CHAPTER – III

Binayak Acharya hailed from a conservative Brahmin family. He was from a rich and respected family of massive influence and very much aware of people’s plight, their happiness and woes, education, health and their capacity. More than the economic condition of the people, their mental and spiritual thinking influenced Acharya. He was a teacher by profession. Scarcity and disadvantages of people had influenced him a lot. People’s profound problems in their professions like agriculture, industry and trade had influenced him no less. Due to this he had won people’s heart. For that also he was successful in elections beyond his expectations.¹

Since his boyhood, Acharya fought against casteism, communalism and all kinds of parochialism. He took active part in Harijans movement in Ganjam district. In 1939, he was censured by the elders for sharing food with the Harijans in a community dinner. When passion ran high between Oriya and Telugu speaking people in Parlakhemundi in early part of 1950, Acharya plunged himself in the task of ridding people from narrow regionalism.²

During his school and college days he was an ardent follower of leading leftist leader Bijoy Chandra Das. He could draw lot of inspiration from him and this had penetrating influence on his later career. Binayak Acharya used to discuss contemporary social problems with Nabakrushna Chaudhury and Bijoy Chandra Das and try to seek solutions for them. From his youthhood Acharya was immensely interested in engaging himself in social and patriotic endeavours. Under influence of Leftist leaders, he
was relentlessly vying for classless social order and trying to protect poor from several exploitations.³

Acharya had accepted Marxism and Gandhism in the true sense of the term and always pleaded for a classless social order. To ensure social justice to dalits who were exploited and tortured, he tried with courage and continued to do so till his death.⁴ For this he was accepted as symbol of a clean politician with morality the honour enjoyed by a microscopic minority of leadership in the state.

Having got his political learning as a social communist, he had deep faith in marxism and later he became also a believer in Gandhism. He had deep faith in democracy.⁵

Being a store house of knowledge he was able to explain thoroughly the communist ideology. He was of the opinion that so long as the administration does not reach the have-nots, the Independence is meaningless. On account of this, revolution is essential and for this, dedicated workers are highly essential. He used to create workers and over the days municipal high school of Berhampur became the workers workshop.⁶

From his student days he was interested in doing social work as a young comrade of communist leader, Bijay Chandra Das. He accepted his leadership for the establishment of a classless society in order to prevent oppression of haves over have-nots and to create organisation with Marxist ideal. It is on account of his patriotic fervour he was able to occupy the post of Chief Minister from the level of an ordinary teacher.⁷
In course of time, he came down from the educational field to stand on the alter of active politics to provide a strong leadership. The sorrowful call of miserable, hungry and foiling masses prompted him to plunge into the Marxist and Communist party. The seeds of this attitude were sown in him right from his days of teachership. He studied a good amount of leftist literature at the inspiration of his political master and social philosopher Bijay Chandra Das.

Acharya encouraged the students to propagate the communist ideology among the people through the medium of literature. Due to his advice and encouragement, the communist idealism was spread in Ganjam district as well as in state of Orissa and on account of this in the 1st general election in 1952, the Ganjam district was identified as a fortress of the communist party in India. Of course, this phenomenon largely vanished owing to the adaptation of a resolution in the Avadi session of congress to usher a socialistic pattern of society for the country and after desertion of eminent communist leadership like Bijay Chandra Das to join the Congress party.

An ideal teacher, a Gandhian having deep conviction in socialism, the chief architect of labour and teacher's movement, Binayak Acharya entered the election fray for the first time during 1955 bye-election. Even though he came in close contact with many congress leaders right from his student days he was not enrolled as an active member of the congress party.

In 1955, he contested from Berhampur Assembly constituency as a nominee of Comunist party. For that, he had to resign from his job. However, he lost the elections. Communist leaders like Gobind Pradhan, Harihar Das.
Manmohan Mishra and several others conducted the poll campaign of Acharya. Independent Janasangha candidate Ramachandra Mishra was his rival and his campaign was managed by Pandit Nilakantha Mishra, Pandit Godabarisha Mishra and Dibakar Patnaik and others. For Congress candidate Brubandaban Nayak poll campaign was managed by Biswanath Das and other Congress leaders. Brubandaban Nayak became victorious. The following table shows about the candidates who contested with Binayak Acharya in 1955.

Table-1.3.2 Bye-election held between the 1952 and 1957 election.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF THE CANDIDATE</th>
<th>PARTY</th>
<th>(VOTES %)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brundaban Nayak</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohan Nayak</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binayak Acharya</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baisima Nahak</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Mishra</td>
<td>IND</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Acharya had resigned his job to contest, his financial scarcity grew up. His father-in-law Damodar Rath advised him to manage his Orissa publishing house and Rath Press. However he refused the offer for his self-prestige. With his friends help Swadhin Press was set up at Berhampur so that Acharya could earn his livelihood. Several influential people of the city tried for the reinstatement of Acharya. They met Brundaban Nayak and
succeeded in their efforts for Acharya's immediate reappointment.\textsuperscript{12}

However in this election Binayak Acharya had created considerable public awakening in the entire Ganjam district. This still lives in public memory. Despite the fact that Congress candidate Brundaban Nayak had won the polls, good friendship continued between them. Acharya's love and commitment for the Communist party was so deep that he used to take pan and snacks in shops of Communist party supporters. Even his washer man, barber and tailor were made the members of Communist party.\textsuperscript{13}

In 1958, Acharya along with other associates joined Congress. After losing Assembly polls once, he returned to the teaching profession. But his commitment for the country and motivation to serve the poor dragged him to the assembly polls again. In the second contest, people of Berhampur voted him to victory.\textsuperscript{14}

The midterm election to the Orissa Assembly was held during June, 1961 which ended the era of electoral uncertainty. The congress under the young and dynamic leadership of Biju Patnaik, received a well anticipated comfortable majority. The party received popular support and captured 82 seats in a house of 140. Its major adversary Ganatantra Parishad suffered a loss in comparison to the previous performance. Similarly, other opposition parties could not fare well in the election. The much sought after political stability, at last, became a reality.
Biju Patnaik who was denied a ministerial berth during the Chief ministership of Choudhury and Mahatab, became the new Chief Minister. Biju Patnaik was the master showman in the election as Mahatab was out of the scene and Biju Patnaik himself was the PCC Chief.

Ever since the election campaign started, he raised the hopes of the electorate. He went on exhorting the people to be ambitious and not to remain contented with what they had. The young voters were electrified by his style of electioneering.15

Biju Patnaik remained as Chief Minister for a very brief period. He relinquished his office under the Kamraj plan on 1st October, 1963 to save congress organisation from crisis after the Sino-Indian war, 1962.

During Patnaik's brief tenure, the people of Orissa could feel the presence of his administration, his zeal and energy for work. His impatience to get things done, as quickly as possible, created many admirers as well as critics.

Biju Patnaik had a dream for Orissa. Due to his close proximity with Prime Minister, he accelerated the process of development in the State. He was responsible for the location of a number of prestigious projects in the State like Sunabeda M.I.G factory, Talcher Thermal Power Plant, Balimela Hydel Project, Paradeep Port, Express Highway etc. He was instrumental in getting regional Engineering College, Regional College of Education, Sainik School and Regional laboratory for the State. He was the father of the concepts of the State planning Board and Panchayat Industries. He brought out the schemes to boost the rural economy. He was
the leader of a very stable government. The party was very much under his grip. Moreover, Mahatab who always blocked his way to ministerial position was away from state politics, as a member of Lok Sabha. As such Patnaik got a freehand to translate his wishes into action.

