipline was implemented, on the other hand, the public opinion on which the democracy is established and the rule of law on which crucial political and national life is established eroded its value. Side by side the price of essential commodities started growing up.\textsuperscript{49}

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On 21st July 1975 a book was published and was placed before the parliament stating the reasons as to why state of emergency was declared in India.

The Prime Minister stated that some political parties with fascist leanings had combined with a set of frustrated politicians to destroy the country's self-confidence and to challenge the very basis of democratic functioning. They campaigned in the name of democracy to launch violent agitation to paralyse the country's economic life, to divert the nation's attention from its social and economic tasks and to create anarchy and chaos to over throw elected representatives of the people.

It was stated in the book that imposition of emergency was absolutely required as attempts were made to disrupt activities of assembly, to force members of both state assembly and parliament to resign and above all to instigate police and armies not to respect and administer the unlawful orders. And finally it was stated in the last para .... .

"The Parliamentary system would become unworkable if the opposition were not to accept the majority rule. Government is by consent and opposition is by agreement. Mutual forbearance and fair play in Public life are essential to the working of a democratic system. But it has to be accepted that all parties have to accept the necessary conditions of democracy. They have to accept the principle that majority may govern. Government and opposition alike have to assume the honesty of the other."

After the declaration of emergency law and order were established and discipline was felt in school, colleges, government office. Industries and railway were running
without any hindrances and a lot of improvement was also made in the field of finance. Black marketing was arrested to a greater extent. But after few months, after the declaration of emergency, the Prime-Minister herself made the statement that no more the same standard of discipline is being maintained and it was considerably declining day by day. Again the prices of different commodities went up. It was alleged that a lot of unwanted interferences were made in the field of administration and taking the advantage of emergency, illegal cash collections were also made. It weighed beyond the control and even if the allegations were substantiated no action was taken. Hence the continuance of emergency enhanced the illegal and illogical activities in different shape.50

When the public dissatisfaction reached the climax the 6th election was declared after making drastic unwanted changes as regards Indian Constitution. In such adverse conditions the importance of youth congress was drastically reduced. Due to the terrorized atmosphere a number of old and experience leaders were picked up from different parts of the country to contest parliamentary election. The parliamentary democracy ceased to exist inside congress organisation in different states. The congress was managed by the adhoc committees and adhoc leaders. The disturbances in different state arose both in council of ministers and in administration. It had created internal differences, conflicts, corruption in some states. It also created uncertainty in state administration. After the declaration of General election, different important political leaders, who were inside Jails, were released and they started forming different political parties. They formed united party to run against congress. During this period due to continuous dissatisfaction and internal conflicts in congress organisation some of the
important congress leaders were separated from main party and formed another political party named Janata Dal. And they also fought election under one symbol. The formation of the political party with too old, aged and experienced persons even the immovable person not caring for health, could put a lot of impact on Indian public.

Hence in spite of (i) success in Indo-Pak war, (ii) successful projection of foreign policy (iii) discipline and progress in the foreign policy, individualistic attitude created adverse atmosphere in the country. As a result of such adversity even the sitting Prime-Minister was defeated from her own constituency and most of the other ministers were also defeated in the election. Not only the people of India but also the people of entire world were eagerly looking at the results of the election but also in the history of India for the first time one sitting Prime-Minister and party in power were completely defeated in election. The emergency was withdrawn on 21\textsuperscript{st} March 1977 by the working president B.D. Jati.\textsuperscript{51}

The Janata Dal came to power in the election and Moraji Desai was sworn in as the 6\textsuperscript{th} Prime-Minister of India. During his address in AIR to the people of India he had assured to strongly arrest the growing price levels of different commodities. He warned the people that by lifting of emergency does not mean the encouragement of anti-social activities and reduction in heavy penalties.

He had expressed his disappointment due to unnatural price rise of oilseed, oil, cotton, tea, dal and other food grains which had badly affected the primary requirement of the public. He had assured the public that in case of need the business community and stockists would be forced to
make materials available at the time of need and further more import would be made of these commodities falling short of their requirements.\textsuperscript{52}

After the lifting of emergency the Information and Broadcasting Minister Advani had introduced the bill for the protection for right in the parliament. According to the law the newspapers were allowed to cover parliamentary and legislative proceedings as they were doing earlier. The newspaper were allowed to enjoy the freedom as they were enjoying as per the Firoz Gandhi legislation of 1956.\textsuperscript{53}

The Secretary of Janata Dal Surendra Mohan had made arrangement to release all the political prisoners in all cases. A number of other decisions were also taken in national executive committee.

(i) to withdraw the emergency declared in 1972 due to Bangladesh conflict and foreign invasion.

(ii) to thoroughly examine and withdraw MISA act from the country.

The then Home Minister of Government of India Charan Singh has stated in the parliament that emergency was declared before being approved by the cabinet.\textsuperscript{54}

**BINAYAK ACHARYA AS THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Acharya assumed the office of Chief Minister of Orissa on 29\textsuperscript{th} December 1976 and was in-charge of home political and services, finance, P.I.C., Tribal & Rural Welfare. It is
appropriate to make a reference to the circumstances which ushered him to occupy such a prestigious post.

