

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



MADHYA PRADESH

SURGUJA

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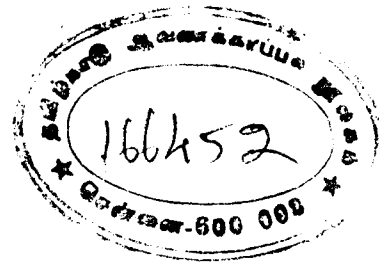
MADHYA PRADESH

SURGUJA

MADHYA PRADESH DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

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SURGUJA

Dr. RAJENDRA VERMA

**DIRECTORATE OF GAZETTEERS
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
MADHYA PRADESH
BHOPAL**

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PREFACE

Surguja is the second largest district of Madhya Pradesh in respect of area. It forms common border with the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the north and the State of Bihar in the east. The District comprises three former princely States, namely Surguja, Korea and Chang Bhakar. The District is named after the largest of the constituent princely State, Surguja.

The District was, in the past, extremely rich in wild-life. In the mediaeval warfare, the elephants were considered as one of the most important sources of strength. This area was, therefore, one of the important centres from where elephants were procured. There are references about the visit of Sultan Mahmood Khilji I of Malwa, in 1440-41, for procuring elephants for his army. He is reported to have procured 50 elephants from this area, before returning to Shadiabad (Mandu). There are references in a number of other works that Tiger and wild animals were numerous in the District and they committed serious depredations.

Surguja District has a hoary past. Though systematic archaeological excavations and explorations are still awaited, there is no dearth of antiquarian remains. They are scanty but impressive. Their traces are available in the rock-cut caves, temples, ancient stone gateways, and sculptures on the Ramgarh hill and paintings in Jogimara, Sitabongira cave. The cave here is about 14 metres long and about 4.2 metres wide with two rows of natural benches. It is considered to be the oldest amphitheatre in India. This area formed part of the vast empires of the Nandas, the Mauryas, the Satavahanas and the Imperial Guptas. Subsequently Dakshina Kosal, including Surguja District was under the sway of various dynasties, namely, Suras, Sarabhapuriyas, Pandus, Somvanshis and Pandus of Mekal. Later, it was part of the Kalachuri Kingdom of Dakshina Kosal, with capital at Ratanpur. The princely States, comprising Surguja District, have rich historical past which has been narrated in the chapter on History of this volume. The short account of the States, constituting the present Surguja District, is given in the 'Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer', 1909, written by F. A. De Brett, I.C.S., Political Agent of Chhattisgarh States. Some account is also available in 'Jharkhand-Jhankar' by Raghubir Prasad ; History of Surguja State by D. D. Dadlimaster ; 'Surguja-ka Aitihasik Prashtha', by S. M. Singh Deo ; 'A Statistical Account of Bengal', Volume XV (1877) etc. It is for the first time, however, that a comprehensive account is being given in the present District Gazetteer.

A few words about the preparation of the District Gazetteers. It is intended to be a reference book to the administrator, the scholar and the general reader alike. It includes analytical information on almost all conceivable topics concerning the District. For this purpose, hundreds of books, reports and research journals have to be consulted and information called from them. Correspondence is also carried out with hundreds of agencies and individuals, both official and non-official for requisitioning facts and figures. It is a painstaking work, requiring hard and devoted efforts.

This Volume was edited by the former Director, Dr. Rajendra Verma, in whose name this is being published. Our thanks are due to Dr. P. N. Chopra and his fellow officers of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Government of India, for their valuable suggestions.

The preparation of Gazetteers is the result of a fine team work. I acknowledge in full measure the valuable assistance received from the following Officers of the Directorate :

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During the course of preparation of this volume, various Central and State Government Offices as well as non-Government agencies and Corporations have supplied us the required information. I am thankful to all of them.

Preparation and the printing work has been looked after devotedly by Shri K. R. R. C. Nair. Dr Suresh Tiwari has looked after the preparation of Index. Maps have been prepared in the Directorate of Gazetteers by Shri Yaduraj Singh, under the guidance of Dr. N. P. Pandey.

Smt. Pankajakshi Amma, Superintendent, and the staff of the Directorate of Gazetteers worked devotedly to complete the work. My thanks are due to all of them.

Bhopal
Guru Purnima
18 July, 1989

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Location and Size

Surguja is one of the north-eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh. It extends from 22°37'25" to 24°6'17" North and 81°34'40" to 84°4'40" East. It is the second largest district of the State. It has an area of 22,337 sq. km. as in 1971, and a population of 13,26,439.¹ The greatest span of the District is 253 kilometres from east to west. The north-south width is about 160 kilometres.

Boundaries

The District is bounded on the north by Sidhi, Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) and Palamau (Bihar) districts on the south by Bilaspur and Raigarh districts and on the east by Raigarh, and Palamau and Ranchi districts of Bihar. The entire Western boundary is enclosed by Shahdol district. The shape of the District resembles the figure of a club with its handles projecting towards the west-north west.

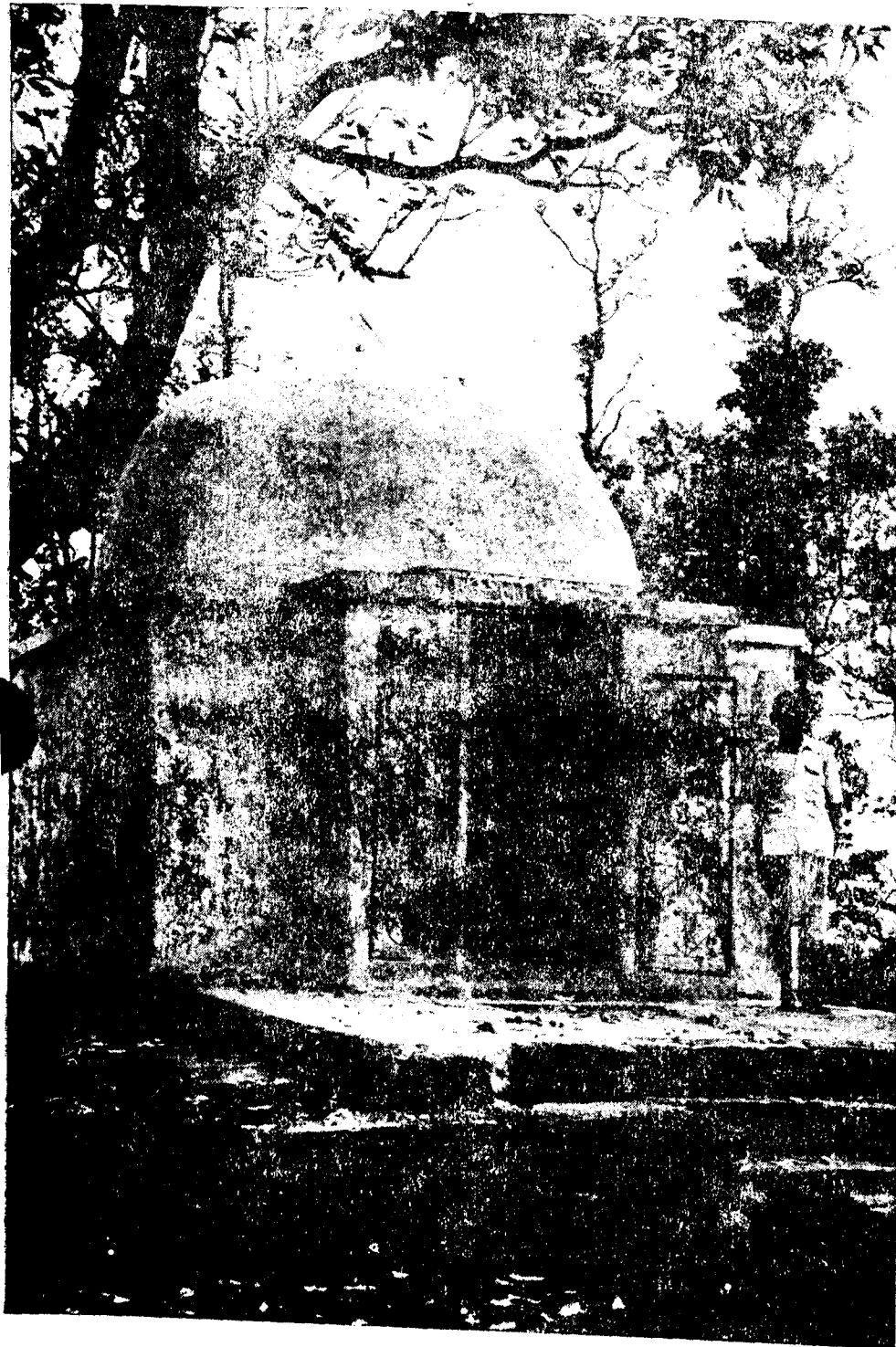
Origin of the Name

The District has been named after the largest of the constituent ex-Feudatory states, namely, Surguja. However, the roots of the word 'Surguja' are only a matter of conjecture. Its derivation from Soorajpur by some, is not very convincing as it differs from 'Sur' meaning 'god' or 'gods'.² According to some it is derived from two words, 'Sur' and 'Guja' meaning the land where the gods revelled; while others interpret it with the head of elephant which species was once found in the District.

History of Administrative Units

In 1905 the three constituent ex-Feudatory States of Surguja, Changbhakar and Korea of Chhota Nagpur Agency were transferred from Bengal Presidency to the Central Provinces in return of five Oriya speaking States, Bamra, Rairakhal, Patna, Sonpur and Kalahandi. The District was created by amalgamating the areas of the erstwhile Surguja, Changbhakar and Korea States on their merger in the Union of India. All the three States were divided into Tappa and Illaqua grants alongwith the Khalsa land.

1. Census of India, 1971, Madhya Pradesh at a Glance, p. 31/(Adopted from Survey of India, 1971). The area figures furnished by the State Survey Department in 1961 are 22,184.6 sq. km.
2. Surguja District Census Handbook, 1961, p. XXXVI.



Ram Sita Lakshman Temple, Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.

Surguja State

Before 1921, the State of Surguja was divided into five tahsils, namely, Ambikapur, Sitapur, Pal, Samri and Chandni. This was raised to six. In 1942 when the State was divided into two sub-divisions, Janakpur, Pal, Pratappur and Samri tahsils were included in Ramanujganj Sub-Division, and Sitapur and Sadar (Ambikapur) tahsils were included in Sadar Sub-Division. In about 1945, Pratappur Tahsil, except Rajpur thana was amalgamated with Janakpur tahsil the headquarters having been shifted to Ghui. Instead, a new tahsil at Surajpur was created which included Pilkha Tappa, and Rajpur thana was transferred to Sadar tahsil. Below the tahsil unit there were 26 tappas in the State in 1945. The Tappa units are traceable as far back as 1867-68.

Among the large estates Jhilmili and Ramanujnagar Illaques were included in Surajpur tahsil; Lakhanpur, Lundra, Sukhari Pachora and Dhorpur in Sadar tahsil; and Durgapur, Gerhadih and Jamdih in Samri tahsil.¹

Sub-Divisions, Tahsils, and Thanas

Since the creation of the District, there are seven tahsils. Of these Ambikapur tahsil lies in Ambikapur Sub-Division, Surajpur in Surajpur Sub-Division, Baikunthpur, Manendragarh and Changbhakher (Bharatpur) tahsils lie in Korea Sub-Division, and Pal and Samri in Pal Sub-Division. The headquarters of Pal, Samri and Bharatpur tahsils are located at Ramanujganj, Kusmi and Janakpur, respectively. Other tahsils bear the names of their respective headquarters. Similarly the headquarters of Pal and Korea Sub-Division are located at Ramanujganj and Baikunthpur, respectively.

There are 29 Police Station houses in the District. They are located at Ambikapur, Lakhanpur, Rajpur, Dhorpur, Surajpur, Premnagar, Jayanagar, Pratappur, Sitapur, Kamaleshwarpur, Ramanujganj, Ramchandrapur, Basantpur, Balrampur, Chandbi, Samri, Shankargarh, Baikunthpur, Patna, Sonhat, Chirimiri, Khargawan, Manendragarh, Kelhari, Janakpur, Katadol, Ramkola, Chalgali and Jhilmili.

Physiography

The District lies on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau above 400 metres from the mean sea level. The average elevation is about 600 metres. On this there are several disconnected table lands rising above 800 metres. South-eastern, eastern and northern table lands are known as pats. The northern pats though disconnected from each other, from a line of high lands between the central plain in the south and the narrow valleys of the Rihand and the Kanhar in the north. These pats also form a sort of high

1. Final Report on the Original Survey and Settlement Operations in the Surguja State (1937-46) by G. N. Singh, 1949, pp. 70, 14-15.

bridge, connecting the eastern pats and the high hills of the west. Apart from the wide plain and the valleys mentioned above, there are the narrow valleys of the Gopat and Banas along the northern and north-western boundaries, respectively. The valleys of the Hasdo, the Gej and the Mand are narrow strips of better soils along the southern boundary. Thus, the District may be divided into the following physigaphical divisions:—

1. The Pats (of the eastern semi-circle)

The Eastern Pats

The South-Eastern Pats

The Northern Pats and hills

2. The Western hills

3. The Central high plain

4. The Valleys

The Northern valleys

The North-Western valleys, and

The Southern valleys

The South-Eastern Pats

The Mainpat is a prominent table-land about 29 km. long and 12 km. broad. It forms a belt along the boundary of the District common with Raigarh in the south-east. The highest peak is 1,152 metre. Matringa hill is 990 m. high from the mean sea level. The hill-tops are capped with the residuals of trap formations and laterite rich in allumina contents. Another table land rising on the south-eastern part of the District is the Pandrapat, which mostly lies in Raigarh District. This is separated from the Mainpat by a narrow gap of the Mand valley. Jarangpat (1,145 metres) and Akhraghat hills are the north-western extensions of the Pandrapat.

The Eastern Pats

In the eastern parts the Kanhar Valley separates the Jamirapat (1,103 metres) from the Abgadi, Taraini and Ranra hills in the south and Lahsunpat (1,189 metres), Gaurkata (1,225 metres) and Dwari Ambaghat hills in the west. The highest peak on the Jamirapat is 1,159 metres. Samri is the tahsil village located on the plateau. Other hills in the Lahsunpat group, lying to the west of the Kanhar are the Rajapahar and Rajbandha.

The Northern Pats and Hills

From the Sendurnala in the east to the Rehar (Rehind) in the west there is the range of northern hills and small plateaux. It extends to a length of 75 km. and is about 30 km. wide. The Mahan and the Banki nala flow along the southern margins and the Moran along the northern foot hills, all flowing towards the west and joining the waters of the Rehar. The Gobra, Mandru, Chirven Pahar and Harai are the important peaks in the range, while an old fortress and the dilapidated temple of Bachraj Kunwar are located on the Juba hills. Among these hills is the small fertile valley of Barthi, drained by the Andhari and the Bisoroti streams. The valley is elongated from west to east and is drained into the Moran.

The Western Hills

The western part is the widest hilly zone in the District. From the Rehar to the western limits, across Bharatpur tahsil, the plateau expands and rises rapidly into a large number of high ridges separated by narrow and deep valleys of seasonal streams. The prominent features are the Bhuski (1,086.0 metres), Randaha and Tanjara hills to the north-east of Sonhat plateau, Rajpuri (1,030 metres), Badra (920 metres), Deogarh (1,029 metres), Jatar Suka (990 metres) and west peak of Deogarh range (953 metres) to the west of the plateau. Further west, like the Sonhat plateau, is the plateau of Bargaon at the centre of several ridges radiating in all directions. The hills of Dhobotal and Umarta stand to the south-west of Bargaon plateau in Bharatpur tahsil. Thus, the main ranges of the western part extend from east to west.

As compared to the central valley of the Rehar, the western hills mark two distinct platforms one above the other. The level of Patna and Baikuntipur from the higher reaches of the Central valley at about 500 metres above mean sea level. From Patna to the plateau of Sonhat the country forms a step about 600 metres high, beyond which the country rises to 750 metres. It subsides only in the northern and western parts of Bharatpur tahsil where the Banas and Muwahi have carved their valleys.

The Central High Plain

It is the widest open land of the District located in the southern and south-eastern parts of the District. Bordered by the Mainpat in the south-east, the Chirven and Harai hill range in the north, Tonglewa, Dula Pahar and Perta hills in the south-west it drains into the Rehar. Important towns like Ambikapur and Surajpur are located in this valley. The shape of the valley is triangular with its apex in the south.

Other Valleys

The narrow valley of the Moran lies parallel to and north of the northern hill range. The Banas and its tributaries, the Rampa and Muwahi from narrow valleys from south-west to north-east in Bharatpur tahsil. The Hasdo

and the Gej rivers flow along the Chirimiri and Koreagarh ranges. Their valleys occupy narrow strips in the south-western parts of the District.

Drainage

The District forms part of the Great Central Water Divide of India. In general, the slope of the District is towards the north. Most of the important rivers flow in this direction. However, the Hasdo, the Gej and the Mand flow towards the south. Their valleys occupy small areas in the south-western and south-eastern parts, respectively. The north ward flowing rivers join the Son and ultimately drain into the Ganga. The southward flowing rivers drain into the Mahanadi.

By and large the drainage is dendritic and seasonal. Some of the tributaries of the Rehar (Rehind) join it at right angles and suggest their subsequent origin on the exposure of the substatial sandstone topography. The streams of Mahan and Morne and their counter-parts on the left bank are examples. The stream immediately west of Ambikapur flows towards the south for some distance. This indicates that there has been a case of river capture in the Central valley after the denudation of trap covers. The Matringa hills now present an example of radial drainage. The course of the Rehar, below Jhilmili, cuts across the east-west span of hills, and has entrenched beds. One may easily compare the phenomenon with the Brahmaputra flowing across the Himalayan range. The stream channels are low in the plains but deep among the hills. The floods are sudden as the clouds burst but water scarcity in most parts of the District is a general problem after March. The principle streams of the District are the Kanhar, the Rehind, the Mahan, the Geur, the Gopad, the Neur, the Banas, the Hasdo, the Gej and the Mand.

The Banas

The Banas defines the western most limit of the District and the Bharatpur tahsil. It rises from the hills near Manjtoli (23°32'30"N; 82°0'50"E.) of Manendragarh tahsil. In the initial stages the river flows towards the north-west and forms the boundary between Surguja and Shahdol districts for about 50 km. Thereafter, it meanders northwards along the common boundary of Shahdol and Sidhi Districts for another about 50 km. Along the middle course of the river in Sidhi is a broken country of low hills from near the village Bara Duberi to Ghoghi. It joins the Son near village Dembha. The important tributaries of the Banas are the Rampa and the Muwahi (in Surguja) and Kormar and Mahan further north joining it on the right bank. The Gohiradi, the Odari and the Jhanppar join it on the left bank.

The Gopad

The Gopad rises from the northern slopes of Sonhat plateau (23°32'N., 82°31'E.). In Surguja it flows to the north and the west in stages. In Sidhi District the Gopad flows first to the west along the common boundary of Bharatpur tahsil with Sidhi District. The river then meanders to the north and north-west and finally to the north-east. The river is joined by the Goini and the Neur in Surguja, and the Sehra, the Kandas and the Mohan in Sidhi. The stream meets the Son near Bardi.

The Rehind or Rehar

The Rehind flows through the central plateau and cuts across the northern hill range. It drains the widest area of the District. Rising from hills (1,088 metres) of Matringa near the south-eastern boundary the Rehind maintains a general northerly course in Surguja and north-easterly course in Sidhi and Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), where it meets the Son. There the river has been dammed, the reservoir submerging a part of the plain both in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Mahan and the Moran are the important tributaries joining its right bank in Surguja District. The left bank feeders are the Kharpari, Gobri, Goknai, Piparkachar and Ramdia in the District. The Kachan and the Mear are affluents of some size draining the south-eastern plain of Sidhi.

The banks of the river are low and the drainage area consists of a wide open land up to Jhilmili (Bhaiyathan). It then enters a hilly country which opens again near the northern boundary. Near the village Balangi the Channel runs deep among the hills of Ramkola. Here it also meets the low fall of Rakaskund. Although the drainage is seasonal, like other streams of Surguja, the river contains some perennial pools. The Jhilmili Dah gave its name to the village and shelters fishes of some large size. The total length of the river in the District is about 160 kilometres.

The Kanhar

This is the second lengthy river flowing in the District. It originates from Gidha-Dhodhi on the Khudia Plateau. The place lies to the north of Sonkiari in Raigarh District. It flows to the north through the hills and open country in stretches. Coming down the Khuria Plateau, it enters the small plain of Deepadih and Ghugri in Samri tahsil. Then it has to cut across the hills and demarcate the narrow junction of Jamirapat hills to the east and the lahsunpat to the West. The river here meets a fall of 60 metres and again flows through the tableland. It then forms the north-eastern boundary of the District with Palamau, among the forests.

The river flows for about 100 kilometres in the District and enters Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh, where it meets the Son. It is fed by small streams—Suria, Chanan, Sendur and Kursa on its left bank and Galphulla, Semarkhar, Rigar and Cherra nalas on the right.

The Hasdo

The Hasdo is the largest river flowing towards the south. It rises from 23°30' North by 82°30' East on the Sonhat Plateau and drains the south-western part of the District. In this District the river course resembles an upturned 'S' and flows for about 95 km. After a course of about 72 km. it enters Bilaspur District at 23° North. It receives the waters of the Gej and the Chornai on the left bank and the Tan and the Ahiran on the right before it meets the Mahanadi. The total length of the river is 245 km. The valley is narrow. Important settlements along the river are Sonhat, Ghugra, Manendragarh, Kosgain, Korba and Champa.

The Gej And the Mand

The Gej rises from the hills west of the Central plateau. It flows, past Baikunthpur and receives the Jhink and the Atem from the left. It drains into the Mahanadi through the Hasdo. Rising from the north-eastern slopes of the Mainpat, the Mand flows in the south-eastern part of the District. Further it flows in Raigarh and Bilaspur Districts. It drains into the Mahanadi.

Ground Water

Ground-water plays an important role in industrial and agricultural development of a nation. With the vagaries of the monsoon in our country, droughts are pretty common but these can be overcome with proper utilisation of the ground water resources. Thus by proper planning of the utilisation of the ground-water we can mitigate the effects of the droughts.

The ground water potentials in the area, however, depend on the geological and geomorphological set up. So far as ground water is concerned, the rocks can be broadly grouped into three categories. There are:—

- (i) Hard rocks,
- (ii) Soft rocks, and
- (iii) Loose unconsolidated sediments.

The hard rocks include the igneous and the metamorphic rocks whereas the soft rocks include the sedimentary rocks, viz., sandstones, shale, conglomerate, etc. The loose unconsolidated sediments comprise

gravel, sand, silt and clay. All these three categories exhibit distinct geohydrological properties controlling the occurrence, distribution and movement of groundwater.

Since the hard rocks, i.e., the metamorphic and igneous, rocks are not porous, groundwater mainly occurs in them along the joints, fissures, foliation planes, etc. The more closely the joints are, the better is the yield of groundwater but one cannot wholly depend on these rocks for good yields unless the joints are only closely spaced and wide open also. In the igneous rocks particularly in the case of traps, if the vesicular units occur below the water table, a good yield of groundwater is expected.

The soft rocks, viz., the sandstones, shales, etc., are highly porous and can retain good amount of water but here the yield of groundwater does not depend only on the porosity, i.e., the number of pores in a unit volume but on the property known as permeability which determines the yield, i.e., shale is highly porous but not permeable and the sandstone is not as highly porous as a shale but is highly permeable. However, if the sandstone has siliceous matrix it behaves like hard rock only. Thus, in general, sandstones from good aquifers, i.e., zones which have good yield of ground-water. Limestone which has a moderate primary porosity can develop underground cavities known as 'Karst' which give good yield.

In the soft unconsolidated sediments which from the river basins, the sand form a good aquifer but not the clay or the silt.

The rock types of Surguja District include all the categories mentioned above. In the hard rocks which include the Archaeans (metamorphic rock mainly) and the Deccan trap (igneous rocks), groundwater mainly occurs under table conditions in the weathered zones, joints planes, foliation planes, etc. The wells which range in depths from 7 to 14 metres below land surface get dry in summer. However, wells which are located in the valley and in close proximity to the drainage channels give comparatively better yields. The wells located in the area comprising these rocks can support mainly the domestic needs.

The soft rocks in Surguja District are represented by the Gondwanas comprising alternating sandstone and shale sequence with coal seams. Groundwater occurs both under water table and confined conditions. The Barakar sandstone is very porous, coarse and forms a good aquifer whereas the Talchir sandstone which is very fine grained and compact yield comparatively less groundwater. Large diameter dugwells in the Barakar sandstone yield up to 50,000 litres per day while the tubewells sunk up to a depth of 300 metres are known to yield about 36,000 litres per hour. Thus the area with thick Barakar sandstone appears to hold good prospects for groundwater development. The soft unconsolidated sediments which comprise gravel, sand, silt and clay are noticed in proximaty to the drainage channels

and their thickness ranges from 20 to 30 metres. Groundwater in these sediments have limited thickness and extent, and is also limited in scope for the development of groundwater.

Hot Springs

There are a large number of hot springs in the District of which the important ones are Tatapani and Lanjit.

(i) Tatapani (23°42' : 83°39')

North-west of Tatapani, by the side of Tatapani stream a series of hot springs are seen along a fault. The water though not copious, forms a steady stream. A strong odour of sulphurated hydrogen is emitted. A white encrustation is left by the water on the adjacent rocks.

(ii) Lanjit (23°31' : 82°57')

Another spring, east of the Lanjit village in a paddy field gives a steady flow. The water is lukewarm and has no smell of sulphur.

Geology

The geological sequence of the various formations in the area is as follows :—

Table No. 1—1
Sequence of Geological Formations

Sub-recent and Recent.		Laterite, yellow sandy and brown sandy soil.
Eocene to Upper Cretaceous	Deccan Traps	Basalt
Cretaceous-Infra-trappeans	Lametas	Poorly compacted sandstone, ferruginous shales, cherty sandstone and chert.
	—Unconformity—	
Upper Triassic-Upper Gondwanas	Mahadevas(?)	Ferruginous, gritty & quartzitic sandstone with dolerite intrusives.
Permian to Upper Carboniferous-Damuda	Kamthis (Raniganj)	Sandstone, felspathic, associated with ferruginous and argillaceous sandstone.
	Supra-Barakars	Felspathic, gritty sandstone interbedded with shale and coal.
	Barakars	Pebbly grits, felspathic sandstones with shale and coal (Barakars).

	Karharbaris	Conglomerate, grits, pebbly grits, felspathic sandstones with shales and coal (Karharbaris)
Upper Carboniferous-Talchirs		Boulder bed (fillites) pebbly grits, sandstones and shales.
	—Unconformity—	
	(Pre-Cambrian Cuddapahs?)	Quartzitic sandstones.
Igneous rocks	1. Apatite and quartz veins. 2. Pegmatites and dolerite intrusives. 3. Porphyritic and felsitic rocks. 4. Granite and granodiorite.	
Metamorphics	5. Porphyritic granite 6. Porphyritic gneiss. 7. Amphibolite Quartzite. 8. Argillaceous tuffs. 9. Conglomerate	Siliceous dolomitic limestone Phyllites Rhyolitic tuffs Hornblende granulites Sericite quartz schist. Biotite Chlorite Schist. Quartz mica schist. Amphibolites and epidosite. Schistose quartzites, quartzites, biotite muscovite. Chlorite schist, biotite muscovite schist, calciphyres, calc-gneiss, dolomitic marbles and hornblende granulites. Phyllite, Rhyolitic tuffs.
Older Metamorphics (Sausars ?)		

Older Metamorphics

The Archaean meta-sediments are mostly of argillaceous and calcareous facies with minor gradations to arenaceous ones. These meta-sediments resemble the upper calcareous and argillaceous formations of the Sausars of Balaghat and Bhandara Districts in the west.

Rhyolitic tuffs

These are grey coloured, medium to fine grained and hard, and consist of grains of quartz and orthoclase with minor disseminations of purite, megnetite, rutile, sanidine, sericite and glass. The occurrences are reported in the south of Pasena ($23^{\circ}07' : 83^{\circ}30'$), south of Semardih ($23^{\circ}09' : 83^{\circ}23'$) and west of Patora ($23^{\circ}09' : 83^{\circ}26'$).

Phyllites

The phyllites are grey, greenish grey or black in colour and are fine grained. At places these are purple and ash coloured also. The important occurrences are between Kudar ($23^{\circ}03' : 83^{\circ}27'$) and Patora ($23^{\circ}09' : 82^{\circ}07'$ to $83^{\circ}24'$) and Bansha ($23^{\circ}07' : 83^{\circ}27'$).

Calciphyres, Calcgneiss, Dolomitic Marbles and Hornblende granulite

Calciphyres are glaggy and interbedded at places with thin bands rich in quartz or dolomite. These occur in liner bands near Koranha ($23^{\circ}06' : 83^{\circ}28'$), Dandgaon ($23^{\circ}37' : 83^{\circ}23'$) and Karauli ($23^{\circ}10' : 83^{\circ}26'$). The calciphyres contain quartz, dolomite and calcite with minor quantities of actionlite, epidote, clinozsite, zoisite, tremolite and iron oxide. There is imperfect foliation in the calciphyres about 800m. south of Jadakela ($23^{\circ}04' : 83^{\circ}28'$), Amarpahar ($23^{\circ}29' : 83^{\circ}09'$) and near Paharmorins ($23^{\circ}27' : 83^{\circ}02'$). These also occur as patches within granite gneiss at Lamgaon ($23^{\circ}03' : 83^{\circ}21'$) and Kudar ($23^{\circ}03' : 83^{\circ}21'$). The calciphyres grade into calcgneiss in the out-crops near Sakholi, Gujarnear.

The dolomitic marbles occur as lenticular bands in the calcgneisses. These are white to light grey and medium grained containing dolomite and calcite with minor amounts of actionlite and epidote.

Quartz-sericite-muscovite schist occurs near Serma Kalan ($23^{\circ}27' : 83^{\circ}06'$). It is purplish grey, fine grained and contains granular quartz and sericite with minor amounts of orthoclase, oligoclase and tourmaline. Some outcrops of the quartz schist form hill masses, e.g., the Taiya Pahar (2384), Khorl, Anti Pahar, etc.

Schistose Rocks

The schistose rocks are represented by silvery white mica schist, staturo-lite-mica schist, muscovitechlorite and biotite-muscovite schist and garnet

bearing mica schists. The schistose rocks occupy a large tract south and west of the Karhar river in the south-western portion of the topo sheet 64M/9.

Garnet bearing mica—schists occur in the Taiya Pahar¹ at 23°51':83°31'.

Staurolite-mica schists are seen near Dhumarkhola² at 23°48':83°31', along the cart road to Giddhi (23°47':83°34') south-west of Ramanujganj (Bokla-23°48':83°35') and half a kilometre south of Chinai (23°51':83°36').

Mica-schists interbedded with quartzites occur in the Khaurbor nala about two kilometres north-east of Kurgi (23°53':83°30').

Biotite-muscovite-chlorite schist occurs over an area of 7 sq. km. around Rampur. The schist also contains a few small lenses of schistose quartzite and calcigneiss and amphibolite. Small outcrops of biotite gneiss, pegmatites and quartz veins also occur in the schist.

Biotite-muscovite schist occurs as lenticular masses in Raisara-Partappur area. The schists contain essentially muscovite, biotite, with minor amounts of sericite and garnet. Other outcrops are near Khunsi (23°33':83°07') near Jajawal (23°29':83°18'), Samai (23°31':83°11'), Dehri (23°32':83°07') and Semra (23°29':83°18').

Schistose Quartzites

Schistose quartzites occur as lenticular masses, and are generally massive, white, fine to medium grained, hard and contain essentially granular quartz with minor amounts of sericite. The bands exposed on Raikoh Pahar are traceable over strike length of three kilometres. The other outcrops are Matigada (23°27':83°03') and Kakkarpara (23°29':83°06').

Quartzites

Quartzites, being harder and compact, form prominent hills in the gneissic country, e.g., Bhaltongri³ (23°57':83°31'), Harhi Pahar⁴ (23°49':83°32'), north of Chumra (23°49':83°32'), and north of Rampur (23°49':83°37'). A quartzite band extends from Mitgain (23°46':83°38') to one and a half kilometres to east of Argahi (23°46':83°41'). Another quartzite band trending east-west extends from about a kilometre east of Nawadih (23°36':83°40'). Small patches of quartzites are seen near Maharajganj (23°36':83°43'), Garhadi (23°36':83°45'), Amdanda (23°36':83°42') and south of Charan Nadi.

1. Point 2384 feet or 727 metres.
2. Point 1799 feet or 548 metres.
3. Point 1600 feet or 488 metres.
4. Point 1760 feet or 536 metres.

Amphibolites

Amphibolites occur as sills and dykes within the metasediments. These also occur as relics in the gneisses, granite and pegmatites. Their thickness varies from a fraction of a metre to a maximum of 15 cm. and a few are traceable even over a length of 20km. These are dark greenish grey, fine to medium grained and hard. The rock contains tabular prisms of andesine, labradorite and hornblende in zeno-ophitic texture. Biotite, apatite, quartz, pyrite, xaphene and iron oxide are the accessories. These intrusives occur around Karauli, Korandha, Chorkidih (23°04':83°22'), Belhota (23°00':83°24'), Chogra (23°00':83°28') and Purkela (23°03':83°18').

Epidosite

Epidosites occur within and close to the granite gneisses as lenticular patches. The rocks are grey coloured, medium to coarse grained and hard. These contain epidote, clonozoisite, hornblende and andesine with minor quantities of magnetite, pyrite, quartz and apatite.

Metamorphics

Quartz-mica Schist

The quartz-mica schist occurring around Gopalpur contains mostly muscovite, biotite and granular quartz. A thin band of mica schist is also found at Sumardih (23°09':83°22').

Biotite Chlorite Schist and Sericite Quartz Schist.

These occur as intercalate with lenticulars of quartzite in the low hills between Chainpur and Amgari.

The area between kadinga and Atan river in the east is occupied mostly by quartzite interbedded occasionally with schistose rocks. The sericite quartz schist is exposed in the mound north of Amgari and in the hill point 2125 feet (648 metres).

Hornblende granulites

The rock is grey coloured and medium grained. This is the prevalent rock type between Parsha (23°12':83°16') and Chalgali (23°06':83°22').

Rhyolitic tuffs

These are ash grey in colour and vary from coarse fragmental accumulations to fine-grained material which are vesicular in nature. These are exposed in the hill between Bhopal (23°13':83°16'), and Kargidih (23°08':83°22').

Phyllites

These are bluish grey, purple, brown and yellow in colour. Phyllites are predominant between Barion (23°14':83°19'), and Asandih (23°22':83°28'), and around Chanchi (23°17':83°20'), Sinchora (23°22':83°22'), Dhanwarpur (23°18':83°21'), on Murdu Pahar¹ and at Bhaholi (23°14':83°26'). These are calcareous, carbonaceous and ferruginous at places. Rutile is the chief accessory. Pyrite is also met with.

Impure dolomitic limestone

A band of impure dolomitic limestone interbedded with arenaceous and argillaceous layers attains width of 2.5 km. north of Barion (23°14':83°19').

Conglomerates

The conglomerate is greenish grey, poorly sorted with particles ranging up to 25 cm. diameter. It consists of pebbles and boulders of quartzite, jasper, phyllite, porphyritic granite and acid lavas embedded in siliceous matrix. It is exposed between Deori (23°17':83°15') and Kothna (23°15':83°22'), south of Chhota Dhariba (23°13':82°15') and north of Bildama (23°14':83°28'). It is lenticular over its strike length with a maximum thickness of 900 m.

Argillaceous tuffs

Argillaceous tuffs occur adjoining the conglomerate bed. The tuffs are yellowish green and fine grained in nature.

Quartzite

The rock is flaggy and fine grained with bands of greenish grey and dark grey cherty quartz. It is exposed at Dakwa (23°17':83°18').

Amphibolite

Amphibolite occurs as sills and dykes in meta sediments. It is dark grey coloured and fine to coarse grained in nature. The rock contains andesine, labradorite, and hornblende; sphene, quartz and pyrite occur as accessories. It is exposed one kilometre north of Dabgarbi (23°23':83°19'), at Sakholi (23°12':83°23'), Korima and Sinchore. Foliated amphibolites occur 3 km. north-north east of Dhorpur. A similar outcrop occurs two kilometres north-north east of Asandih.

Porphyritic gneiss

Porphyritic gneiss occurs between latitudes 23°23':23°26' and longitudes 83°15' and 83°23'. It is well foliated and coarse grained in nature. It consists of quartz, orthoclase and microcline within crushed material of the same composition. Similar rock also occurs at Jhor (23°36':83°13'), Kharoli (23°28':83°02') and Mani (23°32':83°13').

1. Point 2614 feet or 797 metres.

Igneous rocks**Porphyritic granite**

The rocks are pinkish grey in colour and medium to coarse grained, and occur near Barkole (23°11':83°20'), Pasena and Kachar (23°11':83°29'), at Nawapara (23°02':83°16'), between Amardara (23°02':83°15') and Sailadih (23°01':83°29'), north of village Kotni, between Salka and Salathi, and near Chanrelli (23°27':83°08') and Semra Kalan (23°27':83°06').

Granite

It is in general non-foliated, medium coarse grained and pink, white and black in colour. These are found north of latitude 22°55' of the topo sheet 64J/13, at Silsila (23°02':83°23'), Belkota and Kot (23°01':83°21') and also along the northern boundary of the coal field.

Granodiorite

It occurs as plutons within the metasediments. The rock is pinkish or grey, medium grained and hard. It occurs one kilometre south-west of Ara (23°11':83°21'), around Kochar (23°11':93°29'), Chorkidih and Dhorpur.

Porphyritic and Felsic rocks

These occur as intrusives in the area. A dyke of rhyolite porphyry is exposed 8 km. south-east of Bhelai (23°14':83°22'). A similar dyke is exposed south of Chargarh (23°18':83°21'). The dykes of granite porphyry are exposed in the nala section 0.3 km, north-west of Pipria, at the northern end of Sinhara (23°27':83°10') and around Kudartola (23°25').

Felsites occur as intrusives in the granite gneisses south of Chendra (23°05':83°17'), east-south-east of Pakni and 1 km. south of Jajneal (23°23':83°02').

Aplite

It occurs as veins in the gneisses and granite. It is pink, fine grained and has equigranular texture. Veins of aplite in the granite occur in the Turrapani nala section about 1.2 km. north north-west of Dandgaon. These generally measure less than 100 m. in length and 5 m. in width.

Quartz Veins

Numerous Veins of quartz occur in the Archaean rocks. These are generally less than 100 m. by 20 metres. But the vein that occurs a kilometre north-west of Bhelai is 800 m. long and 100 m. wide.

Pegmatites

These occur as veins in igneous and metamorphic rocks. These are in general less than 8 m. in thickness and 75 m. in length. Major pegmatites are found in biotite muscovite chlorite schist in Rampur and Bheria areas.

Pre Cambrians**Quartzitic sandstone**

Quartzitic sandstone overlying the Archaean quartzite and granite occurs in Chidra dongri¹ and Bewar Gutri². The sandstone is yellow, medium grained and dull in appearance.

Lower gondwanas**Talchirs**

The Talchirs lies unconformably over the metamorphics and granite. The Talchirs comprise boulder, bed, sandstone and shales.

The boulder bed consists of unassorted pebbles to boulder size of quartzite, quartz, phyllite, gneiss and porphyritic granite in a silty matrix. The outcrops of boulder bed occur south-west of Chaimpur (23°29' : 83°05') west of Kotal, north of village Pathri, in a nala cutting 1.6 km. west of Katmunda and Mahu river, north of Sinchora.

The Talchir sandstone and shales succeeded the boulder bed and are found to be resting over the Archaean rocks also. The Talchir sandstone is generally fine grained rock of yellow and pale olive colour. Shales are yellow or olive green in colour and laminated in nature. The good outcrops of Talchirs are found in the Bansar coalfield, between Chendra and Bulga (23°06' : 83°21'), 2.5 km. west of Banha (23°07' by 83°25' to 83°17') in the Bistrampur coalfield, between Makampur (23°25' : 83°18') and Bhapoli (23°13' : 83°17') in the Ramkola coalfield. Between Jajawal (23°32' : 83°02') and Kenapara (23°37' : 83°15'), between Palma (23°26' : 83°00') and Chitka bahra (23°26' : 83°12'), near Kaharsota (23°29' : 83°04') and Bhurpani (23°28' : 83°16'), west of Kotal, north of village Pathri, 1.6 km. west of Katmunda, near Sattipara (23°27' : 83°04'), 3 km. south of Singara (23°27' : 83°10'), 2 km east of Harhi Pahar, south of Gambaria and Pandri, and east of Bhorini (23°42' : 83°39') also Talchirs are found.

1. Point 1790 feet or 546 metres.
2. Point 2061 feet or 628 metres.

Karharbaris

These lie on the Talchirs conformably and comprise conglomerate, grit, felspathic and gritty sandstones and shales, and thin seams of coal. The shale sandstones and shale intercalations contain plant fossils. Their outcrops can be seen in the Ramkola coalfield, eastern margin of the Bistrampur coalfield, in a stream section 1.6 km. north-east of Bharda and in Garuamunda nala, 1.6 km. north-west of Ganeshpur (24°25' : 83°12').

Coal bearing Barakars

These are bedded and also massive, highly felspathic gritty sandstone interbedded with shales and coals. These rocks are also found at some places to overlap and rest directly over the Archaeans. These rocks cover a wide area between latitudes 23° and 26° and longitudes 83°00' and 83°15' and majority of the sediments of Bistrampur coalfield south-west of Bugla near Chendra. The outcrops of the Barakars are seen in a section 1.6 km. west of Garputa, in Atem river section north of Basna, in the Ramgarh hill¹, in Mahesh Pahar², in Tipari Pahar³, coal bearing Barakars are observed in the villages of the Benki nadi and Sendur nadi in the south-western and northern portions of the sheets 64 M/9 and 64 M/10, respectively. Outliers of the Barakar sandstones are seen north of Panch Bhaini group of hills extending as far as Jhopka on the north-west in the Lakhandih Pahar⁴, Bhandardih Pahar and the mound 0.8 km. east of Bhandargaon.

Supra Barakars

A few outliers of hard bedded sandstones are seen to overlies the Barakars. These consist of hard gritty arkosic sandstone and contain a few pebbles of quartzite and angular quartz. These are seen in the Ramgarh hill⁵, Panch Bhaini group of hills north of village Narainpur, in the Bhandardih Pahar above the altitude, 775 m. and in the mound (MP 1068) about 1.2 km. of Gunga.

Kamthis

The felspathic sandstone associated with the ferruginous and argillaceous sandstones is of considerable thickness in Karanja Pahar⁶ and the tract south of it have been mapped as Kamthis. Because of the similarity in lithology, it is very difficult to separate the Kamthis from the Supra-Barakars or Barakars.

Upper Gondwana Rocks**Mahadevas**

These are represented by highly ferruginous red, brown, and yellowish white, hard or soft medium grained bedded sandstones. These

1. Point 3293 feet or 1004 metres.
2. Point 3077 feet or 938 metres.
3. Point 2593 feet or 790 metres.
4. Point 2699 feet or 822 metres.
5. Point 3202 feet or 975 metres.
6. Point 2692 feet or 820 metres.

may also be gritty, conglomeratic and quartzitic. These sandstones form prominent hill ranges, viz., the Bijlimana Pahar¹, Barpahar², west of Pipraul (23°43': 83°36') and Jobe Pahar³.

Infratrapeans

Lametas

These sedimentary formations comprising medium grained sandstone, ferruginous shale, and cherty sandstone occurring below the traps have been grouped as Lemetas. These occur at an altitude of 835 m. above mean sea level in Mahesh Pahar⁴ and Anhill⁵. The rock formation above the altitude of 925 m. in the Ramgarh Pahar and two kilometres east of Kudar⁶ is similar to cherty sandstone of Mahesh Pahar.

Deccan Traps

Deccan Traps occur as lava flows overlying the granite gneissess on the hill⁶ and also cap the Ramgarh Pahar hill⁷. The trap is melanocratic, dense and medium grained.

Recent and sub-recent

Laterite

Laterite occurs as thin mantle and in conspicuous patches at many places over the Barakars, Kamit sandstone and Traps. It is mostly ferruginous and at places aluminous. Laterite also occurs as irregular patches over the Archaeans around Askala (23° 40' : 83° 23') and Bargidih. It is less than 30 m. in thickness.

Alluvium

Recent formations include alluvial gravels and fine silty deposits of sand with a few partings of clay, and here and there with layers of pebbles derived from the neighbouring rocks. At places the alluvium is 25 to 30 metres thick. The thickness is well marked in nala sections.

Economic Minerals

1. Coal

The District is very rich in coal. The main coalfields are as follows :—

1. Sonhat Coalfield
2. Jhagrakhand Coalfield
3. Chirimiri Coalfield
4. Koreagarh Coalfield
5. Tatapani-Ramkola Coalfield
6. Jhilmili Coalfield
7. Bistrampur Coalfield

1. 1913 feet (583 metres).
2. 1802 feet (549 metres).
3. 2269 feet (692 metres).
4. 8077 feet (938 metres).
5. 3705 feet (1129 metres).
6. 3705 feet (1129 metres).
7. 3262 feet (975 metres).

8. Bansar Coalfield
9. Lakhanpur Coalfield
10. Rampur Coalfield
11. Panchbhaini Coalfield

The important coalfields are Chirimiri and Jhilmili. In general the coal in Madhya Pradesh coalfields is non-caking with medium to high volatiles and moisture, but some of the coal seams in Jhilmili coalfields also contain semi-coking type coal. The ash percentage of these seams varies from below 10 percent. to as high as 33.4 per cent.

Sonhat Coalfield

This coalfield is the eastern extension of the Sohagpur coalfields. It extends over an area of 854 sq. km. It contains a few seams of coal which is in general non-coking and the grade ranges from selected to inferior grade. The estimated reserves of semi-coking coal in this coalfield are of the order of 46.57 million tonnes of which 36.17 million tonnes are of proved category. Reserves of non-coking coal have been estimated to be 281.53 million tonnes including 118.66 million tonnes of proved category.