Though Mahatab was out of State Politics, his supporters were still there in the house. He had provoked S.N. Dwivedi, the PSP leader in Lok Sabha to expose Biju and his friend Biren who succeeded Biju as Chief Minister of the State.¹⁶

Mahatab utilised his print media and through S.N. Dwivedi and the Lok Sabha to expose the unholy alliance between outgoing Chief Minister Patnaik and his business friend Biren Mitra who were charged with the allegation that they were exploiting the State through their wives and son.¹⁷

Though Patnaik resigned from the Chief Ministership, yet he was having control over the whole system by becoming Chairman of the planning Board. Mitra was accused of being guided by Patnaik who was holding the remote control of the state. The charges of corruption were raised both in Lok sabha and State Assembly with demand for enquiry. Even memorandums were sent to the President of India signed by members of Parliament and legislature. Sri R. N. Singh Deo-the leader of opposition, took leadership in the matter. Pandit Nehru was dead by that time. Both Lalbahadur Shastri - the Prime Minister and Guljarilal Nanda the Home Minister, were also briefed by anti-Biju faction of the Congress. Memorandums after memorandums were submitted coupled by the fact that the State was in a
reign of terror due to massive student's agitation: The Home Ministry referred the matter to the CBI for enquiry.\textsuperscript{18}

On 15 November, 1964, the Director of CBI reported that though all the allegations were not true, there were quiet a few and some of them were serious which required their inquiries to enable them to come to definite and clear conclusion.\textsuperscript{19}

A cabinet subcommittee, appointed by the union Government examined the matter and it came to the conclusion that the manner in which certain government transactions were conducted by Biren Mitra and Biju Patnaik did involve improprieties.\textsuperscript{20}

Biren Mitra was replaced by Sadashiv Tripathy-an unassuming gentleman-as the Chief Minister of the state. By that time the people of Orissa started in distrusting congress and it's policies. The expectations of the people were belied. The corruption and corrupt practices had shaken the peace of the State.

Tripathy found that the running of the State very difficult in the wake of countrywide anti-congress wave. Mahatab, after the exit of Patnaik and Mitra, master minded further dissident activities in the party for which Tripathy was no match. Biju Patnaik came closer to AICC President Kamraj and apprised him about the political situation in the State. Kamraj wrote a letter to Patnaik to lead Orissa congress again relieving ailing Tripathy. The Chief Minister wrote a letter to Kamraj explaining his agonies and sufferings in running the State. He also wished to resign. In a surprising move all the ministers rose in revolt and expressed their anguish at the Chief Minister who they
thought did not have confidence in themselves. The threatening resignation of ministers was seriously viewed by the high command and they all withdrew their resignations after some compromise formula was adapted. Though the ministerial crisis was over, a severe jolt came to Orissa congress when Mahatab with his seven trusted lieutenants walked out of congress and formed Jana Congress with Pabitra Mohan Pradhan as the President. The slogan was to out congress from power". 21

The 3rd Orissa Legislative Assembly was constituted on 21st June, 1961. Since then till 1967, the congress formed government in Orissa. During this period, Biju Patnaik resigned from his Chief Ministership in order to implement the Kamraj plan. Thereafter, Biren Mitra and Sadashiv Tripathy, became the Chief Ministers. Allegations were hurled against congress government which was in power from 1961 to 1967. The public perception gained ground that the congress party and government were absolutely corrupt. As a consequence, the victory of the congress party during the election to the 4th Legislative Assembly entered in to the doubtful in critical phases. The congress leadership was there fore in search of candidates with clean image. The political situation, obtaining at that point of time, led the congress leadership towards Binayak Acharya. The clean image of Acharya, his popularity, his association with the teachers movement had already established him as the undisputed leader not only of Berhampur town but also of the whole undivided Ganjam district. 22 He was offered congress ticket and in 1967, he contested as a congress nominee with Natyashree Raghunath Mishra from Berhampur constituency. Acharya could win by a huge margin.
1967-4th Election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Acharya</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. K. Panisraiy</td>
<td>JAC</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Mishra</td>
<td>CPI</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus the second phase of his political life and career started with joining congress party in 1967 at the instance of Biju Pattnayak. After being elected as a mid-term in 1967 he became the deputy leader of congress party.24

Had not Jagannath Rao, the then Health Minister expressed his unwillingness to contest the election during 1967, it would not have been possible for Binayak Acharya to represent Berhampur. The Congress ticket, during those days, was practically reserved for the then Health Minister Rao. The reluctance of Rao to contest the poll at that time brought about a change of direction in the political history of Orissa.25

The congress party could not secure an absolute majority in the 4th legislative assembly. The Swatanta party and Jana Congress together formed a coalition government. The Swatantra Party having secured 49 seats in 4th assembly, it’s leader Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo became the Chief Minister of the State. The leader of the congress party Sadashiv Tripathy became the leader of the opposition. But, on account of his chronic illness, he withdraw from the
leadership and Binayak Acharya was elected as the leader of opposition.\textsuperscript{26}

While in the opposition he could prove himself as an ideal legislator and before participating in any discussion he used to study and analyse the subject thoroughly. As a result, his speeches in the assembly were factual and lively and attracted attention of all concerned.

He was not in the habit of opposing government for 'opposition sake' but used to put forward constructive suggestions. At that time, other political leaders as well as other legislators had sense of hatred towards congress leadership. They used to bitterly criticise the congress legislators critically while speaking in the house. The latter were not being allowed to speak. But, however, everybody was impressed by Acharya's personality, clean image and deep insight of the subject. He was the only leader of congress who did not face any opposition from other side. The constructive suggestions offered by him were mostly accepted by the government.\textsuperscript{27}

As a leader of the opposition, he extensively toured Ganjam district from 1968 to 1971 while the district was facing acute drought and severe cyclonic storm and nevertheless the subsequent recurring floods. Moving around village to village by gaining personal experience, he used to provide concrete suggestions to the government for the long term solution of the owes confronting the people.\textsuperscript{28}

During his tenure as the leader of opposition he was able to take steps for the financial sanction for improvement of primary schools by which lots of students were benefited. He attached maximum importance to the improvement of
education. During Acharya's stint as opposition leader the then Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh Vengal Rao had come to Sonpeta. Leaders like Basant Kumar Panigrahi, Goura Chandra Padhi, Purna Chandra Mishra and others, led by Binayak Acharya, on behalf of Utkal Samilani, had submitted a set of demands before the minister to protect the interest of the Oriya's in the outgoing Oriya tracts. He had greeted Acharya as an established educationist. Several of the promises, made by the minister, were found to be implemented, subsequently. 29

Joining with Sashi Bhusan Rath, a freedom fighter, social reformer, founder of Dainik Asha, leader of integration movement of Orissa and a mass leader, Acharya had done a lot for Oriya's living in southern parts of disintegrated Orissa. For this he was adored by the people of that area. Acharya always respected Sashi Bhusan Rath and held him in high admiration.

Those days the general attitude to oppose the congress blindly used to provide new dimension to the progressive political parties at the national level. A pioneer leader-Rammanahar Lohia was identified as a true lover of democracy. He averred that popular will should control the administrative power within the democratic setup. For this he chose a path laden with prison, spade and poll. He believed that with these weapons people's authority can be established. He stated that disturbing situation of the streets need to be reflected in the parliament too. He wanted that the depression and misery in the society should be sounded inside the parliament. But barring stray cases of indisciplined behaviour in the parliament and assemblies, the intention of Lohia to perform in particular fashion could not get enough support. 30
Binayak Acharya was opposed to the difference between words and deeds. Throughout his life he had led very simple lifestyle. However, he was a man of high thinking. His endeavour to learn from every source and impart knowledge to others was speciality of his life. He always considered Government assets as national property. He was dead against mis-utilization of public fund.

In spite of different political affiliations, Acharya had great respect for the ideas of Lohia on Parliamentary Democracy and always argued for the proper utilization of fund.