The Governor of Orissa at that time was B.P. Jatti. On 1st March 1975 when the Assembly was in session, many congress defectors joined the Pragati Party. The strength of this party had risen up from 47 to 72. Jatti suspended the session of the legislature on that day. Satpathy resigned from Chief Ministership. But Jatti dissolved the ministry on 3rd March and an emergency under Act 356 of the constitution was proclaimed. Whether Satpathy advised for dissolution, after losing majority or prior to that, the question remained controversial.

During the emergency, Jatti remained in charge of management of administration for one year and three months. Initially, he had not taken any advisor. But subsequently, for the sake of advice in matters of development administration, he wanted advisers. Consequently, the central government appointed two advisers for Jatti. They were Balachandra and K.T. Satarwala.

On 16th December 1976 state of emergency was proclaimed in Orissa for the fourth time. The second Govt. of Satpathy was formed on the 6th March, 1974. The total support behind Satpathy's govt. was 69 in House of 147. Hence, her Govt. was a minority government. But with the help of it's ally, the seven member communist group, it commanded a majority in the 147 member House to form the ministry. Gradually defection swelled the congress strength. The strength of the congress legislative party had subsequently gone up to 84 with the defection of 14 MLAs from the Lok Dal (former Pragati Dal).
After the national Emergency was proclaimed in June 1975 there was a steady flow of opposition members to the side of the congress. It seemed at one stage that congress had achieved a substantial position. But gradually, due to internal dissension, the dissidents dislodged Satpathy in December 1976 and Acharya became the Chief Minister. After Satpathy took over as Chief Minister, the ministry sailed smoothly for two years, the emergency having helped Satpathy to smoother her detractors in the party. But serious intra-party feuds broke out over Satpathy's virtual non-cooperation with the reconstituted State Youth Congress which enjoyed the patronage of High Command. The dissidents demand for the change of congress legislative party leadership became strident as charges of corruption against the "Highest political authority in the State" came out in a section of the press. Moreover, Satpathy was accused of confronting the centre and deviating from the "national mainstream".

Banka Bihari Das had taken leading role in ousting Nandini Satpathy from Chief Ministership. Nandini Satpathy had created a fear psychic among other leaders and as a result, most of them were in favour of driving her out from power. The period of emergency had created a lot of mistrust amongst people against congress rule. Das had taken promise from all the congress leaders that nobody should aspire of his own to become Chief Minister of Orissa after fall of Nandini Satpathy. He stated whatever decision Indira Gandhi will take, everybody should abide by it. Since congress had lost it’s image, due to emergency, a search was made to find out a candidate with clean and effective image for the post of Chief Minister. Hence the mental fell on the
head of Binayak Acharya to take over Chief Ministership of Orissa.\textsuperscript{56}

Nandini Satpahty had to bow at the office on 16\textsuperscript{th} December, 1976.\textsuperscript{57} Orissa came under Presidents rule for the fourth time since independence. The Governor of Orissa at that time was Siba Narayan Shankar. He managed administration himself for twelve days only. Binayak Acharya was elected soon as the leader of the party. He was sworn in as the Chief Minister on 29\textsuperscript{th} December 1976. The tenure of Chief ministership of Sri Acharya was shortest. This period was only for 123 days.\textsuperscript{58}

The contributions and the achievements of Binayak Acharya as the Chief Minister of Orissa deserved mention as regards in different fields.

In his speech in the assembly as the Chief Minister, Acharya stated there was a good harvest of food grains during the year 1976 and as a result 2.34 lacs metricton rice was collected. Hence after meeting the need and expenditure of distribution of food grains in a liberal policy, 67 metric tons of rice were stored by October 1976. But, due to inadequate rain in the state between September to November 1976, a drought situation was experienced in number of districts and it had affected 3,341 Gram Panchayats.

Since agricultural product was the main product of Orissa, Acharya had taken steps for the proper distribution of food grains in the state during the adverse drought situation. The price level was maintained in the state due to his strong handed administration in controlling the black marketing and anti-social elements.
Due to irregular monsoon huge damages were made to crops like edible oils, oilseed, raw cotton and for that their price had soared high. He had tackled the situation with an iron hand by squeezing loan, importing from other countries and by checking phatka business. He had taken a number of steps to control inflation and he was greatly successful in this effort. As a result, our foreign reserve had increased which made the national economy very strong and healthy.<sup>59</sup>

He had very successfully implemented 15 point programme. By reducing non-plan expenditure, he had arrested the inflation to a greater extent.

He encouraged everybody for both industrial and agricultural production. He activated the Land Reform Act and as a result, a number of adivasi, harijans and landless people, were benefited. Besides, a number of low-cost houses were constructed out of which maximum numbers of house were provided to homeless families. He struggled for the abolition of bonded labour system. He had filled 245 numbers of bonded labour and resettled them in the society.

A number of small farmers were made part of the different co-operative organisations. He had strongly implemented the money lending amendment Act to relax the loan amount of the loanees. As a result, a number of loanees were saved from the debt burdens. Due to the introduction of minimum wage Act 2077 number of labourers were paid 3 lakhs 20 thousand rupees and they who were drawing their wage below the minimums until then.

Additional irrigation facilities were made to 1 lakhs 72 thousand 426 hectares of land through major, medium and minor irrigation projects. In order to utilise the under
ground water, a number of wells were dug by taking financial help from different co-operative organisations, commercial banks, semi-government organisations and voluntary organisations.