Jhagrakhand Coalfield

The south-eastern part of Sohagpur coalfield has been named as Jhagrakhand coalfield extending over an area of 77 sq. km. in Surguja District. The coal is non-coking. Reserves of 26.56 million tonnes have been estimated in this coalfield.

Rampur Coalfield

A small part of this coalfield is situated in the Bilaspur district. The coal measures of this field are almost free from igneous intrusions and faults of serious nature. Though there are a number of thick seams, many of them are of low grade. Reserves of about 112.16 million tonnes have been estimated from this field.

Panchbhaini Coalfield

This coal field covers an area of 11.6 sq. km. Two coalseams each about 0.9 m. thick, have been reported.

2 Bauxite

A large number of bauxite deposits occur in the extensive laterite cappings on the plateaus and ridges in the northern part of the District. The important localities are Samri (23°24': 83°56') in Jamirapat area and

Sapnadand (22°52'83"21') in Mainpat area. The reserves of bauxite in Jamirapat area are of the order of 1.03 million tonnes, the alumina content varying between 55 and 60 per cent. In Mainpat area reserves of bauxite with 45 to 54 per cent. Alumina oxide (Al_2O_3) have been estimated to be of the order of 8.80 million tonnes. Satpathri Pahar and Parta Pahar are other areas of important deposits. More than six occurrences of aluminous laterite and bauxite are recorded at Mainpat but the most promising amongst that is the one, west of Sapnadand. The alumina content of the bauxite of the area is about 52 per cent. but it is rather high in titania which is above 8 per cent. On megascopic examination the bauxite appears to be high grade.

Several deposits of bauxite are present in Satpathrikhar Pahar Geological Survey of India has described 4 deposits the alumina content of which varies from 54.06 per cent to 58.52 per cent. The titania content of these is higher than 9 per cent. The total quantity of bauxite available in Satpathrikhar Pahar has been roughly estimated to be 6,000 tonnes.

Petra Pahar is the western and north-western extensions of the Satpathrikhar Pahar. About 75 tonnes of bauxite with 55.45 per cent. alumina and 10.53 per cent. titania has been estimated to be present here.

Thus, it can be said that the bauxite of the District though high in alumina are also high in titania. Bauxite with 55 per cent. alumina, 28 per cent. combined water, 8 per cent. titania and 6 per cent. ferric oxide and less than 3 per cent. silica is classified as Metallurgical grade. Some bauxite of Surguja District, is thus, of Metallurgical grade. The quantity of bauxite available can easily feed an aluminium factory.

Detailed investigation of bauxite deposits is being carried out by the Department of Geology and Mining of Madhya Pradesh at Mainpat. A reserve of 5 M. tonnes has already been proved.

3. Iron Ore

No promising reserves of iron ore are found in the District. The village swelters at many places, however, smelt the ferruginous laterite from the weathering of Deccan Trap flows. Iron rich bands of Barakar sandstone and magnetite rich pockets of crystalline rocks were also mined previously.

(a) Iron Ore of Kachour village and Pahar Harswahi in Manendragarh Block

About one and a half kilometres east of Kachour village there is a 15 cm. band of iron-stone shale in the Barakar sandstone. The band is in discontinuous form, and dark brown to yellowish. The villagers of the surrounding villages mine this band and extract iron from it. They

extract about 25 per cent. metal with their crude method. The ore does not seem to contain more than 35 per cent. iron and the quantity is inadequate for any large scale exploitation.

A similar deposit is present one and a half kilometres north-north-west of Pahad Harswahi on the eastern slopes of a small hillock. Here the ore is not in the form of band but it is present as small pieces, which probably, have rolled down from some higher place in the hill.

(b) Iron Ore of Kunkuri village in Sitapur Block

Over one kilometre at angle 65° west of Kunkuri village there is a small hillock in which ore containing quartz, biotite and magnetite schist of Archaean are is exposed. In this rock there are few bands rich in magnetite. The people of the surrounding village collect the magnetite rich pieces, crush them and enrich magnetite by water settling. Iron is recovered by smelting the magnetite sand. Recovery in this cast has been reported to be 50 per cent. and even more. The magnetite quartz schist is present in a very wide area but as our country has got richly concentrated vast deposits of iron ore at other places these iron ore deposits do not hold any promising future.

4. Lime stone

Dark grey to black limestone is present in crystalline gneisses near Devipur and also about a kilometre north of Khukhri which appear to be a cement grade. The total of reserves of limestone in the Devipur area are estimated to be 6.97 million tonnes.

(a) Lime stone of Devipur in Surajpur Block

Dark grey to black limestone is present in crystalline gneisses just south and north-west of Devipur, which is about 5 kilometres south of Surajpur. The limestone band is about one kilometre wide and about 2 kilometres long. It is fairly good in quality and on magascopic study it appears to be a cement grade. The limestone is exposed in the form of hillocks 4 to 5 metres high. The strike of the band is east-west. Assuming a minimum thickness of the limestone band to be 30 metres and taking a tonnage factor of 5 metres after making deductions for bands and mining losses, etc., the possible reserves of limestone in the Devipur area are estimated to be 6.67 million tonnes. An increase in reserves can be traced by further prospecting by drilling. Surajpur Railway Station is about 13 metres from the deposit. The Rehar river is less than 6.5 metres from the deposit and can easily meet the water requirements of a cement plan.

(b) Limestone of Khulkhri and Bansha of Ambikapur Block

Limestone deposits similar to that of Devipur deposit are exposed in a nala bed about one and a half kilometres north of Khulkhri and just south of the Ambikapur-Raigarh Road at about 8 km. from Ambikapur. Similar deposit is also present in the form of small hillocks east of Bansha village.

(c) Calc-tufa

Calc-tufa more than a metre in thickness is exposed near Kaua-Hoo about 6 km. from Biharpur ($88^{\circ}17' : 23^{\circ}24'$) in Manendragarh block. The calc-tufa yields pure white lime on burning. There is another exposure of calc-tufa north-west of Kadar village on the slopes of Sindri-Jharia Pahar. Its thickness is about 3.5 metres. Similar exposure is also present on Gitty Jharia. The quantity of tufa is estimated to be enormous as it is reported to be extending to several kilometres forming a rim along the hill slopes. Similar exposure is reported to be present near Bhowkhola which is about 2.5 km. from Sindri-Jharia deposit.

(d) Calc-Tufa of Kudar

North-west of Kudar village, about 3 km. on the mid-slopes of Sindri-Jharia Pahar, there is an exposure of calc-tufa. Its thickness is 3 to 4 metres. Similar exposure is also present on Gitty Jharia which is facing Sindri-Jharia. The quality is almost pure to slight admixture of siliceous material up to 5 per cent. The quantity of tufa is estimated to be extending to several kilometres forming a rim along the hill slopes.

Similar exposure is reported to be present near Bhowkhola which is about 6.5 km. from Sindri-Jharia deposit.

The band of calc-tufa is present within the Barakar sandstone. The only drawback of the deposit is, that it is present in a rather inaccessible area and is away from the railway line.

Calc-tufa has also been reported to be present by K. N. Dutta, of the Geological Survey of India, in the southern plateau of Manendragarh and Baikunthpur blocks. Here it is mostly found on the side of a stream. At Chunaiya the tufa is present for 30 metres on either side of a stream forming a gorge for about 20 metres. An overburden of 1.5 metres is present about 12 km. west of Majholi near Khargoan ($22^{\circ}25' : 23^{\circ}3'$). Dutta estimated the amount of tufa available near Chunaiya to be considerable.

The calc-tufa of these areas can be used for chemical purposes. On burning the tufa yields pure white lime.

5. Lead-Zinc ore

In Surguja District lead-zinc mineralisation has been recorded at the following localities :

Belangi ($23^{\circ}51':82^{\circ}50'$), Bhelai ($23^{\circ}14':83^{\circ}22'$), Kudartola ($23^{\circ}14':83^{\circ}29'$), Bhelamunda ($23^{\circ}52':83^{\circ}29'$), Dharpur ($23^{\circ}12':83^{\circ}29'$), Guthunna ($22^{\circ}41':83^{\circ}30'$), Charahari ($23^{\circ}55':82^{\circ}52'$) and Churikhurd ($23^{\circ}54':82^{\circ}54'$).

6. Kaolinized Sandstone

Exposures of weathered kaolinized sandstone of Barakar stage are present at many places in the District. Good exposures of kaolinized sandstone are reported from the village Moranga in Surguja block,

Kalyanpur which is about 0.75 km. from Ambikapur, Lakhanpur and Raghunathpur area of Ambikapur block. The yield of kaolin has been found to be 14 per cent. Kaolin recovered from some exposures in pure white whereas at other places it is slightly yellowish to cream coloured. The clay is considered to be excellent for the manufacture of potteries and white-washing the house walls.

(a) Kaolinized sandstone of Moranga village (Madaneshwarpur) in Surajpur Block

South-east of the Moranga village there is a good exposure of kaolinized sandstone. It is in a quarry of about one square fourlong area (0.4 sq.km.). The thickness of the kaolinized zone is 1 to 2 metres. The deposit is expected to be extensive. The yield of kaoline is reported to be 15 per cent. Similar exposures are also present near Barkar and Karji in Surajpur Block.

(b) Kaolinized sandstone of Kalyanpur in Surajpur Tahsil

Kaolinized sandstone is also present at Kalyanpur which is about 13 kilometres from Ambikapur on Pratappur Road. In a well pure white kaolinized sandstone is encountered at 60 metres depth. At least 13 metres thick bank of kaolinized sandstone is exposed up to the bottom of the well and it is expected to extend further below. The 60 metre overburden is of red murram. It is of pure quality. The deposit appears to be extensive.

Similar deposits are also reported to be present in Lakhanpur and Raghunathpur area of Ambikapur block.

7. Fire Clay

Deposits of fire clay in Bistrampur coalfield are located around Karsu ($23^{\circ}16':83^{\circ}02'$), Chittabahara ($23^{\circ}26':83^{\circ}13'$), etc. Smaller deposits of fire clay occur near Bampara ($23^{\circ}13':83^{\circ}56'$), Nawapara ($22^{\circ}23':83^{\circ}08'$), and Faima ($23^{\circ}16':83^{\circ}01'$). The State Department of Geology and Mining reports the thickness of Raima-Palhakupur exposure to be about 1.3 metres.

8. Mica

East of Kalikapur ($23^{\circ}54':82^{\circ}31'$), at Harihapur ($29^{\circ}56':83^{\circ}32'$), at Pahar Karawan ($23^{\circ}54':82^{\circ}50'$), Kantia ($23^{\circ}33':82^{\circ}45'$), Pendari ($23^{\circ}50':82^{\circ}46'$), Kantria ($23^{\circ}18':83^{\circ}54'$), Nawadih ($23^{\circ}32':83^{\circ}53'$) and Gadoin ($23^{\circ}19':83^{\circ}55'$) mica is associated with quartz and feldspar and the country rock in mica schist. The mica bearing pegmatite in some of the deposits vary in thickness from 1.5 to 10.5 m. The mica is generally of ruby variety but at places greenish mica is also obtained. The State Department of Geology and Mining reports occurrences near Badhari, Parwa Pahar, Rampur, Pratappur and Kusmi.

9. Beryl

Good quantity of beryl is found in the Rampur mica mine near Pratappur town. Beryl is found intergrown with quartz. The colour of the beryl is light greenish to pale cream. Detailed work is essential to study the beryl occurrence of the area.

10. Red and Yellow Ochres

There are good deposits of ochre which are exposed near Padiya and Raiwa. A band of red ochre about one metre thick is present 35° east of Kamleshwarpur on Mainpat Plateau. Similarly red ochre is also reported to be present near west 52° west of Serbhanja village.

North 30° by west of Padipa and south of Raima there are exposures of a boulder bed. The boulders are of red ochre which probably has resulted due to the weathering of ferruginous laterites. The boulders are 30 to 60 cm. in size.

A four feet (1.3 m.) thick band of red ochre over one metre in thickness is present 35° east of Kamleshwarpur on Mainpat plateau. The exposure is on the banks and in the bed of Garai-Jharia Nala. Towards the bottom the quantity of the ochre is seen improving and 1 to 2 metres thick overburden of clayey murum is present on top of the red ochre band. The red ochre has been formed on the site by the weathering of ferruginous laterite.

Similarly, red ochre is also reported to be present near Serbhanja village 20° south by west. Top of the band is impure but the quality is seen improving towards the bottom. The band is exposed for 1.2 to 1.5 metres but the exact thickness of the band could not be judged, as the bottom is submerged under water. In all about half of three metres overburden is of alluvium and boulders. The deposit does not appear to be extensive.

Uranium

A survey for the atomic minerals was conducted by the Mining Division of Atomic Energy Commission, Government of India, in Bodal, Dhahi, Dhoomat and Jajawal areas of Surguja District, in addition to Chilpi in Rajnandgaon, Hirapur in Sagar and Mardeora in Chhatarpur districts. The Uranium deposits of Bodal, though small, are of higher quality than those found in Jaduguda belt of Bihar.

Gold

Traces of gold particles are found in the sandy beds of the Ib and the Main rivers and their tributaries. Small quantities of the mineral are sometimes washed by the local people called Sonjhirias. The explorations carried out by the State Department of Geology and Mining did not prove the mineral to be economical for exploitation.

Conclusions

In the past greater part of Surguja District was not connected with rail, but now due to the construction of Bijuri-Bishrampur branch of the South-Eastern Railway, the problem of transport has been solved to some extent.

Prospects of setting mineral based industry lay primarily on bauxite mining and aluminium plant.

Seismicity

Surguja District does not lie in the active seismic belt. However, whenever severe earthquakes take place in the Himalayan region shocks are likely to be felt in this District also. The Bihar—Nepal, earthquake of 1934 was felt in the adjoining Bilaspur District with intensity of the shock in conformity with isoseismal V.

Flora

Over 50 per cent of the area in the District lies under the forests. The total geographical area being 2,199 thousand hectares, the forests occupy 1,137 thousand hectares.¹ The flora of Nazul and other areas is changing too frequently with the human activities and land use. The account of the forests given below is based on the Working Plans and Schemes of South Surguja and Korea Divisions only. They deal with the forests lying in the tahsils of Ambikapur, Surajpur, Manendragarh, Baikunthpur and Bharatpur only.

Broadly speaking the District falls in the northern Tropical Moist Deciduous Zone. But the open hard rocks and the varying soil and moisture conditions also present the following classes of forests.²

1. Northern Tropical Moist Deciduous
 - A. Sal-Plain Type, Hill Type, Pat Type and on Metamorphics
 - B. Mixed.
2. Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous
 - A. Sal (All classes under dry conditions).
 - B. Mixed without Bamboo and with Bamboo.

Moist Sal Forests appear to be the climax while Moist Mixed forests, without any one dominant species over extensive areas, may be on edaphic climax on account of unfavourable soil and moisture conditions for sal. Dry types of Sal and mixed forests are undoubtedly pre-climax, brought about by shifting cultivation and repeated fires.

Moist and Plain Type Sal Forests

Sal forests occupy about 80 per cent of the forests in Korea forest Division. Amidst the Mixed forests it also occurs in favourable localities. The species of *Shorea robusta* prefers well-drained alluvial soil and the Mahadeva rocks of Upper Gondwana System as in Ramgarh and Janakpur ranges. On Barakar formations, it shares with other species to accommodate the Mixed forests as in Baikunthpur, Manendragarh and Chirimiri ranges. It exists in hard circumstances on the Archaean as the System forms hills and ridges. Talchirs are nearly devoid of Sal even in the plains, unless the soil is of transported origin. In areas like Hatbar, Kadamnara and Lotan blocks of Baikunthpur range and Sakda felling series of Koda blocks in Chirimiri range the miscellaneous species outstrip the Sal.

1. Madhya Pradesh Krishi Sankhyiki, 1950-70, p. 2.
2. Based on Working Plan for South Surguja Division, 1961-62 to 1975-76; Working Scheme for South Surguja Division, 1968-69 to 1977-78; and Working Scheme for Korea (and Changbhakar) Forest Division for 1956-57 to 1965-66.

In Korea Division good quality Moist Sal forests are stocked with sal up to 80 per cent in the top canopy. A magnificent sal tree was found in Deogarh block in 1960 with a height of 40 metres and a girth of 2.7 metres. Moist Type Sal forests of Korea Division are comparable, with the class Plain Sal forests of South Surguja Forest Division, where it is extensive on the deep and red sandy loam in Ambikapur, Lakhanpur and Surajpur ranges. It occupies the lower valleys and gentle slopes. The trees grow up to 25 metres in height and 2.75 metres in girth. The crop corresponds to II and III quality of Madhya Pradesh Standards.

The chief associates of sal in the Moist (Plain Type) Forests in the top canopy growing up to 20 metres in height, are *bija* (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), *saja* (*Terminalia tomentosa*), *khamar* (*Gmelina arborea*), *senha* (*Lagerstroemia parviflora*), *kekadi* (*Garuga pinnata*), *kasai* (*Bridelia squamosa*), *dhaura* (*Anogeissus latifolia*) and *salia* (*Boswellia serrata*).

The undergrowth comprises *baibadang* (*Embelia Sajerim*, Cottam), *banrahar* (*Flemingia semialata*), *neel* (*Indigofera pulchella*), *bankapas* (*Thespesia lampas*), *marorphali* (*Helicteris isora*), *gursakri* (*Grewia hirsuta*), *chhind* (*Phoenix acauhlis*), *shatawar* (*Asparagus recemosus*), etc. Bamboo is common but its growth is often suppressed.

Mohlein (*Bauhinia vahlii*), *palasbel* (*Butea superba*), *bendo* (*Butea parviflora*), *gurur* (*Milletia auriculata*), *malkangni* (*Celastrus paniculata*), *ramdaton* (*Smilax macrophylla*) and *dudhibel* (*Cryptolepis buchanani*) are the common climbers.

Natural reproduction of sal is problematic. The crop is highly irregular and deficient in large poles due to sleeper operations during the World War II (1939-45) and heavy irregular fellings for *nistar*.

The shifting cultivation in the remote area of Korea Division, the grazing and encroachments have also created numerous blanks. Although there are numerous species of climbers, they are not heavy. In the settled regions of the lower central plateau of Ambikapur the forests are facing the problems of protection due to small size of blocks which lie scattered.

Dry and Hill Type Sal Forests

The Dry class of sal forests in Korea Division are comparable with the Hill Type of South Surguja Division. It is generally met with on shallow, loose and friable soils or open rock sheets on hill sides and tops, all over the Sal zones. It occupies the gneiss on slopes and laterite on tops. The tree growth is poor with M. P. quality 4(a) but rarely exceeding 15 metres in height. The sal is often broken up into groups and patches between other predominating species. In Korea Division bad-shaped boles are common owing to heavy rasin tapping. The recruitment of sal is abundant in Korea Division but its establishment is slow. The density varies greatly. Reproduction is scanty in South Division.

In South Surguja Division poor quality sal forests occur in Karkotbar, Kanai, Jangia, Ras, Pidia, Matringa and Patkura blocks.

The Hill Type Sal forests cover a major portion of forests area in South Division. The associates are similar to the previous class except that the proportion of dry species like *salai*, *tendu*, *ciar*, *aonla*, *bhilwa*, *kasai*, *ghont*, *bhirra*, etc., increases in the stock. The undergrowth is mostly shrubby. Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*) of good quality (M. P. II) is available on slopes and depressions especially in Kanai and Jangia blocks of Surajpur range and extensively in Manendragarh, Chirimiri, Ramgarh and Janakpur ranges. It also occurs in Temri, Sardi-Kotgori, Lotan and Barbond blocks of Baikunthpur range. *Semal* (*Salmalia malabarica*) occurs associated throughout the South Division but *garari* (*Cleistanthus collinus*) is found in parts of Chirimiri range only.

Dry Deciduous Mixed Forests

This type has been sub-divided into two classes depending on the presence or absence of bamboos. Among the Dry Mixed forests bamboo occurs on the lower slopes, along nala banks and depressions. Correspondingly the Dry Mixed forests with bamboos are recognised to be distinct from Mixed forests of still drier localities. Dry Mixed forests with bamboos are found limited to the north of Surajpur range and Banjhi and Ghouri blocks of Lakhanpur range. Mandar, Kanai, Dharsani, Kunmera, Kudargarh and Thargi blocks are specially noticeable.

Dry Mixed forests without bamboo occur scattered on rough topography amidst the Sal forests in South Division and on dry ridges and slopes in Korea Division.

It is found in small blocks, like Kheirbar and Chendra blocks of Ambikapur, Chapda, Ketka and Mandar blocks of Surajpur and Amkho, Jagatpur, Burhaspur and Surta blocks of Lakhanpur and Dandai, Marwa Sarai and Bagdobi of Sitapur range. It occupies about 12.20 per cent of the total forests area. The soil is sandy and gneissic loam in nature. Bamboo has disappeared due to over exploitation and maltreatment. The quality of the crop is III to IV (a) of M. P. Standards. The height varies from 15 to 20 metres. *Salai* occurs in preponderance. *Sal* is found in sprinkled numbers. Associates are the same as described under Moist Sal forests.

Among the Dry Deciduous Mixed forests without bamboo the following sub-types have been noted:—

- (1) *Xerophitic forests*.—Coarse gravelly soil supporting a larger proportion of drier species like *salai*, *kulu*, *Jhingan*, *galgal*, *bhirra*, etc., with open canopy and heavy undergrowth is the characteristic of this type. Reproduction is patchy.

- (2) **Hygrophilous forest.**—This supports species like seja, sidha, dhaora, etc. with a little sal on less arid soil. The quality is III to IV(a).
- (3) **Karra (*Cleistanthus callinus*).**—The species occurs in preponderance in Bhandargaon block of Lakhanpur range. Though in malformed condition, it is a good forest for poles as well as fuel wood.
- (4) **Bhirra (*Chloroxylon swietenia*).**—The species outnumbers all others on shallow, arid and sandy soils. The forests are generally open.

Wild-Life Protection

After 1948, hunting was opened for the public on permits and organised poaching by tribals e.g. Pandos, Kodakus, Korwas, etc., became rampant. Although the Rules of Old Madhya Pradesh now extended to the District are adequate, the Forest Officers find themselves unable to provide full protection to the wild life. This is due to lack of arms and means of fast movement with their lower field staff and difficulties in getting evidence and proofs for convicting the poachers in the court of law. The shikar privileges of the members of the Royal family stand abolished since 1970.

The Rules in vogue in the District were—

1. Shooting Rules under Section 27(i) of Indian Forests Act, 1927.
2. Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912.
3. The Central Provinces Game Act of 1935, as amended in 1937 and 1939.
4. The Central Provinces and Berar Game Rules of 1942 (Later replaced by M. P. Game Rules, 1962), and
5. Madhya Pradesh Forest (hunting, shooting, fishing poisoning water and setting traps or snares in reserved or protected forests) Rules, 1963.

The forest area is divided into a number of shooting blocks most of which are closed by rotation every year by the Conservator. The Divisional Forest Officers, on receipt of application and the prescribed fee at old rates, may issue permits for the specified kind and number of games to be shot in the specified period. However, since 1970-71 there is a complete ban on shooting of any wild animal for five years. The tiger and peafowl have been adopted as National animal and bird, respectively. Besides, the leopard and panthar are to be protected continuously.

Total Prohibition of Game

In spite of adequate legal provisions the State Government felt that poaching is rampant and the fauna is decreasing fast. To check this the State Government issued an order prohibiting **shikar** of a large number of animal species except the virmins (pigs and bear), wild dog, wolf, jackal, lomri, rat and birds for two years with effect from 11th November, 1971 [vide Order No. 6034/(2)/71 published in M. P. Rajpatra Extraordinary No. 181 of 11th November, 1971], under the provisions of Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912 (No. VIII of 1912), Section 2, sub-section 2. The Forest Department was instructed on 21st December, 1971 not to open any shooting block and issue shooting permits in the Reserved and Protected Forests. Entry of motor vehicles and of the gunmen or persons with search lights was also prohibited without the special permit obtained from the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.

The ban was further extended on 11th November, 1973 for three years which enlarged in list of prohibited animals and birds. It included peafowl, all species of birds under the groups fowls, grouses, quails and partridges, and wild animals like hare, tortoises, spotted deer, **sambhar**, barking deer, four-horned antelope, bison, swamp deer and mouse deer. Meanwhile the wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, (No. 53 of 1972) was passed and published in the M. P. Rajpatra, 23rd February 1973. It was made applicable in 11 States and all the Union Territories with effect from 25th January, 1973 to 31st October, 1976. The Rules thereunder were published on 15th November, 1974. These Rules prohibit the shooting of scheduled mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds anywhere in the State. The only animals declared vermins are common crow, common fox, fruit bat, jackal, mice, rat and vole, hare, boar and wild dog. To shoot these animals outside the Government forests no licence is required. For shooting within the Government forest, and for goose, ducks, snipes and demoiselle cranes in the open season in specific areas the Divisional Forest Officer, the Collector and the Chief Wild Life Warden, M. P., Bhopal issue permits on payment of a small game licence fee of Rs. 20 only.

The hunters are required to keep a record of their trophies and captures and submit the same to the Forest Department. People owning trophies or living animals are required to register the facts. Taxidermists curing skins of wild animals or dealers are also required to register themselves and submit regular reports. Illicit shooting of tigers, bison, black buck and other rare animals may attract punishment for six months to six years or/and a fine of Rs. 2,000 while offences against other animals may entail concretion upto 2 years or/a fine up to Rs. 2,000. The Act, also establishes a Wild Life Advisory Body with the Forest Minister in chair, and provides for the creation of National Parks, Game Reserves, Sanctuaries, etc.

Fauna

The District was the home of Wild elephants in the past. A **Statistical Account of Bengal** (Vol. XV, 1877) contains the following mention about Surguja, "wild elephants have lately immigrated into the jungles and **Khedda** operations have been carried on with some success by the Manager of the State". Similarly, the Gazetteer of erstwhile Korea State mentions, "Tigers and wild elephants at one time were numerous and committed serious depredations. They caused the desertion of many a small village, but their numbers have now been considerably reduced".¹ About the erstwhile **Chang Bhakar** state the Gazetteer states, "The ravages of wild elephants were at one time so serious as to cause the entire abanement of village sites till a large number were captured but at the present date no wild elephants are to be found in the State"². Thus, even as early as 1909, wild elephants had started being scarce, for in 1877 (A Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. XV) wild elephants were reported to be abounding in **Chang Bhakar**. Among the large animals **swamp deer** or **Barasingha** (*Cervex duvancelli*) is also extinct. The District is one of those few areas in the State where bison and Wild buffaloes may be found but these have become very rare now.

Carnivora

Tigers (*Panthera tigers*) and panthers (*Panthera pardus*) are commonly met with all over the District in the deep forests and hilly areas. Sheltered valleys and the main water courses harbour them for rest, especially during the dry summer season. Though, considerably reduced in number, they are found frequently on the Mainpat Plateau, and larger blocks of **Premnagar**, **Lakhanapur**, **Surajpur** and **Kudargarh** ranges. Alongwith the tigers, white tigers were also found and casually hunted in **Korea** and **Surguja** States during the first half of the 20th Century. The sloth bear, an insectivorous animal, is also noticed in the **Jarangpat**, **Korkotbar** and **Piri** tracts of **Ambikapur**, **Kanai**, **Jangia**, **Chapda**, **Ras** and **Mandar** blocks of **Surajpur** range, **Pidia**, **Matringa**, **Patkara**, **Jama** and **Chanda** blocks of **Lakhanpur** range and **Domli**, **Kamaleshwarpur**, **Kadnai** and **Sapnadand** blocks of **Sitapur** range. Panthers are found all over the District in small number. They are destructive to young calves, goats, fowl and anything from rat to chital. Hunting leopards once found in the district are extinct long back. The wild dogs (*Cuon dukhunensis*), jackal (*Canis aureus*) and striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*, **Linnaeus**) are common in the forests. The shikaries don't find them interesting, hence there is no danger of their extinction.

Herbivora :

The wild pig (*Sus cristatus*) is a strong animal with up-curved teeth feeding on the roots in the nights. Among the deer the chief species found in the District are the spotted deer or cheetal (*Axis axis*), the sambhar

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 296.

2. ibid. p. 307.

(*Cervus unicolor*, **Korr.**), **chausinght** (*Tethacerus quadricornis*), **chinkara** or **Indian gazelle** (*Gazella gazella*, **Bennetti, sykes**), **bherki-katra** or **barking deer** (*Muntiacus muntajak*, **Zunniarmann**) and **nilgai** or **blue bull** (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*). **Chital** is a prolific breeder and inhabits open forests and grass lands close to water courses. The **sambhar** is chiefly an animal of hilly region and is most widely distributed. The **chinkara** is rare. The **barking deer** is again a prolific breeder among the herbivorous animals. It can run very fast. It has a great sense to percieve danger and calls repeated loud alarms resembling the barking of a dog. For this quality it is called the **Jungle Herald**. Blue bulls are found in fairly large numbers in remote areas of **Kudargarh** range. But these and the wild pigs also approach the margins of cultivation and damage the crops. **Sehi** or **porcupine** is a small ant-eater among the rodents, with spikes in its body projecting in all directions. It is met with along the stream banks. In the open grassland and below the hollow roots of trees the nests of **khargosh** (*Lepus ruficaudatus*), the **Indian hare** and **karra** (*Lepus sincoxi*), the **sincox hare** are found. They are seen feeding on the fine grass in the moonlit nights. While driving they are the first runners in the torch light, alongwith the birds found resting in the open. **Moles**, **rats**, **squirrels**, **shrews** and **mongoose** are other rodents worth mentioning..

Bisons (*Bos guaras*) are found in small numbers in **Kudargarh** and **Surajpur** ranges. Wild buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) were seen in **Manendragarh**, **Ramgarh**, **Janakpur** and **Katadol** ranges but they are extinct now. The monkeys (*Semnopithecus entellus*) is common all over the District.

Avifauna

The District being poor in water bodies, ducks snipes, teals, herons, storks, egrets and other water-birds are seen only in small numbers. However, the extensive forests still provide shelter to a large number of forest birds. The more common of these are the green pigeon or **harial** (*Crocopus chlorigaster*), **jungli murgi** (*Gallus ferrugineous*) and **Gallus sonneratti**, **Kabutar** (*Columba livia intermedia*), **bara kabutar** (*Columba livia carpophagasenea*), **titar** (*Francolinus pondicerianus*), **bater** (*Coturnis communis*), **bhat-titar** (*Pterocles spp.*), **Karanjua** and parrots.

The bats are seen hanging over bamboo clumps and other high trees like **gular**, etc. **Peafowl** (*Pavo cristatus*) is seen in dense forests near the streams.

The Divisional Forest Officer, **Shahdol**, in **March, 1979**, reported the existence of a white pea bird on **Sonhat-Ramgarh Road** in **Korea Forest Division**. It has often been seen alone, without a pair. On this account one may surmise it to be an albino variety of the common pea birds.

Dove or **Fakhta** prefers open country. **Bulbul**, **sand grouse** or **titar**, **spur fowl** and **patridges** prefer bushy growth and grasslands. **Blue rock pigeons** or **kabutars** prefer the rocky cliffs if not domesticated. Other birds of the jungle are the **babblers**, **tree pie** and **jungle fowl**.

Fishes

Several varieties of fishes are found in the waters of the District. They grow to some size in deep pools. Notable among such spots on the Rehar river are near Bak, Lanjit, Kharra and Kupa. In the Bak pool crocodiles were also found sometimes.

Mortality from Reptiles and Wild Animals

Mortality from reptiles and wild animals is high in the District. However, over 90 per cent of such deaths are caused by snake-bites. Snake-bite deaths are very high during the rainy season and the lowest during the winter season. July is the most dangerous month and January the safest. From the year 1961 to 1969 the number of deaths due to snake-bites and mauling by wild animals fluctuated from 103 in 1961 to 137 in 1966, barring 1965 when it lowered to the unexpected figure of 61 only.

The number of deaths from reptiles and wild animals during the last three years of the records, was 39, the highest in Samri Police Station Area. This was followed by the Police Station Areas of Dhorpu (27), Ramkola (25), Lakhanpur (21), Sitapur (20), and Shankargarh (20). The records were the lowest in Kamleshwarpur and Katadol, only 3 in each case.

Climate

The climate of this District is characterised by a hot dry summer and well distributed rainfall during the monsoon season. The period from December to the end of February is the cold season. The hot season which follows thereafter continues till about the second week of June. The period from about mid-June to end of September constitutes the south-west monsoon season. October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the District are available for three stations, viz., Ambikapur, Janakpur and Baikunthpur, for periods ranging from 13 to 50 years. The rainfall at these stations and for the District as a whole are given in the Appendix A (tables 1 and 2). The average annual rainfall in the District is 1,493.2 mm. The rainfall in the District increases from the north-west towards the south-east and varies from 1,344.4 mm. at Janakpur to 1,657.6 mm. at Ambikapur. About 87 per cent. of the annual rainfall in the District

is received during the monsoon months June to September, July and August being the rainiest months. Some rain is received in June, mostly in the form of thunder showers and during the cold season in association with passing western disturbances. The variation in the annual rainfall in the District is not large. During the 50-years period (1901 to 1950), the highest annual rainfall amounting to 160 per cent of the normal occurred in 1904. The lowest annual rainfall in the District which was 58 per cent. of the normal occurred in 1941. In the same period the annual rainfall in the District was 80 per cent. of the normal in 3 years only, two of them being consecutive. It will be seen from Appendix A (table 2), that annual rainfall in the District was between 1,200 and 1,700 mm. in 36 years out of 50.

There are on an average 73 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm. 10 cents or more) in a year in the District. This number varies from 64 at Janakpur to 78 at Baikunthpur.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the District was 341.6 mm. at Ambikapur on 1948, June 27.

Temperature

There is a meteorological observatory in the District at Ambikapur and the records of this observatory may be taken as representative of the climatic conditions in the District with variations due to local conditions. After February there is a continuous increase of temperature. May is the hottest month with the mean daily maximum of temperature at 39.6°C. and the mean daily minimum at 24.8°C. The heat in summer is intense and maximum temperature occasionally reaches 43°C. Afternoon thundershowers which occur on some days bring welcome relief though only temporarily. With the onset of the monsoon over the District by about the second week of June there is an appreciable drop in temperature. The day temperatures in October are about the same as in the monsoon season, but the nights become cooler. After October, both day and night temperatures decrease rapidly. January is the coldest month with the daily maximum temperature at 23.9°C., and the mean daily minimum temperature at 8.6°C. Nights in December are slightly colder than in January. During the winter, cold waves sometimes affect the District in the rear of passing western disturbances and the minimum temperature drops down to about a couple of degrees above the freezing point of water.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Ambikapur was 43.3°C. on May 5th, 1956 and June 6th, 1955. The lowest minimum was 1.1°C. on 25th January, 1954.

Humidity

In the south-west monsoon season the relative humidity is high, generally exceeding 75 per cent. Thereafter the relative humidities decrease and by summer which is the driest part of the year the after noon relative humidity becomes less than 25 per cent.

Cloudiness

In the south-west monsoon season skies are generally heavily clouded to overcast. In the latter half of the summer and the post-monsoon months there is moderate cloudiness. In the rest of the year the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds

In the south-west monsoon season winds are mainly south-westerly or westerly. But in the northern part of the District winds are easterly on some days. In the post-monsoon and winter seasons winds are from directions between north and east with westerlies to north-westerlies blowing on some days in the northern parts of the District. In the summer season winds are from directions between south-west and north-west with northerlies blowing on some afternoons in the northern parts of the District.

Special Weather Phenomena

During the monsoon season depressions from the Bay of Bengal move in some westerly direction and pass through the District or its neighbourhood and cause widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Occasionally, storms during October also affect the District. Similarly thunderstorm occur during the summer and monsoon seasons. Occasional duststorms and dust raising winds occur in the hot season.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 of Appendix A give the temperature and humidity, mean wind speed and weather phenomena, respectively, for Ambikapur.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Antiquarian Remains

Though archaeologically the District still awaits the spade of the archaeologist over large parts of it because of its inaccessible hill ranges and impenetrable forests, there is no dearth of antiquarian remains. They are scanty but impressive. Their traces are to be recognised in the ruins of rock-cut caves, temples, very old stone gateways, sculptured lintels and statues on Ramgarh hill, situated about 50 km. from Ambikapur, the District headquarters. There exist extensive rock-cut excavations and temples near village Harchauka, Sitamarhi caves near village Ghogra and in the jungles of Kanjia and Chhataunda, a tank with some stone blocks once probably forming human habitations on Koreagarh hill. Besides, old temples and broken images are found on the bank of Kehar river about 9 km. to the east of Ramgarh hill, fort at village Juba, etc.

Rock Paintings

The specimen of the mural painting art revealed by the extant fragments in Jogimara or Sitabenga cave in the Ramgarh hill and the Ardha-Magadhi inscriptions found in the caves of the same hill are generally assigned to about the middle of the first century B.C. or second century B.C.¹ This may be regarded as the earliest known date for reconstructing the ancient history of Surguja District. These antiquarian records, certainly reflect an era of advanced art, culture and civilization in Surguja District. This undoubtedly proves that the District was populated by civilised people.

The Nandas

According to the *puranic* evidence the Nandas ruled over an extensive realm of Aryavartya before the advent to the Mauryas, in the 4th century B.C. The most famous ruler of this dynasty was its founder, Mahapadma Nanda, who is referred to as the destroyer of all *kshatriyas* *Sarva-Kshatrantaka* and the sole monarch of the earth (*Ekarat*)². In the same literature he is stated to be the sovereign of "infinite host" and "immense wealth"³. The Greeks too knew him as the king of "Gandaraidae" and "Prasi" that is, the people of the Ganges valley. On these evidences Surguja might be placed within the Nanda empire.⁴

1. *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 629 and pp. 757-58.

2. N. L. Shastri, *The Age of the Nandas and the Mauryas*, pp. 16-17.

3. *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 5.

4. R. K. Mookerji, *Asoka*, p. 12.

The Mauryas

The Nandas were ousted by Chandragupta Maurya about 324 B. C. He conquered for himself a vast empire stretching from Afghanistan to Mysore. Some in the western territories, which are outside the jurisdiction of the Union of India, were parts of his realm. The District must, therefore, formed part of it. His son Bindusara (c. 300—273 B. C.) and Asoka (c. 273—236 B.C.) inherited the empire. Asoka's inscriptions in the state, viz., at Rupnath¹ (Jabalpur) Gujarrā² (Datia) and Sanchi and at Ahraur³ (Mirzapur District) touching the border of Surguja itself, suggest that this District was part of his empire. A few inscriptions of the Jogimara cave of Ramgarh Hill of the District, dated 2nd century B. C. and written in Asokan Magadhi characters, and a few gold and silver coins of the Nanda-Maurya ages, picked up at Akaltara and Thathari of the adjacent district of Bilaspur, indicate the Mauryan influence in Surguja.

After the death of Asoka, his extensive empire began to crumble to pieces. On the east coast Kalinga declared its independence. The Satavahanas of the Deccan started their penetration towards the north. In northern India the Sungas became heirs to an attenuated empire of Magadha. By the side of the Sungas or in subordination to them many smaller states continued to lead more or less a separate existence.

The chronology of these events is still controversial. Widely divergent views have been taken of the date of the commencement of the Satavahana rule in the Deccan and the well known Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela. Assigning these events to the second century B.C. we can say that in or before Apilaka's reign (93-81 B.C.) this District, along with districts of Raigarh in the east and Bilaspur in the south, was included in the Satavahana empire. It is now an established fact that the eighth king of this dynasty named Apilaka is something more than a mere Puranic name. A copper coin of this king is discovered from a locality near Raigarh lying to the east of Surguja District. This shows the extension of Satavahana rule in the north-east of Madhya Pradesh in or before his reign. The coin is a large piece, blank on the reverse. On the obverse of it is a well executed elephant perhaps a Nandipada above and a god before it. The legend is "Rane Siva Siris Apilaka"⁴. Similarly, Bilaspur District, which forms the southern boundary of Surguja District, has yielded images, inscriptions etc., of the Satavahana period. Coins with elephant symbol of the Satavahanas and a few red potteries of the same age found in Bilaspur District also furnish an evidence of an extension of Satavahana sway over this region⁵. The celebrated Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang (4th century A.D.), also confirms the existence of the Satavahana rule over this region.

It is possible that after the down-fall of the Satavahanas some local chiefs formerly owing allegiance to the Satavahanas or some other Satavahana kings of minor line might have issued the Satavahana coins found in this region. Inscriptions referring to the Satavahanas also indicate the Satavahana rule over this region. Copper coins of the Kushanas are also found in Bilaspur District. Possibly they allude to the short rule of the Kushanas in the region.

The Imperial Guptas had their influence over Chhattisgarh region. Samudragupta of this dynasty while on his conquest of Dakshinapatha defeated king Mahendra of yet unknown origin then ruling over this region.

Subsequently southern Kosal, which probably included Surguja District witnessed the rule of various dynasties like those of Suras, Sarabhapuriyas, Somavanshi Pandus, Trikingadhipathi Somavanshis and the Pandus of Mekal¹. None of them has left any evidence of their rule over this District, though evidences in the form of remains of structures or inscriptions belonging to some of these dynasties are found in the neighbouring districts of Bilaspur in the south, Raigarh in the east and Sidhi on the north. It is not impossible that this region of hills and forests might have been under the rule of some local chiefs owing allegiance to powerful monarchs of these dynasties. Unfortunately, no record enable us to reconstruct the history of this period has so far seen the light of the day. Therefore our knowledge of the history of Surguja District is extremely meagre. It is now an established fact that the Bana chiefs, who were feudatories of the Pallava Kings of the south, ousted Somavanshi kings of this region in the 9th century A.D. and carved out a kingdom for themselves in Bilaspur District with Pali as their capital. They ruled there till about the end of the 9th century A.D. Subsequently the Kalachuris of Tripuri during the reign of Mugdhatunga or Prasiddhadhaval took possession of the Pali kingdom to provide an adequate field for the activities of the princes who would be born in his family. Mugdhatunga placed this newly acquired country in charge of one of his younger brothers some time during his reign (880 to 910 A.D.). Tummana was made its capital. This Kalachuri branch ruled there for about half a century after which Somavanshis of Eastern Kosal ousted them. Possibly the kings of both these dynasties might have exerted their influence over Surguja District.

Kalachuri Rule

The Kalachuris renewed their attempt to regain the lost territory in this part of the country probably in the reign of Kokalla II. It was Kalingaraja of the Tumman branch, who reconquered Dakshina Kosal in

1. Hiralal, *Inscriptions in C. P. and Berar*, p. 21.
2. *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXXI, p. 206.
3. *The Age of Imperial Unity*, p. 77.
4. *A Comprehensive History of India*, Vol. II, p. 304.
5. B. C. Jain, *Utkirna Lekha*, p. 2.

1. *ibid.* pp. 4-12.

about 1000 A.D. Kalingaraja's son and successor Ratnadeva I extended his kingdom after 1045 A.D. His son and successor Prithvideva I of Ratanapur branch like his predecessors acknowledged suzerainty of the Kalachuris of Tripuri and further extended his kingdom. One Jayadeva according to the Rajim inscription of Prithvideva II of the year A.D. 1145 conquered Dandora, identified with Surguja for Prithvideva I (A.D. 1065 to 1090). Surguja was formerly known as Bais Dandor as it had 22 Zamindaris¹. This is the earliest known record which states that the region was under the Kalachuris of Tummana. Two pilgrim records carved on pillars of cave temples of Harchauka are said to have been carved by some Kalachulis (Kalachuris). The characters, which are nailheaded, are assigned to the 12th century A.D. but they may be older.²

Surguja State

Surguja is one of the districts of the State which are not easily accessible. Physiographically it is just a great table land consisting of numerous hills and plateaus. It is also densely forested area of the region. Hence the hills and forests of the District and the area lying away from the routes of invading armies, the District escaped the usual turmoil³.

It is probable that the area was originally split up into a number of petty principalities each under its own chief who were constantly at war with one another.⁴ Some time in the third century A.D., these petty chiefs were attacked by a Raksel Rajput from Kundri in Palamau District (Bihar) and were reduced to subjection.⁵ As against this, 'A Statistical Account of Bengal (Vol. XV, 1877)' states:

"According to a local tradition in Palamau, the Raksel Rajputs governed that part of the country up to 1613 A.D., when they were ousted by the Cheros in a strange fashion. In 1612, Bhagwant Rai, the head of the Chero tribe, then a fugitive from Chainpur, took service with a large body of Chero retainers under Man Singh, the Raksel Raja of Palamau, intending, on the first opportunity, to seize the supreme power. In the following year (1613 A.D.) Man Singh went to Surguja to celebrate the marriage of his son with the daughter of the Surguja Chief. In his absence, Bhagwant Rai rose (in rebellion), with all his followers, murdered Man Singh's family and made himself the first Chero Raja of Palamau. Man Singh made no attempt to regain his Kingdom, but in his turn murdered the Surguja Chief and took possession of the Raj. This was the origin of the present Raksel dynasty".⁶

1. *Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum*, Vol. IV, Part II, pp. 450-53.

2. Hiralal, *Inscriptions in the Central Provinces and Berar*, p. 188.

3. *ibid.* p. XII.

4. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 227.

5. *ibid.* D. D. Dadimaster, *History of Surguja State*, p. 35.

6. *A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XV, (1877) (Quoted in *Surguja District Census Hand Book*, 1961 p. XII).

According to the former source (*Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909), the Raksel dynasty began its rule in Surguja in about 200 A.D., which appears to be very unlikely. It is, however, true that at one time the Surguja Chief was the overlord of the neighbouring states of Udaipur, Jashpur, Korea and Chang Bhakhar.¹

According to a traditional history written in Hindi, Raja Bishnu Pratap Singh, a Raksel Chandrabansi Rajput, of Bhojkutpur, entered the village of Didapih in Surguja District in V.S. 251 and invaded the adjoining region. He soon after defeated the Dravidian Chief whose name was Sri Samni Singh. Bishnu Pratap Singh then made extensive travels and built a fort at Ramgarh. He ruled the region for nearly 35 years, and was succeeded by his son Devraj in V.S. 286. Ever since then, the succession has been confined to the direct male heir. Maharaja Ramanuj Saran Singh Deo was the 114th descendant of the original ruler, Maharaja Bishnu Pratap Singh.²

It is said that during the period when the Mughals were in power, the State of Surguja was several times invaded by expeditions from Patana, Munghyr, Murshidabad and Delhi. In about 1346 A.D., Khalifa, one of the Muslim invaders, is said to have distributed copper coins to the people of the State in token of his conquest, but immediately afterwards these coins were collected and withdrawn by the Chief of Surguja. Two of these copper coins are said to be in the possession of the ex-ruler of the erstwhile State³.