At that time, Sadashiv Tripathy was the leader of the congress party. There was discord among the top leaders of the congress over the resignation of the ministers belonging to the previous government. A faction was created consisting of Sadashiv Tripathy and the then congress President Bijay Pani. An impression was going round that Biju babu and Bijay Pani were responsible for the defeat of the congress party. Acharya was the deputy leader of the congress party and he was able to project the policy and the achievements of the congress party elaborately in the Assembly. He never indulged in discourteous behaviour and any indisciplined conduct. His sobriety and simplicity were the source of attraction for all the members of legislature.

After the split in congress in 1969, Acharya sided with Indira Gandhi and surpassing several senior leaders, he became the president of Orissa Pradesh Congress Committee.
The Period between 1967 to 1971 witnessed many political changes in the state. Acharya steered the party through heavy odds and determination. In 1971, he was again elected from Berhampur assembly constituency with a big margin about 24,000 of votes.

### 5th Election 1971

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Vote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Acharya</td>
<td>INC</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. K. Panigrahi</td>
<td>UTC</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Padhi</td>
<td>FBL</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.T. Sharma</td>
<td>NCO</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fourth General Election in 1967, was eventful in the political history of the country. Congress was reduced to a functioning majority in Lok Sabha. In half a dozen states non-congress parties and their coalition captured power. In Orissa, Swatantra and Jana Congress with friendly relationship with PSP won the election comfortably. Patnaik was defeated from Patkura constituency. Former Chief Minister Nabakrushna Choudhury actively campaigned against the Congress “Oust congress slogan” was received by the electorate.

The Swatantra Jana congress alliance promised for the establishment of a clean and good government and for ruthless elimination of corruption, favouritism and nepotism.
at all levels and setting up of a commission of enquiry into the charges of corruption by ministers.\textsuperscript{35}

The electorate of Orissa voted for a coalition. The Swatantra-Jana congress coalition government assumed office under the leadership of R.N. Singh Deo. The coalition was the result of the 21 point pre-election alliance manifesto. It was a coalition of simple balance. Congress which had won 82 seats in 1961 poll had to content itself with 31 seats.\textsuperscript{36}

The coalition was the result of anti-congress campaign which became a wave. The coalition government had 13 ministers besides Pabitra Mohan Pradhan as Deputy Chief. Mahatab remained out of power.

The coalition era started after 1967. Orissa coalition happened to be one of the most viable one.\textsuperscript{37} The coalition was upon pre-election alliances and it had only two partners. Whereas coalition era ushered in ‘Aya Ram and Gaya Ram’ era in India politics. Orissa did not experience those ugly episodes. Rather, it was a coalition which provided a strong stable and effective government.

The coalition government as per it’s programme started enquiry against alleged corruption of Biju Patnaik and eight of his ministers and seven of his deputy ministers under section 3 of the commission of the Enquiry Act, 1952 (Act 60 to 1952). Justice H. R. Khanna of Delhi High Court was entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the enquiries. It was called the Khanna commission of enquiry. The enquiry was against the all the three congress Chief Ministers of the third legislature. Justice Khanna conducted enquiries at Bhubaneswar and submitted a report which was published by
the state government in a book having 812 pages. The report was submitted on 15th January, 1969.

Though enquiry was initiated against the congress leaders, yet the party instead of getting demoralised by threat of public humiliation, got united to fight. Sadashiv Tripathy, along with 24 other MLAs made a representation to the president of India that the selection of period of enquiry is motivated and it would not serve any useful purpose. They alleged that there were serious charges of corruption against Singh Deo, Mahatab, Pradhan and some other ministerial colleagues of Singh Deo.

After a prolonged exchange of letters between the Union Home Minister Y.B. Chavan and Singh Deo, it was decided that a retired judge of the Supreme Court would probe into charges against Singh Deo and others.

Justice R. A. Mudholkar, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, was appointed to probe into the charges and he submitted his report on 28 September, 1968.

The politics of commission of enquiry gave rise to a new kind of political crisis. It had a visible impact upon the coalition. Mahatab who initiated discussion on the advisability of appointing commission of enquiry, became the victim on his own strategy. Where as justice Khanna exonerated almost all congress ministers including Biju Patnaik, who he said, committed only some administrative impropriety. Justice Mudholkar exonerated all but Mahatab in respect of whom he recommended further enquiry by a full-fledge commission of enquiry.
Justice Mudholkar in his report recommended that it is in the public interest even at this point of time to constitute a commission of enquiry for making an enquiry against Mahatab.\textsuperscript{40}

Though Patnaik was exonerated of pecuniary benefit but causing administrative impropriety was no less a serious charge, yet he took it sportively and announced that he would commit similar impropriety if it would be in the interest of the State.

Mahatab who was one of the prominent architects of congress defeat and coalition formation in the State was at the receiving end because of the Mudholkar probe initiated by the ruling group of which he was the prominent mentor.\textsuperscript{41}

The coalition was a stable one in terms of stability and the anti-congress character it could bear with it. But Mahatab thought that probably the Advocate General under instruction from Singh Deo, facilitated an adverse verdict against the latter and he apprehended that Singh Deo would ruin his political image and further plans and programmes, by appointing a commission enquiry as recommended by Mudholkar.

Singh Deo, as the leader of the government, was more democratic. He always consulted Mahatab on important matters.\textsuperscript{42} He succeeded in getting all the important decisions taken in the co-ordination committee of the coalition partners. By doing this, he never allowed either Mahatab or his close associates to take upper hand in the day to-day management of the government activities.
But Mahatab was visibly unhappy. Through his print media he could express his feelings about the way things were managed at the party and government level.

Mahatab was interested that the findings of Mudholkar should be rejected by the cabinet. But this could not be done. Resultantly, it was a set back for him and thereafter he started working against the government.43

It was during his period that the country was passing through a new political crisis. Indira Gandhi’s two socialistic legislations like nationalisation of banks and abolition of privy purses brought new image for her. But in these issues the party took unnecessary steps like removing Mrs. Gandhi from party membership.

This action resulted in a split and Mrs. Gandhi received unprecedented support. Her group was in total control. These changes provoked Biju Patnaik to play a Pro-Indira role and somehow the central leadership was unhappy. When Patnaik was denied a ticket for Rajya Sabha, his supporter became United and the Congress Candidate was defeated. Patnaik left congress and floated a new regional party called the Utkal Congress.

The exit of Patnaik from congress facilitated a process for Mahatab’s entry into the congress. But Mahatab’s wishes to wind up Jana Congress and Join Congress was not liked by his own supporters. He even advised for the end of the coalition and facing the electorate.44

To end the Coalition, Mahatab caused a rift in the Jana Congress. He wanted Pradhan to leave Presidentship and Surendranath Patnaik to take new role. He wanted this
because it would lead to party crisis causing a constitutional crisis. Thus the end of coalition would be an uncertainty.

Kendu leaves played a dominant role in the Orissa political process. Huge kick backs came to parties and growers. This was a golden opportunity for the Jana Congress to withdraw from the Coalition. It was alleged that the Swatantra Party had received huge fund from the deal.

Meanwhile, Singh Deo made a bid to form an alternate coalition with Patnaik but he could not succeed. He resigned on 9th January 1971. Before tendering his resignation, the cabinet appointed a commission of enquiry under Justice Sarjoo Prasad, to probe into corruption charges against Mahatab in the light of suggestions made by Mudholkar probe.

The Governor of Orissa recommended imposition of President's rule and the dissolution of Assembly by virtue of article 356 of the constitution. The State came under presidents Rule with effect from 11th January, 1971 for the second time, after about a decade. Fresh elections were held along with the Lok Sabha election during March 1971.

Mahatab was not properly rehabilitated in the congress politics. He could neither get a cabinet berth nor any other significant position under Shastri's dispensation. Being disillusioned, Mahatab left congress by forming Jana congress.