He had given a lot of attention for production of electricity and for rural electrification. Rural electrification was done in 13,443 number of villages. A good number of handloom co-operative societies were formed during his tenure.\textsuperscript{60}

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., he had addressed the state on 26.01.1977. In his address, he stated that this was a long felt need of the State and he was happy that the Corporation which would mainly take care of the weavers outside the co-operative fold was being established.

He contended that Orissa had a significant place in the field of traditional textiles having its own age old traditions of handloom industry. But the weavers behind these looms had been neglected a lot; vagaries of market conditions, indifferent supply of inputs, middle men exploitation and consequent chronic underemployment had bedeviled the lives of this creative sector of the Society. He stated that, broadly speaking, the State had a weaver population of about 3 lakhs, of whom, 1 lakh was in the co-operative fold and the remaining 2 lakhs weavers were outside the co-operative fold. There were about 1,04,000 looms in the State out of which about 54,000 looms were outside the co-operative fold. Due to the limited plan resources it had not so far been possible to extend any type of assistance to the weavers who were outside the co-operative fold. Whatever assistance had been given under different Plan schemes had been
limited only to the weavers in the co-operative fold. Thus about 2/3rds of the weaver population of the State had not been able to get any real assistance from the Government for development of the handloom industry. The Handloom Development Corporation had been formed with a view to taking care of this section of the weavers.

While inaugurating the All India Handloom week at Bhubaneswar, he heard with attention the address of Padmasri Krutarth Acharya, a pioneer in the field of handloom industry in the State. In his address, Acharya narrated the difficulties now faced by the weavers of the State. He also offered valuable suggestions to remove these difficulties. He had been pondering over these suggestions and felt that if he could ensure the regular supply of inputs and provide the required working capital to our weavers and made adequate arrangements for marketing the products, the problems of the weavers would be solved to a great extent. Once this is ensured that the weavers are provided with full time occupation, then only the government, subsequently, could think of other developmental schemes. He would, therefore, suggest that for the time being, the state might concentrate on these two issues i.e. supply of inputs to our weavers and working capital arrangements.

He also mentioned that the total requirement of yarn was about 13 lakh Kgs. per month. By the end of the 5th Plan this requirement was estimated to go up to 18 lakh kgs. per month. As against this the present production of yarn in the state was to the tune of only 3.92 lakhs kgs. per month leaving a wide gap of about 14 lakh kgs for which our state depended upon other States. Such supplies were, however, uncertain at times. During the power crisis in 1974, Orissa's weavers suffered severely on account of non-supply of yarn.
from outside the state. The problem became so acute that some of our traditional weavers remained unemployed during this period. To save the weavers of the state from such an unfortunate situation in future, the State Government had taken a decision to set up more spinning mills in the State so as to produce inside the state an appreciable portion of the total requirement of yarn. He stated that the government had already obtained license to set up four new spinning mills with 25,000 spindles each, two in the co-operative sector and two in public sector through the Industrial Development Corporation and the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. One of the spinning mills in the co-operative sector had came up in the district of Dhenkanal and it was expected to go into production in 1978. Efforts were being made to setup another spinning mill in the district of Ganjam during the 5\textsuperscript{th} plan period. Acharya had approached the Government of India for necessary financial assistance during the current plan period for setting up this unit and he expected favourable consideration in this regard at the hands of the Government of India. Efforts were also made to set up two spinning mills in the public or joint sector for which preliminary arrangements were being made. He hoped by the end of the 6\textsuperscript{th} plan the production of yarn in the state would go upto 50\% of our total requirement. This would solve our yarn problem to a great extent.\textsuperscript{62}

He comprehended that Provision of working capital to our weavers had so far been a great problem and most of the weavers outside the co-operative fold could not work to full capacity mainly due to lack of adequate working capital. He was happy that the Nationalized Banks and other Commercial Banks had come forward to provide working capital loans to individual weavers. This needed follow-up action at all levels. The new corporation had ensured that the weavers
should get regular supply of yarn and other inputs as well as adequate working capital so that these weavers would get full time occupation.

He noted that the Handloom Development Corporation would have an authorized capital of Rs. 2 crores up implementation of two special projects viz. the Intensive Handloom Development Project and the Handloom Export Production Projects. These two projects had been specially sanctioned by Government of India for implementation in different States to improve the economic conditions of the weavers.

He averred that the aims and objects of the Intensive Handloom Development Project were to establish a compact unit of 10,000 looms in a contiguous geographical area for taking up intensive development of such handlooms. The programme of development included modernization of handlooms, training of weavers in improved methods of weaving introduction of new designs, provision for common facilities, supply of inputs through raw materials bank, planning of production of different marketable varieties and marketing of finished goods. Government of India had communicated their approval to the implementation of the scheme at a total outlay of Rs.169.38 lakhs out of which the Central assistance would be to the tune of Rs.120.91 lakhs and the balance amount of Rs.48.47 lakhs would be the share of the State Government. He hoped that the scheme would be implemented in the district of Bolangir and some parts of the districts of Sambalpur and Kalahandi where there was concentration of handloom weavers who were outside the co-operative fold. He declared that the headquarters of the project would be at Bolangir. 10,000 looms would be covered under this programme in a phased manner; 2,000
looms would be taken up during the first year; 3,000 looms would be taken up each during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} year and 2,000 looms during the 4\textsuperscript{th} year. Under the project, there would be 10 production units each with 1,000 looms. The project would have a Raw materials Bank, one Dyeing Unit, one processing unit and a small workshop. The production of these 10,000 looms was estimated to be nearly 150 lakh meters per year, the total value of which was estimated at Rs. 690 lakhs on an average price of Rs. 4.60 per meter. By the end of the 4\textsuperscript{th} year, the project would provide employment to nearly 20,000 weavers and other ancillary staff.\textsuperscript{64}