In the medieval warfare, the elephants were considered as the most important source of strength. Hence the Surguja State of Chhattisgarh was one of the important centres from where the elephants were procured during that period.

The relationship of the Sultans of Malwa with the rulers of Surguja State was calculated on the basis that they assured Malwa of a constant supply of elephants, for which the establishment of suzerainty of Malwa over the State was necessary⁴.

Sultan Mahmud Khilji I (1436-1469 A.D.) of Malwa, in 1440-41 A.D. while engaged in subjugating the petty border chiefs of Malwa, turned towards Surguja, accompanied by Rai Nar Singh Deo of Ajhra. He, however, lost his way and at last reached the region which was then known as Bandugarh. He then sent Saiyid Ahmad Gujarati to find out the possibilities and also the place of the habitation of the elephant. Saiyid

1. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 227.

2. D. D. Dadimaster, *op. cit.*, pp. 35 and 88.

3. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 228.

4. U. N. Day, *Medieval Malwa*, pp. 4-5.

Ahmad soon learnt that four elephants were being taken by Chatur Sen, the son-in-law of Bhoj, the *muqaddam* of Surguja, and Bijal Khan to Khora for sale. Saiyid Ahmad approached them and brought them into the presence of the Sultan. Mahmud welcomed them and lavished on them costly presents. He again deputed Saiyid Ahmad with costly presents for Rai Bhoj, with instructions to learn the whereabouts of the elephants. Realising the difficulties of the area, Mahmud resorted to winning over the friendship of the local people by giving them gold and silver. The local people soon became attached to the Sultan and not only disclosed the place of elephant hunt but also agreed to supply elephants to the Sultan as and when they would procure them. Next morning when Sultan Mahmud gave orders for marching towards Surguja, the *muqaddams* of Amurta and Sangur (or Sankar) sent fifteen elephants as price of their safety to the Sultan. Mahmud accepted them and in return rewarded the *muqaddams* lavishly. He then resumed his march and after three days, crossing the river Kanjod and forests, reached Surguja.

The *muqaddams* of Surguja, including Rai Bhoj, readily submitted to the Sultan and presented to him many elephants. The Sultan in return gave them costly presents. They also promised on oath to give to Mahmud all the elephants that they would acquire in future. Rai Bhoj pleaded with the Sultan to desist from sending army into his country in future, as he felt that he did not possess sufficient means to entertain them, and also promised that for any demand a message from the Sultan would be enough. He also appealed that the rulers of Ratanpur and Raipur had been giving him trouble in the past, and also informed him that their territories abounded in elephants and contain a diamond mine. The Sultan then proceeded towards that direction. The *muqaddams* of Raipur and Ratanpur came to receive him and presented him twelve huge elephants and a few pieces of very large and valuable diamonds. The Sultan accepted these presents and returned to Surguja. Sultan Mahmud procured from these areas fifty elephants for his *Pilkhana* and returned to Shadiabad (Mandu).

Thus Mahmud succeeded in establishing his suzerainty over the area. His chief aim was to procure elephants from these tracts and therefore, he abstained from using force. The region of Surguja, therefore, became a permanent source of elephant supply to his army, which in those days constituted an important wing of the army¹.

In 1562-63 A.D., Mahmud Khalji, while marching towards Daultabad to take revenge on the Deccan force, was overtaken on the road by the ambassadors from Surguja and Jaj Nagar, with presents consisting of elephants. Having bestowed honorary dresses on the envoys, he dismissed them to their respective courts, and himself arrived at the town of Khalifabad.²

1. *ibid.* pp. 112-15, 170, 200, 352-53.

2. *Ferishta*, Vol. IV, pp. 228-29 and note on p. 228.

The authentic records of Surguja State date from 1758, when a Maratha army in its progress to the Ganges overran the area and obliged the Chief (Ajit Singh) to acknowledge himself a tributary of the Bhonsla Raja¹. But beyond this and imposing a heavy fine they did not do anything else.

Korea State

The history of erstwhile Korea State is also obscure. According to a local tradition, it belonged originally to a Kol Raja who lived on Koreagarh, a hill located at a distance of about six miles to the west of Chirmi. On the top of this hill, ruins of a tank and many blocks of stones of the wells of dwellings, are also found scattered. It is said that the Kol Raja was ousted by Raja Dharamall Shah, an ancestor of the Chief ruling over 1800 years ago, while passing through the State on his return from a pilgrimage to Jagannath.² His family is said to have ruled till the merger of States in December, 1947. In his line Raja Dharamall Shah established himself at Nagar, but later the capital was shifted first to Rajali and then to Sonhat. It was, however, finally shifted to Baikunthpur by Raja Shiva Mangal Singh Deo (1897-1924). The direct line from Raja Dharamall Shah became extinct in 1897 A.D. by the death of Raja Pran Singh in that year. Raja Shiva Mangal Singh Deo, the successor, was a collateral relation of the late chief³.

Chang Bhakhar State

The history of Chang Bhakhar State is also very obscure. No records and evidences are available to us which may reveal us the past history of the State. We have, however, records of the State from 1819 when it first came under the authority of the Company's Government and was included in the agreement retified with the Chief of Korea.⁴ The chiefs of the state in the 18th and 19th centuries were closely connected with the Korea family. Primarily the area was a zamindari under the authority of Korea State⁵.

In the year 1760 A.D., a Maratha army over-ran the Surguja tract and compelled the Chief, Raja Sheo Singh, to acknowledge himself a tributary of the Bhonslas of Nagpur.⁶ The Marathas, however, did not take actual possession, of, or obtained efficient authority over this remote tract. A general acknowledgment of its sovereignty was in the shape of the payment of an annual tribute of Rs. 3000 and the maintenance of the security of the high road from Mirzapur, Banaras and Gaya to the capital of Nagpur. These were the only proofs of obedience and submission expected from the Raja of Surguja, and the fulfilment of these obligations have secured him against all interference in the internal affair of his estate⁷.

1. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 228.

2. *ibid.* p. 296.

3. *ibid.* pp. 296-97.

4. *ibid.* p. 307.

5. Raghbir Prasad, *Jharkhand-Jhankar*, p. 159.

6. Samar Bahadur Singh Dev, *Surguja Ka Aitihasik Prasanthi*, C. U. Wills, *British Relations with the Nagpur State in the 18th Century*, p. 148. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, (p. 228) mentions the year as 1758 A. D.

7. C. U. Wills, *op. cit.*, pp. 148-49.

At that time Korea, Chang Bhakhar, Udaipur and Jashpur estates also acknowledged the sovereignty of the Raja of Surguja¹. Udaipur and Jashpur were paying Rs. 1,000 each as tribute to the Raja of Surguja. The Raja was maintaining a small army of some 500 horse and 700 to 800 foot, composed of immigrant troops from North India.² Korea and Chang Bhakhar estates, however, remained subordinate to the Raja of Surguja only up to the close of the 18th century.

Thus Surguja on its part was functioning under the overlordship of Bimbajee, the youngest son of the Raja of Nagpur, to whom the Chhattisgarh tract was assigned as the appanage (fief). Though nominally subordinate to the Raja at Nagpur, Bimbajee was to a large extent independent, with a separate court and house-hold at Ratanpur, separate ministers and a separate army³. Bimbajee, in his early years of reign, was very oppressive but as time passed on he more and more identified himself with his people and has left a memory fairly popular and respected.⁴ Bimbajee died in 1787 A.D. and left no son behind him. Consequent upon which some disputes followed and Chhattisgarh, with its dependencies, was at last allotted to Vyankoji, a nephew of Bimbajee, as an appanage in 1788 A.D.⁵ When Vyankoji failed to attend Chhattisgarh personally, it was decided at the instance of Anandi Bai, the widow of Bimbajee, that the Government should be carried on in the name of Vyankoji, who should be represented by a Subahdar on the spot. The Subahdar, however, should be bound to obey all orders of Anandi Bai, who should be consulted on all the details of the administration. Practically Anandi Bai wielded all authority until her death at the beginning of the 19th century⁶.

Vitthal Dinkar was the first Subahdar deputed to manage the tract of Chhattisgarh, including Surguja, in 1788-89. In 1790, an European traveller writes: "The widow of Bimbajee....., is still alive, and all ostensible respect is shown to her; but the executive part of the government is in the hands of Mayput Raou. a Brahmin from Nagpur"⁷.

As a matter of fact, practically from 1788 to the advent of Britishers in 1818, the Chhattisgarh region, including Surguja, was governed by a succession of Subahs who exercised a very extensive authority⁸ in all the departments of the government. During this period, Raja Ajit Singh succeeded Raja Sheo Singh of Surguja.

1. *ibid.* p. 149.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.* pp. 41, 147; R. Jenkins, Report on the Territories of the Raja of Nagpur, p. 76.

4. *Raipur District Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 57.

5. R. Jenkins, *op. cit.*, p. 61; C. U. Wills, *op. cit.*, pp. 147-48.

6. Report on the Land Revenue Settlement of the Belaspore District, 1869 in *32 Raipur District Gazetteer*, 1909, pp. 57-58.

7. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, p. 66.

8. *Bilaspur District Gazetteer*, 1910, p. 50.

Before describing the further course of events, we may examine here the state of affairs of Korea estate also. Prior to the Maratha subjugation of the region in 1758 or 1760 A.D., the Chouhan Rajas of Korea are said to have "lived in perfect independence, and never having been necessitated to submit to the payment of any tribute, they had no occasion to oppress their subjects"¹. At the time of the Maratha invasion, the ancestral capital of the State was the village Mirzapur, ruled by Adel Shaw². The small State situated amongst hilly tracts was covered by dense forest. When the Maratha inroads became frequent, the next ruler Garib Singh or Ram Garib, the son of Abdel Shaw, removed his capital from village Mirzapur to village Sonhat as the situation of Sonhat was nearer to the difficult recesses in the hilly parts of Korea, and more favourable for concealment³. The financial condition of the ruler became far from satisfactory. A sum of Rs. 200 per annum was laid as tribute upon him by the Marathas by the year 1790 A.D., and even then he was not able to pay it for next five years⁴.

An European traveller, Capt. J. T. Blunt has left a graphic account of the Raja's stature. While passing through Sonhat, he records on the 25th February, 175 A.D., thus: "About 2 p.m. the Raja sent me word that he would visit me, but he did not come until the evening, at which time I was examining the road for the commencement of our next day's march. However, he stayed till I returned to my tent, where the interview took place. Ram Garib Singh, the Raja of Korea, appeared to be about sixty years of age: he was a man of low stature, very dark and his features had quite the character of the Chauhan mountaineer. He came accompanied by his son, his killendar, a Baghel Rajput, and a Sardar of some auxiliaries. He appeared to be of a mild and affable disposition; but our salutations were no sooner over, than the killedar very abruptly demanded a present of me for his master. Of this I took no notice; and immediately began asking them a variety of questions concerning the late contest between the Raja and the Marathas"⁵. On enquiring the reason for this, Captain Blunt was informed: "That since the Marathas had established their government in Ratanpur, and Baghelkhand, they had demanded a tribute from the Chauhan Raja of Korea. which, after much contention was settled at 200 rupees, but that Ram Garib had demurred paying any thing for the last five years. Gulab Khan in consequence been deputed by the Subahdar of Chhattisgarh, with about 200 matchlock men and 30 horse to levy the tribute due to the Raja of Berar; and had been joined by the Raja of Surguja with about 80 horse and foot. Garib Singh on his side had been supported by the Raja of Nigwani Kothi, with 7 matchlocks and

1. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, p. 112. The State of Korea at one time acknowledged the suzerainty of the Raja of Surguja, but no specific period is mentioned (C. U. Wills, *op. cit.*, p. 149).

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.*

4. *ibid.* p. 110.

5. *ibid.*

3 horsemen, and his own forces amounted only to 10 matchlockmen, 3 horsemen, and about 100 of the Chauhan mountaineers, armed with hatchets, bows, and arrows.....The Marathas then entered Korea, and took possession of Mirzapur, the ancient capital of the country. Upon this the Chauhans fled; the Raja took refuge in his fort; and the mountaineers obscured themselves, with their families, and as much of their property as they had time to carry off, in the most impenetrable parts of the woods, and in caves among the hills and rocks. The enemy then ravaged the country, and burnt the villages, which very much distressed the Raja's subjects, whereupon they supplicated him to make peace. A treaty was begun, and concluded, on his stipulating to pay the Marathas 2,000 rupees, and the Marathas agreed to return some cattle which they had taken. I was well informed that this sum was considered merely in the light of a nominal tribute, or acknowledgment of submission; for the Raja had it not in his power to pay one rupee; and the Marathas had agreed to let him off, on his giving them five small horses, three bullocks, and a female buffalo¹. The hostilities between the Marathas and the Raja of Korea came to an end on the 25 February 1798 and the Marathas marched back².

So far as Chang Bhakhar is concerned, it is said to have been ruled by a branch of the Korea State dynasty³. It acknowledged the direct suzerainty of the Raja of Surguja. Before the close of the 18th century, the Chang Bhakar State suffered from the Marathas to restrain whom the ruler granted eight frontier villages to the Rewa nobles to secure their help⁴. Subsequently Chang Bhakhar slipped from the control of the Surguja Raja and the Marathas and was attached to Sohagpur (a district of former Rewa State) under the Baghel ruler of Rewa. Later, Korea also went under the control of Rewa Maharaja and both of these estates formed parts of the Sohagpur District of erstwhile Rewa State⁵.

The Sohagpur District, including Korea and Chang Bhakhar was made liable to Maratha *Chauth* in 1801 A.D. and was occupied by the Raghuji II's officers in 1808 A.D.⁶

Meanwhile, in the year 1792 A.D., Raja Ajit Singh of Surguja made a raid against the Barwa pargana of Ranchi District in Bihar. The pargana, which was under the control of the Raja of Chhotta Nagpur, was

1. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, pp. 110-111. The Zamindars of Korea and Chang Bhakhar generally paid their revenue in horses and tatoos (C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 121 f. n.).
2. *ibid.* p. 55.
3. Samar Bahadur Singh Deo, op. cit., p. 55.
4. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Provincial Series, Central Provinces, p. 485.
5. C. U. Wills, op. cit., p. 149.
6. *ibid.*

over-run and conquered by Raja Ajit Singh¹. Raja of Chhota Nagpur did not support the Barwa Raja and hence the troops of Raja Ajit Singh continued its possession for nearly ten years². The Britishers who sympathized with the Barwa Raja lodged a complaint to the Raja of Nagpur against this occupation, but Raghuji turned a deaf ear to that. Ultimately, in the year 1802 A.D., Captain Jones was sent by the Britishers to help Barwa Raja, upon which Surguja Raja's troops had to retire. An agreement was forced upon the Raja of Nagpur according to which the Barwa Pargana came under the British protection³. But this Pargana remained a bone of contention for the time to come. As a result of aid given to a Palamau rebel a British force entered the Surguja State and restored order there⁴.

Meanwhile Raja Ajit Singh died in 1799 A.D. and ultimately his minor son Balbhadra Singh succeeded him under the guardianship of his uncle Jagannath Singh.

H.T. Colebrook, while proceeding on a diplomatic mission to the Raja of Nagpur, marched from Mirzapur to Nagpur via Surguja in the year 1799 A.D. He has given a graphic description of Surguja. He writes, "Surguja is a tributary to Berar. It belongs to a Rajput family the heir of which is now a minor. The death of his father and predecessor is said to have been hastened by the uncle and present guardian of the Raja; and the same fate is supposed to await the young chieftain at the hands of his unnatural kinsman." He continued to write, "Surguja is chiefly inhabited by tribes of mountaineers. Hindus are settled in the province, but in no great number, and a few Afghan horsemen find service at this place..... Surguja, situated in the midst of mountains, is naturally strong. It could not, indeed, resist the power of the Government of Berar; but the inhabitants of Surguja, without facing the Mahratta troops, would abandon their huts, and seek refuge, as they had formerly done on similar occasions, in the recesses of the forest. The complete subjugation of the country might be ultimately effected, but a greater cost than the conquest is worth. Annual tribute and the acknowledgment of subjection, but with imperfect obedience, are, for this reason, accepted by the Raja of Berar, or rather by his brother, on whose principality it is dependent⁵."

1. *Ranchi District Gazetteer*, 1970, p. 47; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 228.
2. *ibid.*
3. *ibid.* H. N. Sinha, *Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records*, Vol. II, p. 22.
4. *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Provincial Series, Central Provinces, p. 474.
5. *Surguja Ka Aitihāsik Prashtha*, p. 29; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 228.
6. *Early European Travellers in the Nagpur Territories*, p. 195.

Sangram Singh, the third brother of late Raja Ajit Singh, had conspired against the widow Regent and murdered her. Thereby, he himself became the Raja of Surguja in 1800 A.D.¹

Shortly afterwards, Colonel Jones invaded Surguja. The relatives of the Raja of Surguja and other Zamidars in general submitted to him².

Order was restored in the tract and a treaty was concluded between the British Government and the Raja of Chhota Nagpur which however proved inoperative. Balbhadra Singh was then restored to power, and the administration of the State was entrusted to his uncle, Jagannath Singh³. But on the withdrawal of the British force, Sangram Singh re-entered the State and drove out Jagannath Singh. He, moreover, seized the young chief Balbhadra Singh and took over the reins of the State in the name of the latter. From that period until January, 1813, Sangram Singh kept the young chief in the state of harsh and cruel restraint, denying him the benefits of education and the common comfort of life to such a degree that at last the indignation of the zamidars was roused. According to a report, it is generally believed that Sangram Singh intended to crown his misconduct by the secret murder of his nephew at a remote village where he had placed him in the custody of men devoted to his interests. But the people assembled at midnight, overpowered his guards and effected the liberation of the young chief, Balbhadra⁴. As a result the two parties resorted to arms and contended with success for about ten months. Ultimately, Sangram Singh was overpowered and obliged to flee to Banaras.

Thus, Balbhadra Singh came to power as the Raja of Surguja in January, 1813.

The troubles in the State were, however, not over for several months. At last the Commandant of the British troops stationed at Ramgarh, Captain Roughsedge, was sent there to establish order.⁵ Roughsedge regarded the young Raja as imbecile and, therefore, appointed a Diwan to carry on the administration of the State. The Diwan was, however, soon afterwards killed, but an attempt to seize the Raja and his two Ranis was frustrated by a small guard of British sepoys who had been left in Surguja for their protection⁷. In the meantime, the death of Raghuji Bhonsla II brought Appa Saheb to power, and he did not approve of the British interference in Surguja affairs. Further in a despatch of 20th March 1816, Mr. Jenkins, the British Resident at Nagpur, wrote that Raja Balbhadra Singh was 'notoriously incapable of managing his country himself'⁸. Perhaps these reasons made Appa Saheb to think of taking absolute possession of the whole of Surguja, and making an

1. H. N. Sinha, *Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records*, Vol. III, p. 73.
2. *Selections from the Nagpur Residency Records*, Vol. III, p. 73.
3. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 228.
4. *ibid.*
5. H. N. Sinha, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, pp. 73, vi.
6. *ibid.*
7. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, pp. 228-29.
8. H. N. Sinha, *op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. vi.

allowance to the Raja and his Rani. On this point the Resident, Mr. Jenkins, told Appa Saheb that whatever arrangement is proposed, it should also be agreeable to British Government¹.

About this time (May 1816) occurred the death of Raja Balbhadra Singh and his son, so that the direct line of succession became extinct. Consequently, the British troops were ordered to be withdrawn from Surguja "at the earliest practicable moment" (25th May, 1816).² The Britishers also made an offer to the widowed Rani Bishenkunwar of a permanent asylum for herself and the surviving members of her family within the British provinces. J. Adam, Secretary to British Government, on the 25th May 1816 wrote to R. Jenkins, the Resident at Nagpur, "In the event of her (Rani) acceptance of the proposal of this asylum, you will adopt the necessary steps for removing her from Sirgoojah and establishing her in the place which she may select for her residence"³.

Shortly after this, the relations between the English and the Marathas deteriorated. The Third Maratha War commenced and came to an end in 1818 A.D. in favour of the English. As a result, Appa Saheb became a fugitive and in the territorial adjustments, Surguja was excluded from the Bhonsla's territories⁴ and became the protectorate of the Britishers. It was decided by the British Government in June 1818 to restore the Rani of Surguja her ancient possession and authority⁵.

The conditions on which she was to be restored to power were the same as those of their original tenure from the Government of Nagpur. Accordingly, the rate of tribute was fixed at rupees 3,000 per annum⁶. A suggestion from Major Roughsedge to restore Sangram Singh in authority was not accepted by the British Government. The Major was directed to make necessary arrangements for rendering the restoration of the Rani's authority easy and effectual⁷.

Besides, Captain Sincock was also instructed by Major Roughsedge to regulate the proceedings of Lal Himmat Singh in the provisional management of the affairs of Surguja⁸. At the same time, as a result of cession of Sohagpur district besides other Zamindaris, Korea and Chang Bhakhar also came under the sway of the Britishers⁹. Korea and Chang Bhakhar at the time of cession were paying Rs. 900 and Rs. 500, respectively, to the Maratha Government of Nagpur¹⁰. These two Zamidars usually paid

1. *ibid.* p. 82.
2. *ibid.* pp. vi and 83.
3. *ibid.* p. 83.
4. *ibid.* Vol. IV, pp. V-VI.
5. *ibid.* p. 84; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 229.
6. H. N. Sinha, *op. cit.*, Vol. p. 84.
7. *ibid.* pp. 86-87.
8. *ibid.* p. 87.
9. *ibid.* p. 163.
10. *ibid.* p. 164.

their revenue in horses and tattoos, but the Britishers now desired to obtain it in a more convenient way¹. These two Zamindaris now came under the charge of C.A. Molony, Commissioner of the Nerbudda Territories.² Till 1848 A.D., Chang Bhakhar estate was maintained as a part of Korea State by the British Government, when it was separated from it and recognized separately by the British Government³.

After the cession of the Surguja tract in 1818 A.D., the British Superintendent, Captain Sincock, managed its affairs till 1820. In that year, when the order was restored, Lal Amar Singh, a nephew of late Raja Balbhadra Singh, was declared Raja of Surguja on the 15th June, 1820 A.D. The Raja was granted a sanad and executed a *Kabuliyat* (Promise) promising allegiance to the British Government.⁴

In 1825 A.D., he was given a *patta* fixing his tribute at Rs. 3001⁵. After assuming the reins of administration, Maharaja Amar Singh began to make extensive grants of lands and villages as service and maintenance grants on extremely nominal revenue. These grants were made on the principal conditions of service, attendance, and allegiance, and were liable to be resumed on failure of a male issue, or breach of any of the conditions laid down in the grants. His liberality in giving out most of the valuable *tappas* (groups of villages) resulted in a disastrous effect on the revenue of the State⁶.

The Korea State was ceded in 1818 to the British. In 1819 A.D. Raja Gharib Singh, the Zamindar of Korea, also executed a *Kabuliyat* for the payment of an annual tribute of Rs. 400 to the British Government⁷. In 1848 his successor, Umol Singh, executed a *Kabuliyat* in which the tribute was retained at the same figure, and in 1876 A.D. Pran Singh Deo executed a *Kabuliyat* to the British Government and was granted a sanad renewing for 20 years the settlement of 1848. Raja Pran Singh Deo died in 1897 A.D. resulting in the extinct of the direct line from Raja Dharamall Shah, and the State was placed under the management of a leading Zamindar for nearly two years, pending an enquiry as to the legal successor⁸. The Sanad granted to Sheo Mangal Singh, the successor, in 1899 A.D., fixed the tribute at Rs. 500 for another 20 years. On the partition of Bengal in 1905, the State was transferred to the administration of the Central Provinces and Berar and a fresh sanad was granted in that year⁹.

1. *ibid.* p. 165.

2. *ibid.* p. 163.

3. *Surguja Ka Aitihasik Prashtha*, p. 55; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 307.

4. C. U. Aitchison, *Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads* (1930), Vol. II, pp. 536-37.

5. *ibid.* p. 498.

6. D. D. Dadimaster, *op. cit.*, p. 38.

7. C. U. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 493 and 533.

8. *ibid.* pp. 493, 541-42, 552-53.

9. *ibid.* pp. 558-59.

Meanwhile, so far as Chang Bhakhar is concerned, as already stated, when the State first came under the authority of the British Government, it was a feudal dependency of Korea, and was included in the agreement ratified with the Chief of Korea in December, 1819 A.D.¹.

In January 1848, a separate agreement was made with Bhaiya Bahadur Jangjit Singh Deo, the Zamindar of Chang Bhakhar². The State had been open to resettlement since the 3rd January, 1858, but in consequence of the said estate being backward, and there was no particular reason for revision of the previous settlement, the settlement of 1848 was allowed to stand³. Consequently, Bhaiya Bahadur Balbhadra Singh Deo, son of Bhaiya Bahadur Jangjit Singh Deo, Zamindar of Chang Bhakhar, executed a *Kabuliyat* on the 25th July 1875 and the settlement was renewed for a period of 20 years from 12th of April, 1875 A.D.⁴.

Bhaiya Mahavir Singh Deo, the nephew of Bhaiya Balbhadra Singh Deo, succeeded in September 1896 and was granted a Sanad in 1899 fixing the tribute at Rs. 387 for another 20 years. He was a minor and, therefore, Lal Bajrang Singh Deo (Man Singh's grand-son by his fourth son Kanod Singh) was placed in charge of the administration of the State. His administration, however, was not satisfactory. Mahavir Singh Deo was placed in charge of his State in 1900, on the attainment of his majority⁵.

He was, however, required to consult the Commissioner of Chhotta Nagpur in all important matters of administration, and to comply with his wishes. On the partition of Bengal in 1905, a fresh sanad was given to him. The tribute was revised in 1923 for a period of 10 years, and was fixed at Rs. 150 only⁶.

As stated earlier, Surguja was assigned to Raja Amar Singh in 1820 A.D. He became the first feudatory Chief of Surguja and was bestowed the title of "Maharaja" in the year 1826 A.D.⁷. By his deeds he left an indelible impression on the minds of the people. On his death in 1852 A.D., he was succeeded by his son Indrajit Singh, the son by the senior Rani. He was mentally infirm and unfit to rule, and for many years the State was managed by Bindeshwari Prasad Singh, another son by the junior wife of Amar Singh⁸.

We may examine here the details of the Great Uprising of 1857 in Surguja. At the time, the State of Surguja was managed by Bindeshwari Prasad Singh whose loyalty towards the British Government was

1. *ibid.* p. 488.

2. *ibid.* pp. 488, 541-42.

3. *ibid.* p. 551.

4. *ibid.*

5. *ibid.* pp. 488, 554-56; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, pp. 307-08.

6. C. U. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 554-56, 563-65.

7. *Surguja Ka Aitihasik Prashtha*, p. 30; *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 229.

8. C. U. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 498.

unflinched. When the storm of this Great Uprising made its impact on the neighbouring district of Palamau (in Bihar) in October 1857, Surguja was invaded by the followers of the Singrauli Raja, a contumacious dependent of the Rewa Raja, from whom he had no authority for this action.¹ Raghuvir Singh, the Raja of Singrauli (near Palamau), had assembled one to two thousand men on this occasion².

Bindeshwari Prasad Singh Deo, the Manager of Surguja, was successful in defending the tract and suppressing the movement in Surguja. He was, moreover, directed by the Officiating Commissioner of Chhota Nagpur to have 200 of his men in readiness on the Palamau border to co-operate with Lieut. Graham in suppressing the revolt.³ Upon which the Singrauli Raja withdrew and the rebels from Surguja made a common cause with the insurgents of Palamau.

The tribe of Bogtaks which inhabited tracts of land between the high lands of Surguja and the low country of Palamau took the lead under Nilambar and Pitambar, the Jagirdars of this tract, in this Great Uprising⁴. Late in October 1857, the two Jagirdars, with a force of about 500 Bogtaks and others, first advanced into the Palamau territory with some success. Lieut. Graham, who was at this time officiating as Junior Assistant Commissioner of Palamau, advanced with a small force of 50 men, to face the insurgents. Upon which the Bogtaks retreated into the hills of Surguja, where Lieut. Graham could not pursue them on account of the smallness of his force⁵.

But shortly afterwards, in the month of December 1857, the disturbances in Palamau assumed a serious turn and Lieut. Graham was besieged by a large body of the rebels⁶ at Chainpur. He appealed for help to the Commissioner of Chhota Nagpur and requested him to direct the neighbouring Zamindars including Bindeshwari Prasad, the Manager of Surguja, for assistance.

Thereupon Bindeshwari Prasad went forward with 800 fighting men to uphold the authority of the British Government in Palamau region⁷. Having received the proper reinforcement from Surguja and elsewhere, the position of Lieut. Graham became strong. The rebels soon retreated and having suffered in light skirmishes, they scattered here and there.

1. P. C. Roy Choudhary, 1857 in Bihar (Chhota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas, Palamau District Gazetteer, 1961, p. 73.

2. S. B. Chaudhari, *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies, 1857-1859*, p. 189.

3. Parliamentary Papers Reg. Mutinies in India, Further Papers, No. 9, p. 181.

4. Palamau District Gazetteer, p. 71.

5. *ibid.* p. 72.

6. Parliamentary Papers Reg. Mutinies, Further Papers, No. 9, p. 334.

7. *ibid.* p. 353.

Hence the uprising appeared to be dying out in December of 1857.¹ However, the Bogtaks of Surguja and Palamau became once more active, in November 1858. On the death (26 April, 1858) of Kuanr Singh, the famous rebel leader from Bihar, his brother Amar Singh took up the lead. His messengers contacted the disaffected Bogtaks to bring over them to the help of his army. To begin with, the attempt was short lived. Dr J. N. Sarkar's description of the later events may be quoted here

in extenso :—

"While Captain Davies advanced towards Sunya (Saneya) near Chechari, Lt. Graham made a detour southwards via Ramkundah. The small guard and armed police of the Bargar thana, apprehending attack by a large body of insurgents, made a planned strategic retreat across the river Kunhar into Surguja (18th November 1858). At once the thana building was demolished by a section of the Bogtaks led by Bhoja and Bharat, who also started cutting the crops. The guard escaping to Surguja across the Kunhar procured two Kols as guides to conduct them by a narrow path through a long great jungle right on the Bogtaks marauders³."

They were surprised by the Britishers and suffered heavy casualties, with 16 killed, 30 wounded, and 3 prisoners. The two leaders were, however, mounted and taken off, only three on the Britishers side were wounded¹. To have a proper control over the situation, there was a move in July 1958 from Captain Dalton. He proposed in a letter that Korundah sub-division which included Palamau, Surguja, Udaipur and the sub-division of Burhee should be added to the district under the military charge of Brigadier Douglas.² But before the move could materialize, the insurgents took an upper hand by the 27th December, 1858 and the Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah sub-division informed that 800 rebel sepoys were already in Surguja and Mirzapur districts. It was further informed that the rebels were plundering the country at their leisure and a party of 600 of them were marching on for Pratappur for the purpose of coercing Lal Bindeshwari Prasad, the Manager of Surguja³. Subsequently, Surguja district was occupied by the rebels⁴. Hence troops were urgently demanded for relieving Surguja.

1. *ibid.* p. 363.

2. Quoted from Palamau District Gazetteer, 1961, pp. 76-77.

3. *ibid.* p. 77.

4. *ibid.* p. 83.

5. *ibid.* pp. 79-80.

6. *ibid.* p. 80.

The military sections fanned out in different directions to suppress the insurrection and Surguja was soon relieved. By 14th January 1859. Captain Davies, Surguja Manager, Rani of Korea and Raja of Jashpur were reported to be operating against the insurgent Bogtaks and others in Palamau⁵. By March 1859, it was reported that all the principal leaders either had surrendered or had been captured⁶. Thus ended the Great Revolt of 1857 in Surguja District.

Bindeshwari Prasad Singh, the Manager of Surguja, continued to remain in good books of the Britishers. As Manager of the State, he executed a *Kabuliyat* in 1875. A.D. and in 1876 A.D. received a sanad renewing for 20 years the original settlement of 1825. Indrajit Singh Deo, the Raja of Surguja, died in 1879 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Raghunath Saran Singh Deo in 1882 A.D. The *sanad* granted to him in 1899 A.D. fixed the tribute at Rs. 2500 for 20 years¹.

In 1887 the title of Maharaja was conferred on Raghunath Saran Singh Deo by the then Viceroy Lord Dufferin, and in 1895 the title of Maharaja Bahadur was bestowed as a personal distinction on him by Lord Elgin, the Viceroy of the time.

Maharaja Raghunath Saran Singh Deo established ten courts and twenty five primary schools in the State. He started a High School, called the Edward High School, Ambikapur, three dispensaries, seventeen branch post-offices and a combined telegraph office in the State. Excise and administration was improved and a grand palace, called Shree Raghunath Palace, was constructed at the capital

Buildings at Ambikapur for Jail, courts and school and five gardens of the town owe their origin to him. He got good roads constructed leading to Udaipur, and to Garhwa, in the Palamau district of Bihar. Reforms were introduced in the Reserve and Mounted Police of the State. He also maintained 50 elephants in the State for which he had great admiration. Under the sanction of the British Government, he brought into the State four guns for use on occasions of festivals and for saluting purposes. He was thus the first ruler to introduce several administrative reforms in the State².

So far as the general condition of the tract was concerned, the wild Korwa tribe was a standing cause of trouble. An armed expedition had to be sent against them in 1883 A.D., and a band of them committed several murders and robberies in 1910. Subsequently, measures were taken for reclaiming and settling them.

1. *ibid.*

2. *ibid.* p. 81.

3. C. U. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 498, 550, 553-556.

4. D. D. Dadimaster, *op. cit.*, pp. 40-41.

So far as Korea and Chang Bhakhar states are concerned, they along with Surguja, Udaipur, and Jashpur-formerly attached to Chhota Nagpur, came under the administration of the Central Provinces on the 16th October, 1905¹. The capitals of the three states, forming the present Surguja district, were Bharatpur (Chang Bhakhar), Baikunthpur (Korea) and Bistrampur (Surguja). The name of the capital of Surguja State was subsequently changed from Bistrampur to Ambikapur.²

A fresh sanad was issued to Maharaja Raghunath Saran Singh Deo of Surguja on 23rd December 1905 for next 14 years, in supersession of the earlier sanad granted to him in 1899³. According to the new sanad, the State was required to pay a tribute of Rs. 2500, and to pay the *nazrana* to the British Government on succession in accordance with the general rules on that subject for the time being in force. In the same way a fresh *sanad* was issued to Raja Shiv Mangal Singh Deo of Korea on the 23rd December 1905, fixing the tribute at Rs. 500 for next 14 years.⁴

A similar sanad was also granted to Bhaiya Mahavir Singh Deo, Feudatory Chief of Chang Bhakhar State, on the 23rd December, 1905, fixing his tribute at Rs. 387 for next 14 years.⁵

The indiscriminate grants made by Maharaja Amar Singh during his regime were later resumed by Maharaja Raghunath Saran Singh Deo, from time to time, on various valid grounds.⁶

Hitherto the Maharaja was not invested with full criminal powers. Those were invested in the year 1916. He died on 31st December, 1917 and was succeeded by his son Maharaja Ramanuj Saran Singh Deo, on 18th April, 1918.⁷

Tana Bhagat Movement

Meanwhile a Tana Bhagat Movement, initiated in the neighbourhood of the District, began to make its impact on this District also. The Tana Bhagat movement was initiated on April, 1914 by Jatra Oraon of Ranchi District in Bihar. He persuaded the Oraons tribals of the region to give up worship of spirits, to abjure animal sacrifice, abstain from taking meat and liquor and cease ploughing the fields and labouring for other castes. The Movement manifested itself in protest against the local zamindars as well as the British power. The Bhagats stopped cultivation of their lands and freed or sold their cattle. They started a No-Rent campaign declaring that the land, originally reclaimed by their forefathers, was theirs. They also stopped payment of Chawkidari Tax,⁸ in the region. The movement spread-over to Surguja tract also around the table land, lying

1. Administration Report of the Central Provinces and Berar, 1905-06, p.v.

2. Memoranda on the Indian States, 1936, pp. 77, 84 and 91.

3. C. U. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 560-62.

4. *ibid.* pp. 557-59.

5. *ibid.* pp. 556-558.

6. For details, See D. D. Dadimaster, *op. cit.*, pp. 41-44.

7. *ibid.* p. 56; G. N. Singh, *op. cit.*, p. 28.

8. Ranchi District Gazetteer, 1970, pp. 73-74.

on the border of Ranchi and Palamau Districts of Bihar, which is known as Jamira Pat. Of the 27 villages on that plateau, 20 villages belonged to Surguja State, which were inhabited by Oraons and Kisan (also known as Nagesar and Nagesia tribe). The authorities took a serious note of the Tana Bhagat Movement, when organised in these villages and was suppressed.¹ Jatra Oraon and his seven followers were arrested and sentenced for one-and a-half-years imprisonment.

However, the spirit of the movement could not be suppressed and the number of the adherents of the Movement increased and reached a figure of 2,60,000 in the neighbouring districts.

The Movement took a serious turn in April 1918, when the Sadar Magistrate of Surguja, Pandit Gopal Rao with a party was proceeding to Palamau border to settle a boundary dispute. On the way he heard that Oraons and Kisans had assembled in large numbers and murdered some villagers of Datram and Dumarkholli. The rebels attacked these officials also, all of whom ran away, except Pandit Gopal Rao, his reader, a Tahsildar and an Overseer, all of whom were riding on an elephant. An arrow struck the elephant, which became restive and all the four riders were thrown off. The rebels murdered them and looted several villages. The news reached the Maharaja of Surguja, who immediately sent armed police to the spot and sent telegrams to the District Magistrates of Ranchi, Palamau and Bilaspur and to the Political Agent, Raipur. Meanwhile the rebels looted 14 villages, a police station and murdered 51 persons, including 9 State officials.² The Deputy Commissioners of Ranchi, Palamau, Bilaspur and the Political Agent Mr. Craw Ford alongwith Police Officers and military forces arrived at the scene. The Maharaja and the Commissioner of Ranchi also joined the party. They combinedly attacked Goptu, the headquarters of the rebels, and defeated and killed some of the rebel leaders. The remaining were rounded up shortly after and thus the rebellion was suppressed.³

Having failed to achieve their objective through violence, the followers of Tana Bhagat Movement joined the Freedom Movement of India. They followed the Gandhian way of Satyagraha and Ahimsa and kept their movement non-violent throughout. Under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi they joined the Satyagraha and courted arrests.

The Movement began to be felt so strongly in Ranchi and the neighbouring districts of Surguja that the D.I.G. of Chhota Nagpur wrote to the Government of India in April, 1919 that, "It is very important that Tana Bhagat Movement should be stamped out". Again after two years it was reported by the Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi on 9th March, 1921

1. G. N. Singh, op. cit., p. 21.

2. Ranchi District Gazetteer, 1970, p. 73.

3. G. N. Singh, op. cit., p. 22.

that "The Tana Bhagat Movement continues to give trouble and there is ample evidence that the efforts of agitators to associate it with non-Co-operation Movement has given the movement a new life.¹ The Tana Bhagat Movement sustained itself throughout the struggle for country's Independence and saw the fulfilment of its aspiration in national freedom.

So far as the Surguja State is concerned, the Maharaja, after the 1918 ouburst, kept himself in touch with the details of administration. He opened main roads, one to Kharsia in the South, another (the Garhwa Road) in the North and the third towards Manindragarh in the West of the State. These openings gave better markets to the local produces and benefitted the people.² The condition of the labourers who started getting more payments, was also improved. In the course of time, the Maharaja introduced several Constitutional reforms by setting up an Advisory Council with elected members, an Executive Council and Municipal Committees also.³

The freedom movement was rather weak in the states constituting the present Surguja District. Even then the Movement made its impact upon the people of the states. As early as in 1931, foreign goods boycott and prohibition were carried out by some national workers. Subsequently, State Praja Mandal and Nagrik Sangh also started working in the District, but their activities were limited to urban areas only. The people in general could not be influenced. Ambika Prasad Dube, Nand Kumar Dube, Gayadin Kevat and Jwala Prasad Pathak were the main national workers. Siddheshwar Guru, Baijnath Modi, Krishna Mohan Tripathi and Toda Ram Jogi also participated in the movement.

The impact of 1942 "Quit India" Movement was definitely felt in the District.

The Superintendent of Police, Palamau (Bihar) records in his weekly diary dated the 15th May, 1943 thus. "Dahru Ahir of village Parasageri. Police Station Rajpur (Surguja State), together with Gauri Shankar Ojha and Yadu Bansh Sahay, M.L.A. (active congress workers of Palamau District) had been mainly responsible for disturbances in Surguja State, on the occasion of the last Congress rebellion. In the month of April last they toured the jungli (forestry) parts of Manpur, Ramanujganj, Balarampur (Surguja State) and mischevously informed the illiterate aboriginal classes Kherwars, Korwas, Panikas and others that he had been deputed by

1. K. K. Datta, Freedom Movement in Bihar, p. 338.

2. G. N. Singh, op. cit., p. 22.

3. ibid. pp. 26-27.

Congress workers.....to propagate the news that the British have been driven out from India and that they should start a general loot of the capitalists. In furtherance of his pernicious propaganda, he invited the aboriginals of some villages of Ranka Police Station (in Palamau) as well as of the Surguja State to muster strong at Tongi-Duban (Surguja State) on 23rd April 1943 and get a large number of bows and arrows prepared by the Korwas of village Sondura (Surguja State) for the said expedition. In pursuance of his programme, he had selected to loot the market of Kurta and the house of a merchant in Surguja State. Sub-Inspector of Ramanujganj got timely information of this and succeeded in rounding up 5 of their leaders and recovered sufficient number of bows and arrows from their houses.....Dahru, the principal miscreant, and some mischief mongers of Ranka Police Station managed to make good their escape¹."

From here onwards the history of the District coincides with the whole of the country. Ever since the announcement of the Cabinet Mission proposals in 1946, some of the rulers of Orissa and Chhattisgarh States, including Korea, had been thinking in terms of a union. These rulers met at the Raj Kumar College at Raipur and formed the Eastern States Union which started functioning from 1st August 1947². However, a few states had kept out of it. The Union had an elaborate constitution with a Premier, a Chief Secretary, a joint police organization under an Inspector General of Police and an appellate court, but no legislature. It was financed by contributions from the constituent states. The joint police organization was headed by an Englishman and the police force had a large number of Pathans and Punjabi Muslims. Though the Union had been formed, this did not stop the agitation for responsible government in the various states³.

Meanwhile, the country achieved independence on the 15th August 1947. Thereafter, the merger of states to Indian Union started under the able guidance of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. Sardar was quite definite that the Eastern States Union should not be recognized, as it did not pay any head to the rights of the people and therefore, had no justification to exist⁴. Seeing the Government of India's stiff attitude, cracks started developing in the Eastern States Union. At a meeting of the Council of Rulers, the Raja of Khairagarh presented a note favouring even the merger of the States. The rulers of Korea and Patna were wholly oppos-

1. Weekly Police Diary of Superintendent of Police, Palamau, Dated 15th May, 1943.

2. V. P. Menon, *The Story of the Integration of the Indian States*, p. 145.

3. *ibid.* pp. 145-46.

4. *ibid.* p. 152.

ed to the suggestion¹. As a last minute endeavour to save this Union and to obtain recognition from the State Ministry, the rulers of Korea and Patna went to Delhi on 1st December along with the ruler of Khairagarh². Sardar pointed out to them that the fate of the smaller states was bound up with the adjoining provinces. Hence, the Hindi speaking states in the Eastern States Union should be integrated with the Central Provinces, and that the Eastern States Union should be dissolved. Shortly afterwards, Sardar Patel met the rulers of the Chhattisgarh States at Nagpur at 4.30 p.m. on 15th December. The rulers of ten states, besides the heir-apparent of Surguja, the Deewans of Chang Bhakhar and Jashpur and the Regent Rani of Nandgaon attended the meeting. Sardar made an appeal to the rulers to sign the merger agreement which had already been signed by the Orissa rulers. After some deliberations, the rulers desired some time to study the merger agreement. Accordingly, a couple of hours were given to them for the purpose and the meeting was adjourned till 10 p.m.

When the rulers met again, the ruler of Korea asked that the privy purse should be fixed in perpetuity so that it could not be altered on account of any change in the Government, and that it should be incorporated in the Constitution Act so as to make it enforceable by recourse to the Federal Court³. Sardar assured the ruler of Korea that the agreement which the rulers were signing embodied a guarantee given by the Government of India and that the intention was to incorporate it in the new Constitution.

After this categorical assurance, the ten rulers present signed the merger agreement. The heir-apparent of Surguja and the Deewans of Chang Bhakhar and Jashpur also agreed to get the signatures of the rulers of their respective States⁴.

The inevitable consequence of the merger of the Orissa and Chhattisgarh States was the dissolution of the Eastern States Union. Telegraphic orders were soon issued for the transfer of their police force to the control of the Government of Orissa and of the Central Provinces, respectively.⁵

On 23rd December 1947, the Government of India delegated to the Government of Central Provinces the power to administer the Chhattisgarh States in the same manner as the districts in that province. Only Central functions were treated as reserved for the Government of India⁶. Thus Surguja became a District of Central Provinces in the Commissionary of Bilaspur and continues to be so even after the reorganization of the State of Madhya Pradesh in November, 1956.

1. *ibid.* p. 154.

2. *ibid.*

3. *ibid.* pp. 154-55, 160-62.

4. *ibid.* p. 161.

5. *ibid.* pp. 161-62.

6. *ibid.* p. 163; R. L. Handa, *History of Freedom Struggle in Princely States*, p. 302.

PEOPLE

Population

Surguja District was constituted in 1951 after the merger of the three erstwhile feudatory states Surguja, Korea and Chang Bhakar of Chhattisgarh region. It is the second largest district in Madhya Pradesh in respect of area. It is also one of the most difficult districts of the State from the point of accessibility.