The Jana congress became the ruling partner after facing its first election. It provided a strong and stable coalition government to the state with the help of Swatantra.
On the other hand, Patnaik was denied a ticket to contest for a Lok Sabha berth. Orissa Congress took it as an insult. As a result of which Utkal Congress was born.

The formation of Utkal Congress and the attitude of Singhdeo, the leader of the Swatantra-Jana Congress Coalition, provoked Mahatub to return to the congress fold, deserting one of the most stable coalitions in the era of political instability.

The election of 1971 to the Lok Sabha was Indira's election. It was an election between 'Garibi Hatao' and 'Indira Hatao'. Mrs. Gandhi won the election with a landslide victory.

In Orissa, election to the State assembly was held along with the election to Lok Sabha. It was election among Congress (R), Swatantra and Utkal Congress. Congress (R) was expecting to return to power being energised by the return of Mahatab—the crafty politician in the State. Swatantra party could not show a good return. The Utkal Congress which appeared with a bang exposing Mrs. Gandhi's autocracy and humiliation inflicted on Orissa's most popular leader of the post-independence era, assured people of Orissa for their progressive development. Although Patnaik was trounced yet the election of 1971 gave legitimacy to his party. The sequence of events presented an interesting development in the political scenario of the state.

Binayak Acharya, again became the leader of the opposition in the State Assembly, in April 1971 when the United front ministry headed by Biswanath Das was installed in office. After the fall of the united front ministry he
resigned from the leadership of the congress legislature party in view of the changed circumstances.

During 1971, there was crisis as regards the election of the leader of the congress party. There were three candidates eg. Mahatab, Binayak Acharya and Braja Mohan Mohanty for the post. Mahatab was supported by Nandini Satpathy, ultimately Mahatab was elected. After being elected, Mahatab nominated Binayak Acharya as the deputy leader and Braja Mohan Mohanty as secretary, respectively. But Acharya declined the offer. The meeting was on at that time and nobody wanted to create problems inside the congress party. There was apprehension that without the co-operation of Acharya the new face of Congress manifesto, inside the legislature and the state, would be miserably lost. In this background, others prevailed upon Acharya who ultimately agreed. Swatantra and Utkal Congress parties together elected Biswanath Das as their leader.47

Orissa was hit by unprecedented flood during the same year. Biswanath Das government miserably failed to provide relief and support to the flood affected people. Consequently, Braja Mohanty organised a mass protest rally at Bhubaneswar with communist and socialistic parties. This movement was led by Braja Mohanty and Binayak Acharya on behalf of Congress.48

Some worth mentioning incidents happened during this rally. Several protestors were injured by the police lathi charge including Binayak Acharya, Braja Mohan Mohanty, Brundaban Pattnaik.49

It is a general trend that a person who does take up teachership not as a profession to earn livelihood but as an
ideal practitioner of Indian cultural tradition and even if join in politics later does not forget his fundamental ideal. This was manifested in the life of Sarabapalli Radhakrishnan. Binayak Acharya was a teacher. His good conduct, idealism and love for his students were his inborn qualities. While entering the public field with leftist, he was deeply tied down to the attitude of a teacher till end. Acharya was not made of those sinful staff who consider politics and morality as opposite entities and consider them as steps to power and money-making sacrificing all sense of decency and clean image.  

Since there was possibility of rightist and centrists coming closure by the help of the Swatantra, Utkal Congress and Jharkhand group, an arrangement was made to form a coalition under a new leader and also to keep congress (R), out of ministry so that Mahatab would be out. Biswanath Das the first Congress premier of Pre-independent Orissa, was requested to lead the coalition.  

The coalition government of Das lacked ideological cohesion in as much as the election manifestoes of Swatantra and Utkal Congress contained contradictory promises and the Utkal Congress still professed to be a socialistic party as against the Swatantra’s undisputed conservative position. Besides, the ideological differences between the two, were considerable although they were not the maximum at a particular stage.  

In the course of functioning of that coalition a new moral issue appeared. It related to the abolition of privy purses. Indira Gandhi—the brain behind the abolition of privy purses, was bent upon implementing it. The landslide victory gave her a chance to initiate the amendment process of the
constitution and to keep the judiciary away from questioning
the inherent right of parliament to amend the constitution.\textsuperscript{52}

The Swatanta party opposed the Amendment bill in the
central legislature. Similarly, it also opposed the Bill in the
Orissa legislature. But the Utkal Congress supported the
move. Biswanath Das announced that his government would
support the 24\textsuperscript{th} constitution Amendment Bill.\textsuperscript{53}

He was criticised by Singh Deo and his cabinet
colleagues. This exposed the ideological incohesiveness of
the coalition in Orissa.

Biswanath Das and Biju Patnaik won the bye-election
held in September, 1971. It was Patnaik's election with a
record number of votes who won the election. His ambition
to head the government rose high. His intention of becoming
Chief Minister was explained by his subsequent conduct
when he said that the Chief Minister needs to be elected and
the government will get stabilized and that should be more
dynamic and purposeful to meet the needs and aspirations of
people.\textsuperscript{54}

A surprising move was made to convene coalition
legislature party to elect Patnaik replacing Das. This
possibility was seriously affected when Das announced his
resignation causing a constitutional crisis and congress
announced its intention to form government in Orissa. Das
was requested to continue in the background of this threat.\textsuperscript{55}

The congress was determined to form government and it
initiated the so called toppling game. PSP merged with
congress. Six Swatantra legislators, under leadership of
Gangadhar Pradhan, a deputy minister, defected to congress

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during the first week of June 1972. Three Utkal Congress legislators followed them. With the loss of nine legislators, the coalition came down to a minority and on 9th June, 1972, the Utkal Congress decided to merge with Congress (R). Thus the Das Ministry of Das coalition collapsed under massive defections.  

The Congress (R) which had a strength of 49 on 15th March, 1971, rose to 94 on 10th June, 1972. Nandini Satpathy—the then Union Minister of State of Information and Broadcasting, took over as the new Chief Minister on 14th June, 1972. Her legislators belonged to the congress, congress (N), PSP, Swatanta, Utkal Congress and Jharkhand.

Mrs. Satpathy, after securing her position in the government, initiated action to prevent the entry of some of erstwhile legislator's of Utkal congress into congress (R). She opposed the total merger. In the process, six Utkal Congress legislators including Patnaik, were denied entry into congress(R).  

As she was not a member of Orissa Legislative Assembly, she had to seek election for such. She contested from Cuttack. On account of prevailing situation, she had to encounter some internal challenges.

All the prominent defectors were not properly rewarded. Mahatab, who was in Congress (R), was completely side tracked. At this stage, Patnaik wanted to revive the Utkal Congress. The anti-Satpathy lobby became strong when Satpathy's election from Cuttack seat came closer. Cuttack is the cultural capital of Orissa. It had very alert and conscious electorate. The anti Satpathy faction
picked up Biren Mitra—the hero of Cuttack city as the opposition candidate against Satpathy.

Satpathy won amidst one of the most politicised electioneering with high profile campaign. Binayak Acharya became the minister of agriculture, co-operation, labour and employment, housing & urban development in the ministry of Nandini Satpathy.

As agriculture minister of the State, Binayak Acharya was the President of the Krushak Samaj. Nobody could forget his expert skills to do and get things done and his affectionate directions to his subordinates. He was miles away from revenge and vendetta. He was always eager for early solution of problems faced by farmers. He was keen to solve the problems of the farmers. Without taking any help from Govt. a farmer rest house with 200 capacity and a permanent office of Krushak Samaj, were constructed under his leadership.

Acharya was praised and appreciated in All India Convention of Krushak Samaj held in Madras for his pioneering activities. Following his footsteps, State units of Krushak Samaj, were advised to develop rest houses and permanent offices in their respective States.