He maintained that the aims and objects of the Handloom Export Production Project were to develop and utilize some selected handlooms for weaving of Fabrics exclusively for export market. Under the scheme, weavers having special talent and experience, would be picked up and necessary training provided to them for weaving fabrics of the tie-and dye category, artistic designs and other varieties suitable for foreign market. He suggested that the exiting handlooms would be modernized by introducing improved types of appliances and imparting training to the weavers in modern techniques of weaving. The scheme would be implemented at (i) Jagatsinghpur (ii) Nuapatna (iii) Barpali (iv) Hijnlicatu and (v) Khurda where there were concentrations of weavers who are already engaged in weaving special types of fabrics. He said during the first year, 50 looms were proposed to be taken up in each of the above centres. Another 10 looms would be added to each centre during the 2\textsuperscript{nd} year and 50 more looms in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year. Out of 1,000 looms, 200 looms would be engaged for production of tassar and silk fabrics and the remaining looms for cotton fabrics. It was estimated that the annual
production would be to the tune of 1,000 meters per loom on an average and the total production would be to the tune of 10,00,000 meters valued at Rs. 200 lakhs.

He mentioned that it is long time that they should change the pattern of their production so as to enhance the marketability of the products of our weavers. Orissa handloom had earned a name and fame both in internal and outside markets for its artistic designs, tie and dye work, for its texture and durability. He stated the price of these products was high in comparison to similar products of our neighbouring States. The present day customer needs varieties at a reasonable price level. He was attracted by new designs and patterns, irrespective of the durability of the material. He urged that they should adopt new techniques and designs and patterns and at the same time keep the cost within the reach of the present day customer. That would further improve the marketability of our products. He drew the attention of all those who were connected with the development of handloom industry in the state.

He reiterated that the export of handloom fabrics was yet another field which had a great potential and needed closer attention. The export Production Project was being implemented through this Corporation with a view to produce special types of fabrics for export purposes. This required special talent and experience. He hoped that the weavers would come forward in large numbers to take full advantage of the schemes then being implemented in the State.

He emphasised that training of weavers was another important aspect on which the state had to attach importance. Most of the weavers were still adopting
traditional methods of weaving. He called upon the state to teach them the modern techniques in weaving particularly adoption of new designs and patterns. The schemes, proposed to be implemented, included provision for providing adequate training facilities to the weavers. Besides, the weavers Service Centre opened by Government of India in the state would provide necessary assistance in this regard. A systematic, regular training programme had been taken up so as to train up the weavers in modern methods of weaving and in using improved tools and appliances for increasing their production. He hoped the Corporation would give adequate emphasis on this aspect of the programme.66

A number of defunct societies were made workable during his period. Eleven thousand 500 number of weaver families were covered under the co-operative society and were given financial help.

Book Banks were opened in all the government and private college in high schools and in Middle English School. The project for supply of text book, writing materials and school dress to the children of weaker section were implemented. A number of scholarships were introduced both for girls and boys. The youth forces were effectively used for the development of the State.67

In 1977, the government had effectively arrested different difficult situations arising out of drought situation through different relief project. As per this programme not only the villagers of drought affected areas were provided with wages but also permanent arrangements were made for their financial and social development. The government in centre had supplied 5.10 lacs of rupees as advance towards
this plan for which Acharya had expressed his thanks to them.

Due to this help a good deal of labour intensive development work was created in affected areas and permanent arrangement for supply of water was made. With the help of this fund a massive project of renovation of abandoned ponds in rural areas were made.

The number of recipients of nutritious food project by Community Development Programme was increased from 15 lacs to 25 lacs. In severe drought areas orders were passed to suspend the collection of land revenue and in some cases land revenue was exempted.

On budgetary arrangement 117 Crore of rupees was kept for major, medium and minor irrigation project for the year 1977-78. The annual irrigation capacity was made from 10.23 lacs hectors to 12.83 lacs hectors of land. During the 5th year of the five-year plan the irrigation capacity during Rabicrop was enhanced to 29% from 24%.

During co-operative year 1976-77 arrangements were made to dig 60,000 wells. During the first half of Jan 1977, 85,000 hectors of land were irrigated through the implementation of 2,417 number of lift irrigation plan.

He had made massive arrangements to help the people and co-operative organisation for the installation of pump through T.D.P., T.D.A.S., F.D.A. etc.

Lot of emphasis was provided by the state government for flood control and for the damage occurring out of the situation. Extensive plans were made to save the land from
flood located in delta areas. Steps were taken to arrest the floodwater, release the same and to save agricultural land from salty water. Besides projects were made to save 11 towns from floodwater. 69

Acharya's government had taken strong steps for the production and distribution of electricity during 1977-78. Detailed investigation was made to find out the profitability of two 50 megawatt unit of Rengali multipurpose project, three units of 80 megawatt of upper colab projects, lower Machkund, Budha Balanga and Lodani projects.