The District is at present divided into seven tahsils. Of the erstwhile feudatory states, the former Chang Bhakhar State constitutes the present Bharatpur Janakpur tahsil, the former Surguja State has been split up into four tahsils—Ambikapur, Surajpur, Ramanujganj (Pal) and Samari (Kusumi), and the rest of the two tahsils (Baikunthpur and Manendragarh) comprise the former Korea State.

The population of Surguja District according to Census 1961 was 10,36,738, nearly 26.12 per cent higher than what it was in 1951. The Census of 1971 recorded a population of 13,26,439, which means a further increase in population by 27.45 per cent. The area of the District according to 1971 Census was 22,337 sq. kms. These area figures were furnished by the Surveyor-General of India. According to the area figures furnished by the State Survey Department, the area of the District was 21,996.87 sq. km. The difference in two area figures is 1.57 per cent only.

In 1971, the proportion of rural-urban population in Surguja District was 93.29:6.71. There are in all 2,396 inhabited villages and 9 towns in the District.

Notwithstanding the high growth of population, Surguja is the second most sparsely populated District in the State and the density of population is 59 per sq. km. as against 91 for the Division and 94 for the State.

The tahsil-wise break-up of population is shown in the following Table:

Table No. III—1
Area and Population, 1971

Area and Population, 1971					
Tahsil	Area in Sq. km.	Population		Density (per Sq. Km.)	
		Persons	Males Females		
Bharatpur	2,314.5	37,238	19,174	18,064	16
Baikunthpur	866.4	1,08,029	54,981	53,048	125
Surajpur	4,613.9	3,41,601	1,72,567	1,69,034	74
Pal	3,225.2	1,59,925	81,658	78,267	50

Manendragarh ...	1,113.4	1,45,807	76,995	68,812	131
Ambikapur	4,335.7	4,35,042	2,19,967	2,15,075	100
Samri	1,636.9	98,797	49,700	49,097	60
Surguja District	22,337.0	13,26,439	6,75,042	6,51,397	59

Source: Census Report, 1971.

Note: The District total of Area figures includes the forest area as well.

It is evident from the above Table that Ambikapur Tahsil has the largest population while Bharatpur tahsil the least.

Sex-ratio

The sex-ratio of the District is 965 and differs largely to the other two districts of the division. The sex-ratios of Bilaspur and Raigarh Districts of the Division are 1,004 and 1,008 respectively.

The changes in the proportion of sexes in Surguja District during 1901-1971 are shown below:

Table No. III—2

Sex Ratio, 1901-71

Population	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971
Total	970	966	959	964	950	954	955	965
Rural	970	966	959	964	953	957	963	974
Urban	—	—	—	—	894	850	807	847

Source: Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

Surguja District has the least sex-ratio in the eastern Madhya Pradesh between 1901 and 1921, the sex-ratio fell from 970 to 959. It shot up to 964 in 1931 and then dropping sharply to 950 in 1941 has again shown a tendency towards increase.

Growth of Population

Though the second largest District in size, Surguja is the 6th in respect of population in the State showing that the District is sparsely populated. In 1971 the density of population in the District was 59 per sq. km, which is the lowest in the State except Bastar which has still lower density of population (39 per sq. km.).

The District had a population of 4,05,672 persons in 1901. For comparison State and Division figures have also been furnished. The percentage decade variations of the population are given below.

Table No. III—3

Percentage Decade Variation, 1901-71

Region	1901-11	1911-21	1921-31	1931-41	1941-51	1951-61	1961-71
Madhya Pradesh	+15.30	-1.38	+11.39	+12.34	+8.67	+24.17	+28.67
Bilaspur Division	+27.28	+3.48	+18.29	+13.15	+10.39	+19.83	+23.08
Surguja District	+27.01	-7.09	+28.71	+13.59	+17.45	+26.12	+27.94

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

During the decade 1911-21, the population of the District decreased by 7.09 per cent. This decrease was to a large extent due to (i) the scarcity conditions, fulminating influenza epidemic and plague in the period (ii) the preponderance of deaths over births during the period and (iii) the emigration from Surguja.

Density of Population

With a very low population density of 59 persons per sq. km., Surguja is the second most sparsely populated District of the State, the first being Bastar. Bharatpur tahsil of the District is one of the most sparsely populated tahsils of the State with a population density of only 16 per sq. km. During the last 90 years or so, the density of population in Bharatpur tahsil (former Chang Bhakhar State) has always been very low and there does not appear to have been any substantial change in the population density of this tahsil during the last seventy years. The erstwhile States of Surguja and Korea (i.e., the rest of the six tahsils), have, however, registered continuous rise. This fact is clear from the Table given below:

Table No. III—4

Density, 1872-1961

Former States	Present Tahsils	Density of Population per sq. mile							
		1872	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	1961
Chang Bhakhar State	Bharatput	10	20	21.5	27	24	26	20	24
Korea State	Baikunthpur	13	22	21	38	49	56	135	166
	Manendragarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	105	168
Surguja State	Surajpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	108	125
	Pal	30	53	57	71	62	83	67	77
	Ambikapur	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	193
	Samri	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	119

Source : Census Report, 1961

Whereas other areas of the District have room for expansion and development in respect of cultivation and mineral resources, Bharatpur tahsil is just 'tangled and dense mass of hills, ravines and plateau', offering practically no incentive to growth of population by immigration. The density of population in the District, however, increased by 14 persons per square mile during 1961-71 decade.

Emigration and Immigration

The high growth of population in the District is attributed to many causes, one of them is immigration. This is reflected in the following migration table, in which only the contiguous districts have been taken into consideration.

Table No. III—5

Emigration and Immigration, 1961

No. of persons born in Surguja District and enumerated in		No. of persons enumerated in Surguja whose birth place is in	
District	No. of Persons	District	No. of Persons
Bilaspur	6,672	Bilaspur	9,993
Raigarh	13,385	Raigarh	11,722
Shahdol	4,469	Shahdol	7,432
Sidhi	2,026	Sidhi	8,402
Total	26,552	Total	37,549

Source : Census Report, 1961

The colliery areas of the District are the perennial source of attraction for the immigrants as they provide gainful employment to labourers.

Rural and Urban Population

According to Census, 1971, out of 13,26,439 persons in the District, 89,040 persons were found to be residing in urban areas. Thus, the proportion of rural-urban population in the District comes out to be about 93.3:6.7. In 1971, as said earlier, there are in all 2,396 inhabited villages and 9 towns in the District. Looking to the size and the character of the population, the number of uninhabited villages in the District is very small-29 in number. The maximum number of villages (897) has the population range of 200-499, closely followed by the villages of 500-999 population range (706). There are only 24 villages having a population between 2000 to 4999 persons.

There were no towns in Surguja District upto 1913 Census. The classification of towns in 1941, 1951, and 1971 is shown below:

Table No. III—6

Classification of Towns, 1941-71

S. No.	Name of the town	Classification of Town in			
		1941	1951	1961	1971
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Baikunthpur	—	VI	VI	VI
2.	Ramanujganj	—	VI	VI	VI
3.	Manendragarh	V	V	V	IV
4.	North Jhagrakhand Colliery	V	—	V	VI
5.	South Jhagrakhand Colliery	—	—	—	VI
6.	Kurasia Colliery	—	—	—	IV
7.	Chirmiri Colliery	IV	—	V	V
8.	Ambikapur	V	IV	IV	III
9.	Surajpur	—	—	—	V

Source : Census Report, 1971

N.B.—(Class III—Population range 20,000—49,999)
 (Class IV—Population range 10,000—19,999)
 (Class V—5,000 to 9,999) and
 (Class VI—Less than 5,000).

Displaced Persons

Refugees started to come to the District from the eastern wing of the then Pakistan (now Bangla Desh) even before Partition, i.e., right from the year 1946, though their number remained much less in that year. In 1947, after the Partition of India, their number increased gradually when in 1948 it reached to maximum.

On the other hand, in 1946 not a single refugee came to the District from the then West Pakistan (now Pakistan), but in 1947 immediately after partition people came from there also in a large number. In 1948 and 1949, their influx was gradually reduced. In 1950 and 1951, it came to a still lower level from both the wings.

In all 897 refugees came to settle in Surguja District in this first spell of five years. Out of them majority (690) settled in the rural areas and only 207 persons decided to settle in the urban areas of the District. This is because, those who came from the eastern wing were more in number (637) and they were mostly peasants.

The maximum number of refugees came from Dacca (155) and Bakarganj (163). Mymensingh (89), Faridpur (64) and Noakhali (50) were other important districts in the eastern wing in this respect.

From the western wing, which sent in all 260 refugees, Gujranwala (49) and Gujarat (39) districts sent the highest numbers¹.

Language

There are in all 61 languages and dialects spoken in the District. The percentage of speakers of the important languages dialects to the total population is Hindi (77.44%), Kurukh/Oraon (9.38%), Chhattisgarhi (6.69%), Korku (1.45%), Urdu (0.74%), Bengali (0.76%) and Korea (6.67%). Really speaking the proportion of persons speaking the Chhattisgarhi dialect is much more than what is reflected in statistics. The Chhattisgarhi dialect of Surguja District is a little different from that spoken in Bilaspur and Raipur Districts, the home of pure Chhattisgarhi dialect. As one goes north, the dialect gradually merges more and more into the form of Bhojpuri spoken in Chhota Nagpur. Therefore, the Chhattisgarhi spoken in the District possesses many of the characters of Bhojpuri of Chhota Nagpur region. To be precise, the Chhattisgarhi of Surguja District is called **Surgujia**. In the Census of 1961, separate returns had come for **Surgujia** (1,918 speakers) and Chhattisgarhi (68,334 speakers); though both of these are one and the same dialect.

1. Surguja District Census Hand Book, 1951, pp. 135-136.

The Chhattisgarhi dialect of Surguja differs from the standard Chhattisgarhi in certain respects of pronunciation, nouns, pronouns and verbs.

Oraons speak a dialect called Kurukh, which is entirely different from Surguja, the dialect spoken by the common folk of Surguja District. They sing their folk-songs in Kurukh with a strong Dravidian tinge. The examples of Kurukh are as under :

Hindi	Kurukh
(1) Bakri Lekar Jaa rahaa hai	Ara ho das
(2) Bazar Jaa raha hoon	Bazar Kaldan
(3) Idhar aao	Itra Bera
(4) Udhar jaao	Atra Kala

The Pandos speak Surguja which contains certain influences of Bhojpuri dialect showing an impact of the neighbouring State of Bihar. The examples of Surguja are given below :

Hindi	Surguja
(1) Apke Kitney Khet Hain ?	Raur Kaitna Khet hai ?
(2) Kitni Larkian Hain ?	Noni hain aiko ?
(3) Tumhare Kitney Bail hain	Tor Kaitna Burda hain ?

The sentences cited above follow the pattern of fusion between Chhattisgarhi and Bhojpuri dialects. The pronoun 'Raur' and the noun 'Burda' are Bhojpuri but have crept into Surguja dialect.

The Pandos while speaking Surguja are conscious of the difference between Chhattisgarhi dialect, as spoken in Raigarh and Bilaspur Districts, and Surguja. A few examples of the apparent difference are given below :

Surguja	Chhattisgarhi	Hindi
(i) Jaathu Bazaarey	Haat Jathan	Hat Ja rahe hain
(ii) Chaley Khai	Khaye bar chal	Khane Ke liye chal

The following Table shows the tahsilwise, rural and urban distribution of the important languages/dialects spoken in the District.

Table No. III—9

Mother Tongue, 1961

S. No.	Language/Dialect	Tahsil (Rural)			
		Bharatpur	Baikunthpur	Surajpur	Pal
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Hindi	29,458	76,042	2,52,235	96,398
2.	Kurukh/Oraon	13	2,823	6,841	926
3.	Korwa	...	...	1	300
4.	Korku	8	2	2,972	8,901
5.	Chhattisgarhi	...	13	99	4
6.	Bengali	24	180	1,567	17
7.	Others	46	1,978	8,166	4,977

S. No.	Language/Dialect	Tahsil (Rural)			District	
		Manendra-garh	Ambika-pur	Samri	Urban	Total
(1)	(2)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1.	Hindi	82,944	1,81,445	53,284	31,066	8,02,872
2.	Kurukh/Oraon	626	70,593	16,994	535	99,351
3.	Korwa	9	3,617	2,975	...	6,902
4.	Korku	37	2,409	692	1	15,022
5.	Chhattisgarhi	4,513	62,560	4	2,141	69,334
6.	Bengali	2,649	1,474	10	1,971	7,892
7.	Others	4,932	5,834	1,357	8,075	35,365
Grand Total					43,789	10,36,738

Source : Surguja District Census Hand Book, 1961.

Bilingualism

Majority of those whose mother tongue is other than Hindi, returned Hindi as their second language. Only a microscopic percentage returned Urdu, Bengali and Marathi as their second language in descending order.

Deonagri is the most widely used script in the District. It is popular even among those whose mother tongue is not Hindi and Marathi and also among the educated tribals whose dialects are freely written in **Deonagri** characters.

Religion

Hindus form the great majority in the population of the District. Next in large number are the Muslims. According to the Census of 1961, the proportion of followers of various religions in Surguja District was as follows:

Hindus	97.34%	Muslims	1.66%
Christians	0.85%	Sikhs	0.10%
Jains	0.04%	Others	0.01%

A comparison with the statistics of 1951, 1961 and 1971 as tabulated below shows that proportion of Hindus has decreased a little whereas that of other religions has gone up.

Table No. III—7**Religionwise Percentage of population, 1951-71**

Period	Proportion of					
	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Jains	Sikhs	Buddhists
1951	98.57	1.29	0.07	0.02	0.02	Neg.
1961	97.34	1.66	0.85	0.04	0.10	Neg.
1971	95.97	2.02	1.88	0.05	0.16	0.12

Source : Census Reports, 1961 and 1971.

The following Table shows the number of followers of each religion in the rural and urban areas of the District during the Census of 1971 :—

Table No. III—8**Religion, 1971**

	Total Population			Hindus		Muslims		
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Total	13,26,439	6,75,042	6,51,397	6,46,354	6,24,032	13,953	12,813	
Rural	12,37,399	6,26,823	6,10,576	6,03,676	5,88,676	10,384	9,764	
Urban	89,040	48,219	40,821	42,678	35,710	3,569	3,049	
Growth rate 1961-71.		27.94			25.89		55.15	
	Christians		Sikhs		Buddhists		Jains	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Total	12,434	12,509	1,164	913	784	842	353	288
Rural	11,621	11,409	450	321	647	728	45	32
Urban	813	1,100	714	592	137	114	308	256
Growth rate 1961-71	183.93		92.85		17,966.67		77.56	

Source : Census in India, 1971, Series I India, Paper 2 of 1972, Religion.

There has been a significant increase in the number of Christians. They rose from 545 in 1951 to 8,785 in 1961 and to 24,943 in 1971. The high increase is a direct impact of vigorous Christian Missionary activities in the District.

Similarly the large scale adoption of Buddhism by Scheduled Castes during the decade 1961-71, under a Neo-Buddhist movement appears to have contributed to their extraordinary growth rate (17,966.67 per cent).

Castes and Tribes

The proportions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to total population of the District in 1951 were 0.95 per cent and 46.2 per cent respectively. According to the Census of 1961, Surguja was the fourth biggest District in the State in respect of proportion of Scheduled Tribes and 55.59 per cent of its population consisted of Scheduled Tribes. The three preceeding districts of the State in this respect were: Bastar (72.27 per cent), Mandla (61.81 per cent) and Jhabua (58.72 per cent). The proportion of Scheduled Castes to total population of the District was 5.81 per cent.

According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification) Order, 1956, there are 15 castes which have been treated as Scheduled Castes and 32 tribes which are scheduled in the District.

The numerically important Scheduled Castes of the District according to Census 1961 were Chamar (27,882), Ghasia (17,562), Basor (4,623), Chikwa (3,358) and Rohidas (1,119). However, the total number of Scheduled Castes in the District, according to census 1971 was 63,772, out of which only 6,933 resided in urban areas.

The Scheduled Tribes which are numerically important were Gond (2,22,278), Oraon (1,06,186), Kavar (92,132), Nagesia (28,172), Korwa (20,414), Khairwar (19,460), Pando (18,707), Kodaku or Koraku (14,768), Majhwar (10,096), Agaria (9,552), Baiga (7,480) and Bhuinhar (7,713), according to census, 1961.

According to Anthropological Survey of India (Annexure to the tribal map of India, 1971) the important Schedule Tribes in Surguja District (along with their 1961 populations) have been enumerated as follows:—

Baiga	...	(7,480)
Bharia Bhumia or Bhuinhar Bhumia (including Pando etc.)	...	(36,933)
Bhinjwar	...	(671)
Dhanwar	...	(1,920)
Gond (Including Agarias etc.)	..	(2,37,885)
Kavar	...	(92,132)
Khairwar	..	(19,460)
Kol	...	(2,857)
Korku	...	(14,768)
Korwa	...	(20,414)

Majhwar	..	(10,096)
Nagesia	..	(28,172)
Oraon	...	(1,06,186)
Saonta	...	(4,633)

It is evident that the Gonds (including Agarias etc.,) Korwas, Oraons, Majhwars and Kawars are numerically the most populous tribes. The total number of Scheduled Tribes in the District according to the Census 1971 was 741, 894, out of which only a very small number (9,501) was reported to be living in urban areas.

Gonds

The Gonds of Surguja are principally cultivators and a small proportion of them are agricultural labourers. More than 90 per cent of the working population of the tribe in rural areas is engaged in agriculture (cultivation and agricultural labour). The Gonds of the District are also sometime referred to as **Kisan** (agriculturists) by other tribal groups.

The Gonds are believed to have come here as a conquering race after the break-up of the Gond kingdom in the central Madhya Pradesh. They are by far the most numerous of the Scheduled Tribes of the District.

Although Gonds do not have a tradition of their own which may be compared to the Rajputs because they have not left behind any masterpiece of architecture or any literary or artistic work, they have founded kingdom, of which the name Gondwana is still famous. In the Surguja District, the sub tribe called the 'Panchhasia Gond' rank next to Raj Gonds, the latter being termed descendants of royal families; noticeable feature about their names and surnames is that they generally end in the terminal "Ram" or "am". Some examples are:

Kesram	Tekam
Juhakaram	Netam
Jeram	Pusam
Sindram	Sennam
	Checham

It is believed that in Surguja District the Gond dynasty used to rule before their conquest by the present line of ruling princes.

The Gonds have exogamous totemic septs. The marriage rules are somewhat strict. A man can not marry within his own sept, nor can he marry in a sept which worships the same number of gods.

Oraons

Another important tribe of Surguuja is the Oraon. Ethnologically they belong to the Kolarian tribe. The people belonging to the tribe are simple by nature and prone to gullibility. It is sometimes observed that other tribes maintain a certain distance with them in social intercourse.

The family among the Oraon is patrilineal and patrilocal. Their worship largely comprises totemistic rituals; for purposes of marriage the tribe is divided into a number of exogamous totemistic clans. The initial step for searching a bride is taken by the boy's father. Bride price is a prevalent custom.

The Oraon practice of burying the dead is interesting. When a man dies some cooked rice along with **Orad** is put in the mouth of the corpse: and oil is applied to the dead person by his sister, wife, mother or elder brother's wife. The corpse is carried to the burial ground. The dead body is placed in the grave, the head facing towards the north and feet facing towards the south.

By coming into contact with the civilization of the plains they have adopted the Hindu deities like Vishnu, Parvati, Ganesh, Ram and Sita. Songs and dances form their chief winter night entertainment; they assemble at village **Akhadas** and sing and dance from evening to midnight. Their most popular dances are **Jadur**, **Sarhal** and **Jatrakharia**.

The Oraons have their own dialect called **Kurukh**, which is quite different from **Gondi**. The Oraons have no tradition of a martial or ruling race but have evolved democratic institutions like their tribal council called '**Parha Panch**'.

The Oraons are stocky, well built, muscular with pronounced Dravidian features. Their remarkable characteristic, as elsewhere, was their expression of cheerfulness. They seem to be given to a life of geity, fun and frolic, and have an eye for the splendid moment during festivals, through their songs and dances. They are also fond of cutting jokes even between members of the family, including brother-in-law, sister-in-law, cousin sisters, etc. Their hair is jet black and look frizzy.

They insist on a recognition of their ancestry from the mythical Hero King **Harakh** because the name by which they are known to each other is '**Kurukh**', which is also the name of their dialect. Whatever may be the ancestry of the Oraons, perhaps the word "**Kurukh**" in some obsolete Dravidian sense meant man, and it is likely that the mythical king **Kurukh** imparted to the word its own meaning.

The Oraons show an indifference to hygiene and that is why the other tribes have nicknamed them as '**Ravan Bansi**', taking the euphony of the word Oraon to suggest Ravan. However, the Oraons, because of their cheerful disposition and their 'eat, drink and be marry' attitude of life, have earned for themselves a reputation for amiability.

Kanwar

The Kawars (Kanwars) trace their origin from the Kauravas of the **Mahabharat**. The home of this tribe is the hilly tract of Chhattisgarh region, north of the Mahanadi, in the districts of Bilaspur, Raigarh and Surguja. According to a tradition, after the defeat of Kauravas in the battle of Hastinapur, two pregnant women fled to the hilly area of the region and took refuge in the houses of a grazier and a washerman, respectively. There they gave birth to a son and a daughter who became the ancestors of the tribe.

Due to the legend of descent from the Kauravas, they consider military service as their traditional occupation. They are, however, engaged in agriculture, collection and sale of forest produce and large scale industries. They are divided into eight endogamous divisions, viz., Tanwar, Kamalbansi, Paikara, Dudh Kavar, Rathia, Chanti, Cherwa and Rautia. They have a large number of exogamous septs, which are generally totemic. Marriage within the same sept is prohibited, so also between the children of brothers and sisters. A man can marry his wife's younger sister during her life time. The system of bride-price is common and is known as **suk**. Widow remarriage is permissible except in the Tanwar sept. The dead are usually buried, though well-to-do people have adopted cremation.

Kanwars are very much advanced as compared to other tribal groups. In the rural areas, they are mainly cultivators. In the urban areas, their predominating occupation is 'other services'.

Nagesia

The Nagesia are residing principally in Jashpur tahsil of Raigarh and in this District. They also refer to themselves as Kisan. The tribe derives its name either from the word **nag** (cobra) or from **nag** and **basis** meaning original settlers of Chhota Nagpur. They are considered to be an off-shoot of the Mundas.

They are divided into three groups, viz., Telha, Dhuria and Senduria, on account of using different material for making the forehead of the bride at the time of the marriage ceremony. The Telhas and Dhurias marry with each other, but not with the Sendurias who consider themselves to be superior to the other two. The Telha and the Dhuria women do not wear glass bangles and armlets above the elbow. The Telha women do not wear nose ring nor tattoo their bodies while the Sendurias do both.

Korwa

The tribe is concentrated mainly in the Bilaspur, Surguja and Raigarh districts of Madhya Pradesh and belongs to the Kolarian family of the tribes. Their dialect is most closely related to Asuri and resembles Mundari and Santali. The principal sub-divisions of the tribe are—the Diharia or Kisan Korwas, and the Paharia Korwas of the hills. The tribe is also divided into totemic exogamous septs.

Marriage within the sept is forbidden and the system of paying price for a bride is prevalent. Polygamy is permissible. Among the Paharia Korwas of Surguja, the boys and girls arrange their own marriages. Divorce and remarriage of widows are permitted and a widow often marries her late husband's younger brother. It is customary for a husband divorcing his wife to give feast to his tribesmen for five days.

The Korwas bury their dead, placing the dead body in the grave with the head to the south. The hut of the dead man is broken down and no body lives in it again. The corpses of children below five years of age are buried under the shade of banyan tree.

They worship Dulha Deo, the Chief god of the Gonds. In Surguja District their principal deity is Khuria Rani. Thakur Deo is considered to be their corn god and it is believed that the god protects the village from diseases and epidemics. They observe three main festivals—**Deothan**, which is observed on the full-moon day of **Pus** (December) when all the gods are worshipped; the **Nawanna** or the harvest festival, and **Faguwa** or Holi. They are engaged mainly in agriculture and 'other services'.

Kodaku (Korku)

The Korkus are regarded to be an offshoot of the Munda or Kolarian tribe akin to the Korwas. They, however, consider themselves a different people from the Korwas but admit that the difference is not great. As a matter of fact, the Kodakus are somewhat better-clad than the Korwas and have perhaps a slightly more civilized appearance.

The tribe is usually divided into two groups, viz., Raj Korku and Potharia. But these two divisions are being replaced by four sub-castes with territorial names, Mouasi, Bawari, Ruma, and Bondeya.

Marriage within the same sept or between first cousins is strictly prohibited. Bridge-price is paid, out of which a certain amount goes to the Panchayat. Some sept of the tribe give away their daughters in marriage without any ceremony. Other forms of marriages are, by service, elopement or intrusion. Polygamy and widow marriage are permissible.

The dead are usually buried and stone or wooden memorials, called **gatha**, are raised in the honour of the deceased. The Kodakus and Gonds, have many aspects of their cultural and material life common to both, but a deeper understanding of the Korku ways of life would at once differentiate him from the Gond.

Majhwar

The tribe lives principally in the Raigarh and Surguja districts of the State. In Surguja, these appear to be of Munda and Santhal rather than of Gond origin. They have no sub-divisions but have only totemic septs. Marriage within the sept is prohibited and the matches are arranged by the parents of the parties. Payment of bride-price is the rule but a poor suitor may do service to his father-in-law for a year or two in lieu of it.

The dead are buried. Some cotton and rice are placed near the head of the dead body as to have food and clothing in the next world. They worship **Dulha Deo** and dance the **Karma** dance in the months of **Asadh** and **Kunwar** or at the beginning and end of the rains. In the rural areas of the district they have taken up to cultivation and agricultural labour, but in urban areas fishing is still their traditional occupation.

Bhuinhar

They are mostly met with in the Ramkola tappa and colonel Dalton describes them as the lowest type of human being that he ever came across. Huntre stated in his 'A Statistical Account of Bengal' (1872), that the tribe was rapidly dyeing out. In 1931, their number was 14,577 which came down to only 7,713 in 1961 in the District. The phenomenon is, of course, unanswerable.

Pandos

The Pandos are numerically small in the Surguja District (18,707). They show racial characteristics different from those of the Oraons. Oraons are distantly related to them like cousins from matrilineal sides as "**Mauserey Bhai**", and, therefore, Pandos consider themselves superior to the Oraons. The names that these tribals carry also have a common ending. The name of the Pando headman is Dakhai Sai while those of Oraons are Mangal Sai, Seeba Sai, etc.

The Pando Tribe is included among Bhumias which are scheduled in the District but they repudiate this origin, claiming to have remote ancestors in the epic **Mahabharat**. They are known for their sense of scrupulousness and cleanliness. They have a high sense of personal and family hygiene.

Their chief diety is **Baraithan**. They also worship a diety called "**Jalamukhi**" which seems to be a tribal variant of some "**Shakti**" diety whose worship was widespread in the Vindhychal Mountains.

Social and Religious Movements

During the last few decades, a number of socio-religious movements have sprung up in the district and nearby areas. These movements are known as: Rajmohini, Birsa Bhagat, Mahua Dev and Gabira Guru Movements. All these movements may collectively be called as '**Bhagti**' Movements. Some are of the opinion that these movements came about as a direct result of oppression which had been going on under different money lenders, over bearing or corrupt officials and autocratic rulers. According to others, these movements sprang up in the District as a direct result of mass conversion of tribals to Christianity.

These **Bhagti** movements started essentially as religious movements but later on took the shape of social reforms also. Initially the Mahua Dev movement started as a religious movement preaching and demonstrating the efficiency of the tribal gods and deities but subsequently helped the people to remove the fear of witch craft, prohibited drinking of liquor and eating of meat, enjoined daily bath and cleanliness on its followers and so on. These days, the Gahira Guru movement has also taken the shape of a strong socio-religious reform. This movement is now a very potent factor among the tribals of the District.

The only movement, according to District Census Handbook Surguja, 1961, which seems to have tried to retrieve members of Scheduled Castes in the District, is the Rohidas movement. We find a return of 1,119 population of Rohidas, a synonymous group of Chamars.

Social Life

Property and Inheritance

The joint family system is in vogue in the District and the family property is inherited by the survivors of the **Karta** in the traditional way. Despite the enactments of various laws of succession and inheritance the

customary Hindu laws of transfer of property are in vogue. All the sons together with their mother getting the share equally. The daughters are mostly unaware of their rights in the property and are reluctant to exert for it.

In Khairwars as a rule the property is inherited by the eldest son of the first wife even if he is younger than any one of the sons of the second wife, and he must fulfil the obligation of providing for all other legitimate children¹.

The transfer of property through 'will' is resorted to only in very well-to-do families.

Marriage Customs

Tribal marriages have much similarity with a common Hindu marriage, because they have adopted many of the rites and rituals of Hindus². The Pandos have a custom of negotiated marriage by which the father of the boy visits the girl's father and spends the night at the place. The next day, the actual marital negotiation starts. It may incidently be mentioned that the boy's father visits the girl's father with a couple of bottles of country liquor and Rs. 7 in cash. If the negotiation succeeds, he gives the bottles and the money to the girl's father and returns.

Later, the girl goes to the house of her betrothed one and spends about a week or ten days at the place of her prospective father-in-law. If the boy and the girl approve each other and show signs of attachment, they boy's father goes again to the girl's father with bottles of liquor and Rs. 5 and immediately the boy puts bangles round the wrist of his would be wife. The marriage is subsequently solemnized with proper rituals. When the *lagun* is decided, practically in all the castes and tribes, the groom goes to the bride's house accompanied by relatives and friends. The pair circumambulate seven times around a bamboo pole, earthed erect. Behind them five or seven-women also take seven rounds singing marriage songs and rejoining the occasion. They apply "**Subhag Sindur**" (vermilion) to mark accomplishment of marriage and get **saris** from the groom's side in lieu of this rite. The **barat** is entertained for two days. Local wine and folk dances aid glamour to the function.

Among the tribes, besides the regular marriage, marriage by service, by mutual consent, by capture and by intrusion are also practised.

1. Tribes of Madhya Pradesh, p. 41.

2. Surguja Ki Adim Jatiyan, op. cit., p. 40.

Dowry

Among tribes the dowry is given by the boy's side to that of the girl's. In Pandos the boy's father gives Rs. 7 as "Sukhdaan", Rs. 12 as "Madad", clothes, and a quantity of rice and pulses.

Similar customs also prevail among the Oraons. In them the boy's father pays Rs. 13 in cash after marriage and three "Khandis" of rice..

Marriage and Morals

As elsewhere monogamy is the rule and polygamy an exception in the District. Among the tribes, it is, however, more uncommon for a man to have two wives¹. But Korwas are exception, who practice polygamy though polyandry is not at all in vogue in them also, as in other castes and tribes. Such Korwas erect separatee hutments for each wife.²

Only a few well-to-do tribals keep more than one woman in the status of *rakhni* (kept), who help them in agricultural operations. For this purpose there is no caste bar. If the woman is of the same caste as that of the man, the caste panchayat may give her recognition as his wife. But for such kept woman the man shall have to give a dinner to the tribe as penalty. The children of such woman are treated on equal footing with those of the real wife³.

Civil Marriages

Being a backward District the number of civil marriages performed is very meagre. On an average it has been only one per year. The statement given below shows the year-wise position in this regard.

Table No. III—10
Civil Marriage, 1964-71

Year	No. of civil marriages performed
1964	1
1965	1
1966	1
1967	2

(Table continued)

1. Surguja District Census Hand Book, 1961, p. Liv.

2. Surguja Ki Adim Jatiyan, p. 40.

3. ibid. p. 16.

Year	No. of Civil Marriages performed
1968-69	1
1969-70	1
1970-71	Nil

Source : Collector and Marriage Officer, Surguja.

Marital Age

The age at marriage has generally increased for both the sexes during the post-Independence period. In tribals, adult marriage is the rule. However, in some of the savarna castes and also in most of the Scheduled Castes the practice of pre-puberty marriages for girls prevails.

Marriage of Widows

Among high caste Hindus marriage of widows is a taboo. In tribals and Scheduled Castes, however, it is a regular practice. The ceremony performed for the purpose is very simple. The widow covers her head and wears new bangless before the caste Panchayat. The husband applies vermilion on her right ear before the Panchas. Later, the couple salute the Panchas. This type of marriage is locally called "Sagai".

However, in Badela Kanwars, widow-remarriage is prohibited at some places. The Pakira and Rathia Kanwars, on the other hand, freely permit their widows to remarry.

Divorce

Hindus, especially the upper castes, denounce divorce. Tribals and Scheduled Castes though practising Hinduism are not affected by it to this extent and divorce is permitted by them. According to a sample survey, the maximum number of divorces are resorted to in the age group 25-34. This number gradually recedes on either side of this age group.

When a Korwa divorces his wife, she has not to pay back the 'boonda' money to her first husband, but if she divorces her husband, such money is to be paid by her new husband to the divorced husband in accordance with the caste regulations. Boonde is a certain fixed money decided by the caste panchas.

When a tribal woman leaves her husband and goes to another person and becomes his wife, it is called *dhuku* marriage.

In upper caste Hindus, caste **panchayats** are functioning nominally and are incapable of performing such functions. The people, therefore, resort to courts to settle the issue. The number of cases registered under the Hindu marriage Act, 1955, for divorce purposes has gradually increased from one in 1969 to 3 in 1970 and 8 in 1971. However, no divorce was granted during this period. No cases were rejected during the first two years whereas 3 cases were rejected in the year 1971.

Economic Dependence of Women

A substantial percentage of the female population of the District is economically dependent on their spouses and guardians. If the agricultural sector is left, in which women get enough opportunity of employment, almost the entire female population of the District is dependent. This is a very backward state of affairs and calls for special attention of the concerned.

As against 4,03,577 males, only 83,864 females were reported to be working in the District. Most of them were engaged in cultivation (29,297) and as agricultural labourers (37,926).

Prostitution and Traffic in Women

It has been reported that there are no prostitutes in the District. No cases were registered under the 'Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls' Act, 1956, in the decade 1961-71. These facts do not give a correct picture of the situation, though it can be visualised that the quantum of the evil is much less here as compared to the otherwise developed districts.

Drinking and Gambling

As regards drinking and gambling the position is not as good, which can be analysed from the number of offences registered during the period 1961-71 under the Excise Act and the Gambling Act.

Table No. III—11

Social Offences of Gambling etc., 1961-71

Year	Offences under	
	Excise Act	Gambling Act
(1)	(2)	(3)
1961	553	147
1962	507	170
1963	550	205
1964	384	186

(Table contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)
1965	266	148
1966	244	208
1967	167	160
1968	261	235
1969	309	185
1970	149	140
1971	191	134

Source : Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

Dwellings

Kachcha hutments built of mud are in preponderance. Only in **Kasbas** and towns many **pakka** houses may be seen. Lately, cement concrete constructions have also found favour with the well to do classes. According to Census, 1971 the number of occupied residential houses in the District was 2,37,282, out of which only 18,280 were in the urban areas. The curious fact is that even in the industrial areas of the **collieries**, which have been treated as urban, the temporary sheds for labour are mostly built of bamboo or thatch.

The dwellings of Oraons and Pandos, although existing in the same village, are, nevertheless, clearly demarcated from each other. The two tribes living side by side but in opposite formation of hutments presented a scene of harmony in diversity.

The old State Gazetteer of Korea published in 1930 describes: "The huts of the Pandos and Bhumia, however small, contain two doors, one is meant for common entrance and the other for menstruating women, who are supposed to be unclean and, therefore, they are made to come and go through different doors."

Settlement Pattern

The dispersed cluster form of villages are found in Surajpur, Baikunthpur, Pal and Ambikapur tahsils, whereas the rectangular ones are encountered in Pal, Samri and Ambikapur tahsils. A representative Village Katholia yields the following pattern of living on investigation.

It is a village people by 7 different groups. An unmetalled motorable road from Manendragarh to Ambikapur runs through the village, a scattered settlement.

It was full of thick forests when people came to live. It was not possible for a small band of people to clear such a heavy forest for compact settlement. As a result different families scatteredly settled over the territory. Later on, more and more jungles were cleared for cultivation but the settlement pattern did not change. The second reason for this scatteredness was that the feudal chief of the area wanted to enjoy free labour (**begar**) from his subjects. They later thought that if they could live in seclusion in fresh areas, they would be saved from 'begar' because chiefs would not be able to trace them out.

Different groups spread over the territory. No rigid group-linked settlement is found. But lonely it transpires that a particular group lives at a close proximity to the members of its own affines. The population of Kol community outnumber all the groups. The Kol houses occupy wide expanse. Next to Kol come Chamars and Gonds. The former is concentrated in different segments and the latter is in one segment of the village, though within the segment one lives quite apart from the others except in exceptional cases. The other four groups have one house each in the village.

Only a few houses form a para (hamlet). Village has no specific plan. Foot-tracks are the connecting links.

During the festival "Chhera", the entire Pando villages are cleaned. The white washing is done by a special type of local white clay known as Chhuin.

Furniture and Decorations

These are the essential accompaniments of educated urban families. Well-to-do people, very few in number in big villages, own locally made chairs, benches, stools, tables, etc., mostly wooden. There is generally a derth of furniture even in such houses. The tribals are the proudy owners of finely woven wooden cots which are multipurpose. They are fond of decorating the outer walls of their hutments with paintings of animals or flowers.

Dress

Dhoti, **kamiz** and sometimes coat adore the men and **sari**, **bandi** or blouse the women residing in big villages. These are popular and are all locally made **khadi** clothes. **Panikas**, a class of traditional tribal weavers, do the job for the people. These clothes are tailored in the villages.

The tribal man in general is the least clad person in the District. They wrap a lion cloth around the waist. The women in them wear short sari.

The Korwa women, however, wear five yard sari. Their men folk wear four yard **dhoti** when they go out of the village.

The tribal women folk are found to pay special attention to the beauty care of their hair. The hair-do is done in a peculiar fashion giving a slight tilt to the attractive 'juda'.

Oraon men folk seem to live half-naked, not because of habit, but on account of bad financial condition.

Ornaments

The bell-metal ornaments are customary among the tribal women. **Peri (Pyjeb)** of bell-metal adorn their feet. They wear **toda** too. **Haskal** is worn round the neck. It is made of old and new coins. **Balies** adorn the earlobes. Men, however, wear brass **lurki** on the ear, seldom of gold. They prefer to decorate their neck with **mohar** or **tabeez** of gold. Both men and women are fond of wearing brass or silver rings. **Raj Gonds** and **Kawars** are comparatively more Hinduised and they imitate Hindu fashions. **Korwa** women are satisfied with **kangan** on the hands, a pair of **anguntha** on the toes and **dali** or **karnful** on the ear-lobes. Tattooing is very common especially among women in this region.

Food

A survey undertaken by the Anthropological Survey of India of the Kathotia village of Surguja District in regard to food habits betrays a common feature of courses of meals taken in villages. The type of meals of the rural people shows a remarkable irentity in large tracts of the District.

The common course of meals of the villages is two meals a day and breakfast in the morning, then meals are taken at the mid-day and in the evening. The breakfast is generally carried by women. Main meals are spiced with pickels.

In the village Kathotia it is found that the mid-day meal may be an ordinary one but the dinner must be heavy with varieties of preparation. on important occasions like wedding ceremonies, the main meal is served only once though refreshment is also arranged.

The Chamars and Kols do not eat meat in a marriage feast, but a Gond may eat non-vegetarian dishes during marriage. No one eats fish during wedding or ceremonial occasions.

There is a slight change in the meals during the agricultural season; people eat three major meals a day, the additional meal is taken always before mid-day.

Men offer food to gods before taking their meals. Sometimes they throw some food in fire as offering to gods. But women do not follow this custom. It is observed that no one changes clothes before taking meals.

Unlike the people of purely Chhattisgarh districts, like Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg, the Oraons and the Pandos do not eat **baasi**, which is a favourite dish of the Chhattisgarhis of those districts. Similarly, both the Oraons and the Pandos, as different from the caste Hindus, eat at the house of their son-in-law. However, the Pandos will not inter-dine with the Oraons.

Amusements and Festivals

Songs and dances are the main source of amusement to the rural populace in particular and people in general in the District. **Karma**, **saila** and **domkach** are the favourite dances. Persons of either sex participate in **Karma** and **domkach** whereas **saila** is only for the male youths. Similarly **sua** dance is exclusively for young girls which is danced specially when rice crop is harvested.

Cherta is the annual function of agricultural labour class celebrated on **Paush Sukla Poornima** (December/January). They rejoice on this day with liquor and dance.

Pilgrim Centres and Jatras

There are seventeen places in all, where religious fairs are organised in the District, Bharatpur and Pal Tahsils being devoid of any one of them while Samri tahsil organised only one, called **Janata** fair in **Magha** (January/February) for one day at Shankargarh.

Out of the seven fairs organised in Manendragarh tahsil, all by local people, three are held on **Ganga Dussehra** in **Jaistha** (May/June) at Khursia, Chirmiri and Pondi and two on **Dussehra** on **Aswin Sudi 10** (September/October) at Khursia and Chirmiri. The rest two are organised on **Kartik Poornima** and **Shivratri** at Siroli and Amritdhara respectively.

In Baikunthpur tahsil, Gram Panchayat and Janapada Sabha respectively organise **Ganga Dussehra** fairs at Wasti (Patna) and Baikunthpur.

In Surajpur tahsil, **Ram Navmi**, **Dussehra** and **Shiv Ratri** and in Ambikapur tahsil **Urs** and **Gahar guru** fairs are organised in addition to those on **Ramnavmi** and **Shivratri**.

Communal Dances, Festivities

Some of the festivals peculiar to the District are the **Karma**, the **Sarhul** and the **Kanihari**.

The **Karma** is celebrated during the plantation of rice by many tribes and particularly by the Oraons.

At the **Sarhul**, the marriage of the sun-god and earth-mother is celebrated about the beginning of April.

The **Kanihari** is held previous to the threshing of paddy, and threshing floors are not prepared unless it is observed. It can only be held on a Tuesday and dancing is the most important item.

Public Games

Kabaddi, **Gulli-danda**, **Chati**, **Chika**, **Khokho**, **Guchi** and **Kuhu-danda** are the popular pastimes for boys, whereas **Sugga**, **Lokdi**, **Lagad godi** and **Goti** are exclusively for girls.

Grown-ups seldom resort to games except on **Makar-Sakaranti** when **Gulli-danda** is played with joy.

However, modern educated people and the school and college going boys and girls resort to western games wherever and whenever the facility of any one of them is extended to them.

Economic and Professional Groups and Classes

Agriculture and coal mining form the two professions which attract the labourers. Their social life has changed to a considerable extent on account of the impact of various enactments pertaining to land reforms and labour welfare. The facilities extended by the Community Development Blocks, various Co-operative, Cultural, Educational and Local-self institutions have changed their outlook towards life. Yet the pace of progress has been very slow in this District as compared to the adjoining districts.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Surguja District is principally a great table land consisting of numerous hills and plateaus. Except a lowlying basin in southern-central region, the entire District is a continuous stretch of plateau dotted with hills. The main source of livelihood of the people of the District is the pursuit of agriculture. The Census of 1961 reported that amongst the total workers of the District 87.2 per cent. derived their livelihood either as agriculturists or as agricultural labourers. Wide variations were, however, noticeable amongst the tahsils which is clearly borne out from the Table below :—

Table No. IV-1

Dependence on Agriculture 1961

District/Tahsil	Percentage of workers deriving their livelihood as	
	Cultivators	Agricultural Labourers
District Surguja	76.7	10.5
1. Bharatpur	68.7	17.3
2. Baikunthpur	76.5	9.0
3. Surajpur	84.8	9.7
4. Pal	65.5	24.5
5. Manendragarh	46.4	8.2
6. Ambikapur	82.1	7.5
7. Samri	83.8	7.6

From the above Table tahsilwise percentage of persons engaged in agriculture, (i.e., as cultivators and agricultural labourers) to the total workers in the respective tahsils, works out as : Bharatpur 86.0, Baikunthpur 85.5, Surajpur 94.5, Pal 95.0, Manendragarh 54.2, Ambikapur 89.6 and

Samri 91.4. Thus, except in Manendragarh Tahsil more than 80 per cent. of the workers in other tahsils are dependent only on agriculture. Except Manendragarh Tahsil, therefore, scant diversification and overwhelming concentration in agriculture was a reflection of economic backwardness and lack of industrialization and urbanisation by the time of this census. The proportions become more accentuated if urban and rural areas are considered separately.

The largest proportion of cultivators was seen in Surajpur Tahsil and the least in Pal Tahsil excepting, of course, Manendragarh Tahsil which was a mining area. It was in Pal Tahsil that one came across the largest proportion of agricultural labourers. This increased proportion of agricultural labourers and comparatively less of cultivators might suggest concentration of land only in the hands of fewer persons and relatively bigger size of holdings. As can be expected, the proportion of persons engaged in agriculture in Manendragarh Tahsil has been less because of the impact of mining industry.

Figures of the 1971 Census also show that agriculture was the principal source of livelihood of the people of the District. Of the total workers, 86.4 per cent. (65.4 per cent. as cultivators and 21.0 per cent. as agricultural labourers) earned their bread from agriculture.

Land Utilization

The District occupied an area of 2,199 thousand hectares (ha.) in the year 1967-68. Out of this forests accounted for the largest share, i.e., 1,092 thousand ha. Area amounting to 126 thousand ha. was not available for cultivation, for it was being utilized for non-agricultural purposes or was barren or unculturable. Other uncultivated land, comprising permanent pastures, grazing lands and culturable waste was responsible for 374 thousand ha. Fallow lands claimed 99 thousand ha. The residual area was the net sown area being 508 thousand ha.

Net sown area shows the expanding land use. It is the definite indication of the efforts being made, to bring progressively more land under the plough. Net area sown increased by 23.8 per cent. during the decade 1951-52 to 1960-61. During the years 1960-61 to 1967-68, the sown area recorded an increase of 2.2 per cent.

Area sown more than once, or double cropped area, shows the intensive progress of cultivation. This area showed an increase of 74.4 per cent. during the ten year period 1951-52 to 1960-61. The figure for 1967-68 showed some decrease over that of 1960-61. A table given below shows the land use classification of the District during the year 1967-68, while, details up to a later period appear in the Appendix.