The committee for fixation of price of agricultural products was deeply influenced by strong arguments of
Acharya in submitting report. Acharya was happy to find that his suggestions were published as commission's views in local newspapers. Unlike other leaders, he never believed in publicity. Despite his vast knowledge, he always preferred to hear from others. He never liked to speak more. Before forming his opinion on any agricultural plan, he used to take into account the views of experts specialized in several fields and practical experience of workers.

He was committed to form a non-political forum of farmers consisting of people belonging to several political shades of opinion. He was a towering social worker, a person with capacity to sacrifice his personal interest and a friend to farmers and labourers class. During his tenure as Agriculture Minister, his priority was to provide more irrigation facilities for the development of agriculture and to bring massive change in the economy of farmers and labourers. Apart from that, he laid stress on providing high yielding seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides to farmers. He introduced spray of pesticides from helicopters in order to save the crops from the attack of pests.

At that time, there was large-scale devastation in Ganjam due to cyclone. Acharya moved extensively around the cyclone devastated areas and his estimate on extent of damage was published in newspapers. Later, Nandini Satpathy who made an aerial survey of the affected areas, contradicted Agriculture Minister's estimate while issuing statement to the press. She said that minister's estimate was exaggerated. Hearing such observation of the Chief Minister.
Acharya became emotional at such statements and even could not resist himself from crying. He was worried as to how he could rush help to the cyclone-affected people. He was restless as thousands of people were starving in open air in the wake of natural calamity. He had his second thoughts to go to the people in that condition. An over emotional Acharya with the help of International Charity Organisation “KARITAS” took wheat, sugar, soybean oil, medicine, clothes, blanket and distributed them among the affected people. The Directors of KARITAS were taken to move around the affected areas. Further this organization provided 14 lakhs rupees more and a total of 16 lakhs aid was thus utilized to help affected people in Ganjam district. This shows how anxious Acharya was in the developmental activities in Ganjam and Orissa as well.60

As a minister for Agriculture and cooperation, Acharya stressed on the importance of irrigation and principles of cooperation. He tried a lot to solve problems of farmers through variety of initiatives. He continued as the President of Krushak Samaj even when he was the Chief Minister of the state.61

A NEW ERA IN AGRICULTURE

When Binayak Acharya was the minister of agriculture, the following steps were taken to fulfill the basic needs of the people of the state.

• Wells had been dug up to extend drinking water facility to 19,622 villages.
- By the end of Fourth plan period the area of irrigation was promised to be extended to 21813 lakhs acres under large and medium irrigation projects.

- Irrigation facility was extended to more lands during Rabi and Kharif seasons.

- A special new plan was promised to be formulated to meet increasing demands of industrial units.

- Land and houses to landless with special emphasis on construction of houses and development of bastis in rural areas were undertaken.

- Several employment generating programmes were implemented with urgency. These programmes were done with special focus on weaker sections of the society.

- Roads to every village were taken up for construction.

- By 1980-81 most of the children in the age group of 6-11 years and 11-14 years were extended the education facility.

- 41,767 acres of land had been distributed among the landless.

- Promise was made to implement Orissa Land Reform Act with some important modifications.
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORISSA

As regards the agricultural development of Orissa, this declaration was made: "Most of our villagers are small farmers and agricultural labourers. A large scale development of those people has been possible by fulfilling their requirements. Small farmers and agricultural labourers development organization of Cuttack has played a notable role in this field. Small farmers and agricultural labourers development organization so far has prepared a list of 27,345 small farmers. From among them 9,185 farmers have enrolled themselves as members in several cooperative banks to avail loan facilities. 4,751 farmers have been provided fertilizer, pesticides, seeds and facilities for the purchase of other agricultural implements".

MONETARY HELP TO THE FARMERS

By his initiative, through the co-operative banks, while Rs.10, 62,086.76 paisa had been extended as short-term loan to small farmers, another Rs.3, 07,224 had been provided as long-term loan. During that year, the Commercial Banks had provided short-term loans of Rs.2, 52,601 and an advance of Rs.43, 000 as long-term loan to the small farmers.
INTRODUCTION OF NEW METHODS IN AGRICULTURE

Acharya introduced new methods in agriculture. In the preceding Khariff season small farmers and agricultural labourers organization had organised 62 exhibitions in last Khariff season. One organization had bought a tractor for use of small farmers. By the personal initiative, two other organizations “Saindhya” and “Urali” had been started. For the use of farmers materials like tractors, electric operated agricultural appliances, fertilizer, pesticide etc. used to be kept in stock.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Acharya’s Government had proposed to spend Rs.10 lakhs for lift irrigation projects in the year 1973. 50% of the expenses would be borne by state Government. For digging of wells in the hilly areas the Government had earmarked rupees one crore and eight lakhs. Cooperative and Commercial banks were approached to finance the project.

IMPORTANCE ON DAIRY AND POULTRY ASPECTS

Rs. 2,03,000 had been sanctioned to set up 70 milk supply centers as part of Milk supplies scheme. Out of 273 sanctioned for goat-rearing centers goats had been supplied to 133 of them. Out of 100 sanctioned poultry projects, 31 had been provided with the birds. From among them 25 centres had started producing eggs.
A NEW VISION FOR THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Acharya was very much earnest in providing a new vision in the area of development. By way of rural development programme Rs.8000/- was spent for the different work of rural areas and 796 agriculture labourers were benefited that year. The proposals aiming at development of rural artisans had been sent for the approval of centre. A project to provide cycle-rickshaws to land-less people had been taken up. In that financial year 500 people had been provided with rickshaws through loans from Commercial Banks. Many of the proposals sponsored by the department of agriculture were under the active consideration of the centre.65

Due to the political crises Nandini Satapathy government was reduced to a minority. The budget session was then under progress. Satapathy resigned and recommended the dissolution of the house to get a clear verdict from the people.

The Governor sent two reports to the President the preliminary report and the final one both dated 1st March, 1973. He recommended dissolution of Assembly and imposition of President's rule. The President of India signed the necessary proclamation on 3rd March, 1973.66

The President's rule lasted for nearly one year. Mid term election to Orissa assembly was held during February, 1974.
The election was fought in a new political climate. There was no election fever. Only Orissa was involved in polling. Orissa Congress was in electoral understanding with CPI. The opposition was Pragati Dal led by Biju Patnaik. Both Mahatab and Singh Deo joined hands with Patnaik. The election result was surprising for both Patnaik who led a year long anti-congress campaign could secure 56 seats out of which the share of Swatantra was 21. The congress which needed 74 to form government got 68 seats for which it needed the outside support of CPI with which it had some poll understanding.\(^{67}\)

The government was formed with Nandini Satpathy as the Chief Minister on 6\(^{th}\) March 1974. Binayak Acharya was taken in as the minister of finance and excise.

CONTRIBUTIONS AS A FINANCE MINISTER

"He became MLA and Finance Minister in 1974 and brought some radical sweeping change in financial discipline in Orissa. A good person as he was becoming Finance Minister, he lived like a Gandhian and brought strict discipline in financial norms. Humorously people used to say him as Financeless Finance Minister of that time".\(^ {68}\)

As the finance minister of state, Acharya had taken several constructive steps to restore fiscal discipline.

Acharya had advocated several ways for mobilization of more resources. In his address, at the National Savings Board Meeting, at Bangalore. He had urged upon the people to make the savings movement a people's movement.\(^ {69}\)
Despite being Finance Minister, financial crisis was his natural ally. Though he spent lakhs of rupees for party’s election expenses, he didn’t like to spend even for a cup of tea for himself. Since he didn’t have proper freedom as the Finance Minister files could not be proceeded promptly. He was criticised for that. But after becoming the Chief Minister, he had disposed of 100’s of files of outgoing Chief Minister in one night. He could take very important decisions in a short span of time if he worked independently.