His basic aim was to increase agricultural production capacity by implementing different agricultural programme. For these high yielding crops were introduced with proper application of fertilizer both chemical and organic through proper pest control. Programmes such as use of limited water resource, short duration crops, drought resistant crops and application of modern methods including high breed seeds in agriculture were undertaken to create awareness among the farmers as regards cultivation. Steps were taken to introduce horticulture in advasi area. Extensive wings were formed to maintain co-ordination among the farmers, agricultural scientists and research laboratories. 70

Short term loans were granted through co-operative department for all types of agricultural products. Proposals were made to form 220 number of multipurpose co-operative societies and 150 number of Krushak Seva Samities by June 1977. Four numbers of Gramya Bank were established in Koraput, Balanger, Samabalpur, Cuttack and Puri district in order to extend loan to the farmers. 71
He had contacted World Bank organisation and other International organisations for providing funds to carry out five-year-plans for effecting improvement in agricultural production. Through this project, programmes like agriculture extension, service extension and related research, underground water investigation to locate ground water, know-how for digging of low-cost tube well were implemented. The International developmental organisation had agreed to extend a loan of 18 crore rupees for the implementation of the above project.

The main aim of land reforms was to distribute excess land beyond ceiling and anabadi lands among the landless agricultural labourers, especially between adivasi and harijans. Loans in shape of cash and kind were made available to those landless allotees to make their land cultivable. Whenever he implemented the relevant rules he would face some hurdles. But he used to make his best efforts in dispersing with the difficulties by legal and administrative steps. Efforts were made to bring 2 lacs 26 thousand and 766 hectares of land in 11,756 villages under consolidation.72

A project was introduced to enhance the milk production through artificial insemination centre, and intensive cattle development projects. He had co-ordinated with government of Denmark to establish a frozen semen centre. Projects were made to extend help to 50,000 numbers of landless and small farmers for rearing high-breed Cattle under government of India plan (operation flood). These were covered by 5th five years plan. Arrangements were made to cover this through 100 milk co-operative societies to establish 20 numbers of chilling plant centre and one milk
production unit. This project was subsequently extended to 28 blocks of Cuttack, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal district.  

A Project to increase egg production at compound rate of 5% was undertaken. Seven veterinary dispensaries and eleven stockman centres were opened in adivasi areas. This government had strengthened the biological product institute located at Bhubaneswar for the eradication of cattle diseases.  

To increase the sea-fish production 225 numbers of powerboats and trawlers were made available and steps were taken to enhance the production of sweet water fish. He had taken a leading role in the construction of Dhamara fish port and small fish jetties were constructed in Kirtania, Aduan, Hansua and Astharanga areas. The Inland fisheries centre located near Kausalyaganga were of great help to the state for the implementation of Inland fisheries.  

In basic and heavy industries production was enhanced due to the prevalence of peace and discipline in the industrial fronts. Iron production was enhanced by 5.5%, aluminum by 14.6%, paper by 6.5% during Achaya’s tenure. Ferrochromite worth 1.7 crore was exported during this period. Out of the three Joint ventures of corporation Dhanmandal jute factory had made good progress. IPICOL had helped in giving shape to a good number of small and medium industries in establishing a center for the experiment and development of electronic industries.  

Acharya’s government had made the arrangements to create employment for 5000 people through 700 small industrial units. The government further fixed a target to commission more small Industrial Units. Arrangement was
made to hand over the government run leather industries and leather products units to State Leather Corporation. Help was extended to the small entrepreneurs coming under State Small Industries Corporation in getting raw materials, machineries and equipments on loan basis.\footnote{76}

By the initiative of his government the State Financial Corporation had advanced a loan of 2.42 crore rupees to 153 small industrial units during the period from April to December 1976. The corporation had also extended financial help for the purchase of a number of marine fisheries boat and electric run weaving machines to different sections of people. For the requirement of the weavers, the government had established a spinning mill with 25,000 string at Gobindpur of Dhenkanal district. Besides, the weavers who were not covered under the co-operative society were given the financial help. They were also provided facilities for the marketing of their products through Handloom Development Corporation.\footnote{77}

During Acharya's Chief ministership, the Orissa Mining Corporation had taken up the work for exploration of Buxite, Coal, Iron Ore and Line Stones. The Mining Corporation had also taken up the work of locating the chromite quantity deposit in Sukinda and Dhenkanal areas. The OMC could promote its business to a greater extent during his tenure. Acharya's foresight could encourage the resources in regard to state plan outlay. Initially, the development to different road was not included in the main plan outlay. To over come this, a sum of Rs.25 crore was sanctioned during first 4 years of the plans towards the development of different roads on the state.\footnote{78}
During his tenure due to the limited resources available for the development of road, the Government of Orissa had discussed with World Bank organisations for grant of loan for the purpose.

In order to fulfill the growing requirements of transport, he had arranged to purchase 32 numbers of new buses by state transport and allowed to open 29 new bus routes. The Government of India was thanked by Acharya for working on first-phase of railway line between Jharkhand and Bansapani. During his tenure passenger train was introduced. He had striking contributions towards the development of International and National Tourism. Steps were taken to enhance accommodation facilities in different tourist places.

His government had laid considerable emphasis on the elementary education of students from the age of 6 to 14 and to reduce the school dropout after the age of 14. In order to achieve this goal 1006 number of primary schools and 1741 middle schools were established during first 3 years of Five years plan. 5000 number of lower primary schools was upgraded to higher primary schools during his tenure as the Chief Minister.