Table No. IV-2
Land Use Classification, 1967-68

Land Use	Area ('000 Hect.)
1. Total area according to village papers	2,199
2. Forests	1,092
3. Not available for cultivation	126
3.1 Put to non-Agricultural uses	74
3.2 Barren and unculturable	51
4. Other uncultivated land	374
4.1 Under permanent pastures and other grazing lands.	334
4.2 Under miscellaneous tree crops and groves	0.2
4.3 Culturable waste	40
5. Fallow Lands	99
5.1 Current fallows	57
5.2 Old fallows	42
6. Net area sown	508

Irrigation

Irrigation plays an inconspicuous role in the agricultural system of the District. We may quote from the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer to provide a historical backdrop to this account. Concerning irrigation in Surguja State, the Gazetteer has this to say:—

"Generally speaking the cultivators of the State seem somewhat lacking in energy and enterprise. It may be said that irrigation is practically unknown. The rice fields are of course terraced and embanked, but there is no irrigation on any regular system. Over considerable tracts water seems to be available close to the surface but the ryots do not make use of wells. In the Ramkola and Pal tappas, where there are numerous perennial streams and springs, no attempt is made to utilize the water and cultivation is very backward..... Very occasionally small trenches are dug to bring down water from some small stream or marshy ground. Crops of barley and oats are sown, if possible on what are called this dih lands, which are usually marshy spots near the banks of streams and this seems to be the most that the local cultivator does to avail himself of irrigation. If no dih land is available, these crops are left unwatered and the produce is poor¹."

In Chang Bhakar State, irrigation was conspicuous by its absence. "There is no irrigation of any kind to be met with in the State, though the paddy fields, of course, are terraced."²

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, pp. 241-242.

2. ibid. p. 313.

Korea State had little semblance of irrigation. "Irrigation is practically unknown in the State. None of the villages possesses katcha wells. There are one or two such wells in the residences of the zamindars and chief but they are only utilized for irrigating plots of vegetables for the use of their owners. There are a number of hill stream and springs, but they are never utilized for irrigation. Some fine tanks, the relics of the old ruling power, are in existence, and are some time utilized to irrigate the lands below by cutting a passage in the bank and letting the water percolate through. This, however, is a rare practice, and when it is resorted to, the people do not apparently take the trouble to fill up the cutting again properly so as to obtain a good head of water for the next year's crops."¹

Area Irrigated

The statistics of irrigation show that in 1960-61 only 0.67 per cent. of the net area sown was under irrigation and during 1951-52 to 1960-61, the area under irrigation did not record any significant increase. In fact there was in all a decrease in the years after 1951-52 till 1960-61. With 3,823 ha. of irrigated area in 1966-67, there were signs of recovery over the figure of 1950-51, i.e. 3,764 ha. The area in receipt of irrigation increased to 4,024 ha. in 1967-68 which was equivalent to 0.8 per cent. of the net area sown. The area in just one more year rose to 4,675 ha. in 1968-69. The progress, however, was remarkable in the seventies when, by 1975-76, the area irrigated had risen to record 11,441 ha. that is, 2.1 per cent. of the net sown area in that year. The increase, thus, amounted to almost three times that of 1966-67 both in absolute and proportionate terms.

Sources of Irrigation

Wells provided the bulk of irrigation in the District till the sixties. In 1967-68, of the area irrigated, 67.8 per cent. was irrigated by wells, 0.7 per cent. by tanks, 8.1 per cent. by canals and the rest, i.e., 23.4 per cent. by other sources. As per the latest figures of 1975-76, however, the position had changed perceptibly and various schemes under other sources category, which included the field of lift irrigation, had made these the foremost in place of wells with an aggregate of 45 per cent. (5,158 ha.) of the District irrigated area under them. Wells with 28 per cent. (3,210 ha.) took the second place while, canals too had more than doubled their share to nearly 18 per cent. (2,034 ha.). Tank irrigation, though still coming in the last, registered highest proportional increase with 9 per cent. (1,037 ha.) area occupied by it. A table showing area irrigated by sources is given in Appendix—A.

1. ibid. p. 299.

Bunding of nullahs is in vogue all over the District as a source of irrigation. From the several streams that traverse the area the cultivators divert the flood water by throwing cross bunds. No regular channels exist, but the cultivators so arrange that diverted water generally follows the higher contours, thus flooding comparatively large areas and incidentally reducing erosion of soil. The cultivators achieve this by throwing more cross bunds across the passage of water and also by making the bunds along the boundary of low-lying fields stronger in section. As a result, the drainage line disappears and gets converted into fields. Even where big catchments have been diverted the field bunds have stood remarkably well. Perhaps the soil texture gives them the required resilience but controlled flooding also helps the bunds to withstand the impact of flood waters. Continuous flooding in the above manner serves to correct rainfall irregularities to a great extent during the rainy season. In October, when the rains generally cease, there is still some flow left in the streams—how-so-ever small this may be—which when diverted to land already flushed with water is good enough for maturing the crops.

Canal irrigation is of recent origin in the District. Construction of canals is probably not feasible looking to the topography of the District. However, a start had been made during the sixties which was apparently followed by more schemes with the progress in the seventies. A list of irrigation projects, all minor in nature, under the charge of State Irrigation Department is appended.

Crops Irrigated

In the year 1971-72, out of the gross irrigated area 6,800 ha.—besides the wholly or largely irrigated crops like sugarcane (680 ha.), fruits and vegetables (3,270 ha.), condiments and spices (310 ha.) and tobacco (160 ha.)—major benefit of irrigation was claimed by wheat (1,330 ha.) followed by paddy (720 ha.) and barley (190 ha.).

Kunwarpur Irrigation Project

This irrigation project has the distinction of being the only medium irrigation project of the District marking the first major effort for the expansion of irrigation in the District. In fact, the increase in irrigated area, specially canal irrigation, by the year 1975-76, can, to a large extent, be attributed to this scheme, a good part of which was already over by 1973. It is noteworthy to see in this connection that till the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan little had been done in the District in this direction.

The project is located at a distance of about 25 kms. from Ambikapur, near the village Kunwarpur. The project aimed to impound the waters of Chulhat nullah with the construction of an earthen bundh 80 ft. high and 975 ft. long. A subsidiary bundh on the right flank, 650 ft. long and

15 ft. high was proposed and the entire earth work including the spillway section was to amount to 120 lakh cft. The main canal proposed to be 16 miles long was estimated to cost Rs. 36.11 lakhs. The canal construction work including the main canal and its subsidiaries were to involve earth work equivalent to 200 lakh cft. The project was estimated to cost Rs. 85.53 lakhs. The project is a very attractive one as the cost per acre came to Rs. 815 only, as against the accepted normal figure of Rs. 1,500 per acre.

The reservoir envisaged to submerge only 230 acres of culturable land. The remaining land coming under submergence consists of barren land covered with small trees and shrubs. The uprooted cultivators were to be settled on land coming under the irrigation command of the project. The project on completion was to provide irrigation to 10,500 acres of *kharif*. The additional production of foodgrains was expected to be 3,100 tons. The doab between Chulhat nullah and Rehat river is expected to be turned into a very rich agricultural land.

The work on the project started in November, 1961. Till January, 1973, earth work of 220 lakh cft. had been completed out of the total of 300 lakh cft. Till the same period, a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs had been spent.

Soil

Some local variation is found in soil terminology. The terms prevalent in the eastern half of the District are the same as those current in Raigarh District and other areas of Chhattisgarh, i.e., *matasi* (a yellowish clay soil), *kanhar* (black soil), *dorsa* (mixture of *kanhar* and *matasi*), *palkachhar* (an alluvial soil), *patparkachhar* (a sandy alluvium) and *bhata* (poor laterite detritus). The commonest soil type in the eastern half is *matasi* which is well adopted for growing rice. The black soils *dorsa* and *kanhar* are not to be generally found. The *bhata* and *patparkachhar* contain an admixture of pebble and require frequent fallows. They are usually found on high-lying ground.

In *Baikunthpur* and *Manendragarh* tahsils the soil terminology differs: *mair* is a blackish soil on which good class crops, such as, paddy and wheat will grow. In a general way this may be equated with the *kanhar* soil of the eastern areas; *dudia* is a greyish soil on which paddy and wheat can grow but the soil being inferior the yield is poor; *balka* is a mixture of clay and sand, generally of a reddish hue. This *balka* soil is almost confined to high-lying lands (*tanr* and *tikra*).

As one goes westwards from the central low-lying region, the quality of soil goes on deteriorating till, in *Bharaipur* Tahsil a "tangled and dense mass of hills, ravines and plateaux" is encountered. In this Tahsil, the soil is stony and difficult to plough and the share rarely enters the soil to a depth of seven inches or so.

For paddy cultivation the position of a plot appears to be considered more important than its soil and the various terms for position of land are **bahara**, **chaura**, **dand** or **gora**, **tanr** and **tikra**, **gabhar nar darha sitai**, **andi** and **balasthal**.

The **bahara** land, also known as **kanhar** or **dhondhi** is considered to be the best land for paddy cultivation. **Chaura** and **sitai** are the second-class paddy lands. **Tanr** and **tikra** are the high-lying lands, not considered suitable for paddy. **Dand**, **darha**, **dandi** or **gora** is the third-class paddy land and **balasthal** is the most unsuitable kind of land in Bharatpur Tahsil which, in the erstwhile feudatory state regime was held free of rent. **Nar** is the term for small **baharas** and **gabhar** is the term for a flat land. The **bahara** is considered to be the best-position land because it is the land down which the water flows, i.e., it is the hollowest part of the land receiving drainage from three sides¹.

The most fertile soils of the District are found in the Ambikapur and Sitapur tracts. Chemical analysis of the soils made in the District has revealed deficiency of nitrogen and potash. Deficiency of phosphorus has also been found to some extent.

Crops

Cropping pattern is marked by the predominance of paddy cultivation, maize though second in importance is left trailing far behind. The Table below portrays the position of various crops in the District.

Table No. IV—3

Principal Crops—Area and Yield

Crops	Area Quinquennium Ending 1968-69 (ha)	Yield	
		Quinquennium Ending 1968-69 (Tonnes)	Standard per Hectare (Kg.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Paddy	2,85,188	1,66,193	986
Wheat	6,717	2,926	527
Jowar	3,433	2,959	504
Barley	7,684	5,377	560
Maize	33,326	47,202	673
Kodon	30,549	7,081	247
Kutki	601		

1. District Census Handbook. Surguja, 1961, pp. Ix-Ixi.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ragi	2,249	510	336
Sawan	9,991	3,114	448
All cereals and millets	4,29,310		
Gram	7,265	2,653	381
Tur	8,777	7,727	1,446
Urad	19,824	3,651	280
Kulthi	40,321	10,452	392
All pulses	81,348		
All fruits	784		
All vegetables	3,735		
All condiments and spices.	512		
All food crops	5,16,186		
All fibres	2,094		
Til	6,417	628	168
Ramtil	25,335	3,806	224
Mustard	20,813	6,516	448
All oilseeds	57,247		
All non-food crops	59,564		

Some essential information about the principal crops, viz., sowing and harvesting is given in the following tables :—

Table No. IV—4

Sowing and Harvesting of Principal Crops

Crop	Sowing	Harvesting	Marketing
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Paddy	1st June-15th July	15th Sept.-30th Nov.	15th Sept.-31st Dec.
Wheat	20th Oct.-15th Nov.	March 20th-April	March-April
Barley	20th Oct.-15th Nov.	15th March-15th April	15th March-30th April
Gram	10th Oct.-31st Oct.	15th Feb.-31st March	10th Feb.-31st March
Tur	1st July-15th July	15th Dec.-15th April	15th March-30th April
Rape & Mustard	26th Oct.-15th Nov.	15th Jan.-15th February	15th Jan.-28th Feb.

In the paragraphs that follow trend in the area of the chief crops of the District has been described. The relevant statistics are comprised in Tables in Appendix.

Paddy

Paddy cultivation has held the place of highest honour in the crops grown in the District. Even in all the three integrating states this honour went to paddy. In the erstwhile Surguja State, "all over the most fertile and best developed portion of the State rice is the principal crop, considerable care and labour are expended on the preparation and embankment of the rice lands, but it is noticeable that finer kinds of paddy found in Jashpur are not grown in Surguja".

Paddy cultivation has continuously expanded though the rate of expansion is by no means phenomenal. The area which was 240 thousand ha in 1950-51 increased to 284 thousand ha in 1968-69. The out-turn in 1968-69 amounted to 153.4 thousand tonnes. Japanese method of paddy cultivation has been introduced in the District but little progress has been made in this direction. In 1969-70, the area under Japanese method was no more than 8,062 acres. By 1975-76, the total area and production of paddy in the District registered further progress to about 300 thousand ha and 223 thousand tonnes respectively.

Maize

The second most important food as well as **kharif** crop is maize. Maize area has like paddy also expanded more or less, continuously from 25.9 thousand ha in 1950-51 to 35.1 thousand ha in 1968-69. Maize gave an out turn of 30 thousand tonnes in the latter year. The area and production under the crop in 1975-76 amounted to respectively, 38.7 thousand ha and 36.5 thousand tonnes.

Barley

The most important **rabi** food crop is barley, though the area commanded by it is not much, being only 7.6 thousand ha in 1968-69. The out-turn in the same year was 4.8 thousand tonnes. The area in 1975-76 covered 9.5 thousand ha and the production also increased to 7.2 thousand tonnes by the same year.

Gram and Tur

They are the important pulse crops of the District. As the figures in the Table show, there has been continuous expansion in their acreage too. The area stood at 6.0 and 9.4 thousand ha respectively in the year 1968-69. The outturn was recorded as 1.5 and 5.5 thousand tonnes in the same year. The area under gram, in 1975-76, recorded 8.6 thousand ha, and that under **tur** 8.4 thousand ha with their production figures at 3.2 and 9.4 thousand tonnes, respectively.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 239.

Rape and Mustard

Next to ramtil the most important oilseed crop is rape and mustard. From 15.6 thousand ha in 1950-51, the area increased to 22.7 thousand ha in 1968-69 though it had touched 26.8 thousand ha in 1965-66 and 7.1 thousand ha in 1966-67. Quantum of out-turn had likewise been erratic and was recorded as 6.5 thousand tonnes in 1968-69. During the seventies, the area, by 1975-76, covered 26 thousand ha under the crop with the production amounting to 13.7 thousand tonnes.

Fruits and Vegetables

The area devoted to the cultivation of vegetables is about five times the area under fruits. For the quinquennium ending 1968-69, fruits had 784 ha against 3,735 ha of vegetables. The area grown under different fruits and vegetables during the same period was as follows: guava 20 ha, barana 22 ha, orange 2 ha, margo 719 ha, potato 1,479 ha, sweet potato 968 ha and onion 288 ha. Agriculture Department has made arrangements for distribution of seeds of vegetables and seedlings of fruits. In fact, vegetable cultivation had progressed well as the subsequently much increased total area of 6,120 ha in 1971-72 included as much as 5,380 ha of vegetables.

Condiments and Spices

An area of 512 ha was utilized for growing condiments and spices during the quinquennium ending with 1968-69. The principal crops were: Chillies 221 ha, garlic 122 ha, ginger 31 ha, and turmeric 109 ha. The total area under spices in 1971-72 was recorded at 869 ha.

Progress of scientific agriculture

Agricultural Implements

The traditional plough is the principal agricultural implement of the cultivators of Surguja and as such has been described at some length.

As one crosses the District from east to west the plough becomes lighter and lighter. The plough in the eastern part of the District is a light pattern of the **churia hal** seen in Udaipur Tahsil of Raigarh District. In Baikunthpur-Manendragarh tahsils the plough is somewhat lighter than this and in Bharatpur it becomes an extremely light one. The characteristics of the plough in this District are that it is entirely made of sal wood and bamboo is not used in its making and stock and handle are in one piece. An extremely light variety of plough is seen in some areas of Baikunthpur Tahsil where it is hardly more than a stick and in some cases only a roughly shaped bough.

The chief feature of the plough is the shape of the share which resembles a spear head fitting into a correspondingly shaped slot in the head of the plough stock. At the point of entrance an iron band passes over the slot in the stock and keeps the share in place. The portion of the share, which is exposed, measures eight to nine inches. For **rabi** cultivation the stock has a hole pierced in it just above where the share ends and in this hole is placed a funnel of bamboo with a spreading mouth known as **paitanra**.

A peculiar feature in the plough used in Bharatpur Tahsil may be noted here. On the *jua* (the upper bar of yoke made of kamar wood) there are three raised and curved places of wood to strengthen the yoke the parts where the greatest strain comes upon it, viz., over the neck of the oxen between the two pegs, and over the centre of the *jua* where it is attached to the pole, these raised pieces are known as **mahadeo**. The upper end of the pole is pierced by three holes into which pegs known as **harelia** are inserted.

A thong of leather or rope is brought over the centre *mahadeo* of the *jua* and fastened over one of the pegs, the rope is called the **nada**. By this means the yoke is fastened to the pole the rope is fastened to the first peg when the strain is light, and to the second or third according to the tension. The plough has a peculiarly shaped handle (**muthia**) projecting at the back. This feature of the double ree and means of fastening it to the pole and the shape of the handle are peculiar to this Tahsil. It is probably necessitated by the nature of the soil here which is stony and difficult to plough¹.

The District had been slow in adopting the modern implements of agriculture, at first though, subsequently, it showed considerable progress by the seventies. There was no iron plough in use in the District in 1951, while five were reported in 1956. The number reported in 1965-66 was 121 and 70 in 71-72. Sugarcane crushers worked by power, which numbered only one in 1956, increased to 3 and further to 7 in 1965-66 and 1971-72, respectively. Electric pumps for irrigation moved from a bare one in 1956 to six in 1966 and then steeply to as much as 328 in 1971-72. Progress in the use of tractors had also been good enough though though haphazard. These and other figures appear in a table in Appendix. It shows that the modern efficient tools of agriculture have made their impact felt in the District but also that the old traditional implements still hold the sway.

The modern implements in use in the District are Meston and Wah ploughs, chaff cutters, winnowers, threshers, touchi gurma cultivators, cane-crushers and seed drills.

1. *ibid.* p. xi.

Seeds

Improved varieties of paddy seeds were first introduced in 60-61. It was but natural that paddy received priority over other crops since it is the most important crop of the District.

Improved seeds of wheat, maize and oilseeds came later. The following Table shows the improved strains of different crops and the years of their introduction.

Table No. IV—5

Improved Strains of Different Crops

S. No. Crop		Improved Strain	Year of Introduction
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Paddy		1. L.G.B.	1960-61
		2. Laloo	
		3. Safeda	1962-63
		4. R-10	
		5. Taichung Native-I	1966-67
		6. Padma	
		7. Jaya	
		8. Hansa	1969-70
		9. Safari	
2. Maize		1. Hy-Deccan	1964-65
		2. Deccan	
		3. Ranjit	1967-68
		4. Composite Sona	
		5. Ganga-5	1968-69
		6. Ganga-3	
		7. Ganga-101	
		8. Hy-Ambar	1969-70

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3. Wheat	1. Hy.-65	1962-63	
	2. Lorma Raho	1965-66	
	3. N.P.—404	1968-69	
	4. N.P.-839		
	5. S—308		
	6. S—307		
	7. S—331		
	8. S—227		
	9. Sharbati Sonora.		
5. Jowar	1. Vidisha Jowar	1968-69	
	2. Hy. Jowar		
	3. Swarn Jowar	1969-70	
6. Bajra	1. Hy. Bajra	1968-69	
7. Mustard	1. Apprecid Cutend	1969-70	
8. Castor	1. N.P.H.—1	1969-70	
	2. Hy.-Gujarat	1969-70	

The new varieties are gradually becoming popular. Besides, the High Yielding Varieties Programme has also gone a long way in furthering the cause of seed development in the District, in respect of certain crops. The progress made in this field for some years is reflected in the table below.

Table No. IV—6
Area under High Yielding varieties

	Paddy	Wheat	Jowar	Maize
	(In '000 ha.)			
... 1969-70	9.7	1.6		1.0
1970-71	17.8	3.0	0.1	1.8
1971-72	23.2	4.9	0.2	1.3
1972-73	28.0	6.0	0.2	1.5

Manures and Fertilizers

The importance of the application of manures to fields is clear from the local proverbs. They represent the accumulated wisdom of the farming community which has been handed down from generation to generation. The proverbs are :—

Jake khet para na gobar
Tehi kisan ko jano dubar.

(A farmer in whose field there is no cow-dung should be considered a fool).

Asrah men khad khet men jave

Tab bhar mutthi dana awe.

(If manure is applied to the field in Asrah, then the grain cobs will be full).

nahin to rahe nadi ki reti.

(Farming is done only when manure is applied otherwise the soil, is merely sand of the river.)

Major supplies of cow dung find their way to the fields for increasing the fertility of the soil, though a negligible part is also utilized as fuel. Some cultivators carry the soil of rivers and tanks to their fields to improve the soil texture. The practice of seating the sheep and goat in the fields is also resorted to whenever possible. The fields thus benefit from the droppings of these animals. Farmers also make use of leaves and farm residues for converting them into manure since they are locally and easily available.

The modern answer to uplift the fertility of fields is the application of fertilizers to the fields. The use of fertilizers commenced in the District in the year 1953-54. Major part of fertilizers is applied to paddy and maize fields. Application of fertilizers to wheat has also begun. Bulk of the fertilizers are used in Ambikapur Tahsil of the District. The Table below brings out the progressive increase in the use of the fertilizers :—

Table No. IV—7

Distribution of Fertilizers

	(In Tons)		
Year	Nitrogenous	Phosphatic	Potassic
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1953-54 to 1955-56	59.0.0	47.0.0	—
1956-57 to 1960-61	419.90	69.0.0	—
1961-62 to 1965-66	1,096.0.0	664.0.0	—
1966-67 to 1968-69	1,664.9.0	1,227.7.47	242 —

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SURGUJA

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
			(In M. Tons)
1969-70	1,008.0.0	711.0.0.	106
1970-71	1,296.0.0	668.0.0	83 —
1971-72	2,440.0.0	1,400.00	155 —

Fertilizers are gradually getting popular in the District. The farmers get their soils examined and then use the recommended fertilizers in prescribed doses.

Agricultural Farms

These farms have an important role to play in the improvement of agriculture. They are used for demonstrating the improved techniques of agriculture, and for multiplying new strains of seeds found suitable for distribution in the District. There are five such farms in the District whose details are shown below:—

Table No. IV-8

Agricultural Farms

Sl. No.	Location	Tahsil	Area (Acres)	Year of Start
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Ajirma	Surguja	100	1957-58
2.	Lohari	Manendragarh	111	1960-61
3.	Sitapur	Ambikapur	65	1961-62
4.	Balrampur	Pal	65	1961-62
5.	Gowar	Pal	100	1961-62

Cooperative Societies

Better farming and service cooperative societies are functioning in the District to join efforts in the improvement of agriculture by facilitating the availability of agricultural inputs, viz., fertilizers, seeds, etc. Starting with 62 societies their number increased to 497 by the end of the First Plan and 1,034 to the end of the Second Plan. Thereafter, there was a decline, and the number came down to 693 by the end of the Third Plan and

further to 431 in 1966-67 and 1967-68. In subsequent years there was a slight increase and the number came to 449 in 1971-72. However, growth of membership has been continuous and steady, which increased from 3,016 in 1950-51 to 41,670 in 1967-68 and to 45,610 in 1971-72. This shows that the decrease in the number of societies is not a reflection of any set back in the movement, rather it points out to a phase of consolidation. This is also borne out from the expanding volume of working-capital of the societies. The working capital which was Rs. 58 thousand in 1950-51 reached the high figure of Rs. 103 lakhs in 1967-68. However, in the year 1970-71, there was a decline in working capital when the figure was Rs. 96 lakhs. In the subsequent year, it had further decreased to Rs. 88 Lakhs.

Surguja is a backward District stricken by poverty and insufficient education. These two stand as obstacles in the improvement of agriculture. The District is poorly served with means of transportation and communication. This also acts as a barrier in the advancement of agriculture.

District Agricultural office is rendering valuable services in spreading the message of scientific agriculture, so that the benefits of modern techniques of farming permeate the backward and remote areas inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes. Agriculture Extension Officers and Gram Sevaks visit them frequently with a view to acquainting them with new developments in agriculture and bring to their doorsteps the means and the resources to adopt them.

Extension of irrigation facilities and land development activities will be important planks in improving agriculture. With his new knowledge, the farmer is desirous of using more agricultural inputs and this naturally requires provision of financial assistance. Electric irrigation pumps are also getting popular gradually. Extension of electric transmission lines will help in augmenting irrigation facilities.

Animal Husbandry**Cattle**

Table in Appendix shows the number of principal types of livestock maintained in the District. Cattle constitute the principal category of livestock, being 66.6 per cent. of the total livestock in 1971-72. Their number increased in every census from 1951 onwards, reaching, from 7.37 lakhs (1951) to 9.57 lakhs (1972).

Goats

The next most numerous category is claimed by goats. In 1967-68, in terms of percentage, they were estimated just over 20 per cent. of the entire livestock numbers. Their numbers showed phenomenal increase

during the decade 1951-61 from 1.76 lakhs to 3.16 lakhs, i.e. by 63 per cent. They further increased to 3.51 lakhs during 1965-66. The next livestock census however, marked a decline when the number came down to 3.23 lakhs (1972).

Buffaloes

The third numerically important category of livestock is that of buffaloes which as per the latest 1972 census, were about 10 per cent. of the livestock. Buffaloes increased by 33 per cent. during the decade 1951-61, from 1.21 lakhs to 1.65 lakhs. The year 1965-66 recorded the number as 1.64 lakhs while the subsequent census year reported a decline of about 15 thousand.

Other categories of animals worth a mention are pigs (18,807), horses and ponies (11,352) and sheep (1,547) in 1971-72.

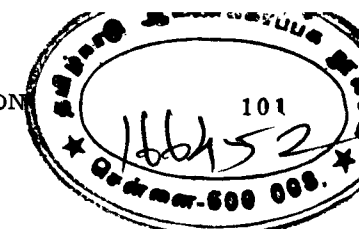
Certain peculiarities of livestock in the District as revealed at the Livestock Census of 1961 and supported by the subsequent Census data as well, be noted. The number of buffaloes in Surguja District was more than that of Raigarh District. The number of males over three years used for work only was less in Surguja than in Raigarh and the total number of the buffaloes was, also less in Surguja, whereas the number of she-suffaloes was much greater here than in Raigarh. This indicated that in Surguja District buffaloes are no. so popular as plough cattle as in Chhattisgarh and that he-buffaloes are exported outside.

Poultry

Poultry keeping is a profession that is very common among tribal people. Poultry number showed considerable increase during the decade 1951-61, when the number rose from 2.34 lakhs to 3.98 lakhs or by as much as 61 per cent. The year 1965-66 further reported increase to 4.04 lakhs. In the subsequent years also the number went up to record 4.44 lakhs in 1971-72. Almost the entire poultry stock was *desi*, previously, which implied that the eggs produced were small and the egg laying capacity of the birds low. For upgrading the fowls a District Poultry Unit was established in 1956 which continues to function and of late, the District has shown a progress in the field with 6,007 improved birds among a total of 434,363 fowls in 1972. Besides, the small total of 274 ducks in this census, also showed 24 improved birds among them. In all, poultry keeping has a bright prospect in the area.

Fisheries

Only major carps, viz., rohu, catla and mrigal are culturable fishes in the District, covering an area of 140 hectares. Pond-culture is predominant in the District.



Pisciculture

The rivers of the District do not hold out much promise for the development of pisciculture. The length of the three main rivers of the District, viz., the Kanhar, the Rihar and the Hasdeo and their tributaries aggregates about 2,500 miles in the District. These rivers are in the regions of their origin and remain almost dry during the major part of the year. As such, they do not support major fisheries except during the monsoons when there is upward migration for breeding. Moreover, no specific survey to determine the fishing potentialities of the rivers of the District has been undertaken so far. Breeding or collection grounds have not been explored. There are no specific nullahs and lakes as well. The water area of the tanks is about 1,400 hectares.

Fishing Implements

The fishing implements generally in use consist of cast nets, drag nets, angling rods, chopa traps and dep nets. For major fishing mostly drag nets and gill nets are used. The Fisheries Department had demonstrated the utility of these two types of nets. The drag nets are easily woven from cotton fibre, but cotton fibre is being replaced by nylon twine. The nylon nets have proved their superiority due to their lightness in weight, higher tensile strength, and non-absorption of water in its texture. Hence they are durable and convenient. However, the initial higher investment in nylon nets is the principal limiting factor in their widespread use. The gill net is a comparatively recent innovation in the District.

Efforts for Upgrading Fish Fauna

For upgrading the fish-fauna of the District, a Common Carp variety of fish *Cyprinus carpio* was introduced in the year 1963-64. It is a pond breeding fish. Under identical conditions of environment and density the fingerlings of common carp have been observed to grow at a faster rate than those of rohu and mrigal and almost as well as those of catla. Weight and production of common carp are equal to or more than the combined production of rohu and mrigal.

Further, for improving the efficiency of fishing industry and the economic condition of the generally poor and illiterate fishermen cooperative societies are organised. Such societies are eligible for Government assistance both technical and financial. Financial assistance is granted for purchase of fish seed, nets, boats, etc. for improving their craft and tackle.

125565
58931

There is no definite fishing season in the District. Fishing is done according to the convenience of the fishermen and availability of catch which is governed by migrations in rivers during monsoon and low water level in summer. The estimated annual production of the District was about 11,000 quintals in 1968-69 which has been estimated at 200 kgs. per acre.

The management of riverine fishing is controlled by Gram Panchayats, Janapada Sabhas and Revenue Department in the lengths falling under their respective jurisdictions. Fisheries Department also takes up pisci-culture in irrigation tanks maintained by Irrigation Department.

Animal Diseases

The principal diseases that afflict the cattle of the District are rinderpest (locally known as *Pashumata* or *Mahamari*), haemorrhagic septicaemia (galghontu), anthrax (tilbarh), black quarter (ektangia) foot and mouth disease and liver fluke. Whenever an animal was overtaken by an ailment the services of an *ojha* were requisitioned who recited some *mantras* or did some odd jobs. However, only vestiges of this practice are now found in the villages. Modern methods of treatment have now become the order of the day.

For combating the various animal diseases that either result in impairing their health and efficiency or result in mortality, veterinary hospitals and dispensaries have been opened in the District. In the year 1967-68, there were 14 hospitals and 18 dispensaries. Besides, one mobile unit was also in operation so that veterinary medical aid could be carried to the spot where it was needed.

For upgrading cattle and buffalo breeds, 18 cattle breeding units and one artificial insemination centre at Sitapur had already been set up during the fifties. Artificial insemination programme was strengthened by the addition of 4 artificial insemination units during the course of the Third Plan.

Forestry

Role in Economy

Forests play a very important role in the economy of the District and account for 50.4 per cent. of the total geographical area of the District (1968-69). They provide employment to a large section of population which is employed in lumbering and logging operations and in the collection of forest produce. They supply timber from which agricultural implements are made. They provide grazing to the cattle.

The topography, climate and rainfall of the District suggest rich, luxuriant forest wealth, but this is really not so. The forest wealth is below expectations. The District lies in the Sal Belt and this is the predominant species. It was noted in the beginning of this century that the Sal trees are generally stunted in growth due to continuous tapping of resin from them.

In the erstwhile Surguja State large blocks of forest areas, viz., Semarsot, Pratappur, Pingla, Manpur, Tamor, Ranhat, Dharampur, Narsinghpur, etc., were kept reserved for the chief as hunting reserves. These are good forests, and contain fair timber.

Forest Produce

Timber and firewood constitute the major forest produce derived from the forests of the District. Minor forest produce consists of bamboo, **tendu** leaves, harra, gum, **kattha**, grass and garzing. **Khair** trees occur in the dry mixed deciduous forests and are considered to be excellent for the manufacture of good quality **kattha**. On a rough estimate the value of timber extracted amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs and that of bamboos to Rs. 3 lakhs (1968-69).

Exploitation of Forest Produce

The timber and **khair** coupes are mainly worked through the agency of contractors. Some of the timber, fuel and bamboo coupes allotted for **nistar** of the villagers are worked Departmentally. Bamboo coupes under the Industrial Felling Series have been leased out to Messers Bengal Paper, Limited, on a long term lease. The bamboo coupes under Commercial Felling Series are auctioned and worked through the agency of contractors. In Korea Forest Division the bamboo coupes exploited on commercial scale by contractors have, since the year 1965-66, been leased out to the Orient Paper Mills at Amlai.

Tendu Leaves

Since the application of the Tendu Patta Vyapar Viniyaman Adhiniyam in 1964, the **tendu** leaves are being collected by the Forest Department and/or through the agents appointed by the Government.

Khair

Khair trees in specified areas are sold standing to contractors for the manufacture of **Kattha**.

Other minor forest produce are leased out to contractors.

Fuel

The only unregulated exploitation permitted is the extraction of dead wood as fuel, on forest produce passes, which is allowed from anywhere in the forests. This facility is a boon to poor agricultural classes as it gives them a fruitful occupation in slack seasons.

Nistar

A Nistar Patrak is prepared under the provisions of the Land Revenue Code, 1959, Sections 234 and 235. Copies of the Patrak are sent to the Collector, Gram Sabhas, Gram Panchayats and to Supervisors of the Forest Department. Nistar depots are established at suitable places. The various facilities as per the Nistar-Patrak are provided between 1st November and 30th June to the people under the active control and supervision of the respective Range Officers.

In order to meet the **bonafide** domestic requirements of the villagers in respect of forest produce, the following nistar arrangements are normally made available :—

1. Commercial depots.
2. Departmentally felled timber coupes.
3. Bamboo coupes.

Besides the above, the villagers are allowed to take timber upto 75 cms. girth, dry bamboo and dry fallen firewood free of cost from **katat** forests.

Nistar rights are permitted to the local tenants under commutation system. They are required to pay commutation fees after obtaining the passes from the competent authority.

Plantations

Experimental plantations of valuable species viz., teak, were carried out in this District in the year 1956 over a small area to study the rate of growth. Since the results were found promising in some areas, the scheme for planting more and more areas inside the mixed type of forests, was continued. An area of 764 acres was thus planted in North Surguja Division during the years 1957-1969.

An experimental plantation of **khair** over an area of 20 acres in Wadrafnagar Range of the District in the year 1963 and of **prosopis julaflora** over an area of 50 acres in the Range of Ramanujganj were carried out in the year 1962. The results were not promising.

Sandalwood

Efforts to raise sandalwood plantations are in experimental stage. In the year 1968-69, one hectare of land in Rajpur Range of the South Division was planted with sandalwood.

In Korea Forest Division, plantations of teak have been raised since the year 1954. Teak plantations have proved quite successful. A total area of about 125 to 200 acres is planted annually in scattered small blocks. During the years 1954-1972, plantation work had been carried out on 3,140.25 acres as follows:—teak (2,191.25 acres), teak-*khair* (689 acres), *kaju* (100 acres), *khair* (80 acres) and teak-eucalyptus (80 acres).

In Chang Bhakhar Forest Division an area of 30 acres was planted with valuable species of trees in July, 1968. An additional area of 35 acres was cleared, to be planted in July, 1970.

Markets

The forest produce of the District is mainly exported to places outside the District and the State. This is largely attributed to two reasons. (i) abundant forest produce, far in excess of local requirements and (ii) absence of forest produce based industries in the District. Consequently, all the produce, with the exception of some items viz., bamboo and **kattha**, is collected in centres like Ambikapur, Bistrampur, Surajpur, Chirimiri, Manendragarh, Karonjo, Nagar, Kotma, Bijuri, Shahdol, within or outside the District, and therefrom booked by railway or road to various markets, mainly outside the State. The principal markets for various produce are indicated below :—

- 1....**Timber**.—Rohtak, Saharanpur, Delhi, Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Bulandshahar.
2. **Kattha**.—Varanasi, Kanpur, Katni, Allahabad.
3. **Bamboos**.—Ramganj (Bengal), Amlai, Agra, Nepanagar. Brijrajnagar Dalmianagar.
4. **Harra**.—Delhi, Calcutta, Katni, Kanpur.
5. **Lakh**.—Calcutta.
6. **Dhawai Flower**.—Delhi, Katni.
7. **Gum**.—Delhi, Katni.
8. **Maidalakdi**.—Delhi, Katni.
9. **Charcoal**.—Delhi, Kanpur.
10. **Tendu Leaves**.—Sagar, Damoh,
11. **Mohil Leaves**.—Jabalpur, Nasik, Madras,
- 12....**Other minor forest produce**.—Kanpur, Calcutta, Katni.

Disforestation

In North Surguja Forest Division, forest land to the extent of 23,199 acres was deforested for the settlement of refugees from East Bengal and for allotment to landless **adivasis**. In addition, an area of 1,63,842 acres of the same Division was denotified (1968-69) for settling the landless persons.

Work in the direction of clearing Protected forests and allotment to the landless was also in progress in Baikunthpur and Manendragarh Tahsils and was scheduled to be completed by September, 1973.

State Assistance to Agriculture

It appears that the system of advancing loans to the cultivators to help in their agricultural operations was not much in vogue in early times in the erstwhile States.

As regards Surguja State, we find that, "Loans of cash for the purchase of seed grains and plough cattle and for the improvement of land have not hitherto been generally resorted to in this State, but tenants and *gaontias* are helped with seed, whenever required, by the Chief and leading land-holders. In 1908, when the previous crops had been poor, the chief advanced about Rs. 7,940 in cash. There is a good scope for agricultural loans for the purchase of plough bullocks in the southern part of the State while in the Pal and Ramkola *tappas* and elsewhere petty irrigation works might be usefully encouraged by the distribution of loans for land improvement."¹

As regards the erstwhile Korea State, it was said..... the People are not likely to want loans for the improvement of their lands until they make a radical change in their habits and style of cultivation."²

The situation in the present, however, has changed and besides a number of ways in which financial and other assistance is given to the agricultural sector by various agencies, regular provision of direct Governmental assistance under Land Improvement Loans Act 1883 and Agriculturists Loans Act 1884 has also been provided in the District since the post-Independence era.

Famine

Previous to the year 1907, no records are available but it seems that the State is not particularly liable to famine. When the crops are poor, the people can supplement their food stocks with jungle produce, such as, *mahua*, yams, *chironji* and other fruits particularly that of the sal tree. As to the past, distress was experienced in 1908, due to the failure of crops in 1907. The monsoon of 1907 set in good time but the rainfall was not sufficient nor evenly distributed. The average out-turn for the State was estimated at ten annas and in the more affected *tappas*, the out-turn was only between four and six annas. Patty works were started. Well-to-do *gaontias* undertook the construction of field embankments to provide work for their ryots. *Taccavi* loans were made by the State to the extent of Rs. 9,000. In the *ilakadaris* and *khoposhdaris* money and grain loans were advanced. Prices began to rise in the latter half of 1907 and remained very high in the first half of 1908. Rice sold at the rate of four *seers* per rupee. There were no cases of death due to starvation, and no cases of wandering and emaciation were noticed.

1. *ibid.* p. 242.
2. *ibid.* p. 293.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Population Dependant on Industries

At the time of 1951 Census, out of the total population of the District, which was 8,22,041 occupational class—"Production other than cultivation"—engaged only 29,716 workers. This number formed 6.55 per cent of the total workers in all occupational classes and little above 3 per cent of the total population of the District.

Ten years later, in the year 1961, three occupational classes equivalent to that of "Production other than cultivation" viz., class III, "Mining, quarrying, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantation, orchard and allied activities", class IV "Household industry" and Class V "Manufacturing other than household industry", provided livelihood to 48,705 workers. This number was 7.88 per cent of the total workers in all occupations and little above 4 per cent of the total population of the District.

Further, in the year 1971, the number of workers in the occupational classes III, IV, IV, V(a) and V(b) which were equivalent to the classes III, IV and V of the 1961 Census, was 38,352¹. This number formed 8.02 per cent of the total workers in all occupational classes and 2.8 per cent of the total population in the District.

In 1961, the household industry provided employment to 17,976 workers, while manufacturing other than household, which means factory industries, engaged only 2,181 workers. There was a change in this set-up in the year 1971. In this year household industry provided employment to 10,831 workers, while industries other than household, employed 3,154. This shows diversion of industrial activities from household type to factory type. But increase in the number of workers dependent on factory industries during ten years period was less than a thousand workers. Taking employment in factory industries as an indication of the pace of industrialization, addition of less than hundred workers yearly to the factory labour with the loss of about an equivalent number of workers from household industry, cannot be said to be acceleration of industrialization. The population dependent, on industries remains a negligible fraction of the total population.

1. These figures are not strictly comparable owing to change in the definition of workers in Census 1971.

Old Time Industries

Industries like weaving, blacksmithy, carpentry, pottery, tanning of leather etc., existed in the District as elsewhere. The state of affairs in respect of industries in the former Surguja State can be gauged from the following extract. "There are no very important manufactures in this State. Brass workers are very rare and the brassware and cooking utensils required for daily use, such as are usually seen in the State, almost invariably are imported from the Districts of Palamau, Gaya and Mirzapur. Coarse cloth for the general use of the State population is made locally by the weaving caste known as Pankas. No artisans are to be met with except the blacksmiths and carpenters who manufacture and supply all the rough articles of husbandry such as ploughs, spades, pickaxes, pans and spoons etc. For the most part, the people do their own wood work."¹

Power

It was generally found that in the Princely States beginning of power generation was made with installation for lighting palaces and palace gardens. In Surguja State too there was an electric installation at the palace which was looked after by highly skilled artisans and mechanics, brought from Calcutta.² Thus beginning of power generation in Surguja District could be traced to the first decade of the present century.

Ambikapur Power Station

The first power generation centre for supply of power to the public appears to have been installed at Ambikapur in the year 1915. In the year 1950 this station had an installed capacity of 30.5 kw. Consumption of electricity for domestic light and fan in this year was 0.032 million kwh., and for commercial light and fan it was 0.002 million kwh. Industrial power low and medium voltage electric power consumption was 0.001 million kwh., and for public lighting it was 0.001 million kwh. Installed capacity of this power house was increased to 173 kw. in the year 1953. It was reduced in 1954 to 155 k.w. and increased to 161 kw. in 1955. In 1958 the capacity was reduced to 118 kw. In this year the number of consumers of electricity for all purposes was 262. For domestic light and fan, consumption increased to 0.079 million kwh., as against 0.032 million kwh., in 1950. For commercial light and fan, increase in consumption in 1958 was 0.003 million kwh., from 0.002 million kwh., in 1950. Increase in consumption for industrial power, low and medium voltage was from 0.001 in 1950 to 0.028 million kwh., in 1958. For public lighting, power consumption increased from 0.001 to 0.014 million kwh., during 1950 to 1958, respectively.

1. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 244-245.

2. *ibid.*

Baikunthpur Power Station

This power station appears to have been installed in the year 1929. Its installed capacity was only 15 kw., which was increased to 27 kw. in 1954 but was reduced to 15 again in 1958. Number of consumers of electricity for all purposes was 57 in 1958. Consumption of power for domestic light and fan, which was 0.011 million kwh., in 1950 increased to 0.014 million kwh., in 1958. There was no consumption of electricity for industrial power low and medium voltage till 1954. In this year consumption for industrial purposes was 0.001 million kwh., which remained at the same level in 1958. Consumption for public lighting which was 0.001 in 1950 increased to 0.003 million kwh. in 1958.

Besides Ambikapur and Baikunthpur, at Manendragarh, the Railways had their own power generating arrangements. Similarly, in Chirimiri and Bishrampur, the collieries had started power generation for their own purposes.

In the year 1962, the installed capacity of Ambikapur Power Station appears to have increased to 125 kw., while capacity of Baikunthpur power station remained unchanged. In this year, work for supplying power to whole of the District from Korba Thermal Power Station was in progress, which has since been completed and Korba Thermal Station supplies power to whole of Surguja District through 132/33 kv. sub-station, Chirimiri. From the year 1966-67 to 1970-71 consumption of electricity for different purposes in the District was as under :—

Table No. V—1

Consumption of Electricity

(In K. W. Hrs., sold)

Year	Heat and Small Power	Light and fan	Industrial Power	
			Low and medium Voltage	High Voltage
1966-67	2,937	6,84,262	4,85,509	36,78,7662
1967-68	64,649	10,38,909	6,69,328	35,00,6353
1968-69	22,174	48,81,030	6,56,946	37,92,3471
1969-70	55,881	53,18,463	6,53,752	43,50,0698
1970-71	25,690	36,37,698	7,93,995	38,56,2999

The towns and villages electrified by March, 1969 was 43, which number increased to 156 in October, 1972.

Industries and Manufactures

Mining

By far the most important and plentiful mineral found in the District is coal. Coal was known to occur in Surguja more than a century before. The first published mention of coal deposits in the District was by Colonel J. R. Ouseley in the year 1848. The first geologist from the Geological Survey of India to enter Surguja State was Dr. Valentine Bal in 1870-71. He mapped the Central Surguja or Bishrampur coal field. The area of coal deposits in the District was stated to be 982 sq. miles, which was 1/9th part of the area of the District. Geology and Mining Department estimated coal reserves of 858 million tons in an area of 136 sq. miles which was exploited. Location of coal fields are at Tatapani-Ramkota, Zhilimilli, Sonhat, Jhagrakhand, Korasia, Koreagarh, Bishrampur and Bansar.

In the first year of the First Five-Year Plan i.e., 1951, production of coal from Chirimiri and Jhagrakhand coal fields was 11,96,506 tons. Average daily labour employed in mines this year was 10,404. By the first year of the Second Plan i.e. 1956, coal production from these fields increased to 15,71,158 tons and average labour employed was 12,752.

In the year 1961-62, there were 11 coal mines in the District. Out of these, 7 mines worked during the year. Production of coal was 17,01,751 tons and average daily employment of labour was 12,150. In the year 1962-63, the number of mines increased to 17, out of which 12 were working mines with a production of 17,89,440.42 tons of coal. Average daily employment in this year was 13,840. In the years 1963-64 and 1964-65, number of mines remained the same, but working mines were 10 and 13, respectively. Production in 1963-64 increased to 24,94,470.66 tons with average daily employment of 16,348 workers. In the year 1964-65, production of coal decreased to 22,19,697 tons and average employment was 15,113.