During his tenure as the Finance Minister, he was provided with only one vehicle. Despite his Private Secy. requesting for and another vehicle, Acharya had turned it down and maintained that the hard earned public money cannot be allowed to be wasted. He had not taken any Govt. loan for vehicle as he might not be able to repay that. He had preferred to move together in one vehicle. He had succeeded in checking misuse of Govt. vehicle by his staff, political workers and even his family while he was out of Bhubaneswar in tour. He took steps to stop misuse of telephone at his office as well as in official residence. He considered that the Government property is the National property. He had persuaded everybody not to misuse that.

In the capacity of Finance Minister, he had undertaken some important austerity measures which merit special mention.

He had persuaded the people to consume power up to their minimum requirement only. He was obeying this in letter and spirit. He used to switch of all electrical
appliances before leaving his office chamber in State Secretariat.\textsuperscript{72}

He had gone to Patna, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Calcutta to attend meetings convened by National Savings Board. During his stay in those places, he used to discuss for hours with Finance Ministers, Excise Ministers, Officials of Finance, Sales Tax and Excise Departments of other state and tried to ascertain as to how they were mobilizing their resources. Basing on such information and circulars of other states he adopted for the state what ever was good.\textsuperscript{73}

His speech to turn the savings movement to a people’s movement at Bangalore Convention of National Savings Board, was very much convincing. His views were well thought and clear. He was praised by the Finance Ministers of other States for his candid views on financial matters.\textsuperscript{74}

During his tour to Barbil to participate in a prize distribution ceremony of Small savings, he had requested the then collector Pyari Mohan Mohapatra to travel in one vehicle - the reason being to slash expenses. As a Minister he was never in favour of officials to accompany him with vehicles leaving their other official works. He always advised his officials to take care of responsibilities with commitment so that people would enjoy the fruits of good Governance.\textsuperscript{75}

The nation’s economy virtually was in the grip of negative impact of 1971 cyclone, consequent drought and devastation and destruction due to the flood. At such a critical stage, Acharya wanted to strengthen the public distribution system.\textsuperscript{76} He had taken steps to mobilize more
food stock, adequate supply of essential commodities, issue of ration cards in the much-affected areas. Subsequently, this was extended to other areas too. To increase the agricultural produce, he had invested huge money in rural areas. The farmers could be the beneficiaries of such investments. The farmers having more than two acres of landed property were made to pay agricultural land tax during his tenure.

He was convinced that so long as people do not get proper food, drinking water and clothing, economic independence would remain elusive for the country.77

During his tenure as the Finance Minister, Binayak Acharya had persuaded people to work hard for a developed society during the fifth five-year plan. He was Finance Minister of the state in a very crucial period. The economy was in a critical shape due to the impact of Bangladesh freedom movement accentuated by the widespread drought and roadblocks before industry. There was artificial scarcity as unholy businessmen went for hoarding of essential commodities to augment their profit. The high price rise was also the indicator of the bad shape of the nation's economy. That had resulted in never before inflation.78

Binayak Acharya had to take recourse to some important measures like enforcing Taxes on Private vehicles, Motor Bikes, Scooter, Entertainment Places etc and further increasing the surcharge percentage to augment the revenue earnings. He also increased the royalty on the Forest products. The wages, salary and dearness allowance were given normal increase. He proposed to the Govt. to find ways to increase its revenue to meet the maintenance cost of
completed projects as non-planned expenditure was to grow.\textsuperscript{79}

Acharya had taken important steps to improve the standard of lives of the backward classes in society. These included the supply of nutritious food, drinking water, education facility, built in houses, electricity, health care facilities, and improved condition of roads for the benefit of the poor. He had distributed 2 lakh acres of land amongst the landless people and encouraged then to start the agriculture activities. He had invested money on village electrification, construction of houses etc to improve the standard of the Tribals and the Harijans.\textsuperscript{80}

Acharya had suggested for the study of agriculture in the Secondary Schools. He proposed massive cultivation of bananas, coconuts, cashew nuts, pineapple, jackfruit etc across the State. He proposed massive development in Jute cultivation. His proposals also included several projects for the promotion of ground water. With borrowings from Central Co-operative Land Development Banks, he engaged himself in agricultural promotions. He formed “Krushak Seva Samiti’s” in several places. Facility of irrigation was extended to lakhs of hectors of agricultural lands through big and medium irrigation projects. 19 medium Projects were set up to extend irrigation facility to many of the backward districts. With that, the districts like Ganjam, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Phulbani, Sambalpur could get many new medium irrigation projects. Deep wells were dug up with financial assistance from private investors. Several projects for Soil Conservation were also introduced.\textsuperscript{81}
He brought out the laws for the distribution of surplus land among the weaker sections of the society by reducing the highest limit of land holding. He had taken steps to consolidate fragmented small land holdings through the system of "CHAKABANDI". All aspects for effecting the economic development of the state equally attracted the attention of Binayak Acharya.

He stressed importance on animal husbandry like Diary Farms, Poultry Farms and Goatery etc. Milk supply schemes in several districts were implemented. Several schemes for social and economic upliftment of fishermen were spelt out while planning for mass fish production. Tribal development activities were undertaken with proper planning.\textsuperscript{82}

Consolidation of forests, management of forests in scientific way, aorestation of barren lands, plantation of valuable trees, development of communication for better management of forests and preservation of wild animals, were stressed upon. The Govt., jointly with Forest Corporation, had taken up kendu leaf trade and generated good revenue. In production of oil from Sal seed our state topped the entire country. An industry was set up for the purpose. Acharya had taken several steps to increase power production in the state since he considered that power is the essential need of every development initiative.\textsuperscript{83}

The Health Sector of Orissa could get booster on account of significant suggestions of Binayak Acharya. Acharya had improved the standard of the Primary Health Centres by appointing doctors and increasing the amount of money given for purchasing medicines. He had also increased the number of beds in each village level hospitals. He had found several means and ways to improve the
standard of Indian system of medicines. He had appointed several Inspectors to stop sale of adulterated foods and to fight other illegal trade under Drugs Control. National Malaria eradication programme with full aid of centre, smallpox and leprosy eradication programmes were taken up. Special steps were taken for the development of villages suffering from several odds.\textsuperscript{84}

Many programmes like supply of clean drinking water, buildings for primary schools, food supply, integrated child development works and many other developmental initiatives were taken up in villages. Children below 16 years not going to schools and expected mothers were provided with nutritious food.\textsuperscript{85}

Acharya had always endeavoured for the education, economic, health of the scheduled caste and the scheduled tribe section of the state and also for providing facilities for them. During his ministerial stint, in-service promotion for them was introduced. While supplying their daily requirements, their surplus things were collected in fair price through Orissa Tribal Development Corporation. The corporation was also arranged in providing interest free loans to the tribals for carrying on their economic activities.\textsuperscript{86}

In the budget he also reflected his views on criminal law. He caused the execution of new criminal law from 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1974. By virtue of this, he earmarked an Independent unit outside the police control. It was entrusted with the task of engaging an advocate for an accused at the government cost in case the latter could not afford for that.
In the realm of sales tax Acharya had some sound ideas as the Finance Minister.

He wanted to benefit small retail traders with Sales Tax limit lifting gross turn over from Rs.20,000 to Rs.50,000. He gave importance on first point Tax. He was dead against the tyranny of Sales Tax officials on businessmen. He was also opposed to the harassment of the Vigilance departments towards the businessmen. Instead of forwarding Sales Tax amendment Bill to select committee, he had taken all pains to correct all problems there on his own. He expected to increase earnings by plugging deficiencies in Sale Tax. He always stressed upon a simple and unambiguous Sales Tax system so that common man and business people could understand it easily. He looked for simple and easy understanding of Sale Tax Act.