Arrangements were also made during this period to enroll more students and to supply books, school uniform. The number of students had steadily grown from 75% to 79% due to the establishment of Text Book Banks. In tribal and Harijan dominated areas 36 numbers of residential primary schools and 1326 pre-primary schools and 65 number of residential middle school were opened by the tribal and rural development department.
Thrust was given to qualitative improvement of the standard of education and sufficient financial grants were given for the supply of different study materials.

The policy decision was taken to implement 10+2+3 educational system in the state during his tenure. A new syllabus was prepared laying emphasis on the vocational oriented education both for the middle schools and higher secondary schools curriculum. The priority was given in plan outlay for the completion of incomplete school and library buildings, establishment of new library and to increase the facilities in instrumental aid. Beside this, the State Government had established seven co-educational high schools in tribal areas, five girl’s high schools and two women’s college in the educationally backward areas of the state. The physical education, sports and games were given due-importance in the educational curriculum. Importance was also given for the development of positive attitude and maintenance of good health by the student community.

Despite limited grants, Acharya concentrated on the preservation and development of our cultural heritage, old archives, museums, folk art, archeological excavation, drama, dance, music and literature.

Funds were liberally spent for the improvement of medical facilities in different hospitals and appointment of specialists at district level hospitals and for the supply of nutritious food to indoor patients.

Twelve Primary Health Centres were upgraded to 30 bedded hospitals and 6 primary hospitals were upgraded to 6 bedded hospitals. The bed capacity of city hospital, Berhampur, was increased by 25 and 11 dental care centres.

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were established. The First-Aid health centres were enhanced from 62 to 72. The arrangements were made both at Berhampur and Burla Medical College, for the treatment of cancer patients. As both Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines were gaining popularity, he had established 10 numbers of Ayurvedic and Homeopathic hospitals, each. Extensive arrangements were made for the control of malaria, filarial and leprosy as per the Government of India plan. Four leprosy control centres and four sub-centres were opened in order to combat the spread of leprosy.  

Lots of efforts were made for the supply of pure drinking water both in urban and rural areas. 3500 villages were covered by this project. The government had taken loans from different government organizations for the drinking water supply project.

The main objective of Acharya’s Government was to provide housing plots to the people having no accommodation and also to provide low-cost houses to the villagers. Loans were also liberally granted to the small farmers for the construction of their houses.

The housing plots were provided to 7242 landless rural people. Besides, a good number of families with no holdings were provided housing plots total measuring 4,598 acres free of cost out of them some people belonged to SC and ST. Loans were also granted to 7600 families by 1976-77 under the rural housing scheme. Different types of housing loans were provided to the middle and lower income groups.

During Acharya’s tenure the State Housing Board had constructed low cost houses for the low-income groups by
taking loans from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation and State Government.

Acharya was quiet aware of the growing unemployment problems and as a result of which appointment was given to a number of persons during his tenure. He had never left any stone unturned for creation of new employments. The liberal sanctioning of loans, both by Banks and other financial institutions, helped a lot to the self employed educated youth group to grow up.

Different projects were made for the financial upliftment and development of SC and ST people. And to fulfil this objective a major amount from the budget, was allotted for their development. In first three years of the five years plan, 19 Integrated Tribal Developments Projects were formed in 98 blocks.

The project was implemented in other 20 left over blocks through four adivasi development organisations. Strong rules were framed to make the Integrated Tribal Development Project (I.T.D.P.) effective in performance of their duties.

For the remaining under privileged of the society two visionary plans were made for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry and three same types of societies were formed for SC and ST people. The people belonging to SC and ST were distributed the ceiling surplus land and Government Patita land. I.T.D.P. had provided irrigation facilities to 22,000 acres of land belonging to the tribal people.83
279 fair price shops were made to operate in adivasi areas for the supply of daily essential commodities at reasonable rates. These fair price centres were used also for marketing the agricultural products and forest products collected by adivasis. Due attention was paid for the expansion of literacy among SC and ST through special schools run by tribal and rural welfare department.

Reservation of seats for SC and ST was made in almost all training schools and colleges of the state. Suitable laws were passed to keep tribal lands safe without the ownership being transferred to the money lenders and to save them from the clutches of money lenders. The constitutional provisions were made for reservation of posts in all types of jobs.\textsuperscript{84}

A number of projects were taken by the state for the children who were not coming to the school, for pregnant ladies and for the eradication of mal-nutrition. Under these programmes, a number of children and people were benefitted. Old age pension was part of the major social changes under the scheme. Besides, thirty orphanages were opened to accommodate 1500 orphans.

During his tenure, he had allowed the teaching staff of different colleges to draw their U.G.C. scale of pay. Besides, he had allowed the direct payment to the non-teaching employee's.

He had effected some changes in the sphere of employee's L.I.C. policies. As a result of this effort the L.I.C. amount in the event of death of a Government employee was enhanced from Rs. 7,500/- to 17,500/-. 

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He had requested both to the Government of India and Planning Commission to enhance their grant-in-aid for a poor state like Orissa. He had appealed to the people of Orissa for proper and economic utilisation of internal resources for the developmental work without relying much on help from centre and Planning Commission.  

During his Chief Ministership, he had laid the foundation of Rusikulya water supply of Berhampur town. The projected cost was 6 crore rupees. Besides Berhampur town, this project was supplying water to Chatrapur, Univeristy Campus, I.R.E. (Indian Rare Earth) Cantonment, Gopalpur Cantonment.  