In the year 1969 there were 11 important coal mines in the District as under:—

1. Jhagrakhand Colliery (P) Limited Jhagrakhand

There were three collieries, North, South and West, which were working since 1929. Total investment in these mines was Rs. 308.47 lakhs in the year 1969, and the installed capacity was 8,40,000 tons. Average number of workers daily employed was 4,070.

2. **M/s. Chirimiri Colliery (P) Limited, Chirimiri**
This Colliery started working in the year 1930. The average number of workers employed was 2,153 in the year 1969.
3. **National Coal Development Corporation, Khursia**
The colliery started working in the year 1932. Its total investment in the year 1969 was Rs. 354 Lakhs and had an installed capacity of 8,40,000 tons. Average daily employment was 3087.
4. **New Chirimiri Pori Hill Colliery, Chirimiri**
This colliery was working since 1942. It had a total investment of Rs. 125 lakhs and installed capacity of 4,80,000 tons in 1969. Average daily employment was 1,836 workers.
5. **M/s. United Colliery Co. (P) Ltd., North Chirimiri**
This colliery started working in 1948. Average daily employment was 778 workers in the year 1969.
6. **Indra Singh and Sons (P) Ltd., Chirimiri**
This colliery, known as West Chirimiri, was working since 1952. Its total investment was Rs. 35 lakhs and average daily employment was 985 in the year 1969.
7. **National Coal Development Corporation Colliery, Korea**
This Colliery started working in 1960. It had an installed capacity of 56,080 tons. Capital investment at this colliery was Rs. 292.30 lakhs and average daily employment was 1,419 workers.
8. **National Coal Development Corporation Colliery, Bishrampur**
This colliery was started in 1961 with an installed capacity of 37,00,000 tons. Total investment was Rs. 861.27 lakhs and average daily employment was 1,594 worker in 1969.
9. **National Coal Development Corporation Colliery, Chirimiri**
This unit at Chirimiri was started in the month of May, 1962. Its installed capacity was 330,000 tons and capital investment was Rs. 157.13 lakhs. Average daily employment was 633 workers.
10. **National Coal Development Corporation Colliery, Sonawani, Manendragarh**
This unit was established in October, 1962 with an installed capacity of 5,60,000 tons with total investment of Rs. 58.38 lakhs. It was closed in the year 1964.
11. **National Coal Development Corporation Colliery, Churcha, Baikunthpur**
This unit was started in the year 1964. It had an installed capacity of 3,00,000 tons. Capital investment was Rs. 90.54 lakhs and average daily employment was 577 workers.

Thus, out of the 11 coal mines in the District six were in public sector and five in private sector. The ten working collieries provided employment to about 17,032 workers daily. Production of coal from 1966 to 1970 was as under:—

Year	Production (Metric Tonnes)
1966	29,67,000
1967	33,85,264
1968	30,70,389
1969	42,14,223
1970	32,67,454

As in January, 1972, there were 24 mining leases of varying period, of which, 14 were operated by the National Coal Development Corporation Limited, Ranchi, Bihar. The rest were operated by different agencies. The production of coal in the year 1972 amounted to 54,56,963 tonnes, employing on an average 20,685 workers daily.

Other minerals located in the District were iron-ore, bauxite, limestone, black marble, red ochre, fireclay, mica, copper ore, copper lead and lead bauxite.

Bauxite

Next in importance to coal is bauxite. As early as in 1950 reconnaissance survey for bauxite deposits was carried out in the Mainpat plateau in the District. About 100 sq. miles of area was covered in this survey and 8 million tons of the bauxite reserve was estimated. However, it appears that this mineral was not exploited, because in 1964-65 again, drilling operation for bauxite deposits were started in the same area. This time estimated reserves of this mineral were given as 7 million tons.

The Director of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh reported in 1972, that a total reserve of 5 million tonnes have already been proved at Mainpat, Jamirapat, Satpathrikhar, Pahar, Perta-Pahar-Plateaus.

Other minor mineral deposits are located throughout the District. The production of sand since 1967, increased from 3995 tonnes to 4936 tonnes in 1972. The average daily employment too increased from 15 to 25 workers during the period. But clay and stone extraction seems to have suffered a set-back from 28,294 tonnes in 1967 to 27000 tonnes and from 48867 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes in 1972 respectively. The average daily employment, however, improved from 30 to 55 (clay mines) and 26 (1968) to 35 (stone mines) during this period. The Murum production amounted to 2819 tonnes in 1972 and engaged on an average 16 workers daily.

Manufactures

Besides coal mining, there were no other large scale industries in the District. However, there are certain industries like rice milling, saw-milling, etc., which are working in the District on a factory basis. The position in respect of factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948 was as under.

Rice Milling

Surguja District is mainly a rice-growing tract, as such there should have been a sizeable number of rice-mills in the District. But at the time of the Reorganization of the State in 1956, there was only one rice mill in whole of the District, registered under the Factories Act, 1948. This rice mill also combined oil milling. It was located at Ambikapur. There were three factories in the whole of the District in 1969. Out of these three, one was run by co-operative marketing society of Ambikapur. Thus, two factories were located at Ambikapur, while one was working at Surajpur. Estimated average daily employment in these factories was 94.

In the year 1956, besides three rice mills there was one hosiery works, three lac and shallac factories and one bidi factory, registered under the Factories Act. Out of the three shallac factories, two were not using power. Bidi factory was located at Ambikapur and was also registered under section 2 m (ii) of the Factories Act. Thus, in 1956, including one rice and oil mill, there were six factories registered under the Factories Act.

Oil Mills

In the year 1969, besides three rice mills, there were two oil mills. One of these oil mills combined flour milling, with oil milling. Estimated average daily employment in both these oil mills was 33.

Saw Milling

There were three saw mills under the Factories Act in the year 1969.

Bakeries

There was one bakery located at Manendragarh, in the year 1969.

Under the industrial category of repairs of motor vehicles, there was M.P. State Roadways Transport Corporation workshop also.

Thus, in the year 1969 there were ten factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948. From the year 1956 to 1969 over a period of more than twelve years, there was an addition of four factories in the District. Out of the ten factories, one was a co-operative industrial venture and another was a Corporation workshop. In the meanwhile, hosiery factory, shellac factories and bidi factory in the District have vanished from the list of registered factories. It may be mentioned here that under the Factories Act all industrial establishments employing ten workers or more and working with power, as well as those employing 20 workers or more and working without power, are registered.

Industries outside the Factories Act

Besides the factories registered under the Factories Act as above, there were a number of small industrial establishments not coming under the purview of the Factories Act. The number of such establishments was 67 in the year 1969. Highest number of such establishments was 20 in saw milling industry. Next to saw milling, there were nine establishments working in the industry "Manufacture of structural clay products"—brick making. There were five bidi manufacturing establishments, and the other five establishments were manufacturing wooden furniture and fixtures. Oil milling, soap making, bread and biscuits manufacturing, making of metal containers and steel trunks, repairs of motor vehicles, etc., were some other industries working in the District. All the units were either proprietary or partnership forms of organizations.

The total number of small scale units registered with the Industries Department in 1970-71 was 197. Employing about 1375 workers on an average, these units together had a fixed investment of Rs. 31.38 lakhs. During the next two year there was a sudden upsurge in the number of units which increased to 309 in March, 1972 and 422 in March, 1973. The employment also registered a commensurate increase to 2085 in March, 1972 and 2928 workers in March, 1973. The total fixed investment registered a big increase and from Rs. 31.38 lakh it increased to 80.20 lakh in March, 1973¹. This shows that based on local resources the District is likely to develop more industries during the 'seventies.

Co-operative Industries

The old-time industries like handloom weaving, carpentry, blacksmithy, pottery making, oil milling, etc., which were working on a cottage or household basis from olden times were faced with extinction because of competition of similar large-scale industrial products selling cheaper. Looking to the labour intensive character of such industries, Government decided to support such industries by grant of loans, subsidies and technical guidance. But in offering such assistance Government also decided to organize these industries on a co-operative basis.

1. Industrial Statistics, 1973, p. 54.

During the First Five-Year Plan period there were no industrial co-operatives registered in the District. During the Second Five-Year Plan period, however, there were 19 such societies with a membership of 320. By the end of Third Five-Year Plan, the number of such societies increased to 48 and membership to 767. Such societies in the year 1970-71 numbered 45 with a membership of 354. In this year Government had given Rs. 87,517 as loans and Rs. 900 as a grant to these societies.

Industrial Potential

It has been seen earlier in this Chapter that the mineral resources of the District are quite substantial, especially coal deposits. Forest resources of the District are also very rich, and an area of 4,760.12 sq. miles or 59 per cent of the total area of the District is under forests. Agriculturally, the District is one of the important rice producing area. Thus, industrial potential for different types of resource based industries exist in the District. Difficulties regarding adequate power supply for industrial development have also been removed since power has been made available from the Korba Thermal Power Station. But the District has no adequate rail-road transport facilities, provision of which will speed up the industrial development of the area. Possibilities of establishing following large and small-scale industrial units on the basis of resources in the District can be explored.

Mineral Resources

Cement

Existence of suitable limestone deposits at Devipur in the Development Block area of Surajpur can facilitate establishment of cement manufacturing plant in the area. These deposits are at a distance of 10 miles from Surajpur railway station. Water for the plant can be available from the perennial river which is at a distance of four miles from the area. With a provision of electric power in the area, cement manufacturing plant with an installed capacity of 700 tons annually can be established in the area.

Carbonization of Coal

A plant for the manufacture of 400 to 800 tons of semi-cokeing coal per day can also be established.

Ceramics and Refractories

With the availability of good quality china-clay and fire-clay, industrial units for the manufacture of high-tension electric insulators, refractories and ceramics can be established in the area.

A unit for the manufacture of chemical fertilizers also can be established.

Forest Resources

On the basis of forest resources available in the District a wood distillation plant, straw board and particle board manufacturing units can be established. Paper manufacturing plant with a capacity of 10 to 20 tons per day can also be started.

Animal Resources

On the basis of hides and skins available in the District, a plant for the manufacturing of shoes for miners in the District can be established. About 15,000 pairs of shoes for miners are imported in the District from Kanpur. By establishing a small plant not only this demand for shoes from miners but from general public can be met.

Agricultural Resources

On the basis of rice bran available from the rice mills, a unit for the manufacture of rice-bran oil can be established. Capacity of the existing rice mills, oil mills etc., can be expanded.

Other Industries

There is a scope for such demand-based industries as manufacture of agricultural implements, builders hard-ware, hand tools, tin containers, wire and nail manufacturing, hand gloves, goggles manufacturing etc.

Kosa seed are amply available in the District. Kosa germs are reared on sal trees. In the year 1956, a kosa seed centre was established at Ambikapur. This centre distributes kosa seed free of charge and forests are made available to the parties for rearing of germs. This centre also purchases the products from kosa manufactures. Premnagar, Dadgaon, Pudgaon, Pathari, Bargai, Sapna are some of the places in the District, where rearing of Kosa germs is being carried on. There is great scope for developing this industry in the District.

Industrial Estate

Government have decided to facilitate industrial development of backward areas by providing location facilities for industrial units. For this purpose Government undertake construction of Industrial Estates, Semi-Urban Industrial Estates and Worksheds, the last especially in rural areas.

In Surguja District, one Semi-Urban Industrial Estate was constructed at Ambikapur in the year 1966 at the cost of Rs. 1.65 lakhs. There were five sheds in the Estate. All the five sheds were occupied.

Rural workshed at Baikunthpur was constructed in the year 1968 at the cost of Rs. 41,655. This shed was occupied by Forest Department for storing forest products, but was reported to be unoccupied from December, 1972.

The Government under the Rural Industries Project was also running in 1973, two centres of rope and *ban* making and cane and bamboo making at Surguja.¹

Financial Assistance

Besides construction of industrial areas and providing facilities for location of industries, Government also help industrial development by granting loans and subsidies to manufacturing units. Development Block of Sonhat, Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Surajpur and Ambikapur were approved by the Industries Department for a capital subsidy of 15 per cent. for setting up industries.² It has already been stated that Government granted loans and subsidies to industrial co-operatives as well as technical guidance for adopting modern methods of manufacture. In addition to this, Government also give financial assistance to industrial units under the State Aid to Industries Act. In the year 1961-62, Rs. 20,000 were given to 24 units in the District as loans and grants under this Act.

During the Fourth Plan Period, grant of subsidy on account of octroi duty to one unit amounting to Rs. 17,434 in 1971-72, sales tax subsidy to two units amounting to Rs. 400, in 1972-73 and electricity duty subsidy to 5 units amounting to Rs. 1182 was under consideration.

Labour and Employers' Organizations

It was found that in the industrial set-up of the District, there was prominence of coal mining industry only. Largest employment of labour was in the coal mining. There were no other industries in the District, in which employment of labour was sufficiently large or conducive to the organized trade union activities. Rice mills, oil mills, saw mills etc., could not provide perennial employment to sufficiently large number of workers. These industries mostly worked seasonally and drew their labour force from agriculture. Thus, there were no trade union activities in the District worth the name, except in coal mining. In the year 1973, there were following six registered trade unions in the District :—

1. Madhya Pradesh Koyla Majdoor Sabha,
North Jhagrakhand Collieries.
2. Khan Majdoor Parishad, Kurasia.
3. Jhagrakhand Workers Union,
Jhagrakhand Collieries.

1. Industrial Statistics, 1973, p. 75.

2. *ibid.* p. 74.

4. Bharatiya Khan Majdoor Sangh,
Korea Colliery.
5. Surguja Co-operative Bank Karmachari Union,
Ambikapur.
6. Surguja Coal Workers Union,
Duman Hill Colliery, Chirmiri.

Activities of these unions are mostly for protection and betterment of wages and working conditions of workers in mines.

Welfare of Industrial Labour

After Independence, the National Government at the Centre, with a view to improving the working and living conditions of industrial workers, have introduced a number of statutory measures. Most important of these legislations was the **Factories Act, 1948**.

Indian Factories Act, 1948

This Act was a comprehensive legislation designed to protect and improve the working conditions in the factories. Under this Act, the working hours in factories, regulation regarding age of the worker, rest periods, resting places, protection of machinery, provision of canteens and hygienic conditions, etc., are covered. Provisions under this Act are applicable to all such manufacturing establishments, which employ 10 workers or more with power and 20 workers or more without power. It has been already seen earlier that there were 10 factories in the District coming under the purview of this Act in the year 1969. There is a separate legislation, namely, Mines Act, 1952 regulating the conditions of work in mines.

Factories Act might be called a protective legislation as it tries to provide for a worker, working premises tolerably neat and clean, with amenities of washing, cleaning, rest places and protection from accidents. It cannot be said to be a social security measure. Most important of such an enactment was the **Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948**.

Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948

Provisions of this Act apply to all perennial factories using power and employing 20 or more persons and cover labourers and clerical staff with monthly earnings up to Rs. 500. This Act and the scheme framed thereunder was not made applicable to any industrial centre in Surguja District till 1972.

Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952

Next important social security measure was the **Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952**. Provisions of this Act apply to such of the factories and establishments in the industries covered, as have completed three years of existence where the employment strength is 50 or more, and have completed five years of existence where employment strength is 20 or more but less than 50 persons.

All the employees in factories and establishments drawing basic wages and dearness allowances including the cash value of food concessions and the retaining allowances, if any, not exceeding Rs. 1,000 per month are eligible for membership of the Fund, after completing one year's continuous service or 240 days actual work during a period of 12 months or less. Employees have to contribute at the rate of 6½ per cent. of basic wage, dearness allowance, including the cash value of food concessions and retaining allowances if any, while the employers have to contribute at the same rate for their employees. This rate of contribution was enhanced to 8 per cent. in 81 selected industries and classes of establishments in the year 1969. In Surguja District there were four establishments covered under this Act in the year 1969.

Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, 1948

The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 applies to all coal mines in India and so to all coal mines in the District. An amended Act came into force in April, 1966. Leaving a few excluded categories, all persons employed are required to become members of the Fund on completing a qualifying period of attendance of 60 days in a period of six consecutive months or 48 days in a quarter. Both employees and the employers are to contribute compulsorily at the rate of 8 per cent of the total emoluments of the employees.

Maternity Benefits Act

Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 regulates payment of maternity benefits to female workers in mines. Besides this there is a State legislation, namely Madhya Pradesh Maternity Benefit Act, 1958 which provides pre-natal and post-natal medical and cash benefits to the Female workers in the factories, where provisions of Employees' State Insurance Scheme are not applicable. There were seven factory establishments in the District in the year 1971, coming under the purview of this Act.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Besides the Maternity Benefits Act there is another legislation, namely Working Compensation Act, 1923, which was applicable to such centres and establishments, where Employee's State Insurance Scheme was not applicable. Under provisions of this Act compensation for accidents or injuries resulting in complete or partial disablement and death while on duty is paid to workers.

Coal Mines Labour welfare Fund

There is a corporate body, namely, Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, which functions on a country-wide basis for the welfare of coal mine workers. This Fund maintains hospitals, dispensaries, child-welfare and maternity centre, T. B. clinics and hospitals, ayurvedic dispensaries and mobile medical units. The Fund organization furnishes interest free loans to colliery to colliery owners for building, equipping their dispensaries, provides facilities for treatment of cancer, leprosy, mental diseases and organizes family planning work. The Fund also gives financial assistance for construction of houses and barracks for coal mine workers. It also helps setting up of consumer cooperative stores and credit societies. The Fund also pays subsidy to the State Governments, colliery owners for water supply/well digging schemes.

Banking and Finance

Paucity of old records during the period of the erstwhile feudatory states, makes it difficult to trace precisely the emergence, growth and decline of the various financial institutions in the District. In former days there were no banks to conduct banking business in this District. It was mostly carried on by local *gontias* and village money-lenders. Thus, the age-old institution of money-lenders had traditionally been the main agency meeting the credit requirements of the District in the past and continued to enjoy the prominent position even to day.

General Credit Facilities Available

The credit needs of the District economy are met by both the organised and un-organised sectors. The organised sector consists of the commercial banks, co-operative banks and other specialised financial institutions. The un-organised market is largely made up of indigenous bankers or village money-lenders.

In Surguja District, as elsewhere in India, the money-lender played a prominent part in the rural economy. The economy of the District is predominantly agricultural. Non-availability of institutional credit resulted in the small traders, farmers and other needy persons approaching the money-lenders. In the villages big cultivators and land-lords, *gontias* and village merchants were the principal agencies of money-lending. Generally, the trading class was engaged in this profession.

With the attainment of Independence, various legislative measures were promulgated to regulate the business of the money-lenders. These money-lending regulations were viewed with alarm by them. They took a gloomy picture of their risk and hesitated in providing loans to poor cultivators. Thus, very few of them got themselves registered. The number of the registered money-lenders in Surguja District was 56 in 1966-67, which increased to 69 in 1970-71. Tahsil-wise number of registered money-lenders in Surguja District for the year 1966-67 to 1970-71 are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI—1
Registered money-lenders in the district

Year	Ambikapur	Surajpur	Baikunth- pur	Manendra- garh
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1966-67	9	—	4	43
1967-68	7	2	6	32

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1968-69	17	5	7	32
1969-70	20	7	7	22
1970-71	22	7	5	26

(Note.—The figures of Kusami and Ramanujganj tahsils are included in Ambikapur Tahsil).

Source : District Registrar, Surguja.

Joint Stock Banks

The role that any banking system has to play is to mobilise the savings of the Nation, to provide the cheap means of payment, and to allocate credit in such a way as to produce optimum productivity in all sectors. The banks thus, control the strings of economic life of the community. The commercial banks in the District were concentrated at places of agricultural marketing, industry and trade.

Expansion of Branches

There were only two branch offices of the State Bank of India in Surguja District at the end of 1965. This number increased to four at the end of 1966. The banking activities in this District increased after the nationalisation of the 14 major scheduled commercial banks in 1969. Till December, 1970, the number of bank offices increased to seven with the opening of one branch office at Ambikapur, one pay office at Chirimiri Colliery of Central Bank of India, and one branch office of State Bank of India at Ramanujganj in June, 1970. One more branch office of Central Bank of India was opened at Manendragarh in December, 1971, and one sub-office of State Bank of India at Bishrampur in May, 1971. Thus, at the end of 1971, the number of bank officers in Surguja District increased up to nine. The centre-wise list of commercial bank office in Surguja District, as at the end of 1972 is given below :—

Name of the Centre	Name of the Bank	Number and type of Bank office
(1)	(2)	(3)
1. Ambikapur	1. Central Bank of India 2. State Bank of India	1 (Branch Office) 1 (Branch Office)
2. Baikunthpur	1. State Bank of India	1 (Branch Office)
3. Chirimiri Colliery	1. Central Bank of India	1 (Pay Office)

(1)	(2)	(3)
4. Manendragarh	1. State Bank of India 2. Central Bank of India	1 (Branch Office) 1 (Branch Office)
5. Ramanujganj	1. State Bank of India	1 (Branch Office)
6. Surajpur	1. State Bank of India	1 (Branch Office)
7. Bishrampur	1. State Bank of India	1 (Sub-Office)

Thus, in Surguja District, there were six bank offices of State Bank of India and three bank offices of Central Bank of India by the end of the year 1972. Central Co-operative Bank, Ambikapur also transacting the banking business in the District.

Average Population per Banking office

By the end of December, 1967, average population per banking office in Surguja District was 3,03,000, while the State average was 1,31,000. With the branch expansion activities, the average population per banking office of the District was reduced to 1,87,000, while the State average came down to 1,16,000 persons per banking office in Madhya Pradesh at the end of June, 1969. District average further reduced to 1,67,000 persons per banking office at the end of September, 1970 and to 1,47,000 persons at the end of September, 1972.

Surguja District ranked 287th in average population per office of commercial banks in district-wise data arranged in ascending order of population served in the country as at the end of September, 1970.

Volume of Business

As at the end of June, 1970, bank deposits of all the six functioning offices in Surguja District were stood at Rs. 65 lakhs. At the end of June, 1973 these deposits were increased to Rs. 254 lakhs in 10 banking offices in the District. In the same way, at the end of June, 1970, advances of six functioning offices of commercial banks amounted to Rs. 18 lakhs. At the end of June, 1973, bank advances of 10 banking offices increased to Rs. 45 lakhs. These data exclude inter bank transactions.

Outstanding Credit

As at the end of June, 1973, out-standing credit, reported by 10 banking offices in the District, amounted to Rs. 178.09 lakh in 982 accounts. Of these Rs. 15.47 lakhs were reported to be in agriculture, Rs. 148.17 lakh in industry, Rs. 2.98 lakh in trade, Rs. 6.80 lakh in personal accounts and Rs. 4.67 lakh in all other type of accounts. Of the total outstanding credit in industry, Rs. 1.15 lakhs were in small scale industry.

Lead Bank Scheme

An important break-through in the field of banking activities has been made towards the close of 1969, with the introduction of the Lead Bank Scheme in the District. The Central Bank of India is Lead Bank of Surguja District. Under the Scheme efforts are being made for identifying the territorial and functional credit gaps and for making recommendations for the extension of adequate institutional credit at reasonable terms to neglected sectors and areas, and weaker sections of the community. It will enable the Bank to assume the role of leadership in an effective and systematic manner. The Bank is expected to devote intensive attention to the District, and provide leadership in initiating or quickening their process of development. For this purpose, an initial survey of the resources and potential of the District is carried out which would create a base to enable the Bank to identify centres and areas in the District, which are in need of banking services and offer potential for development.

The nationalisation of leading commercial banks appears to have raised the expectations of the cultivators in regard to the availability of credit on reasonable terms in the District. The nationalised banks are expected to play an important and more active role in the economic rejuvenation of the District. A more purposeful regulation of credit is the first thing that can be expected of them. To be more effective in this direction bank offices were opened at Ambikapur, Chirimiry Collieri, Ramanujganj, Manendragarh and Bishrampur in 1970 and 1971. It is expected that the centre chosen for location of the bank offices in future should have the potential of ultimately emerging as Growth Centre.

Co-operative Credit

The beginning of the cooperative movement in Surguja District dates back to 1930, when the Korea Co-operative Bank was started in the erstwhile feudatory State of Korea. Co-operative movement was boosted further when a Thrift Co-operative Society was established in 1943 and a Officers Co-operative Stores in 1946 at Baikunthpur. Later on, these societies became defunct. The progress of cooperative movement was insignificant in pre-independence period, but it gained momentum in post-independence period, particularly with the beginning of planing in the country. The Five Year Plans have ushered in a new era of co-operative development in the District and the movement has begun to develop in diversified fields of economic activities.

Presently, the co-operative credit structure for short and medium term credit is a two-tier system, with a central co-operative bank at the district level and the primary credit societies at the base. The agricultural credit societies are in villages and urban banks and other credit, there is a land development bank in the District. There are in credit, there is land development bank in the District. There are in addition a few marketing cooperative credit societies and consumers stores in the District.

In contrast to the commercial banking system which is mainly urban oriented, co-operative banking has penetrated into rural areas. The centres at which co-operatives provide credit are well dispersed.

The Surguja Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Ambikapur

The Surguja Co-operative Central and Land Mortgage Bank Limited was established in 1949 with head office at Ambikapur and a branch office at Manendragarh. During the First Five Year Plan period, the Bank opened its branch offices at Surajpur (1954), Chirimiri and Sitapur (1956). During the Second Plan period, branches of the Bank were opened at Baikunthpur and Janakpur (1959), Ramanujanj and Kusmi (1960). During the Third Plan period, branches were also opened at Bishrampur and Rajpur (1964), Lakhanpur, Pratappur and Wadrafnagar (1965) and Bhaiyathar (1966). During the Fourth Plan branches were opened at Ramanujanj and Dhourpur (1967) and Batauli (1968).

In 1970-71, share capital and working capital of the Bank stood at Rs. 16.10 and Rs. 82.72 lakhs, respectively. During this year the Bank advanced loans totalling Rs. 13.37 lakhs. The loans out-standing at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 65.48 lakhs. The progress of the Bank is depicted in the following table :—

Table No. VI—2

Progress of the Surguja Co-operative Central Bank

(Amt. in lakh Rs.)

Year	Membership (Sts.)	Share Capi- tal	Working Capital	Deposits	Loans Advanced	Loans Outstanding
1950-51	2	N.A.	0.28	0.09	N.A.	0.05
1955-56	308	1.63	6.80	2.33	0.21	5.89
1960-61	702	6.98	44.42	7.78	2.59	35.02
1965-66	698	14.62	82.74	26.58	10.41	66.99
1970-71	454	16.10	82.72	30.36	13.37	65.48

Source : The Surguja Cooperative Central and Land Mortgage Bank, Ambikapur.

Area of operation of the Bank is the whole of the Surguja District. The Bank provides short-term and mid-term loans to cultivators and member societies. It also transacts normal banking business in the District and accepts deposits at lucrative rates of interest to mobilize rural savings.

The Surguja District Cooperative Land Development Bank, Ambikapur

The Surguja District Cooperative Land Development Bank was established on 10th February, 1969. The area of operation of this Bank extends over the whole of the Surguja District, with headquarters at Ambikapur. The Bank had no branch offices till June, 1972. Prior to the establishment of this Bank, long term financing to agriculturists in the District was done by opening a branch of the Central Co-operative Bank in 1962-63. Thus, from 1962-63 to 1968-69 loans amounting to Rs. 5,66,413 were distributed to 255 members. The details of working of the Land Development Bank are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI—3

Working of the Co-operative land Development Bank

(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Year	No. of Societies	No. of Members	Share Capital	Working Capital	Loan Advanced
1968-69	1	440	0.15	4.67	2.69
1969-70	1	609	0.67	15.09	12.59
1970-71	1	337	0.95	15.84	15.65

Source : Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Ambikapur.

The Bank provided long and middle term loans to cultivators for capital expenditure of permanent nature to be incurred primarily on agricultural operation. In Surguja District loans were provided mainly for construction of wells, purchasing of oil-engines, pump-sets and tractors and for other land improvement works.

Primary Co-operative Credit Societies

The basic unit in the short-term credit structure is the primary cooperative credit society at the village level. The activities of the primary society were formerly confined chiefly to provide short-term credit to their producer members for productive purposes. In recent years, these societies also took the work of distributing fertilizers and manure on agency basis, though depositing and advancing loans constitute the primary functions. There are two types of societies, Agricultural and Non-agricultural cooperative credit societies.

Agricultural Credit Societies

The objects of primary agricultural credit societies include the borrowing of funds from members or others to be utilized for loans to members and promotion of thrifts. Apart from this, these societies are also working as agents for the joint sale of agricultural produce and joint purchase of agricultural and domestic requirements of their members for the hiring of implements and machinery, dissemination of

information upon improved farming, etc. The number, share capital, working capital and loans advanced by these societies are given in the Table below :—

Table No. VI—4

Agricultural Credit Societies in the District

(Amount in Lakhs Rs.)

Year	No. of Societies	Membership	Share Capital	Working Capital	Loans Advanced
1966-67	420	39,265	14.29	94.93	75.43
1967-68	431	41,670	17.13	103.26	75.47
1968-69	431	43,863	17.81	105.80	74.90
1969-70	430	44,438	18.12	100.88	68.49
1970-71	430	46,690	18.22	101.12	62.26

Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ambikapur.

The facts given above indicate that agricultural co-operative societies made considerable progress in the District. They are achieving the objects of promoting mobilisation of capital, and pooling rural savings and providing bulk of funds needed by agriculturists for productive purposes. To make them more effective in operation, efforts were made after the Third Plan period to re-organise them in to more sizeable and better organised societies. This has resulted in reducing the number of societies from 1,034 in 1960-61 to 430 in 1970-71, but in increasing share capital and working capital. In the year 1951-52, there were 62 agricultural credit societies in the District, which increased to 1,034 in 1960-61, but decreased to 430 in 1970-71. Membership of these societies was also increased from 300 in 1951-52 to 34,000 in 1960-61, and to 46,690 in 1970-71. In the same way, the share capital and the working capital of these societies increased from Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 58,000 in 1951-52 to Rs. 8.38 lakhs and Rs. 53.21 lakhs in 1960-61, and up to Rs. 18.22 lakhs and Rs. 101.12 lakhs in 1970-71, respectively. Loans advanced by these societies also increased from Rs. 33,000 in 1951-52 to Rs. 39.79 lakhs in 1960-61 and to Rs. 62.26 lakhs in 1970-71.

Non-Agricultural Credit Societies

Non-agricultural co-operative credit societies may also be divided in general into banking societies of large and small size, which aim at doing banking business for financing of traders, entrepreneurs and other groups and other societies of salaried people and wage earners. The latest position of non-agricultural credit societies in the District is as under :—

Table No. VI—5

Non-agricultural Credit Societies in the District

(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Year	Number of Societies	Membership	Share Capital	Working Capital	Loans Advanced
1966-67	6	2,924	1.33	1.99	3.52
1967-68	7	2,949	1.33	1.99	3.52
1968-69	7	3,203	1.44	2.25	5.57
1969-70	6	3,545	1.58	6.74	6.85
1970-71	7	3,703	1.56	7.05	7.41

Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ambikapur.

In Surguja District, there were two non-agricultural credit societies in 1951-52, with a membership of 120. During this year, working capital and loans advanced by these societies were Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,500, respectively. In the year 1960-61, the number and membership of these societies were increased to 3 and 300, respectively. During this year the working capital of these societies increased to Rs. 15,270. These societies showed further progress and in the year 1970-71 the number and membership of these societies increased up to 7 and 3,703, respectively. During this year, the working capital and loans advanced by these societies were increased to Rs. 7,05,077 and Rs. 7,41,099, respectively.

Other Financial Institutions

Small Saving Schemes

The organisations for attracting and mobilising the savings in the District may be grouped as—(a) Post Office Saving Schemes and (b) Life Insurance. The Small Saving Schemes which continue their operations in the District are—(1) Post Office Saving Bank Account, (2) 12-Years National Plan Certificates, (3) 10-Years' Treasury Saving Deposits, (4) 15-Years Annuity Certificates, and (5) Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme.

The gross and net deposits in the said schemes from 1965-66 to 1971-72, in Surguja District, are given below :—

Table No. VI—7

Post Office Saving Schemes in the District

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Progressive Totals		Yearly Net Target
	Gross	Net	
1965-66	16,09,321	2,91,068	8 Lakhs
1966-67	21,82,920	3,78,684	10 Lakhs
1967-68	28,28,049	5,45,597	8 Lakhs
1968-69	36,29,566	8,99,936	10 Lakhs
1969-70	41,06,663	10,00,087	10 Lakhs
1970-71	51,03,055	21,75,597	10 Lakhs

The small savings per capita at the 1971 population was Rs. 1.64 approximately.

Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation

The District is being served by the Madhya Pradesh Financial Corporation (Indore). In 1976-77 the Corporation sanctioned loans of Rs. 5.70 lakh and disbursed loans of Rs. 5.11 lakh to one small scale industry in the District. Prior to this, no loans were advanced by the Corporation in Surguja District.

Government Finance

Under the Agriculturist's Loans Act and the Land Improvement Act, the Government advances loans to agriculturists for agricultural purposes in the form of *taccavi*. The Industries Department of the State also extends financial assistance to small-scale and cottage industries under State Aid to Industries Act, 1958.

Ware-housing

In Surguja District there is only one centre of the Madhya Pradesh State Ware-housing Corporation (Indore) and that too was started at Bishrampur in September, 1975. The agriculturists and businessmen, on

production of their ware-house receipts, are entitled to take loan from commercial banks. During the years 1975-76 and 1976-77; 12,053 qnts. and 16,777 qnts. of commodities were deposited. Commodities deposited at this centre mainly were foodgrains and chemical fertilizers.

Stock Exchange

There is no stock exchange in Surguja District

Currency and Coinage

As far as records are available, there was no local currency or any coinage system in the former states of Surguja, Korea and Changbhakar. When the region came under the British domination, it seems that the coinage system prevalent in British India was also extended to this region. Decimal system of currency is in operation since 1957 and all transactions are now being made in the new currency.

Trade and Commerce

Old Time Trade

At the end of the 19th century, the trade of the District mainly comprised forest produce and commodities of daily use. It suffered considerably for want of good roads and lack of transport facilities. Pack bullocks were the usual means of transport. Therefore, the volume of trade was very small. Traders were rarely met with in the former state of Korea, which they generally visited on their way to Surguja from Pendra station on the Bilaspur-Katni branch of the former Bengal-Nagpur Railway¹ (now South-Eastern Railway). That a trading class existed in the erstwhile Surguja State in the first decade of this century is evident from the Chhattisgarh Feudatory State Gazetteer. It states that "All the trade is entirely in the hands of foreigners who either pay annual visit to, or have settled in the State. Numerous caravans of dealers in grain can be met with roaming through the State, bartering salt and tobacco for grain, and also making cash purchases".² Much of the traffic from the north of the state formerly went to Mirzapur, Mandla and Bilaspur. But in the first decade of this century it followed a route through Daurbula.

Trading Classes

At partabpur there was a colony of *Kabuli* traders dealing in cloth and raiment. At Jhilmili also, there were *Kabuli* and other Muhammadan merchants as well as Hindu traders. During this period, trade in Chang Bhakar was mostly in the hands of merchants settled at Burhar and Shahdol in the former Rewa State.³ Weekly bazars were held at almost all the important villages of the State. There were only two markets in the former Korea State, one at Baikunthpur and the other at Kelhari. The chief bazars of the former Surguja State were those held at Ambikapur, Lakhanpur, Pratabpur, Daurbula and Jhilmili.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 300.

2. *ibid.* p. 245.

3. *ibid.* p. 315

Commodities Traded

As regards commodities of imports and exports, detailed information regarding their volume of business is not available in records. The articles of exports were chiefly rice, oil seeds, *ghee*, mustard, hides, horns, bamboos, mahua, til, cattle, catechu, lac, *harra*, tassar silk, myrabollans; resin, arrow-roots, and other minor forest produce. During this period, the principal articles of import were salt, sugar, molasses, cloth, brass utensils, spices, yarn, coconuts, wheat, gram, tobacco, kerosine, gold, silver and other consumer goods. There was no change in the articles of import and export till 1930.¹

Population Dependent on Trade and Commerce

The population of "workers" in occupational class "Commerce" of the 1951 Census classification was 2,982 in Surguja District. According to the industrial classification of the 1961 Census, workers principally engaged in equivalent class of "Trade and Commerce" of 1951 Census, from 0.9 per cent of the working force of the District. Total number of persons engaged in Trade and Commerce in 1961 was 5,558. This means that during the period of ten years, persons dependent for their livelihood on commercial activities have almost doubled, still the District had very low level of employment in trade and commerce. Female participation was negligible, i.e., 0.2 per cent. The trading activities in the District are generally of retail type and are concentrated in urban areas.

Out of the 5,558 persons engaged in Trade and Commerce in Surguja District, 2,210 persons (2,009 males and 201 females) were in urban areas and 3,348 persons (2,632 males and 666 females) were in rural areas. According to 1971 Census number of persons engaged in "Commerce" was 7,308 (6,863 male 445 female) of which 3,503 were in rural areas and 3,805 in urban areas. The trading activities in the District are generally of retail type and are concentrated in urban areas. Bharatpur and Samari tahsils were entirely rural. Tahsil-wise number of persons engaged in trade and commerce in Surguja District are given in the Appendix. During recent years, there has been considerable expansion in commercial activities in the District but the data given here are not comparable due to change in definition of "worker" from Census to Census.

Course of Trade

Since the individual economic entity of the districts and places is fast disappearing with the rapid increase of means of transport and communication, it is difficult to mention in absolute terms, the volume and value of out-flow or exports and in-flow or imports of the commodities from and to the District. According to 1971 Census, sugar, cloth, kerosine-oil, soap, machinery and electric implements, food grains viz., rice, wheat etc., were principal imports, while main exports were oil, seeds, wood, coal, lakh, kathha and rice.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Administration Reports.

Regulated Mandies

Market regulation is a socio-economic reform. Regulated markets have come-up to solve many problems of agricultural marketing and to make it more orderly and efficient, particularly at the assembly point. Their main object is to regulate sale and purchase of agricultural produce, create condition for fair competition, and to ensure a clean deal to the producer and seller. By the end of March, 1972 the regulated mandies in the District were at Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Ramanujganj and Sitapur. Apart from these, there were two more mandi centres at Ambikapur and Surajpur.

The market regulation has helped in eliminating many malpractices formerly prevalent in the mandies. Now it has brought awakening among cultivators. Cultivators themselves bring their produce for disposal in these mandies where they have better opportunity for getting competitive and fair prices than those available elsewhere in the area.

Centres of Wholesale and Retail Trade

All the Tahsil places in the District have wholesale markets at tahsil level. The important business centres in the District are Ambikapur, Baikunthpur, Chirimiri, Manendragarh, Ramanujganj, Surajpur, Bishrampur and Sitapur. These business centres are mainly trading in grains and other agricultural commodities. Apart from these, Lakhanpur, Rajpur, Dhorpur, Premnagar, Jainagar, Pratapur, Kamleshwarpur, Ramchandrapur, Basantpur, Balrampur, Chandani, Samari, Shankargarh, Patna, Sonahat, Khadgawan, Kelhari, Janakpur, Katadol, Ramkola and Jhilmili are the other centres where retail marketing is done.

Rural Marketing Centres

Weekly or fortnightly market is a regular feature of rural economic life. In Surguja District, largest number of such markets were held in Surajpur tahsil, i.e., 32 in 1961. This was followed by 24 in Ambikapur tahsil and 18 in Pal tahsil. Such markets in Manendragarh tahsil were 10, Baikunthpur 9, Samri 6 and in Bharatpur tahsil were 3. Apart from these rural areas, weekly and fortnightly markets were also held in urban centres of the District. In 1961, two markets were held in Baikunthpur town and one each in Manendragarh and Ambikapur towns. A detailed list of towns and villages, in which such weekly or fortnightly markets were held, is given in the Appendix.

Co-operative Marketing

It is increasingly recognised that the co-operative form of organisation can play a significant and predominant role in improving the system of agricultural marketing. The idea of co-operation in the field of marketing was primarily introduced with the hope that it would bring prosperity

to the agricultural classes. Government policy of undertaking the wholesale trade of food-grains and putting emergency levy on producers added more importance to the movement of cooperative marketing in the District.

Co-operative Marketing Societies

The co-operative marketing was started in 1946 in Surguja District, when the Officers Co-operative Stores was established at Baikunthpur. After a decade, the Co-operative Marketing Society, Surajpur was established in 1956-57. Till 1962-63, only two co-operative marketing societies were working in the District. The number of these societies increased to three in 1964-65 and up to six in 1965-66. Since then six co-operative marketing societies are functioning one each at Ambikapur, Sitapur, Manendragarh, Baikunthpur, Janakpur and Surajpur. Detailed figures regarding co-operative marketing societies in Surguja District are given in the Table below.

Table No. VI—9

Co-operative Marketing Societies in the District

(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Year	No. of Societies	Membership	Share Capital	Working Capital
1962-63	2	—	0.12	2.77
1964-65	3	—	3.40	5.55
1966-67	6	888	3.77	5.44
1968-69	6	880	3.82	5.55
1970-71	6	864	3.82	5.45

Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ambikapur.

These cooperative marketing societies are dealing in rice, paddy, pulses and other agricultural commodities. Besides this, consumer goods and chemical fertilisers are also sold by these societies. In 1971-72, these cooperative marketing societies sold commodities worth Rs. 1,71,742 in Surguja District.

Consumers Cooperative Stores

Proper distribution of consumer goods at a fair price is the main factor responsible for the proper development of economy. Consumers Cooperative Stores were started for controlling the monopolies and highly increasing prices of consumer goods. First Consumer Store at Kurasia

Coal Field, Chirimiri was organised in 1962. The number of consumers stores in Surguja District was 9 in 1962-63 which increased to 17 in 1964-65 and up to 20, in 1970-71. Surguja District being a coal mining area, majority of these stores are located in colliery area. Detailed figures regarding the financial position of these stores is given in the Table below:—

Table No. VI—10

Consumers Co-operative Stores in the District

(Amount in Lakh Rs.)

Year	Number of Societies	Membership	Share Capital	Working Capital
1966-67	20	4,942	172	670
1967-68	22	5,436	183	894
1968-69	22	6,085	205	743
1969-70	20	5,983	206	695
1970-71	20	6,044	208	693

Source : Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Ambikapur.

In the year 1970-71, sales and purchases of these Stores amounted to Rs. 7,13,627 and Rs. 6,82,574, respectively.

Fairs and Melas

Fairs and melas play an important role in business transactions. Melas, have since long been an inevitable part of the districts' religious life, they also started assuming commercial character in later period. In all 17 fairs are held in Surguja District. Out of these, seven are held in Manendragarh tahsil, four in Ambikapur tahsil, three in Surajpur tahsil, two in Baikunthpur tahsil and one in Samri Tahsil. A detailed list of fairs held in the District is given in Appendix.

Weights and Measures

There were amazing differences in the local weight and measures in the Surguja District. The measures such as *tambi*, *man* and *san*, and weights such as *man*, *seer* and *chhatak* were used in the erstwhile feudatory States of Surguja District. These measures were prepared

locally and had different significance in different places. Barter system was also prevalent at some places. It is reported in the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer of 1909, that weights did not appear to be used in the Korea State. The local measure was of capacity known as a seer of 12 gands. It was an hollow wodden vessel. Four seers were equal to a kuro and twenty kuros to a khandi. The Khandi was equal to two-third a maund. In Khargawan there was a 14 gandi seer with four seers to the kuro.¹ In order to have a uniform system of weights and measures in the Country, the Government of India enacted the standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, and the State Government enacted the Madhya Pradesh Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1959. According to the provisions of the Act, the metric weights were introduced in Surguja District from the 1st April, 1962. The metric measures of length and capacity were introduced from the 1st April, 1963. The main conversion is thus :—

- (a) The 'Seer' was replaced by the Kilogram.
- (b) The 'Yard' was replaced by the Metre.
- (c) The 'Seer' (Liquid Measure) was replaced 'Litre'.

Thus, the use of all the old weights and measures has been stopped throughout the District. This has been replaced by the metric weights, capacity measures and length measures and now there is a uniform system of weights and measures throughout the District.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 301.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

There are no precise accounts regarding the trade routes and highways existing in this District during the ancient period. The princely State of Surguja had some excellent fair weather roads, important them were those from Ambikapur to Udaipur and Ambikapur to Lerua and thence away to Mahri. A road from Kharsia Station to Ambikapur branches off from Sonpur, a thana of the earstwhile Udaipur State. In the earstwhile Korea and Changbhakar State there were no made roads. In Korea State the main lines of communication were between Patna and Danrbula in Srinagar tappa of the Surguja State and Patna and Jhilmill in Surguja. There was a track between Khargawan and Sonhat, and one from Sonhat to the Changbhakar State. These were the lines of communication by which the petty trade of the State was carried on. The natural features of the country lend themselves easily to road construction and the roads could easily be made passable at all times of year for carts except when any of the larger streams are in flood, but at present carts are little used because passes leading out of State (Surguja) are very difficult. The north of the State has practically nothing that could be called a road..... There are no regular roads of any kind in Korea. There are no man-made roads in the Changbhakar State. Two hill passes lead into it from the north-one near Harchoka and other at Kamarji.¹

The Surguja State was maintaining 141 miles of roads, and most of these were fair-weather tracks. The description of some of these roads is given below :—

1. Ambikapur-Kharsia Road

This road runs from Ambikapur to Kharsia Railway Station, a distance of 114 miles, via Udaipur State. Previously the road was maintained by the people on *Begar* but later on the management was taken over by the State Public Works Department.

2. Ambikapur-Manendragarh Road

This is the next important road with about 85 miles and it passes via Surajpur and Baikunthpur to Chirimiri and Manendragarh Railway Station.

3. Ambikapur-Ramanujganj Road

This road runs from the Ambikapur to Ramanujganj and thence to Garhwa and Daltonganj Railway Stations. This is a fair-weather road and important from the commercial point of view.

1. Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. X, p, 172.

Recent Road Developments

In 1948, Surguja District had total length of 554 miles of roads which increased to 568.4 miles in 1952, 593 miles in 1956 and 577.5 miles in 1961. How slow was the pace of development of roads in the District in the earlier years is evident from the fact that the total mileage increase only 23.5 during 1948-61. Out of this little more than 200 miles are class I roads. The District headquarters connected with Raigarh (distance 128 miles). The shortest road connection from Ambikapur to Bhopal is via Bharatpur. From Bharatpur the road passes into Shahdol District and thence to Jabalpur District to join the Jabalpur-Rewa Road. The communications are poor in the northern and southern parts of the District and some areas like Ramanujganj and Kusmi are almost inaccessible during the rainy season.