He was of the opinion that if a particular person is appointed in a Check Gate he develops vested interest. For that he never allowed a person to continue for long in such posts.

He developed the system in such a manner that the traders could get D - forms & C - forms easily.

Besides taking some measures in the Sales Tax, Binayak Acharya had also taken of some research works for several projects like.

1. Bhimakunda hydropower project

2. Lower Colab project
Acharya had also adopted special attitude to improve the finances of under developed districts. Industrial development of the state also captivated his attention.

Eight districts of the state Mayurbhanj, Kalahandi, Balangir, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput etc. were declared as underdeveloped ones and provided with concessional finances through investing agencies.

He had taken steps for setting up of iron industries, jute mills, paper mills and television manufacturing units in Orissa. Few industries of all India standard like Rourkela Steel plant, expansion of fertilizer plant and setting up of Heavy Water Plant at Talcher, Fertilizer Plant at Paradeep, Nickel Industry at Sukinda and Ferrochrome plant at Rairangpur bear the stamp of his contributions.

He contended that by improving the productivity level, the price hike of various products can be avoided. He had emphasized on increase in income per member of the family, control of daily usage of products and believed in economic freedom. With the majority of the people living below poverty line, he felt it was necessary to abolish poverty by undertaking various developmental works.

He had put all his efforts in increasing the income of the family on the basis of the members and also on the
availability of raw materials. He had ensured economic progress and impartial judicial help to all irrespective of social status. He had established continuous programmes to overcome the aftermaths of natural calamities. He had prioritized to complete different incomplete projects, for improving the agricultural produce—the most important requirement of proper irrigation as well as provision for electricity and had invested maximum revenue on these projects. He had facilitated the people with education, transportation, health and water supply. Under the urban development scheme, he had given shape to different localities as well as had introduced sub-divisional projects in tribal lands and had lent a helping hand in abolishing the disparity between the fellow citizens. He had arranged agricultural requirements as a low cost to bring social security to the poor people.  

While motivating the upcoming industrialist and giving a modern concept to the business theory, Binayak Acharya had invested money amongst the private, Government and the Government undertaking industries. He had taken steps to setup different industries like Konark Jute industry at Dhanmandal, Carbon Oil Steel Orissa at Dhenkanal, Ferro Alloys Industry in Mayurbhanj district, at Rayagada and Aska, Indian Rare Earth Industry at Gopalpur, Ferro Uranium industry at Rairangpur and Nickel Industry at Sukinda.

He motivated the young industrialists to invest money in various developmental projects. He also made arrangements for industrialists to borrow money from Industrial Developmental Banks, Industrial Corporation Banks and Industrial Banks. He provided employment to hundreds of people through small scale Industries. To strengthen Orissa’s industrial sector, he had identified
places like Bolangir, Kalahandi, Talcher and Sunabeda to set up various industries. He had formed a committee consisting of the Board of Directors of every industry, bankers, businessmen and research persons to find more ways and means to increase the standards of the industry.\footnote{91}

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION**

After his successful student days he began his life as a teacher in a style of his own. Within a very short time he established himself as an eminent teacher. He also wrote a number of books during this period. He was able to impart excellent teaching in English, History and Geography subjects. Apart from being a good orator, he trained others to be good speakers. Besides politics, he was associated with a number of public welfare works. He worked as a General Secretary of the Orissa Secondary Teachers Association and later as its Vice-president. His activities during this period were extremely praiseworthy.\footnote{92}

An ideal teacher life made Binayak Babu great and noble. So the teacher's life was his most attractive background. He was an unique personality in Orissa politics. He could not surrender the high idealism of a teacher in his political life. In every walk of life he remained a simple and innocent teacher. He always gave high regards to the simple life of a teacher.\footnote{93}

Two Ex-Chief Ministers of Orissa were teachers at the beginning. One was Sadasive Tripathy and the other was Binayak Acharya. Binayak Babu was more prominent as a teacher. Being an eminent teacher, student loving, respected
by parents, he was highly spoken of by any people occupying high position in administration as well as in public life.  

Among other achievements he was the main architect of the teacher’s organisation. He was the top office-bearer of non-govt. Secondary Teachers’ Association. During 1969, when the teachers federation was just starting to take root, Acharya allowed his govt. bungalow to be used as its main head quarters. It is a matter of no small courage. 

In the year 1967 the secondary school teachers of Ganjam district board and of Koraput district board had raised voice of protest for injustice against them as both the district boards were dissolved. While employees of Works and Public Health Department were considered as Government servants, the teachers were discriminated against. While the entire service period of Works and Public Health employees were taken into account in pay fixation which again helped in promotion, the teachers of the dissolved boards had to suffer. But for the teachers of former district boards the pay fixation was done from 1st January, 1958 the day the Government actually had taken over the Schools. Acharya had protested the decision and had demanded justice for the teachers.

At that time there were schools categorized as A-type, B-type, C-type, Private-managed, Missions Schools run by Churches, proprietary school and so on. For development in secondary education in the state, Acharya was in favour of categorising schools into two types Government and private. C type schools were debarred of several facilities. They were not permitted to open post graduate classes and new subjects. He wanted to introduce several changes in the field of school education in the state.
Acharya had special compassion for private managed schools. This is because only after people setting up of schools in their initiative and managing to arrange required materials the Government was extending 2/3 grants to those institutions. To meet rest 1/3 expenses students were made to pay fees. For that Acharya had proposed to make C type schools to be upgraded to A-type ones.

Acharya had taken many steps to spread women education in the state. He considered that, if new schools will not be opened, proportionate to the rising strength, young children would remain uneducated. For that, he suggested the Government to manage all schools bringing them under the Panchayat bodies.96

Acharya was very much opposed to some recommendations of Kothari Commission report. He had maintained that the cabinet was taking fascist attitude towards the teaching community. With the stringent laws teachers would be debarred to hold meetings even for their salary and allowances. He asked for early withdrawal of the Government order for implementing the report. He was aware that there would be massive unrest among entire Non-Government teachers community unless that was done.

Acharya had the firm conviction that the per capita expenditure on education in Orissa was one of the lowest compared to the corresponding figure of the other states. With 11.5 percent, while Kerala topped the list Orissa was in the bottom with 7.3 percent. He was deeply concerned for this. As the enrolment ratio of children in schools was too low, he urged for strong steps to improve the situation. In the educationally backward areas like, Koraput, Bolangir where 2-3 children per one thousand went to schools.
Acharya had urged the Govt. to improve the situation there. He demanded to extend primary education from Class-V to Class-VIII.

For Primary classes Acharya had demanded to do away the distinction between Govt. & Private schools since dearness allowance was same for teachers of both the type of schools. The then Govt. had announced triple benefit for primary school teachers. The triple benefit included provident fund, life insurance fund and pension. Despite the announcement the Govt. had made no provision for this in the budget. Acharya had urged upon the government to implement the scheme with immediate effect. While demanding to bridge the barrier between Govt. and private school teachers, he stood for the expansion of both technical and general education with special emphasis in the backward areas. He had tried to maintain same standard staff for both private and government schools.

Acharya laid stress on the security of service in secondary schools. Even after serving long years teachers were relieved of their jobs with just one month’s notice. He proposed a new code to shun this practice.

Acharya had stressed on periodical examinations in schools as is done in other countries. He opined that if 40% marks of previous examinations would have been added to the final result, then practice of copying in the final without concentrating on studies throughout the year would have stopped. He was deeply concerned as the Government did not make any provision of research in the newly formed two Universities.
Acharya had proposed U.G.C. pay scale for lecturers and professors of all colleges and universities of which U.G.C. would sponsor 80% and rest 20% to be taken care of by the State Government. With this proposal he made an attempt to make higher education in Orissa to be at par with the other states. The teaching community have been grateful to him for implementing the U.G.C. Scale of pay.