He always insisted that the members of legislature should put more efforts for the development of their constituency by virtue of mass contacts.  

After the formation of Janata Government in the centre, Biju Patnaik had brought some specific allegations which were rejected by Acharya. Patnaik alleged that due to non-supply of 25-acres of land by state government Chilika Naval Training Centre, water reservoir could not be made. And the work was stopped for last five years. Acharya stated the allegation was not true. He said that the delay was caused in finalizing the spot for making water reservoir by naval officer. He had assured that the state government was gladly willing to implement all the plans and projects of government of India.  

Acharya’s government had supplied 350 acres of land free of cost to railway near Mancheswar for building wagon repairing workshop. During this tenure all the required lands were given to Indian Naval for establishing their
armeries near Sunabeda. He further stated that allegation made by Patnaik for non-utilisation of grants given by centre for drought relief is not correct.

Patnaik further alleged that the State Government was casual in lifting the land revenue. Acharya refused the allegation by stating due to total prohibition and lifting of revenue whatever loss the State Government could incur, if it can be made good of by grant from centre then the state government had no objection to introduce the same immediately.

He further stated that, despite the election during his tenure, his government had taken a lot of initiative for the development of people of Orissa. He expressed that in the past no government had achieved so much success during short period. He opined that due to political instability in the past the Orissa Government had suffered a lot. Hence he stated that Biju Patnaik, who was then the central minister, instead of breaking his ministry, should think for the quick progress of Orissa. His party was in full majority in the assembly. He stated that his government was ready to implement the plans and programmes.\(^8\)\(^7\)

He visited Delhi to meet Moraji Desai and Finance Minister to convince them for the sanction of liberal grant to face drought situation. He requested them for immediate help to overcome the drought crisis and he further requested Biju Patnaik to operate few more mines in Orissa.\(^8\)\(^8\)

Though severe drought had occurred in the state the stability of food grains prices was maintained. This was possible due to proper distribution of food grains. He stated that there was sufficient food stock in the state hence
nobody would be allowed to die out of hunger. He seriously thought over for lifting of ban of food grains from one district to another district of the state. As a result, the shortage of food grain in one district could be made good of by transporting from one district to another district. He had specifically directed all the collectors to maintain stability in the price of food grains.

Accordingly, he had made relief arrangements for 2,153 drought affected Gram Panchayats. Subsequently, it was learnt that another 167 Gram Panchayats were badly affected by drought. Hence further relief arrangements were made for other Gram Panchayats.

Hitherto, limited assistance were given to the people under the food for work project. A project amounting to 11 crore of rupees were taken up for providing work for the rural people. He had engaged a number of labourers in the construction work of Jharkhand and Daitari railway lines.

Acharya's government had decided to reduce land revenue and cess by 50%. It was decided to spend the rest half collected cess and land-revenue for the developmental work at Gram Panchayat level. He had requested the central government to compensate the loss of cess and land revenue. He had decided in principle to provide land free of cost to the different educational institutions. He had also made arrangements to provide 1 acre of land to non-government primary schools and sevashram each and to provide upto 10 acres of land to the Ashram schools free of cost.

Arrangements were made to provide 2 acres of government land in urban areas and 3 acres of government land in rural areas to M.E. schools free of cost and to
provide 3 acres of land in urban areas and 5 acres of land in rural areas for high school free of cost. He had decided to provide 10 acres of land in urban areas and 15 acres of land in rural areas free of cost for colleges and 10 acres of government land free of cost for tribal development centres.

It was decided to lift restrictions on the movement of food grains from one state to another state. He had made arrangements to relieve the charges against the government employees who were registered for taking part in different strikes. But these facilities were not applicable for all those employees who were involved in criminal cases.90

Acharya claimed that the demand for the resignation of his ministry was illogical due to the defeat of congress party in 6th General Election. He had appealed to the ruling and opposition members to create an atmosphere of co-operation for the sake of development. He stated that in the democratic process the change of ruling party is very natural. He opined that an unstable and weak government would affect the good of the country. So he wished that all the elected parties should be united for a strong government in the centre.

Acharya asserted that the state assembly should not be dissolved. He welcomed the suggestion given by Indira Gandhi to discourage the defection from one party to another. He also opined that horse trading should be stopped for ever through legislation.91

The then Home Minister of centre Charan Singh had made an announcement that the election would be held in such nine states where Congress Party has been routed by the people. In the backdrop of this he urged upon the Chief
Ministers of those states to advice the Governors to dissolve the State Assembly and seek fresh elections.

Achraya strongly reacted to this proposal and stated that there was no reason to resign from Chief Ministership or to advise the Governor to dissolve the assembly. He further stated that he had not received any such letter from the home minister of centre.  

During his visit to Delhi he had called upon agriculture and irrigation minister of Government of India, Prakash Singh Badal and had requested him to provide 6 thousand and 5 hundred tones of wheat to be utilized under food for work scheme in drought affected areas.  

Acharya had requested B.D. Jatti President in Charge not to take any action on the proposal given by central government to dissolve the state assembly and to conduct fresh election until the Supreme Court gave it's ruling on the subject. He intimated in a letter to B.D. Jatti that the action of centre to dissolve the assembly and to conduct fresh election in the nine congress ruled states was unconstitutional. He thought it to be proper to seek the opinion of Supreme Court on the matter.