Present Road System

The roads of the District fall in the following categories according to the Road Classification pattern adopted by the Indian Roads Congress in 1961.

State Highways

These roads are all weather Class 1 roads and are maintained by the Public Works Department. Three State Highways pass through the District, viz :

- (1) State Highway No. 1 Garhwa (U.P.) to Padampur (Orissa) via Ramanujganj-Ambikapur-Pathargaon-Raigarh;
- (2) State Highway No. 10 Ranchi (Bihar) to Deharda (M.P.) via Ramanujganj-Janakpur-Jaingnagar-Barhi; and
- (3) State Highway No. 14 Ranchi (Bihar) to Pratapgarh (Rajasthan) via Jashpurnagar-Ambikapur-Manendragarh and Shahdol.

Major District Roads

These roads connect principal market and business places of the District. They are maintained by the State Public Works Department. The roads from Ambikapur to Patalgaon and Ambikapur to Manendragarh via Baikunthpur are Class I Roads, with black topped surface. The following roads in the District fall in this category.

Table No. VII—1

Main District Roads

Name of the Roads	length in Kilometers.
1. Ambikapur-Patalgaon Road (42 miles 3 F in Surguja District and 10½ miles in Raigarh District).	69.8
2. Ambikapur-Baikunthpur-Manendragarh Road	128.2
3. Ambikapur-Ramanujganj Road.	108.2
4. Ambikapur-Katghara-Bilaspur Road.	67.2
5. Ambikapur-Partappur-Janakpur Road.	115.84
6. Baikunthpur-Sonhat-Ramgarh Road.	68.4
7. Chirmiri-Khadgaon Road.	9.6
8. Belbehara-Beharpur Road.	25.6
9. Beharpur-Kelhari Road.	24.0
10. Gurdol-Beharpur Road.	9.6
11. Janakpur-Barol Road.	38.4
12. Janakpur-Shahdol Road.	16.0
13. Janakpur-Badwahi Road.	28.8

Source.—Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (B. & R.), Ambikapur.

Other District Roads

These roads are also maintained by the State Public Works Department. The total length of some roads in the District are given below :—

Table No. VII—2

Other District Roads

Name of the Roads	Length in Kilometers.
1. Nagpur-Chirmiri Road.	12.8
2. Rajpur-Kusmi Road.	54.4
3. Baikunthpur-Chirmiri Road.	28.8
4. Surajpur-Baiyathanpur Road.	22.4
5. Sonhat-Badra Road.	12.80
6. Patna-Kudeli Road.	12.80
7. Rampa-Katadal Road.	12.80
8. Salh-Khadgaon Road.	24.6
9. Ambikapur-Darim Road.	12.80
10. Pratappur-Gorda Road.	14.40

Source : Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (B. & R.), Ambikapur.

Vehicles and Conveyances

Prior to the introduction of the mechanised vehicles and conveyances, the District was served principally by carts, bullocks, buffaloes and ponies. These carts were principally used for the carriage of timber and grass and could travel along the roughest roads. The bullock cart continues to be even now the basic means of transport in the rural areas. The internal goods traffic of the District still carried by them as many villages are far away from the roads and inaccessible to other means of transportation. In urban areas internal, goods traffic are also carried by bullock carts. The Horse driven tonges are used for carrying passenger traffic in urban areas of the District.

Automobiles

The automobile are the quickest and comfortable means of transportation. The automobiles of the District are registered by the Regional Transport Authority, Bilaspur while the vehicles other than motor vehicles are registered by the municipal committees. The table given below shows the number of different types of Auto-vehicles in the District.

Table No. VII—2
Number of Vehicles

Year	Cars	Buses	Lorries	Motor Cycles	Others	Total
1960-61	11	3	32	3	39	88
1965-66	11	4	14	6	2	37
1966-67	6	1	24	2	7	40
1967-68	7	1	20	19	4	51
1968-69	10	—	8	10	—	28

Source :—Regional Transport Authority, Bilaspur.

Other Vehicles

The other popular means of conveyances in urban and semi-urban areas are cycles, cycle rikshaws, bullock carts and horse-driven tongas.

Bicycles

The bicycles have gained much popularity with the people in the rural and urban areas of the District due to their multifarious uses and cheapness. The number of bicycle registered by the different municipal committees of the District are shown below :—

Table No. VII—4

Number of Bicycles

Municipalities	Years					
	1960-61	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
1. Ramanujganj	66	48	50	44	40	40

Source : Municipal Committee

Bullock-Carts

These are most common vehicles in the rural areas used for carrying persons as well as goods for short distance. It is difficult to assess their total number in the District. The number of Bullock-carts which are used for transporting goods and carriages in the urban areas, can be seen from the table given below from 1960-61 to 1971-72.

Table No. VII—5

Number of Bullock-carts

Year	Ramanujganj Municipality
1960-61	51
1965-66	33
1966-67	41
1967-68	35
1968-69	34
1969-70	35

Source :—Municipal Committee.

Horse-Driven Tongas

The tongas are used for transporting goods as well as passengers, for local distances.

Public Transport

In this District State-owned and privately owned Transport services are running to meet the traffic requirements of the population. The District is well connected by Motor Bus traffic with the important places as Jabalpur, Bilaspur and Raigarh.

Private Buses

The rural routes of the District are mainly served by privately owned transport services which run on even unmetalled *Cutch* routes and have penetrated the interior areas of the District. The privately owned transport services are transporting a larger load of the goods and passenger traffic of the District.

Transport Co-operative Societies

In Surguja District one Transport Co-operative Society was formed in 1958 with 104 members and named as "Janta Transport Co-operative Society, Ambikapur". The details of the society are given below :—

Table No. VII-6
Transport Co-operative Society

Year	Total Number of Member	Total Share Capital (Rs.)	Total working Capital (Rs.)	Profits (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1960-61	104	1,01,338	4,50,060	3,537
1965-66	107	1,12,583	7,52,728	74,665
1966-67	107	1,12,794	7,48,131	57,442
1967-68	112	1,17,544	7,74,844	15,699
1968-69	114	1,18,294	8,50,377	4,943

Source : Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Surguja.

Travel and Tourist Facilities

The account of old time *Serais* and *Dharamshalas* of the District is not traceable. However, in recent time a few *Dharamshalas* have been constructed by charitable trusts and philanthropic persons. In addition, there are a number of petty hotels and eating house situated in the towns. which offer food, light refreshments as well as tea, coffee etc.

Rest Houses and Circuit House

The primary purpose of maintaining Rest House is to provide facilities for boarding and lodging to touring Government Officials coming to the District on duty. But they are made available to members of the public also at prescribed rates. The Circuit House is intended for V.I.P.s., Secretaries, Heads of Departments and other Class I Officers of the State and Central Governments. The Collector of the District is the controlling authority for allotting accomodation in the Circuit House, while the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Building and Roads) is the controlling authority for allotting accomodation in Rest Houses. The Forest Department is also maintaining a number of Rest Houses mainly for its own officials.

Hotels

There are good number of Hotels and eating houses situated at important places which provide meals, light refreshments, tea and other dishes.

Railways

The only Railway in this District is a branch-line from Anuppur Junction on Bilaspur-Katni line of the South-Eastern Railway. The Railway line was opened in this District in year 1928-29 with total route mileage 29.61. It increased to 40.03 Miles in 1929-30 and 53.85 Miles in 1930-31. This line was treated as an integral Part of B.N. Railway from 1st October, 1944¹. Lateron it came under the jurisdiction of Eastern Railway and then South-Eastern Railway. The intermediate stations are Chirmiri, Paradol, Manendragarh, Bauriband, Bishrampur, Karonjo, Surajpur Road, Kotra, Baikunthpur Road, Nagar, Davitola (Barhaspur) and Udalkachhara².

Air Transport

There is no Aerodrome or Air Strip in this District.

Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones

There was a Sub-post Office and Telegraph Office at Ambikapur but it is not known as to when it was opened. Uptill 1907, there was no other Post Office in this State. From the 1st July, 1907, one branch office was opened at Bhaiyathan and thereafter several branch offices came into

1. History of Indian Railways, 1955, p. 88.

2. District Census Hand Book, 1961.

existence. All the branch offices were managed by the School Masters and were being run at a loss. The state had to pay about Rs. 4,000 every year to the Postal Department on account of the insufficient income of the Branch Offices. In 1910, three Post Offices at Sitapur, Lakhanpur and Lakhanpur were made branch offices. The Post Office at Baikunthpur was raised to the status of a combined Post and Telegraph office in 1915¹. when there was one combined office and 17 Branch Offices in Surguja State². The Mails were carried by a set of double runners between Kharsia and Ambikapur within 36 hours and in other places, by single runner every day and in some places on alternate days. A Telephone Line between Ambikapur and Bohla was maintained by the Durbar in 1929³. A list of Post, Telegraph and Public Call Offices is given in

Appendix.

1. Administration Report of Feudatory States. 1915. p. 32.

2. *ibid.* 1916. p. 7.

3. *ibid.* 1929, p. 4.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

A significant portion of the working population of the District remains uncovered by the categories of workers in the major sectors. Such persons have been treated here separately under the category of 'miscellaneous occupations'. Persons forming this group are engaged in Public Administration, learned professions like medicine and education, fine arts, religion, etc., domestic services and certain other occupations such as tailoring, haircutting, running of hotels and restaurants, laundry, religious preaching, etc. There is no uniformity in the growth of such occupations many needs which were formerly satisfied in the family are now conveniently and to some extent efficiently satisfied outside. This is especially so where women go out of their homes for employment. The number of persons engaged in Government, semi-government and quasi-Government services is constantly on the increase consequent upon the expansion of Government activities. In this chapter the miscellaneous occupations are analysed to show some important sections in the socio-economic set-up of the District.

Public Administration

According to the occupational classification of 1961 Census there were, in all, 1,315 persons in the category of Government administrators and Executive Officials in the District. Of these just 11 Administrators and Executive Officials, all male worked under the Central Government, of whom 10 were placed in the urban areas. Those serving under the State Government numbered 254 including 3 women and 139 of them including 2 women were in the urban area. Administrators and executive officials serving under the Local Self Government and Quasi-Government Organisations totalled 13 and 3 of whom 6 and 2, respectively, were in the urban sector. None of them was a woman. The District seemed quite advanced in the matters of community development or village level work as 1,033 persons were classed as village officials. Forming the lowest rung of administrative ladder, they were actually the village level workers helping in the execution of various plan schemes.

Besides, the routine office work in the District was manned by 3,481 clerical and related workers of all type. Among these were included 51 (one female) in the stenographers and typists class and 2,008 (17 females) miscellaneous clerical workers. Out of them 27 and 912, respectively, were placed in the urban sector. Another, 1,150 (15 females) were classed as unskilled office workers of whom 669 were in the urban area.

All these classes faced the hardships of the fixed income groups to varying degrees. Still, Government service, particularly clerical and other equivalent or higher posts were all much desired and competed

for. Much greater stability and security than the private sector jobs and the sense of respectability were the main cause, behind this. All these and other Government services carry many common benefits like age pension, gratuity, general provident fund, etc. and facilities like medical reimbursement, Government accommodation, if available and if the nature of duty requires residence near the office and dearness allowance which is raised from time to time. In addition, various district level branches of the different state wide Government employees' organisations or associations also exist at the District headquarters and strive to protect and further the interest of their members.

Learned Professions

Teaching

The number of persons engaged in this profession in the census of 1961 was 2,049 in all. Of these teachers of the college or university level number 43, all male, with 37 of them in the urban sector. The number of secondary school teachers was 67(8 women) with 49(7 women) in the urban sector. As against these a total of 1,633 (84 women) middle and primary teachers were much better distributed over the rural areas with only 170 (36 women) of them in the urban areas. Other teachers not classified in the above categories numbered 306 (12 women) in the District.

The number of persons engaged in this profession is increasing day by day with the general rise in literacy and educational standards. The phenomenal increase in educational facilities provided in recent times is a direct result of efforts by State and Central Governments in this field as well as private efforts. With the introduction of compulsory and free primary education and free education facilities to Scheduled Castes and Tribes at all levels, education has come within the reach of rich and poor alike. It may also be mentioned here that more attention is being paid to technical and vocational education in the present.

A study of both earnings and qualifications of the class as a whole shows a definite improvement (as compared with the past) with the revision of their pay scales from time to time and insistence on fully qualified teachers at all levels. But, inspite of this marked rise in income, on an average, a teacher has to supplement his income through some other sources like tuition. In rural areas, he is generally engaged in agriculture or in the sale of some useful articles e.g., stationery, etc.

Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses, etc.

The total number of physicians (of allopathic and other systems of medicine) and surgeons, dentists etc. came to 114 (5 women) of whom 36 were in the urban sector. Separately, allopathic physicians and

surgeons numbered 50 (one woman) of whom 26 were in the urban area. Besides, there was one dentist also. The ayurvedic physicians in the District totalled 19 (3 women) including 6 in the urban area. The homoeopathic physicians, with as many as 36 were much more than the ayurvedic physicians which seemed a special feature of the District. It was particularly so as only one of them was shown in the urban sectors.

Apart from the above mentioned persons engaged in them medical profession there are a number of other persons engaged as midwives, nurses, health visitors, pharmacists and other medical and health technicians. Their total number was 560 out of whom 369 were males and 191 were females. In urban areas there were 136 persons, 95 being males and 40 females. With the spread of literacy and the modern knowledge in medicine, the advantages of approaching a doctor in the case of illness are more visible to the general public. The medical practitioners have, therefore, a busy time. Some of the practitioners carry on general practice while others specialise in various branches of medical science. The earnings of the members of this profession depend on a number of factors such as place of practising, ability to diagnose, individual reputation of a practitioner and confidence of patients in him.

Legal Profession

Along with the general increase in the educational standards the number of persons taking to law shows a considerable increase in recent times. Law colleges have been opened at most of the district headquarters of the State and consequently, every year, an increasing number of persons become law graduates. However, the profession does not absorb them all now a days. There are a number of practitioners in the field which leaves little scope for new comers.

The total number of persons in the 'jurists' category in the District, in 1961 was 78 of whom 77 were males. They included 41(one female) legal practitioners and advisors and 10 judges and magistrates of whom 24 and 9, respectively, were placed in the urban sector. Apart from these, there were 18 other jurists and legal technicians (including petition writers) etc., in the District and all were located in the urban sector.

Artists, Writers, Editors, etc.

Apart from the legal and other learned professions another distinguished occupation is that of journalists, writers and artists, etc. The total number of persons in the category of artists, writers and related workers was 358 (9 women) of whom 42 (2 women) were in the urban sector. Among them were included 11 authors, editors, journalists, etc. in the District. Out of the others, there were 12 sculptors and modellers; 24 Actors and related workers, and 296 musicians and related workers, in the District.

Religious Profession

Religion plays no small a part in the life of an Indian citizen but its influence is declining with the advent of education influenced by the western thoughts, growing nationalism among the educated class of people and to some extent by the vulnerability of the men in this profession to public criticism. The profession could not keep pace with the changing ideas and this has affected the number of persons engaged in this profession as an honoured means of livelihood. In 1961 Census the number of persons counted as ordained religious workers was 202, out of which 198 were males and 4 females. Thirty four persons were engaged in this profession in urban areas.

In 1951, 87 persons were engaged in rural areas out of which 85 were males and 2 females. Considering sector wise 16 persons were in urban areas while 71 were in rural areas.

Priests, and *katha vachaks* are the religious professional persons seen in the towns and villages. Priests undertake the worship of deities in the temples or in many individual homes and perform the ritual at marriages, thread ceremony, naming ceremony, deaths etc. Besides, the religious activity includes the missionary activity as well.

Personal and Domestic Services

Hotels and Restaurants

In 1961 the total number of persons engaged as waiters, bartenders and related workers was 16 out of which 14 were males. In urban areas, 10 persons (one female) were engaged in this occupation. In 1951, persons deriving their livelihood from hotels, restaurants and eating houses, etc. which presumably included lodging and boarding houses as well, numbered 37 out of which 20 were working as employees. The rest were employers or independent workers owning their own business.

Though, the salaries paid to the employees vary, but they usually, include two meals and breakfast. Most of the establishments employ the workers on daily wage basis. Weekly payment on bazar days is also made at various places. The system of weekly payment is popular more in mofussil towns and villages.

Tailoring

Tailoring shops have secured a prominent position now a days. In the urban areas, the tailor have more scope to show their skill and adopt new fashions. In the rural areas, the dress of the rural folk has not changed much as compared with the changes in the urban area. The

owners of the tailoring shops themselves manage and superwise their establishments. Big shops also employ a few assistants depending upon their business who are paid according to their skill on either per day or the piece rate system. There were¹ 695 persons engaged in tailoring establishments in the District in 1961. Out of them 610 were males and 85 females. In urban areas 267 persons were engaged in this trade out of whom 242 were males and 25 female. In 1951, 349 persons were engaged in this profession out of which 331 were males and 18 females.

Laundries and Washermen

Besides the *dhobis* modern laundries have also been established in urban areas. The earnings of the washermen in villages are usually meagre as compared with their counter parts in towns.

The 1961 Census returns the total number of launderers, dry cleaners and pressors in the District was 217, of whom 111 were men and 106 women. Of this 71 washermen are shown working in the urban area sector. In 1951, 364 persons were engaged in this trade, out of which 322 were males and 42 females. Out of this number 65 persons were engaged in urban areas and 299 in rural areas.

Barbers

The urban counterparts of the barbers now rarely move from door to door to do their business. Their haircutting saloons have been established in a large number. The business is developing and creating more scope for additional investment. The urbanites are more prone to a decent way of living and thus a regular visit to the barber's shop to have their hair cut neatly has become their routine.

According to the 1961 Census the total number of barbers in the District was 361, all of whom were males. Out of this 116 barbers were shown working in the urban sector. In 1951 Census 231 persons were engaged in the profession out of which 227 were males and 4 females. Out of this figure 59 persons were in urban areas while 172 were in rural areas. The saloons are mostly managed and supervised by the owners themselves. The owner works in the saloon with his assistants. His near relatives also sometimes work for him but as the business expands he requires additional hands.

Pan-Bidi Shops

The *pan-bidi* shops are mostly managed by the owners themselves. They do not provide employment to additional persons. Very few shop keepers were found employing one or two assistants. In no case the business was found to be hereditary. The following statement gives the figures of employment provided by this occupation according to Industrial Classification and not according to Occupational Classification which has

1. This figure includes related workers too.

been made the basis of this chapter. Those figures included besides employment in pan-bidi shops, a number of other heels such as, dealers in tobacco, manufacturers of tobacco, etc. The 1961 Census returns 339 persons under this occupation, out of whom 291 were males and 48 females. In urban areas their total number was 173, with 162 males and 11 females.

Domestic Servants

The domestic services include cooks, house-keepers, maids and ayahs, etc. These are mainly employed in rich and well-do-do families. The cooks are of two types: those who serve regularly in private houses and those who are employed on special occasions e.g., festivals, marriages, etc. The second category are usually males and they are paid highly payment depending upon the skill and amount of work.

Two distinct classes of domestic servants are to be met with. Those employed as full time servants are paid at differing rates depending upon the class or the family in which they are employed. Besides, they are provided with meals, clothing and shelter. This extra facility compensates them for the loss they undergo for being attached to a single family. The other category includes servants employed in part-time capacity. These are entrusted with certain specific jobs.

The 1961 Census has returned 1,301 persons under this occupation, out of which 807 were males and 484 females. In urban area there were 387 persons engaged in this category. Out of which 157 were males and 230 females. In 1951 2,009 persons were shown as engaged in domestic services out of which 1341 were males and 668 females. In urban areas 760 persons fell under the profession while 1,249 persons were in rural areas.

Almost all of the details above are based on the occupational classification which is not available for later than 1961 Census. However, some data based on Industrial Classification and as available through the District Employment Market Reports is given below for three years during the later sixties.

Table No. VIII—1
Category-wise strength of Employees

	For the Year ending March		
	1966	1967	1968
Public Services in Administrative Departments and Offices of			
(i) State Government;	1,465	1,939	1,951
(ii) Quasi-Govt. Organisations and Municipalities;	711	677	688
Elucational Servicts (Non-technical)	2,167	2,565	2,804
Public Health and Medical Services	401	412	463
Community Services	1,557	1,638	1,261

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Pattern of livelihood

At the time of 1951 Census total population of the Surguja District was 8,22,041. Out of this number total population of "workers" from different occupational classes was 451,342. Number of workers dependent on agriculture for their livelihood formed 88.99 per cent. of the total workers from all occupational classes. The proportion of workers in the occupational class "Production other than cultivation" which comprised primary industries, mining and quarrying and manufactures was 6.53 per cent. Commercial activities provided livelihood to 0.93 per cent. of workers and 0.55 per cent were dependent for livelihood on Transport. Other services and miscellaneous sources engaged 2.92 per cent. of the total workers. The extent of dependence on agricultural activities as a source of livelihood was excessive as occupations other than agriculture engaged barely 49,681 workers out of the total number of 451,342 workers.

After a decade, in the year 1961 total population of the District increased to 1,036,738. With the increase in population the number of workers also increased. In the year 1951 workers or economically active population was 451,342 forming 54.9 per cent. of the total population. In 1961, the workers numbered 618,324 and formed 59.6 per cent. of the population in the year.

It may be noted here that workers in agricultural activities increased in 1961 to 539,038 against 401,661 of 1951 Census. Thus, with the increase in population number of persons taking to agriculture as a source of livelihood also increased. But taking the percentage of workers dependent for livelihood on agriculture to total workers there appears a decline in percentage to 87.02 as against 88.99 of 1961 Census. Thus, while in percentage terms there appears to be a diversion of population taking to agriculture as a source of livelihood in 1961, actually with increase in population there was increasing number of workers engaged in agricultural activities.

Apart from agriculture, the industrial activity consisting of three occupational classes of 1961 Census, viz, III, IV and V provided means of livelihood to 48,705 workers as against 29,716 of the equivalent occupational class V of 1951 Census. Here the gain appears to be real. In percentage terms, workers in industrial activities formed 7.88 per cent. of total workers in 1961 as against 6.58 per cent. of 1951 Census. Thus, during a period of a decade, with increase in population there was increase

1. Figure for "workers" in 1951 has been worked out as per "A note on working force estimates 1901-61" given in Appendix of the Census of India, Part No. 1 of 1961.

in the number of workers engaged in industrial activities for livelihood. Percentages of workers in trade and commerce, transport and other services to the total workers declined in 1961 as compared to 1951 percentages for similar occupational divisions. Thus, trade and commerce in 1961 provided livelihood to 0.89 per cent of total workers as against 0.93 per cent. in 1951. Transport activities provided livelihood to 0.44 per cent. of the total workers in 1961 as against 0.55 per cent. in 1951 and other services in 1961 engaged 2.58 per cent. of total workers as against 2.92 per cent. of 1951. While there was a percentage decline of workers in all these three occupational classes in 1961, in absolute figures the number of workers earning livelihood in these three classes increased as compared to 1951. With increase in population this was to be expected. Thus, while it is difficult to say as to whether there was actual diversion of population away from agriculture depending for livelihood, it can be said that in 1961 as a result of general increase in population of the District all occupational classes shared the burden of providing livelihood. Proportionately, however, there was a decline in the importance of agriculture as a source of livelihood in 1961, while there was a proportionate increase in the industrial activity. There was also a proportionate decline in the importance of other activities. In 1961, construction activity constituted a separate occupational class which provided means of livelihood to 6,448 persons forming 1.05 per cent. of the total workers in that year.

A decade later in 1971, total population of the District further increased to 1,326,439, as against 1,036,738 of 1961. But number of workers, i.e., economically active persons declined from 67,18,324 in 1961 to 477,441. It might be remembered here that in comparison to 1951 there was an increase in the number of workers in 1961. However, the fact of a decline in economically active persons in 1971 as compared to 1961 cannot be taken of much economic significance, because this decline might be the result of some changes in the enumeration of "workers" in 1971 Census as against 1961. This brings workers' participation rate which happened to be 59.6 per cent. in 1961 down to 35.9 per cent in 1971 thereby making the economically backward District an advanced one. But participation rate is not a reliable index of the state of the economy. This becomes apparent as even in 1971 workers in agricultural activities formed 86.44 per cent. of the total workers in all occupational classes. This makes agriculture still the mainstay of livelihood in the District. But in 1971 the number of workers dependent for their livelihood on agricultural activities declined substantially as compared to 1961. This change has also been reflected in the percentage, which had declined from 87.02 in 1961 to 86.44 in 1971.

Industrial and Construction Activities

The total number of workers dependent for livelihood on industrial activities was 48,705 in 1961 forming 7.88 per cent. of the total workers. In 1971 the number of workers declined to 38,352, i.e., less by ten thousand

persons. However, in percentage terms there was an increase from 7.88 in 1961 to 8.02 in 1971. Construction activity in 1961 provided livelihood to 6,448 persons which declined to 1,714 in 1971. This decline is reflected in percentages to total workers, 1.05 and 0.35 in 1961 and 1971, respectively.

Trade and commercial activities in 1971 provided livelihood to more workers than in 1961. The percentage of workers in trade and commerce to total workers being 0.89 in 1961 and 1.53 in 1971. In absolute figures the number of workers which was 5,558 in 1961 increased to 7,308 in 1971. Transport activities also provided livelihood to more workers in 1971 than in 1961, but increase was slight, i.e., from 2,672 in 1961 to 2,946 in 1971. In percentage terms, increase was from 0.44 in 1961 to 0.58 in 1971.

Other services provided livelihood to lesser number of workers in 1971, as compared to 1961, i.e., from 15,903 in 1961 to 14,586 in 1971. However, in percentage terms there was an increase from 2.58 in 1961 to 3.05 in 1971.

From the Census data as above the pattern of livelihood that emerges is one of proportionate decline in importance of agricultural activities as a means of livelihood, though actually agriculture still remains the main source of livelihood for 86.44 per cent. of the workers in the District. It has also been noticed that industrial activities have grown proportionately in importance as a source of livelihood, though actually with increase in population there was no increase in the number of workers in industrial activities except in 1961 as compared to 1951. This means, there are no opportunities of employment in industrial sector of the economy in the District. From 1961 to 1971, there appears to be a considerable decline in the construction activities in the District. Trade and commerce as well as transport increased in importance as a source of livelihood during the decade 1961-71. Other services and miscellaneous sources have only proportionately increased, while declining actually as a source of livelihood to the growing numbers. In substance, therefore, pattern of livelihood mostly remains unchanged, agriculture and allied activities being the only source of livelihood for majority of workers.

In advanced economic conditions, proportion of dependants to economically active persons is high. This is so because agriculture and allied activities provide employment not only to adult males and females but also to children, though a larger portion of workers in agriculture happens to be underemployed. By virtue of this feature of agricultural economy, proportion of dependants to workers in areas predominantly agricultural, is low. Examining the Census data from this point of view, it has been found that the proportion of dependants to workers was least in the year 1961, being 0.67 dependant per worker. In 1951 the proportion of dependants was actually a little higher being 0.82 dependant per worker, but in 1971 the proportion of dependants to a worker was the highest being 1.77 dependants to a worker. How far this increase in the

number of dependants to a worker in the year 1971 is an indication of the developing condition of the economy in the District is difficult to say because concepts of "workers" and "dependants" have been changing from one Census to another and it is possible that changes in the proportion of dependants to a worker as noted above are wholly due to the conceptual changes in the terms "worker" and "dependant". However, some economic change in the region towards advanced conditions is not ruled out.

PRICES

Principal crop of the District is rice, while wheat, barley and gram are the principal rabi crops. From amongst oilseeds, sesamum, linseed and mustard are most commonly grown. In dealing with the price trends, foodgrain prices in the District as above are considered as changes in their prices affect large portion of population in the District.

Writing about prices in the erstwhile Surguja State, in the first decade of the present Century, it was stated that "in 1906 rice (coarse) sold at 32 seers per rupee but in 1907 the cheapest rate was 24 and at one time it was as dear as 9 seers. In 1908 it eased to 16 seers. During the same period wheat ranged from 10 Seers in 1906 to 5 Seers in 1908 and gram from 14 to 5 seers"¹. High prices of foodgrains in the State in the year 1908 were attributed to the bad crop condition in the year 1907. In the year 1909 there was a fall in prices because principal rabi and kharif crops were good. Rice in this year was sold at 28 seers; gram was sold at 12 seers and wheat price fell from 5 seers in the previous year to 8 seers. In 1910, price of rice remained steady. There was, however, considerable decline in the price of gram from 12 seers to 22 seers; price of wheat too declined but little, i.e., from 8 seers to 9 seers. This was possible because of good out-turn of both rabi and kharif crops. In 1911 while price of rice remained unchanged at 28 seers a rupee, there was a further decline in gram from 22 seers to 25 seers a rupee and wheat price declined from 9 seers to 14 seers a rupee. The year 1912 happened to be one of bad season and crop conditions. In this year while there was rise in prices of rice and gram at 16 seers a rupee for both, there was decline in the price of wheat from 14 seers to 16 seers. Thus, in this year rice, gram and wheat, all sold at 16 seers a rupee each. In the year preceding the First World War, i.e., 1913, price of rice was 16 seers a rupee but there was further rise in wheat and gram prices, both of which sold at 10 seers a rupee. In this year rainfall was better than the previous year and kharif out-turn was improved but rabi crop was moderate in out-turn. Thus, on the eve of First World War prices in the then Surguja State were rather higher, as a result of unfavourable season and crop conditions.

1. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, (1909), p. 243

During the years 1915 and 1916 of the First World War, season and crop conditions were satisfactory and there was no change in the prices of food-grains over those obtaining in 1913. In the year 1916, rainfall was much better being 67.21 inches as against 61.32 inches in 1915. However, there was no change in the price of rice, which sold at 16 seers a rupee. There was a decline in the price of gram which sold at 12 seers against 10 seers a rupee as in 1913. There was, however, an increase in the price of wheat which was sold at 6 seers a rupee. This increase in the price of wheat could be attributed to the demand thereof outside the State. There is, however, no record to show that wheat was exported outside the State. It is rice which used to be exported outside the State. Therefore, increase in price of wheat could be reasonably attributed to the local conditions of out-turn and demand for that foodgrain instead of any outside effect due to War-time demand for it.

Looking to the prices of these foodgrains in the following year 1917, which was one of beneficial rainfall for the crops, there was a decline not only in the price of rice but also that of wheat, while price of gram remained unchanged. In spite of War-time conditions, price of rice declined to 18 seers in 1917; wheat which was sold at 6 seers in 1916 declined so much that it was sold at 16 seers a rupee. Price of gram remained unchanged at 12 seers. This amply proves that changes in prices of foodgrains in the State were the outcome of local rainfall and resultant outturn of crops rather than condition outside the State like First World War conditions of increased demand for foodgrains, etc. The last year of the War, 1918 was one of early cessation of rains in the State causing failure of crops to the extent of 4 annas for rabi and 8 annas for kharif seasons. In the following year 1919, in spite of good rains to the extent of 82.14 inches as against 48.77 inches in 1918, and in spite of good harvest, prices of foodgrains rose considerably. This might be partly due to the bad crop condition in the year 1918 and partly to heavy exports in the year 1919.

Prices-Inter-War Period

Price situation in the District during the inter-War period has to be viewed against the general economic background, as there are no data available regarding prices in the Surguja State. It has been seen that immediately after the cessation of First World War, in the year 1919, the prices of foodgrains in the State increased as compared to those during the War period. In the subsequent years scarcity conditions combined with influenza and plague epidemics might have caused prices of foodgrains to increase. The decade 1921-31 was one of economically favourable conditions in the State as a result of which there was reported to be immigration of population from the neighbouring Rewa State and the United Provinces.

The conditions of world-wide Economic Depression of the thirties depend after 1930-31. Prices of commodities everywhere including foodgrains, were low because of favourable season and crop conditions combined with low off-take in the market on account of wide-spread unemployment and consequent low demand. It required a huge demand created by the Second World War conditions to lift world economy from the morass of Economic Depression.

Prices—Second World War

Story of prices every where during the Second World War period was one of scarcity conditions and controlled prices of foodgrains. Up to the year 1941, there appeared no control on prices and movement of rice. However, position regarding rice in the whole of Chattisgarh Division was rapidly deteriorating because of crop failures and rice exports from the Division by the army contractors. The year 1941-42 was also of poor crop, and prices of foodgrains were high. Price control machinery was set up in 1942 to control prices and movement of essential commodities. Statutory price fixation and controlled distribution in some one or other form remained right up to the year 1950-51.

Prices—First Plan Period

After Independence, the Government of India undertook massive economic development programme under their Five Year Plan. During the First Five Year Plan period, because of the general scarcity conditions inherited from the War period, emphasis was placed on increasing agricultural production. The schemes like Grow More Food Campaign already in Country-wide operation, formed part of the First Five Year Plan. Prior to the launching of the Plan Programme in 1951-52 the wholesale harvest prices of rice (cleaned in the District were Rs. 13 per maund in 1949-50 and Rs. 9.50 per maund in 1950-51. Prices of wheat in these two years were Rs. 13 and Rs. 27.25 per maund, respectively. Thus, while there was a decline in the prices of rice in 1950-51, there was a substantial increase in the price of wheat in the District in the same year. It may be remembered here that Surguja District is mainly a rice growing area. Price of gram in 1949-50 was little over Rs. 13 per maund. Price quotation of gram for 1950-51 was not available. From amongst oilseeds, wholesale harvest price of linseed was Rs. 20 per maund in 1949-50; prices of sesamum were Rs. 32 and Rs. 34 per maund in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51. For the First Plan period prices in the District were:—

Table No. IX—1
Farm Harvest Prices

(In Rupees per Maund)					
Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed	Sesamum
1951-52	11.69	22.00	17.56	—	30.00
1952-53	13.95	—	—	—	—
1953-54	10.00	16.00	16.69	14.00	—

1954-55	10.56	13.31	9.31	9.00	16.87
1955-56	10.56	13.50	10.00	—	13.00

As compared to the beginning of the Plan year, prices of foodgrains and oilseeds showed substantial decline in the last year of the plan. It is a common knowledge that this decline in prices of foodgrains was the combined result of Government efforts for increasing production and propitious seasons and crop conditions throughout the Country.

Prices—Second Plan Period

After dealing with scarcity conditions in foodgrains during the First Five Year Plan, strategy of the Second Five Year Plan was shifted to the development of industries and creation of infrastructure for such a development. The quantum of public and private sector investment during the Second Plan was also stepped up. Price situation in the District during this period has to be seen against the above economic background.

Table No. IX-2
Farm Harvest Prices
(In Rupees per maund)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed	Sesamum
1956-57	17.00	16.50	12.00	16.00	13.00
1957-58	18.00	15.50	—	—	—
1958-59	15.17	18.35	15.41	18.00	19.25
1959-60	12.06	14.67	11.00	18.02	20.12
1960-61	14.67	18.04	—	21.22	26.56

It may be noticed from the figures above that except for rice, prices of all other foodgrains and oilseeds ended on a high note in the last year of the Plan as compared to the first year. Even in case of rice, prices thereof during all the Second Plan years remained higher as compared to the First Plan year prices. In case of wheat, except for the year 1951-52, prices during all the years of the Second Plan were higher as compared to the First Plan. Prices of linseed and sesamum were also generally higher during Second Plan period as compared to the First Plan years, except for sesamum price in the year 1951-52 which happened to be highest, i.e., Rs. 30 per maund during the whole decade of planning. Thus, Second Five Year Plan period, set the trend for increasing prices.

Prices—Third Plan Period

In the first year of the plan, price of rice had increased from Rs. 14.67 per maund in 1960-61 to Rs. 19.46 in 1961-62. It may be observed that increase was of the order of Rs. 5 per maund in one year. There was, however, a slight decrease in the price of wheat from Rs. 18.04 in 1960-61 to Rs. 16.07 per maund in 1961-62. Prices of gram, linseed and sesamum were Rs. 16.17, Rs. 22.29 and Rs. 29.57 per maund, respectively, in 1961-62, all of which were higher than in the previous year. Prices for the remaining years of the plan period were as under :—

Table No. IX-3**Farm Harvest Prices**

(In Rs. per quintal)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Linseed	Sesamum
1962-63	50.93	36.50	—	57.17	72.80
1963-64	50.77	52.64	54.75	61.02	87.58
1964-65	57.61	57.31	56.62	68.49	92.82
1965-66	—	—	—	—	125.61

Increasing trends in prices of all commodities becomes apparent from the Table above. It may be pointed out here that during the Third Five Year Plan period the Country had to face Chinese and Pakistani invasions, and the last year of the plan happened to be the first drought year throughout the Country. As a result increasing price trend set during the Second Plan period continued during the Third Plan period also.

Prices—Recent Years

The year 1966-67 happened to be Countrywide drought year as the one preceding it. For this year price quotations for rice, wheat, gram and linseed were available. Prices of rice, wheat and gram were fixed by the Government. In this year sesamum was sold at Rs. 144.15 per quintal, as against Rs. 125.61 per quintal in the year 1965-66. The year 1967-68 was one of sufficient rains, both for kharif and rabi crops. In this year price of rice was Rs. 95.75 per quintal in the District. The last available price quotation for rice was Rs. 57.61 in 1964-65. This means that roughly over a period of two years wholesale price of rice in the mainly rice producing district like Surguja had doubled. Quotations of prices for wheat and gram were not available. There was a slight decline in the price of sesamum, Rs. 138.65 per quintal as against Rs. 144.15 in the preceding year. Price quotation for linseed was also not available.

The year 1968-69 was one of insufficient rains, resulting in the decline in kharif and rabi out-turn of agricultural commodities. In this year price of rice was slightly higher, i.e., Rs. 96.50 per quintal as against Rs. 95.75 per quintal in 1967-68. This was on account of bad season and crop condition. Price quotations for wheat, gram and linseed were not available. Price of sesamum registered a further decline in this year to Rs. 123.69 per quintal, as against Rs. 138.75 per quintal of the last year. In the following year i.e., 1969-70, rice fell to Rs. 92.50 but sesamum moved up to Rs. 140.65 per quintal.

For the subsequent period, i.e., from 1970-71 to 1975-76 also prices of wheat and sesamum only are available. However, they provide an indication of the trend in price movement. During the years 1969-70 and 1970-71, wheat was easy but sesamum soared high, the respective prices in the latter year being Rs. 85.10 and Rs. 169.59 per quintal. The year 1972-73, marked a phase of run-away prices causing untold misery to the consumer. Shortfall in agricultural production and the greed of the trade to make easy gains were largely responsible for this shooting up of prices. Rice shot up from Rs. 119.50 in 1972-73 to Rs. 254.78 in 1974-75 and sesamum from Rs. 173.49 to Rs. 312.70 per quintal during the same years. Having touched the unprecedentedly high levels, the prices relented and a sagging tendency was visible much to the relief of the bewildered consumer. In 1975-76, rice had come down to Rs. 165.75 per quintal and sesamum to Rs. 228.08.

Wages

In the Surguja State there was a regular class of day labourers known as dagars, harwalas and baniharas. The last name was in common use for day labourers. There were three classes of baniharas or day-labourers whose terms of employment and work differed. Payment for labour prevailed both in cash and kind. For example, labourers known as Sawkha, baniharas used to get daily allowance of 3 seers of paddy and 1 seer of gram or rice. An yearly allowance of Re. 1 was given for cold wether clothing, also dhoti and 3 maunds of paddy. These labourers could not work for others in off season. There were other two categories of haniharas with different terms and conditions of employment. All these terms and conditions of employment of labour prevalent in Surguja as a Feudatory State have now undergone a change. Wages are mostly paid in cash, though in villages part payment in kind especially in the form of paddy, is made to the labourers.

Wages in First two Decades

During the first decade of the present Century, in the year 1909 male labourer was paid annas two and female labourer was paid anna one per day. This wage rate was stated to have remained unchanged, in the administrative reports for the subsequent years up to 1917. In the year 1918, begar or forced labour system prevalent in the State appears to have been abolished except in case of touring officers. Wages paid to

labourers in this year were 8 pice for male and 5 pice for female labourer. This wage rate, however, appears to have increased in the year 1919. In this year male labourer got from 10 to 12 pice, and female labourer got 8 to 10 pice per day. It may be remembered here that the year 1919 was also one of high prices of foodgrains in the State and therefore, increase in wage rates was natural. Epidemics like influenza and plague in the State might have depleted the ranks of labourers. Prior to 1921 Census there was reported preponderance of deaths over births. There was also emigration from the State. All these factors might have contributed to the raising of wage rates.

Wages in 1923-31 and Second World War

The decade 1921-31 as has been stated earlier, was one of economically favourable conditions in the State. There was also immigration of population in the State. Economic Depression of the 'thirties' was also setting in, resulting into widespread unemployment and reduction in rates of wages everywhere. During the Second World War period prices as well as wages picked up everywhere. There was great demand for workers of all types during the War period. Prices and wages increased during the War period and continued on high note during the post-War years also.

Wages—First Plan Period

Prior to the launching of the First Five Year Plan wage-rate of common labourer at Ambikapur, an urban centre in the Surguja District, was Rs. 1.25 per day in the year 1949. A worker in iron and hardware in the same year got Rs. 2.25 per day, while carpenter's wage rate was Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3 per day. Thus, it becomes clear that by the fifties of the present Century, wage rates had come to be reckoned in rupees and annas instead of annas and pice, which was the case in the first decade of the Century. In the year 1950, urban wage rate of common labourer varied from 60 paise to Rs. 1.25 per day. Wage rate of iron and hardware worker was Rs. 2.50 per day, an increase of 25 paise over the last year. Carpenter's wage rate was Rs. 3 per day. As against these wage rates in the urban centre of the District (Ambikapur), rural wage rates in the year 1950 were Rs. 1.50 per day for village blacksmith, Rs. 2 per day for village carpenter and 50 paise per day for common agricultural male labourer, and 30 paise per day for female labourer. Thus, there was a considerable difference in the wage rates of the same categories of urban and rural workers. From 1951 to 1955 the rural wage rates were Rs. 2 per day for village carpenter, Re. 0.75 per day for blacksmith and Re. 1 per day for other agricultural labourer.

As has been seen earlier, the prices of foodgrains during the First Five Year Plan changed every year, but wage rates remained constant not only for unskilled common agricultural labourer, but for the skilled rural workers like carpenter and blacksmith. This means increase or decrease in prices of foodgrains had no corresponding effect on wage rates

in the District. Reason for this could be found in the tendency of wage rate to be pegged to a level once achieved. It is common knowledge that after considerable increase in prices, the demand for increase in wage rates follows and when the wage rates are increased in relation to prices, they remain at that level until further substantial increase in prices. The same thing happens when prices decline. With decline in prices there is no immediate decline in wage rates. Any decline in wage rates is strongly resisted by organized action of the workers. In addition to this tendency of wage rates to stick to a level once achieved, in the District like Surguja unchanged wage rates could be attributed to the unvarying demand for all types of labour due to stagnant economy and much larger supply of labour.

Wages—Second Plan Period

In the year 1956, the wage rate of carpenter remained at Rs. 2 per day, but the wage rate of blacksmith increased from Re. 0.75 to Rs. 2 per day. The wage rate of other agricultural labourer declined to Re. 0.75 from Re. 1 in the year 1955. Reason for this decline in the wage rate of common labourer and increase in wage rate of blacksmith might be attributed to the local conditions of demand for these types of labour. There is, however, no record giving reasons for these changes in wage rates. In the subsequent years of the Plan rural wages in the District were on the increase. This can be seen from the index of agricultural wages for Surguja District. With 1957-58 as the base year, the wage index in June 1958 was 103.4, which had increased by about 3 points to 106.3 in June 1959. Wage rates of carpenter and blacksmith in this year were Rs. 2.50 per day, while other agricultural labourer got Re. 1 per day.

Wages—Third Plan Period

In the second year of the Third Plan, the wage rates of carpenter and blacksmith were Rs. 2 per day and that of other agricultural labourer Rs. 1.50 per day. Thus, in 1962 there was a decline in wage rate of skilled agricultural labourer, while there was an increase in the wage rate of common labourer by about 50 paise. In the next year, there was slight increase in wage rate of carpenter to Rs. 2.06 per day, wage rate of blacksmith remaining unchanged at Rs. 2 per day and also that of the other agricultural labourer to Rs. 1.50 per day. In the year 1964 wage rates of skilled workers remained unchanged but there was a decline in the wage rate of other agricultural labourer from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.40 per day. In the year 1965 wage rates of all workers increased. Carpenter's wage rate increased the most i.e. to Rs. 2.88 per day, blacksmith's wage rate increased to Rs. 2.50 per day and that of other agricultural labourer increased to Rs. 1.50 per day. While in 1966 there was further increase in the wage rate of carpenter to Rs. 3 per day, wage rate of blacksmith declined to Rs. 2.25. Wage rate of other agricultural labourer remained at Rs. 1.50 per day. The years 1965-66 and 1966-67 were drought years throughout the Country. Out-turn of foodgrains declined and prices thereof were continuously on increase. As such, wage rates all along should have also increased. But there was an increase in the wage rate of carpenter only and actual decline in the wage rate of other agricultural

labourer. This again shows that changes in foodgrain prices do not affect the wage rates so much as perhaps the increase and decrease in local demand for a particular type of labour at a given time. In subsequent years from 1967 to 1969 there was no change in the wage rates of carpenter and other agricultural labourer, their wage rates remained at Rs. 3 and Rs. 1.50 per day, respectively. The wage rate of blacksmith remained at Rs. 2.25 per day in 1967 and increased to Rs. 2.50 in 1968 and 1969.

Wages—Recent Years

Thereafter a rising trend in wage rates set in, though the rise was gradual. In 1972-73, a carpenter received Rs. 3.92, a blacksmith Rs. 3.02 and other agricultural labour Rs. 1.98 per day, against Rs. 3.00, Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 1.50, respectively, in 1969. In 1974-75 wages further moved to Rs. 4.58 for a carpenter, Rs. 3.75 for a blacksmith and Rs. 2.84 for other agricultural labour. As already seen in this year the prices of agricultural commodities had reached their peak. Apparently agricultural wages were lagging far behind and the cup of misery of their recipients was full. The next year 1975-76, saw a decline in wage rate of carpenter to Rs. 4.08 per day and increase in case of blacksmith to Rs. 3.94 and other agricultural labour to Rs. 3.31 per day.