Acharya had the courage to demolish unholy alliance of conservative political community of the State. He had expressed his anguish against the Government for not releasing funds for acquisition of land of Berhampur University despite this being in Govt. agenda. He had put pressure to open D.Ed. course in Khalikote college.  

Acharya emphasized on the formation of an Education Advisory Body and an Education Advisory Committee in the State. These committees could look after grants for colleges, changes in curriculum and preparing textbooks to suit the needs of time.

He had seriously opposed collectors becoming Chairman of district school boards. "One who is already over burdened with on hundred and one works", it would be improper to assign such a big responsibility, he had said.

Acharya equally stressed on vocational training and social works for students. Otherwise unemployment would emerge as a major challenge before the society. Despite mushrooming of schools and colleges, new subjects were not part of the curriculum for which Acharya was concerned. He had tried hard for replacing old system of education with vocational studies. He was prepared to request the centre to
release more finance aids in the event of state requiring additional funds.

As the Government failed to release 3 Crore of Rupees as committed for completion of construction works of Berhampur and Sambalpur universities, Acharya had put pressure on the Government to do the needful. He wanted to give more priority to the Science studies in University curriculum. He also wanted to include professional and vocational education at the university level apart from the Schools and Colleges.

Acharya had opposed number of Government nominees in Board of Secondary Education, which looked after the management of Secondary education in the State. He had demanded to place more teachers there. Due to undue delay in publication of matric result entire Orissa was brought under one zone and he had expected that it would facilitate early result publication. He had demanded to take care of deficits of those institutions by making provision for increasing the grant-in-aid for the private schools.

Acharya had made a right demand for the in-service training for those untrained teachers in summary vacations. Who had completed five years in job instead of retrenching them. He had welcomed state education ministers plan to make education agriculture oriented. He had expected that this would benefit the agriculture based economy life like ours.

He argued that untrained teachers were obstacles for proper education in schools. For that he had advocated closing down of E.T. training schools and extending in-service training through C.T. training schools. He had
opined that methodological training could be possible with in-service training for untrained teachers. He had stated large-scale dropouts between Class-I to Class-X as national wastage.

As the Govt. had not taken care of service condition of teachers while taking over 142 schools he had appealed the Govt. to take into account their past service for fixing their retirement age.

Instead of retrenching craft teachers he had requested the Government to accept craft as a vocational training. He had also stressed the need for putting stress on physical education. That could ensure India’s better performance in international sports and even in Olympics he had expected.

He urged for extending triple retirement benefit like pension, provident fund and gratuity to the teachers. He had opposed collection of fees from students of Class VI and VII even after inclusion of these classes in primary education category. He had argued for free education in these classes. He had laid importance on free education up to 14 years of age as enshrined in Indian Constitution.

He was opposed to the concept of one-teacher schools in rural areas. He was of the opinion that such schools do hamper education. He was in favour of increasing number of teachers in schools.

He contended that there existed dual administration in schools working under panchayats, with BDO on one side and SI on the other the schools were on the running path. He had persuaded the Government to run administrative works in
Oriya language. He was dead against political interference in management of educational institutions.\textsuperscript{99}

Acharya was also opposed to conceding of unlimited authority to the Government in the management of educational institutions. He wanted the power to grant recognition to schools, to be vested with the Board of Secondary Education. He had persuaded the Government to lay importance on primary and pre-primary education as done in many countries. As the Government decided to include Class I to V in primary education, Class-VI-VII in ME and Class IX-X in High School, VIII class was left behind and could not be included in any group. He was concerned for the stagnation in primary and secondary education and dropout which were the major challenges.

He was in favour of bringing diversification in education. He wanted the diversification should come to a student life at the age of 13 years. Through this students could go for other vocational institutions. He had advised the teachers to maintain a cumulative record on student's aptitude in various subjects. He wanted that our education should be work oriented and productive.\textsuperscript{100}

Acharya had made a comparison of our per capita expenditure on education \textit{vis-à-vis} other States and he had established that it was too less compared to others. He had also checked enrollment ratio of school going children and came out with the conclusion that drop-outs had gone up with students going to higher classes. He agreed with Kothari Commission recommendation calling upon to abandon white coloured education to pursue the path of fundamental education as advised by Gandhiji. As per Kothari Commission report, students interested to pursue
professional education can bifurcate from particular class to go for higher studies and even technical education of lower grade. Otherwise students might get annoyed with dignity of labour. He thought that unless this is done possibility of unemployment problem might go up.

Acharya had expressed his deep concern as the Government failed to utilise central assistance several times. He demanded to provide scholarships to two students of every block as part of National Talent Scholarship – a plan of the central government. He pleaded for the nationalization of all textbooks. With placing Class-VI and Class-VII in higher primary, Acharya had argued to extend free education to them. He demanded shifting of Board office from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar. The D.P.I. would not be needed to travel to Cuttack everyday by this arrangement. Further he asserted that it would be convenient to conduct examination and declare result if Orissa could be divided into four zones for the purpose.

As per Kothari Commission recommendations he favoured appointment of two different Inspectors, one for inspection and another for administration. Inspectors are expected to submit their reports in time.

He had impressed on the Government to provide funds for the construction of building and campus of Berhampur and Sambalpur Universities. Otherwise, there would be problems in continuing with studies in these Universities. While filling of vacant posts, he had emphasized on the introduction of new subjects like applied science, marine engineering and industrial chemistry etc.
He had taken steps to make Ravenshaw College an autonomous institution. He had proposed for a national level laboratory with facility for research at Bhubaneswar the capital of the state.

He recurringly spelt out that education should be free from corruption. He stated that every body should work with honesty instead of pushing corrupt practices under the carpet.101


4. Ibid, P-472.


8. Ibid


13. Prajatantra (An Oriya Daily) Date 18\textsuperscript{th} December 1983.


15. Sethy Rabindra Kumar: Political Crisis in Indian States: Study of President’s rule in Orissa (Doctoral Thesis), 2002, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, P-197.


17. For details see Verghese and Dwivedi:, Political Corruption in India (Madars : 1964) and report of Khanna commission.


27. Ibid, P-434.


30. Ibid, P-443.

31. Ibid

32. Ibid, P-473.


36. Nanda Sukhadev, "Coalition Politics in Orissa" (Delhi - 1979), P- 70.


38. Ibid, PP- 204-206.

39. Nanda Sukhadev, "Coalition Politics in Orissa" (Delhi - 1979), PP- 76-77.


42. Nanda Sukhadev, “Coalition Politics in Orissa” (Delhi – 1979), P-86.


47. Mohanty Bharati, Bisistha Bidhayaka Prakarana Pustakamala: Binayak Acharya, Orissa Legislative Assembly, 1996, P-446.

48. Ibid

49. Ibid


52. Ibid, P- 217.

54. Nanda Sukhadev, “Coalition Politics in Orissa” (Delhi - 1979), P-91.


56. Ibid, P-220.

57. Ibid, P-221


59. Binayak Acharya Smaranika, Berhampur-I, 1984


63. Ibid

64. Ibid

65. Ibid

67. Ibid, P-225


70. Ibid

71. Ibid

72. Ibid

73. Ibid

74. Ibid

75. Ibid


77. Ibid.

78. Ibid, P-219.

79. Ibid, P-225
80. Ibid, P-227.


82. Ibid, P – 235.

83. Ibid, P – 236.

84. Ibid, P – 240.


87. Ibid, P – 79.

88. Ibid, P – 238.

89. Ibid, P – 239.

90. Orissa Legislative Assembly Proceedings, Budgets Speech, Dated 25.02.75 (Orissa Legislative Assembly) O.L.A. Library.


93. Ibid

95. Ibid.


98. Ibid, PP-30-34.


100. Ibid, PP-55-60

101. Ibid, PP-61-72