In his letter, Acharya had stated that Art. 356 clearly indicates that before the imposition of President's Rule in a state the President should clearly analyse and should be convinced about the special situation and conditions prevailing in the state. He averred that state emergency could be declared only when the governance of the state cannot be carried on in accordance to the constitutions.
Acharya had further stated that a regular elected government was working efficiently in Orissa. It had got majority in the state assembly. If in such a situation the council of ministers advises for the dissolution it would be completely unconstitutional.

He further stated that never before Orissa had passed in grip of such acute drought. The entire machinery should be put to work to face such a calamity. It would be quiet improper at this juncture to go for another election.

But due to defection of a number of MLA from congress and subsequently joining in Janata Dal, the strength of congress in state assembly was reduced to 30.

Harish Chandra Baxipatra – the chief whip of opposition stated in a press conference that within last 15 days 13 MLAs had defected from congress party to Janata Dal. It was expected that another mass defection might be made from congress party to Janata Party in near future. Even though the Orissa government was not considering the proposal of Home Minister for dissolving the state assembly, due to defection it would automatically become a minority government and state assembly would be dissolved soon.

He stated that after Lok Sabha election a big vacuum and instability had been created in the state and as a result the government machinery was unable to tackle properly the drought situation. Hence it would be fair for the Chief Minister Acharya to relinquish his charge immediately. The secretary of Janata Dal - Sarat Chandra Mallick had also stated in a press conference that due to mass defection of congress MLAs to Janata Dal the congress ministry might collapse at any time.
And ultimately, the congress ministry headed by Acharya collapsed on 30th April 1977 and consequently the government had to resign.95

Acharya established himself as an uncontestant leader due to his honesty, simplicity discipline, truthfulness and justice.

Even after his upgradation to the post of Chief Ministership from agricultural minister he had remained the President of Utkal Krushak Samaj. He had a strong concern for the farmers' problems and their eradication.

While he was a Chief Minister one can witness number of examples in favour of his benevolence. He was above all the meanness which existed between lower and higher grade servant in administration. He had a strong sense of humanity which made him a great leader.

During the tour all the staff and employees traveling with him were asked to join on the same table. As a regular habit he used to take special care for his staff during the tour. It is rare to find out such a simple, friendly and affectionate man now-a-days.96

His punctuality, selflessness, compassion for the sincere and ideal teachers had contributed a lot to make him Chief Minister. During the emergency period, the people had reacted very much against the arbitrary rule of the then Chief Minister Nandin Satpathy. Acharya, after becoming the Chief Minister, had made sincere endeavours for cool restoration of democracy. As the Chief Minister, he had made a lot of relaxations during emergency rule.97
He had never run after power. After becoming Chief Minister due to his kindness, affection and always laughing face he had became a popular leader. He had maintained his simplicity amidst all the power till end. He was an important political leader in Orissa politics from 1967 to 1977. He had established himself not only as a responsible leader but also as a very good organizer. He had established himself as a top leader due to his benevolent conduct and existing political situation.98

He was the Chief Minister towards the last part of emergency. The bad effect of emergency was curtailed to great extent during his administration. He had not restrained himself in giving sound opinion and reaction even during the emergency.99

Binayak Acharya’s tenure as the Chief Minister was very short but eventful. He maintained transparency, integrity and sincerity in his administration.

2. Ibid.


7. Proceedings of Berhampur Municipal Board, Record No. 1, dated 01.04.1876 to 24.03.1877, Berhampur Minicipality, Berhampur, Ganjam


9. Ibid.

10. Ibid, P-4.


15. Proceedings of Berhampur Municipality Meeting, Volume -VI (Record room), Berhampur.


17. Ibid No.-23.


25. Ibid, No.27.


29. Ibid, Nos.11, 12.

30. Ibid, No.25.


32. Ibid, No.12.

33. Ibid


35. Ibid, No.19.

36. Ibid, No.21.

37. Ibid


40. Ibid

41. Ibid, No.20.

42. Ibid, No.4 dated 11.01.1974.
43. Ibid, No. 8.

44. Ibid, Nos.16-i, 16-ii.


46. Ibid, Dated 30.08.1973. 20 number bisayare nirdharana.

47. Samaj (an Oriya daily) Cuttack, dated 22nd March, 1977.


51. Ibid

52. Ibid, Dated 28th April 1977.


56. Personal Interview with Ex-Minister of Orissa, Banka Bihari Das.


60. Ibid, PP- 381.

61. Address of Binayak Acharya, Chief Minister, Orissa, On the Occasion of the Inauguration of the Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. on 26th January 1977.

62. Ibid

63. Ibid

64. Ibid

65. Ibid

66. Ibid


70. Ibid PP-390-394

71. Mohanty Bharati, Bisistha Bidhayaka Prakarana
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72. Ibid, PP - 393-394.

73. Ibid, P-395.


75. Ibid, P - 397.

76. Ibid, PP - 397-398.

77. Ibid, P - 399.

78. Ibid

79. Ibid, P - 400.

80. Ibid, PP - 400-401.

81. Ibid, P - 402.

82. Ibid, P - 403.


84. Ibid, PP - 405-406.


86. Ibid, P - 467.


89. Ibid, Dated 23rd April 1977.


92. Ibid

93. Ibid, Dated 22nd April 1977.