Standard of Living

Writing about the material condition of the people during the first decade of the present Century, it was stated in the Feudatory States Gazetteer that the jungle tribes were extremely poor but the people of the plains constituting a large portion of the State population were, comparatively speaking, well-off. A middle class family of from four to six persons spent on food a little under an *anna* a day in normal times, and a similar family of the better class a little over an *anna* a day. After a lapse of over 60 years, this statement to day appears fantastic. Houses in several large villages were stated to be substantially built, though lacking tiled roofs. People were generally well-clad, mostly in thick home-spun cotton garments. Their wants were stated to be of the simplest kind but even a *gaontia*, a well-off person, could not boast of an umbrella. However, nearly all, including the actual day labourers were stated to be possessing good shoes made frequently of *Sambhar* hide. This universal possession of shoes was reported to be a feature peculiar to the State. Their chief luxury was tobacco, which they generally grew in their own court-yards.

Houses

At the time of 1961 Census, it was found that the District had 202,183 residential houses. While the District was bigger in area than its southerly neighbour Bilaspur, the numbers of households and residential houses were about half of those in Bilaspur District. Even in 1961, majority of houses in the District were built of mud. Even in urban areas of the District houses had walls of grass, leaves, reeds or bamboo. On the face of it this looks like a paradox for one would normally expect better housing in the urban areas.

The fact was that in the industrial areas of the collieries, which were treated as urban, the temporary sheds for labour were mostly built of bamboo or thatch. It was observed that normally, even a slightly well-off person tried to build a house with mud walls, thatch or leaf walls probably it indicated a lower level of culture and development. It was seen in discussing the pattern of livelihood that the economy of the District was predominantly agricultural as recently as in the year 1971 and the scant diversification in the economy of the District reflected its economic backwardness and poor urbanization. Agricultural implements and practices continued to be backward. Added to this Surguja is one of the tribal districts of the State with a number of tribal groups. Public health and medical services in the District had yet to make a good beginning. Percentage of literacy in the District was 7.81 in rural and 39.44 in urban areas in 1961. These percentages were lower in comparison with overall State literacy percentages as well as literacy percentages in other Districts of the Bilaspur Division.

Taking all the above factors into consideration, in the matter of standard of living of the people the conditions do not appear to have changed very much from those obtaining in the first decade of the present century.

General Level of Employment

Earlier in this Chapter in the section Pattern of Livelihood, it was seen that in the year 1971, about 86.44 per cent. of the total workers in all occupations, were engaged in agriculture. This means all other occupations like industries, commerce and trade, construction, transport and other services provided employment to the remaining 13.56 per cent. of the total workers. As is well-known, employment in agriculture is mainly seasonal, and even few workers as are employed on permanent basis do not have full time work all the year round.

The extent of employment opportunities under the public sector establishments in the District can be seen from the data given below, which is being collected by the Employment Exchange under the Employment Market Information Scheme :—

Table No. IX-4

Employment in Public Sector Establishments

year	Central Government			State Government			Semi Government			Local-self Government		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C

	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
1966-67				70	64	7,875	18	17	5,957	7	7	501
1967-78	1	1	8	52	50	8,324	18	14	7,749	7	6	510
1968-69	4	3	53	49	48	7,712	20	19	7,993	7	5	436
1969-70	4	4	129	50	49	8,246	19	18	7,901	7	7	471
1970-71	5	5	398	83	93	9,379	21	19	4,654	7	7	478

'A' in the above Table stands for the establishments addressed or covered under the Scheme. 'B' refers to the number of establishments furnishing returns and 'C' stands for the number of employees. This means the figures as above are only indicative of the trend in employment in public sector establishments rather than the actual level of employment. All the establishments covered under the Scheme rarely furnish returns. Even so, it becomes obvious from the above data that State Government are the employer of the largest number, followed by semi-Government and Local Government establishments. This is just in keeping with the trends in employment in public sector establishments everywhere.

Employment Exchange

The Employment Exchange Office was started in the District at Manendragarh in the year 1959. Jurisdiction of this Exchange, however, was confined to colliery areas. Another Exchange Office was started at Ambikapur on the 1st February, 1962. Jurisdiction of this Exchange was co-terminus with the revenue District area excluding colliery areas. Prior to the establishment of the Exchange in the year 1961, Surguja District was linked with Shahdol District for employment exchange work. Registration of Employment seekers and finding suitable employment for them in public as well as private sector establishments are the main functions of the Exchange.

Employment market reporting scheme was started at the Ambikapur Exchange Office on 1st March, 1962. Under the Scheme, information regarding job opportunities available as well as the requirements of employers in respect of different categories of workers-skilled, unskilled, clerical, etc., is collected. The number of registrations increased from 328 in 1961 to 5,696 in 1965, and declined to 4,570 in 1972. Figures on the live register increased from 321 in 1961 to 2,940 in 1972. The work done by the Exchange from its inception can be seen from the figures regarding registrations, placements and on live register in the Appendix.

From the figures on the live register of Exchange the extent of increasing unemployment in the District becomes obvious. There is no definite trend in the number of registration of employment seekers as well as their placement.

National Planning and Community Development

Community development is an integrated programme for economic betterment and social welfare of the village community. This programme forms part of the Five Year Plans for the socio-economic development of the Country. While Government initiative is there in implementing different schemes under the programme, people's participation in working out those schemes is solicited in the form of voluntary labour, grant of land, etc. The programme was initiated on a Country-wide basis in the middle of the First Five Year Plan. Thus, the first community block in Surguja District was established at Sitapur in Ambikapur Tahsil on the 2nd October, 1953.

During the First Plan period there were five blocks in the District covering 657 villages having a total population of 309,536. The programme of opening the blocks continued during the Second Plan Period.

During the Second Plan period nine more blocks were added. These blocks covered 1,065 villages with a population of 260,949. Thus, by the end of Second Plan a total of 1,722 villages and 570,845 population was covered under the community development programme. Development block at Bharatpur was multipurpose Tribal block while the Kusmi block was a tribal block.

A combined list of the Development blocks in the District, along with the dates of establishment and the number of villages and population covered by them is given in the Appendix. Out of the blocks opened during the Third Plan Bhaivathan was at the pre-extension stage. Thus, up to the year 1962 the community development activities covered 2,021 villages in the District with a population of 6,99,232. According to 1961 Census there were 2,397 inhabited villages in the District. Out of these 2,021 came under the block development activities. Population in these blocks was 6,99,232, which was about 70 per cent. of the total population at the 1961 Census. Five more blocks, were established, two on the 1st April, 1964, at Batoli and Mainghat and three on the 1st April, 1965, at Udaipur, Odgi and Prem Nagar, making a total of 24 blocks in the District.

As has been stated earlier block development activities covered both the economic and social welfare aspects of village life. As agriculture and allied activities are the mainstay of the village economy, block development activities laid stress on improvements in agriculture for economic betterment of rural sections. Achievements during the Second and Third Plan periods under agriculture were as under :

Agriculture

During whole of the Second Plan period 29,968 maunds of improved seeds and 46,659 maunds of chemical fertilizers were distributed in the block areas. The number of agricultural demonstrations held during this period was 6,366. During the Third Plan period quantity of improved seeds distributed was 25,034 quintals, that of seeds other than cereals was 4,505, the quantities of chemical and other fertilizers distributed were 17,723 and 1,389 quintals, respectively. Agricultural demonstrations held numbered 11,678.

No improvement in agriculture can be made without provision of adequate irrigation facilities. In this respect, block development schemes concentrated on creating small and medium irrigation potential, i.e., well and tank irrigation. During Second Plan period 204 new irrigation wells were constructed, 194 old irrigation wells were renovated and 9 tanks were constructed. New irrigation wells constructed during the Third Plan period, both *kutchha* and *pucka*, numbered 4,226, old wells renovated were 2,345 and new irrigation tanks constructed numbered 116. During the Second Plan period 9,736 acres of land was made cultivable and during Third Plan period 20,182 acres of land was reclaimed. Other activities connected with improvements in agriculture were distribution of improved breeds of cattle and birds, preparation of manure pits, castration of animals, etc.

Health and Hygiene

There are many aspects of rural health and hygiene but block development schemes tackled some of the important ones like provision of basic medical facilities and drinking water supply. Thus, during the Second Plan period 19 primary health centres and sub-centres were started in the block areas. Number of new drinking water wells constructed and old drinking water wells renovated was 558 and 229, respectively. There were 12 primary health centres and sub-centres functioning during the Third Plan period but in addition there were 15 rural dispensaries functioning in block areas. New wells constructed and old wells renovated during this Plan period were 991 and 334, respectively. Other activities connected with health and hygiene were construction of soakage pits, rural latrines and *pucka* drains.

Education

The block development activities concentrate on adult literacy in the rural areas. For this purpose during the Second Plan period 282 adult literacy centres were started in the block areas from which 4,751 adults were made literate. During the Third Plan period, adult literacy centres numbered 163 and number of literate adults was 3,491. But in addition to these adult literacy centres, there were about 705 ordinary and basic schools functioning in the block areas, which had an enrolment of about 33,849 students.

As a follow-up of the adult literacy programme, reading rooms and libraries are opened in the block areas, which numbered 281 in the Second Plan and 99 in the Third Plan.

Cooperatives

For economic betterment of the rural people different types of cooperative societies like cooperative credit, cooperative marketing, industrial cooperatives, etc., are organized in the block areas. As a matter of fact, old-time industries in the rural areas happen to survive in the present era of large-scale industrial production, because most of them are working on cooperative basis. Thus, different types of cooperative societies established in the block areas during the Second Plan period numbered 547, while 533 cooperatives were functioning in block areas during the Third Plan period.

Communication

Isolation of villages from the progressive urban industrial and marketing centres, because of the lack of connecting roads had been responsible for much of economic and social backwardness of rural masses. To do away with this lacuna, block development activities introduced construction of *kutchha* and *pucka* roads in the block areas. Under this scheme during the Second Plan period 951 miles of new *kutchha* roads and 238 culverts were constructed.

Social

Social aspect of the block development programme includes organizing of farmer's unions, youth clubs, *mahila samitis*, and holding of camps, etc. Through these activities villagers are given opportunities of establishing useful contacts with each other and with their neighbours in other villages. They are also given opportunities of developing their organizing skill and leadership capabilities.

Expenditure

It has been stated earlier that while Government takes initiative in implementation of all schemes under the community development programme, they seek cooperation of the people in the area through contributions of voluntary labour etc. People's contribution in any form in implementation of schemes is ultimately reckoned in cash. Thus, while during the Second Plan period, expenditure incurred by the Government in block development activities was Rs. 75.95 lakhs, people's contribution was Rs. 9.56 lakhs.

During the Third Plan period Government expenditure was Rs. 96.94 lakhs and people's contribution was of the order of Rs. 18.41 lakhs.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Surguja State was under the general control of the Commissioner of Chhattisgarh. The State was divided into 22 **tappas** or **parganas**, of which 6 were maintained by grants held by the junior branches of the Chief's family, 4 belonged to **jagirdars** and the remaining 12 were under the immediate control of the Maharaja himself. The Tahsildars were in charge of collecting revenue on behalf of the Maharaja whereas, the rent for the jagirdari and maintenance tenures was paid direct into the State treasury of the holders.

The State of Korea was also under the general control of the Commissioner of Chhattisgarh with regard to all important matters of administration. The Chief had divided his State among zamindars who held the charge immediately under him and paid annual rents. The same procedure was adopted by the Chief of Chhambhakar also.

The district is the basic territorial unit of administration in India. The Collector, as the head of the district administration, is the key functionary of the Government, having large powers and wide responsibilities. In many ways he is the link between the State Government and the people. He is the custodian of law and order and the pivot of local administration. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the district and as such he exercises general supervision over various departments in regard to their non-technical work. Co-ordination of the activities of the various departments, control over local self government bodies, execution of Government schemes and miscellaneous functions, such as panchayats, census, election and relief measures in time of emergencies like floods, famines and epidemics, etc., also come within his purview.

The Surguja Revenue district was constituted in 1951 subsequent to the merger of the erstwhile feudatory states of Surguja, Chang Bhakhar, and Korea. Till 1905 these three states alongwith Udaipur and Jashpur States were included in the Chhota Nagpur states of Bengal.

In the constitution of the tahsils of Surguja district the areas of erstwhile feudatory states have not been disturbed. Former Chang Bhakhar State constitutes the present Bharatpur tahsil, the former Korea State has been split up into two tahsils, Baikunthpur and Manendragarh, and the rest of the four tahsils comprise the former Surguja State.

Collectorate

The Collector of Surguja had 9 Deputy Collectors besides 2 Deputy Collectors work as Rehabilitation Officers in the year 1969. There is an Additional Collector to assist the Collector in entire district

administration. Four of the Deputy Collectors were each incharge of the Sub-divisions of Ambikapur, Surajpur, Baikunthpur and Ramanujanj. The rest assist the Collector in the work relating to Development, Food and Civil Supplies, Election and Janpad Shabha works etc. The organisational set-up of the Collectorate may be divided into 3 groups, viz., (i) Land Revenue, land records and other allied matters (ii) law and order and (iii) Development.

(i) Land Revenue and Land Records

For the administration of the first group of subjects Surguja District is divided into 7 Tahsils grouped in 4 Sub-divisions. Each Sub-division is in charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer of the rank of a Deputy Collector. They are also the Sub-Divisional Magistrates. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Baikunthpur (Korea) is also the Officer Incharge of Janpad Sabha, Korea (Baikunthpur), whose jurisdiction extended over Baikunthpur, Manendragarh and Bharatpur (Chang Bhakhar) tahsils. One of the headquarters Deputy Collector, Ambikapur, is functioning as Officer incharge Janpad Sabha, Surguja, area of which extended over Ambikapur, Surajpur, Pal (Ramanujanj), and Samri (Kusumi) tahsils.

For collection of land revenue, each tahsil is placed in the charge of a Tahsildar. The Tahsildars are assisted by Naib Tahsildars who number 5 at Ambikapur, 4 at Surajpur and 1 each at Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Bharatpur, Ramanujanj and Kusumi (Samri) tahsil.

At the village level the work is carried on by the Patwaries.

There are in all 369 Patwari circles, each Patwari circle comprising 6 to 7 villages approximately. Supervising their work are 28 Revenue Inspectors. The following table gives details of the Patwari Circles and Revenue Inspectors Circles in the District.

S. No.	Tahsil	No. of R.I. Circles	No. of Patwari Circles
1.	Ambikapur	8	118
2.	Surajpur	7	100
3.	Pal (Ramanujanj)	4	41
4.	Samri	3	32
5.	Baikunthpur	2	32
6.	Manendragarh	2	27
7.	Bharatpur	2	19
Total ...		28	369

At the district level a Superintendent of Land Records assisted by 4 Assistant Superintendents, supervises the work of Revenue Inspectors and Patwaries.

(ii) Law and Order

In the maintenance of Law and Order the Collector, as District Magistrate, is assisted by the Additional District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrates and the Superintendent of Police. The Four Sub-Divisional Officers function as Sub-Divisional Magistrates, besides 4 Magistrates First class in the district headquarters. Six Tahsildars and 12 Naib-Tahsildars had also been invested with powers of Magistrate Second Class, who help the District Magistrate.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrates have their jurisdiction over their revenue Sub-Divisions and the Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars having it within their respective tahsils. The Judiciary had been separated from the Executive in the end of 1969, hence no such Magisterial work is done by these magistrates.

(iii) Development

Prior to 1st January, 1966 each Block was headed by a Block Development Officer but the post has since been abolished. Then similar posts of Block Development Assistant have been created to head the Block level staff, who are working under the guidance of various Departmental District Officers and under the control of respective sub-divisional Officers (Revenue).

The Collector is assisted by a Deputy Collector in the work relating to the Development in the District. There are 24 Development Blocks in the District, viz., (1) Wadrafnagar (2) Ramanujganj (3) Balrampur (4) Rajpur (5) Kusumi (6) Shankergarh (7) Pratappur (8) Sitapur (9) Mainpat (10) Ambikapur (11) Surajpur (12) Lakhanpur (13) Udaipur (14) Premnagar (15) Ramanujnagar (16) Bhaiyathan (17) Baikunthpur (18) Sonhat (19) Manendragarh (20) Khadgawan (21) Odgi (22) Bharatpur (23) Bataoli and (24) Dhorpur.

Each Block is provided with a team of Extension Officers drawn from various departments, e.g., Veterinary, Agriculture, Public Works Department (B&R), Panchayat & Social Welfare, Industries and Cooperation. Further down, there are village level workers both men and women, known as Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas. In all 258 Gram Sevaks and 28 Gram Sevikas were working in these Blocks as in 1969. The blocks of Mainpat, Udaipur, Premnagar, Bhaiyanthan, Odgi and Batoli were having 10 Gram Sevaks each and the remaining 13 blocks were having 11 Gram Sevaks each; out of 28 the block-wise strength of Gram Sevikas had been 5 at Sitapur, 4 each at Ramanujganj, Rajpur and Ambikapur and 1 each at Balrampur, Shankergarh, Surajpur, Premnagar, Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Bataoli and Dhorpur. There were none at the remaining blocks.

The Collector is also associated with a number of other committees in the District. Important among them is the District Advisory Committee. The Collector is the Convener of the Committee which consists of several non-officials such as Local Members of Parliament and Vidhan Sabha, one representative of each tahsil elected by the Chairman of Gram Panchayats, President of the Municipal Committees, and the President of the District Co-operative Bank. The functions of this committee are advisory in nature. The Committee meets at least once in two months, and problems purely of local importance are generally discussed by the Committee.

Statutory Powers of Collector

The Collector is vested with statutory powers under the Excise Act 1915, amended in 1958, so as to enable him to implement the excise and prohibition policy of the Government. An Excise Officer with a team of 11 executive and 5 clerical staff assist the Collector in this field.

The control of the District Treasury and Sub-Treasuries is also vested in the Collector. An officer of Madhya Pradesh Accounts Services functions as the Treasury Officer of the District Treasury at Ambikapur. The sub-treasuries are located at each tahsil headquarters except Ambikapur and the Tahsildars or Naib Tahsildars of the respective tahsils are working as Sub-Treasury Officers in all the Sub-Treasuries of the District.

The Collector is also charged with authority under Registration Act. In this work he is assisted by the Deputy Collector attached to the Collectorate, who functions as the ex-officio District Registrar. There are 7 Sub-Registrar's offices located in the District, one being at each of the tahsil headquarters. In tahsil headquarters, Tahsildars are working as ex-officio Sub-Registrar, except at Ambikapur where there is an independent office of the Sub-Registrar attached to the office of the District Registrar who controls the working of all other Sub-Registrar's Offices.

The Collector in addition to the above duties is assigned work relating to many other miscellaneous subjects such as Elections, Census, Food and Civil Supplies, etc. In the work relating to Food and Civil Supplies, there is no separate Food and Civil Supplies Officer and the work is looked after by one of the Deputy Collectors of the District who is designated as Food and Civil Supply Officer. The Food and Civil Supply Officer in his work is assisted by 1 Assistant Food Officer, 11 Food Inspectors, 1 Assistant Food Inspector and usual staff.

The Collector works as the agent of the State Government in the District and is the Chief Co-ordinating authority at the district level. In order to strengthen his position as the Chief Administrator and Chief

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

The three former Feudatory States, viz., Surguja, Chang Bhakar and Korea constituting the present Surguja District were administered by their respective ruling chiefs. The history of the District prior to the period of its occupation by the ruling chiefs of these states is obscure. The early history of revenue administration, as available in the Gazetteer is not sufficient. However, it appears that these states continued the **gaontia** and the **Kedain** system of Maratha period more or less with certain differences in practice. A brief review of the revenue system prevailing in these states is being narrated below.

Surguja State

In the beginning of the twentieth century, the State was divided into 22 **tappas** consisting of 1952 villages for revenue purposes. These were¹ 1. Ambikapur, 2. Bilaspur, 3. Binjhpur, 4. Chalgali, 5. Candni, 6. Chando, 7. Deuro, 8. Jhilmili, 9. Kandari, 10. Ludra, 11. Madguri, 12. Mangarpur, 13. Mahri, 14. Paharbula, 15. Pal, 16. Pilkha, 17. Pratappur, 18. Ramkola, 19. Rojkheta, 20. Rajpur, 21. Rampur and 22. Tatapani. Out of these, five were held as maintenance grants (called **Khorpordars**) by members of the Chief's family, four were held by **Ilaqadars** and remaining thirteen **tappas** were under the immediate control of the Chief. An officer, known as a **Tahsildar**, was placed in charge of each group of four or five **tappas** for the purposes of revenue collected by the **gaontias** or village headmen, though his position was not so rigid, as was in other neighbouring princely states. They were looked upon as merely paid servants of the proprietor of the village. His post was not hereditary though in practice, it descended from father to son. Many hereditary **gaontias** were given **pagries** on payment of **salami** (**nazrana**), while certain others were also granted **pattas** for seven years usually, but for different periods in the **ilaqas**.

'Sir' Villages

In the **khalsa** portion of the State, consisting roughly of 201 villages, there were **gaontias** and these were known as 'sir' villages. Usually these **gaontias** were given a certain quantity of **manwar** land free of rent as remuneration for collecting the rents, carrying out the orders of the State and providing supplies and coolies, as required. In a number of 'Sir' villages there was a **mukhia** (headman) who cultivated the **manwar** and paid the rent of the village after realising the same from the **ryots**. He had no responsibility for the revenue of the village but was liable for what he had been able to collect. In certain other 'Sir' villages the **Manwar** is given out on lease and the **tahsildar** was responsible for the collection. In the year 1914, **pattas** were issued to all the **gaontias**. Prior to this they were used to be provided **pagries**.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, pp. 253—254.

Ilaquas

The **ilaqadars** and **kherpordars** had rights to appoint their own **gaontias** or **thekedars** in the **ilaqas**. However, the **pattas** were issued for a period about five to seven years. There were villages without **gaontias**, and collection was made directly by the **ilaqadars**. According to the **patta** of **Jagir** grants of whole villages, the **gaontia**, if already appointed at the time of grant, generally continued. Otherwise the grantees had the right to appoint **gaontias**. The **gaontias** were responsible for the revenue of the whole village.

After issuing the **pattas**, which was for 20 years the new **gaontias** had no powers to settle **ryots** on land. He was expected to improve the village and help **ryots** to settle. He was not permitted to reduce the village land revenue and was liable to ejection if he failed to credit the revenue in time or if he attempted to alienate his village. He was not allowed to cultivate by himself or by others new lands without the sanction of the State. He was required to reside in his village or, if this could not be done for any reason, he had to nominate an agent with the approval of the State. If a **gaontia** is removed or otherwise, the village was settled with a new **gaontia** by levying full rental for one year as **nazrana**. Formerly, two years rental used to be tried. Generally the persons chosen by the villages and supported by the **Tahsildar** were appointed and in such cases auctions were not held. There were no villages with more than one **gaontia** but some **gaontias** held more than one village. **Gaontias** had to pay a **Dasserah salami**, which was not recovered from **ryots**.

Land Revenue Assessment

Regarding the land revenue assessment system in the State, it was estimated by the seed capacity of the land. The quality of a field was governed by its position rather than by its soil. The land in a position to receive and retain moisture for a longer period had the greatest value. Three classes of field were thus known and assessment was made only on **wet lands**. As reported by **R.K. Ramadhyani**, many people did not know that land was assessed and what were the rates and usually they regarded the total amount payable by them as the assessment of the entire holding of all classes of land. There had been summary settlements from time to time. The seed capacity of the land being estimated with the aid of the **gaontias**, there were no records of the previous settlements and the **gaontias** had only a schedule of rents. No records of settlements in the **ilaqas** were available as former settlements in the **ilaqas** were made by the **ilaqadars** themselves.

was levied. But cases of 1941 showed that this was levied at 25 per cent of the consideration and the reduction of the percentage might be made early in the year. On exchanges, a consent money of one year's rent was levied.

Rights of ryots over trees

In the state time, the position regarding the rights of ryots over trees on holdings was not clear. Accordingly the ryots could enjoy the fruits of trees on their holdings but could not cut them. The old *gaontia patta* prohibited the cutting of *palas* and *kosam* trees, fruit trees and certain timbers. Under the renewal *wajib-ul-arz* the ryots had absolute rights over the trees growing on their holdings. In the settlement records, trees standing on the holdings, however, were sometimes shown as belonging to persons other than the holder of the land.

Tenure System

Ryoti tenures were all of one kind and there was no *shikmi* tenants with permanent rights. The land revenue was collected in two instalments on the 15th day of January and April. The *gaontia* was expected to make payments of the instalments even if he had not recovered the entire from the ryots.

Land Revenue Collection

The total land revenue demand and collection prior to the last *pawabandi* of 1926 is not traceable, but the total demand of the regular settlement of 1937 was Rs. 535 and Rs. 171 which rose to Rs. 636 and Rs. 460 respectively, after the settlement, i.e. 10 per cent of the old demands. The total income of the State in the year 1935 was Rs. 7,41,098, which increased to Rs. 17,03,214 in the year 1945-46.

Chang Bhakar State

... This state was amongst the most sparsely inhabited State and having smallest revenue among the Chhattisgarh region. The State was transferred to the Central Provinces in the year 1905. Land in the interior of the State was of little value and it was difficult to get cultivators or *thekedars*. Like most of the States, management of the villages in the past was through *thekedars* or *gaontias*¹ who were given leases of the villages for short period, usually three years. Since villages also seem to have been settled on the system prevailing in the nearby Korea State, being allotted to the persons who offered the highest annual payment of revenue and others, on a lump sum bid or *nazarana* offered at the outset.

1. *ibid.* p. 313.

Basis of Assessment

In this State, like Surguja State, the lands were assessed according to the seed capacity and in later years the quantity of land was also taken into account. *Dabia* cultivation was common and payments were mostly in kind and by instalments. It was reported that leases paid a *nazarana* which formed the private income of the Ruler without entering into State accounts, and held on an annual sum fixed by the ruling Chief, apart from various other dues. The *gaontias* held the best lands in the village and settled their relatives on equally good lands paying low rent and in some cases were recovering much more than the land revenue of the village from the ryots.

Survey and Settlement

The first regular survey and settlement of the State was made in the years 1935-1937. A survey by estimation was attempted, but it was found that it was more expensive than a cadastral survey. After some vicissitudes, the operations were completed at the end of 1937 and a certain amount of work being left over for the permanent staff. All the villages had been fully surveyed by traverse and cadastral survey by the end of 1947. The assessment seems simply to be an enhancement by about 25 per cent of the existing rates. That is why the then Resident had remarked that more than 20 per cent enhancement was against all civilised practice. The enhancement of the land revenue of the State as a whole was about 22 per cent. The Settlement Officer followed Central Provinces' practice to some extent and the records prepared were the same as in the then Central Provinces. Certain cases formerly levied were abolished at the settlement. Since a number of complaints were received at the end of the operations about the assessment, rentals in some villages had been reduced.

Land Management

A *wajiz-ul-arz* was proposed by the Superintendent of Land Records for the direct management of villages because the old *gaontias* were held to be the cause of depopulation of many villages. But there was some hesitation about reducing the privileges of the *gaontias* and the system of leasing of villages for ten years was maintained.

Zamindari and other Tenures

There were 21 villages held by various *maufidars* and other grantees for maintenance which were not leased out to the *thekedars*. There were some maintenance grants—one village to the junior Rani Sahiba and 4 villages to Yuvrani Sahiba granted by the then Ruling Chief. The

villages were recorded in the village **jamabandi** as **maufi** villages. The grants were held for life only and the grantees were entitled to the land revenue of their villages, but cesses were recovered by the State. One of the villages was held on quit-rent. The grantees had no right over forest. The right of ryots in the villages were the same as in the other neighbouring States of Korea, Surguja, etc. Apart from whole village grants, there were land grants of about 150 acres to relatives of the rulers for maintenance. All these lands were liable for cess payments.

Ryoti Tenure

In the absence of the **wajib-ul-arz**, the **thekeदार's patta** was the only code which regulated revenue administration. Under the **patta**, the **thekeदार** was not able to recover more from the ryot than was entered in his **patta**. Moreover the possession of a tenant's land could not be taken without the superintendent's permission. New lands were allotted by the **thekeदार** and were ordinarily held rent free for two years. The ryot was entitled to rent free land for his house, **bari** and **nistar** from the village forest. The **thekeदार** or ryot was, however, forbidden to cut certain trees, particularly fruit trees without permission.

At that time, the ryots had no recognised rights of transfer of their lands though actually cases of transferring were reported. Land was also leased out to sharecroppers. The mortgager was supposed to go on paying the rent of the land till the total payment equalled the amount borrowed unless payment was made earlier. **Gaontias** were expected to give receipt to their tenants in a form in duplicate with counterfoil. There was a tax of 2 annas per **mahua** tree on cultivated holding in the **nistari** forest which was abolished afterwards.

Exemptions

In order to encourage agriculture and new settlements in this backward and sparsely populated state, concessions such as exemption from assessment for a certain period, free grazing, timber, etc. were also in force.

Thekedars

The position of the **thekedars** in this State was peculiar one, though most of the villages had been given to **thekedars** but about one third of the villages were without **thekedars**. Some of the **thekedars** who had accepted **pattas** seemed to have required considerable persuasion. The **pattas** were issued to **thekedars** without recovery of any **nazarana** or **salami** as was not the case in Surguja State. The **gaontia** or **thekeदार** however, was responsible for the revenue of the village to be paid in two instalments on the 15th day of January and May. The succession

during the term of a **theka** was recognized in favour of the eldest son. He was not entitled to any compensation for any well or tank or garden constructed by him after the **patta** had expired. He was entitled to a commission of 10 per cent. of the rental collections. He could recover only such rents as were entered in the tenants' **patta**.

Kham villages

The villages which had no **thekedars** were called **kham** villages. The collection of these **kham** villages was made by the revenue inspectors and **patwaris**. **Thekedars** did not hold any home-farm land or **sir** as their remuneration. The **sir** land which was formerly held by the **thekedars** was assessed to rent and was regarded as their ryoti land. **Sir** land in **kham** villages were either lying fallow or had been taken by the tenants.

Land Administration

There were 4 villages with one **gaontia** and 15 **gaontias** who held two villages each. These villages were formerly **tolas** of the same village. In certain cases, one **gaontia** might be found holding several villages. They might appoint their private agents in the villages where they were not residing, who were called **Mukaddams**. In the **Kham** villages, there are **mukaddams** appointed by the State who were paid commission ranging from 3 to 5 per cent. The **gaontia** or **mukaddam** got a percentage on cesses as commission. They had to pay a **Dasherah tika** of Rupee one for land revenue of hundred rupees.

Volume of Land Revenue

The commission of the **gaontia** and **mukaddam** was paid in the months of May and June after the accounts of the year were closed and they were not allowed to make deductions direct as was common practice in the adjoining States. The total land revenue exceeded **Dusherah nazarana** and cesses were about Rs. 22,000 and the entire revenue of the State was about Rs. 50,000 in the year 1940 or so. The land records were similar to those maintained in Central Provinces.

Korea State

This State was perhaps the most progressive among the Chhattisgarh States as far as its revenue system was concerned. There had been no survey in the State till 1940 or so when a beginning in this direction was made. But the survey operations were discontinued after some time as the maps prepared were not reliable.

In this state also, the old system of estimation of area was by the seed capacity of the land and the idea of a plough was introduced by the Settlement Officers from the Central Provinces. There were different rates for the rice lands and nothing was paid on high lying lands.¹ There was much shifting cultivation practised by the primitive tribes and a rate of one rupee per axe was levied upon them. In the developed areas, the *gaontia* system was introduced at an early date and they contracted for the village *jama* and were left to settle ryots on rents agreed upon. This system prevailed upto 1942, when (the State was under management during the minority of the ruler) a schedule of rates at rupees two for good and rupee one for inferior rice lands per acre was prepared to prevent exorbitant demands by *gaontias*. During the same period, the rates were drawn up for the high lying lands also, indicating that they had attained a value and *gaontias* had started assessing them. This schedule continued but the rents were settled between the ryots and *gaontias* and the schedule was applied only when there had been a dispute.

Zamindari and other Tenures

There were about 12 zamindaris. Some of the Zamindaris had *Sanads*. The zamindari *takoli* was not fixed but it was alterable every 20 years. In practice the *takoli* was lesser than the cess and it was an arbitrary amount not bearing any relation to the income of the zamindari. In some cases the cess is said to be merged in the *takoli*. The zamindars managed their own villages without any interference as far as revenue was concerned and only cases of complaint or mal-administration were taken notice of by the State.

The zamindars issued their own *pattas* to the *thekedars* generally for 12 years for land revenue and a separate cess amounting to about 12 per cent of the revenue payable in two instalments on 1st day of February and June. Under the conditions mentioned, ryots were not liable to ejectment so long as they were of good behaviour and paid proper rent. The land could not be sublet or transferred without the consent of the *gaontia* and the zamindar's permission was required for the *gaontia's* consent. The *gaontia's theka* (contract) was impartible and could not be transferred. He had the right to lease out waste land which was intestate or from which a ryot had been ejected or surrendered land. The *gaontia* was entitled to one day's *begar* for sowing his *manwar* land, one day for reaping crop and one day for thatching his house. He was liable to a penalty of 12½ per cent on arrears.

1. Ibid p. 114.

Entitlement to Ryot

The ryot was entitled to fuel, wood for implements or house building, etc., but there were reserved species of trees (all fruit trees and seven others) which he could not cut and he had no rights in the zamindari reserve forests. When the *patta* expired, tenders were invited and the village offered at the highest tender to the old *gaontia*. If he did not accept a new *gaontia* was appointed. The *patta* did not allow who had the authority to eject. Sanction was necessary for creating of *muafi* and other grants in the zamindari though the basis of this exertion was not clear. Some of the zamindars had full rights in the forests and some had an equal right with the State and some had more. In zamindaris when the rights to forests existed, trees in waste land as well as forests were auctioned as the zamindar pleased. In zamindaris with no forest rights, zamindar cannot auction trees in forest areas. But other village waste might be allotted for cultivation by the zamindars. It is said that in zamindaris without forest rights, the zamindar had no right to the trees in the waste land. He had no right over minerals, but he had the right to impose any levies like *bethi*, *rasad*, etc., without question by the state as long as there were no complaints and the impost did not amount to maladministration. However, the zamindars had no rights of levying their own excise, ferry, cattle pound and other dues. There was no interference as regards the period of a *theka*. Under some zamindars, there were sub-zamindars who had been granted all rights in their villages in perpetuity on payment of a fixed sum. In view of the cess imposed upon the zamindars in addition to the *takoli*, the sub-zamindars also had to pay a cess. Generally speaking it may be assumed that the zamindar had transferred all his rights in the village to the sub-zamindar.

Besides the sub-zamindars, there were *kharposhdars* or maintenance grantees of the zamindars who practically were the same as sub-zamindars, except that they did not pay any *takoli*. There were also *kharposhdars* of the State. A *takoli* gradually enhanced to 32 per cent was payable. Apart from zamindari and *kharposh* grants, a *jagir* of 10 acres of land was assessed to a nominal rent. Some lands were held by the Ruler personally as *sir* land and no ryots had acquired any rights in them.

The Ryoti Tenure

Similar to other two states, viz. Surguja and Chang Bhakar, there was nothing which may be called a revenue law in this State, other than a list of terms agreed upon by the *gaontia* or lessee of a village. Under the written *patta* issued by the state, the ryot could not be ejected except for non-payment of revenue or breach of the conditions

of the **gaontia**, **patta** or for extreme misbehaviours. The **patta** required the **gaontia** to go to a revenue or civil court to get the ryot ejected. The rent payable by the ryot was as agreed upon between the **gaontia** and himself. Surrender of land could be made in writing in the month of April. If the **gaontia** did not accept the surrender, it was sent through a court. Transfer of land except by annual lease could not be effected without the sanction of the court.

The rights of inheritance on a **theka** of a **gaonti** were the same as in ryoti land. The **gaontia** could be ejected for failure to pay revenue on due dates, for breach of the terms of the **patta** or state laws, harassment of ryots or extreme misbehaviour. He was not entitled to buy **nazarana**. He was required to protect forest and prohibited trees and prevent **bewar** cultivation. He was expected to reside in his village unless he had more than one in which case he could appoint an agent whose name was simply intimated to the State. The State had no control over the agent's appointment.

Administration

Rice was the main crop of the State though some other crops were grown and land revenue was payable by the **gaontia** in two instalments, two-third on the First June. In default a penalty of three-fourths of anna per rupee was levied for a period upto three months and higher rates after this, the maximum being $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna per rupee. Against the defaulting ryots, might be proceeded against by attachment of movables or by attachment of immovable property such as a house or by eviction from the holding. **Eviction was the usual procedure.**

Surguja District

The present Surguja District came into existence after the merger of the above states in the year 1951. In the formation of 7 Tahsils of this District, the area of erstwhile Feudatory States have been distributed. Former Chang Bhakar State constitutes the present Bharatpur Tahsil, the former Korea State has been split up into two tahsils, Baikunthpur and Manendragarh and the best of the four tahsils viz., Surajpur, Ambikapur, Pal and Samri Tahsils comprise the former Surguja State. Since no fresh settlement operations were undertaken, land revenue continued to be paid at the old rates. However, as regards the new land which was freshly brought under the plough, the Collector had the authority under the provisions of the Land Revenue Code, 1959, to fix land revenue.

Collection of Land Revenue

The following Table shows the annual demand and collections of land revenue in the District, during the period from 1963-64 to 1973-74.

Table No. XI—1
Collection of Land Revenue

Year	Demand	Collection (in Rupees in lakhs)
1963-64	12.73	9.76
1964-65	11.03	8.89
1965-66	10.04	5.86
1966-67	12.92	4.4
1967-68	13.22	5.84
1968-69	9.13	4.59
Bhumi Vikaskar		
1968-69	3.91	1.91
1973-74	16.20	9.47

Source—Collector, Surguja.

The land revenue is recovered in two instalments in the District. The first instalment falls due on the 15th January and the second on the 15th April. A month after these dates, a defaulters list is prepared and sent to the Tahsildar for recovery.

Cesses

Various cesses were payable by the tenants in all the three feudatory state. In Surguja State, in addition to the **takoli**, a cess of 10 percent of the total income of the Zamindari was paid. The **takoli** and cess were paid sometimes in one instalment and at other times in several instalments. It is said that there were some schools and dispensaries run by the **ilaqadar** out of his own funds, instead of assessing any cess for them. After the Settlements, no cesses were prevalent except the communication tax locally known as **horaika**. Formerly it used to be levied at Re. 1 per plough and in lieu thereof the tenants were entitled to get free nistar from the village jungles. Afterwards this tax or cess was levied at annas two per rupee of the rental. The tenure holders who had forest rights appropriate the whole of the income from this cess. In Rayotwari areas, the ryots were not required to pay any cess to the State. They paid communication tax and grazing fees in return for the benefits they derived from the forests. In the year 1938, a road cess at the rate of one anna and Patwari cess at half anna per rupee of the rental was imposed in Sitapur Tahsil only, but later on, they were abolished on the objections of the tenants. The **Chaukidari** (Watchmanship) tax at the rate of rupees two per rupee was sanctioned but could not be brought into force.¹

1. Ibid p. 302.

In the Chang Bhakar state, the cesses recovered were a Kotwar cess at the rate of three paise per rupee for the Kotwar's dress, a cess for school and post office recovered at the rate of six paise each per rupee of rental. There were 15 schools maintained in the State, but only one post office at the headquarters.

In the Korea State, zamindars and sub-zamindars were also paying the cesses to the State. There was a cess of 2 annas per rupee without any name, but meant for administration levied on each rupee of thekajama of a village. The gaontias used to recover the cess from the ryots. The zamindari cess had continued since the time the zamindaris were granted. The last revision of the zamindari cess was made in 1920.

Present Position

Under the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, 1960, a cess at the rate of 10 paise per rupee is leviable at the Panchayat level. The siwai or miscellaneous income is derived as jalkar (water tax), phalkar (tax on fruit trees) and bankar (tax on forest trees). The receipts under this head during the year from 1961-62 to 1968-69 are indicated in the Table.

Table No. XI—2

Income from Cess in the District

Years	Demand	Collection (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1961-62	1.80	1.71
1962-63	1.84	0.88
1963-64	1.70	1.71
1964-65	1.35	1.20
1965-66	1.86	1.04
1966-67	1.86	0.12
1967-68	1.87	1.58
1968-69	1.84	1.28

Relation Between Landlords and Tenants

There had been no regular system of revenue law in any of the merged states and the rights and liabilities of the ryots and other interests in land were prescribed only by the wazib-ul-arz after the settlement in 1937. In these states, tenants' rights were few and they were liable to be ejected under the wazib-ul-arz on the ground of failure to pay rent on the due date, converting the holdings or any part thereof for building or other non-agricultural purposes, wilful breach of any condition of the wazib-ul-arz and disloyalty. With settlements, however, the ryot enjoyed considerable security.

Rules regarding transfer and sub-letting

As already reported earlier, the rules regarding transfer and sub-letting were also the same in every state with minor variations. In Surguja State, the gaontias and thekedars were so powerful that they had compulsory purchase of ghee and other commodities from their tenants. The ilaqadar had been allowed to give out the lease of hides, harra and lac. For cultivation, his permission had to be taken and application was made to him on stamped petition (State Stamps). Land revenue on new lands was recovered after three years and was paid to the ilaqadars. Salami had to be paid for house sites newly granted. Instestate and abandoned or suspended lands were taken by him, who levied a consent money of 25 per cent upon sales. The grazing fees were appropriated by the ilaqadar. Formerly in ryoti terms, begar and rasad system were prevalent. The manwar land was cultivated in begar by gaontias. Fuel and straw were supplied for the camps of the officers and in some cases food was also given free. Liability to construct and maintain gurbhis and the planting of road side avenues was prescribed in the wazib-ul-arz. Under the wazib-ul-arz the ryots were granted absolute right over the trees, growing on their holdings except that they cannot cut green mahua and a number of lac bearing trees without the permission of the State.

In Chang Bhakar and Korea State, the rights of ryots were more or less the same in the zamindari as well as in the ryoti tenures. Begar was heavy in certain villages on the northern border of the Chang Bhakar State and it was complained that the villagers were being 'killed by begar' for the maintenance of Rewa-Shahdol Road. The payment was made in rice at 2½ annas per day which was looked as nothing more than giving food. Nothing was paid for the clearance of forest boundary lines. No steps could be taken in this state for prohibition of the begar.

The owners of cattle had to pay a tika at the rate of Re. 1 per 20 buffaloes, or 40 cows, but a person owning less than 20 animals was not required to pay any tika. There was a tax of 2 annas per mahua tree on cultivated holdings. But in the settlement, in order to encourage agriculture, concessions such as exemption from assessment for a certain period, free grazing, timber, etc. were announced.

In Korea State, the zamindars had great power over the thekedars and ryots. They issue their own pattas to thekedars, but the ryots were not liable to ejectment so long as they are of good behaviour and pay proper rent. The land could not be sub-let or transferred without the consent of the gaontia and the zamindar. Partition, however, required the gaontia's consent. The gaontia's theka was impartible and could not be transferred and he had the right to lease out waste land or land which was intestate or from which a ryot had been ejected or surrendered land. He was entitled to one day's begar for sowing his manwar land, one day for reaping crop, and one day for thatching his house. He had to supply rasad.

In this State, the ringing of trees, bewar cultivation, etc., were prohibited. The ryot was entitled to fuel, wood for implements or house building etc., free of cost, but there were reserved species of trees (all fruits and seven others) which he could not cut and he had no right in the zamindari reserve forest. Some zamindars had full rights in the forest and some had an equal right with the state and some had more. The ryots were liable to the levy of a Chanda or contribution for the maintenance of gudis, village roads (not main roads and maintained by the State), market places, wells and uniform of the Kotwars. Forest boundary lines adjoining villages were required to be kept clear by ryots. According to the old patta a ryot might be ejected without reference to a court though he had the right to complain to a court. The gaontia was entitled to begar for the cultivation of his manwar lands and officials were also entitled to begar and there was begar for state work also. Begar was shown by the State as abolished and clauses regarding it were not to be found in the pattas, but enquiry in the villages tells a different story.

Ryots of the Khargawan zamindari said that in their village, a fee of one anna per receipt had to be paid to the person who wrote out the receipts. They also said that they had to pay the rent in one instalment only in the month of January. They were required to thatch the house of the gaontia, to pay a school cess of 8 annas per plough (not prescribed by the State), to supply fuel to the zamindar at Dashera and a payment of 2 pailies of pounded rice per plough to the gaontia. A grazing fee was levied in the nistar jungles of the zamindari, except for plough cattle.

Land Acquisition

In those States, there were no rules regarding the acquisition of land. In August 1941, the Ruler of Korea State wrote that compensation will be paid if the land was acquired for public purposes and the amount will depend on the class of land and the improvement made on it. In Surguja State, the land Acquisition Act was shown as having been adopted in 1939, but it was not followed properly. It is evident from these facts that there was great harassment of tenants by the gaontias, thekedars and zamindars. Begar was prevalent in all the states in one shape or the other according to the customs and conventions of the Rulers and chiefs of the states. The tenant had restricted rights till he was not defaulter in paying the rent.

Since the integration of the states into the Central Provinces and Berar, the Provincial Government gave careful considerations to the system of land tenure of the ryots and tenants of the Chhattisgarh States. At the time of merger in 1941, it was found that diverse systems of land revenue were prevalent in the merging states. The tiller of the soil had very little rights in the land held by him, the rights were nominal in most cases and the tenants could be ejected at the sweet will of the landlord from their land. In the year 1949, the State Government enacted the Central Provinces Land Tenure Order under which all persons holding land directly from the Government were declared as ryots and all other persons holding land from the holders were declared as tenants of such lands. Heritable and transferable rights were conferred on the ryots and tenants in their holdings. The tenants were given fixity of tenure and it was provided that they could be ejected only for specific reasons.

They were given rights to make improvements in their land. Under the order, all kinds of begar was abolished. Notwithstanding anything contained in wazib-ul-arz, the ryots were given the same rights in the trees, as they had in the holding itself. They were free to collect tendu leaves and propagate lac on the trees in any area specified by the Government. To safeguard the interest of the aboriginals, transfer of land in favour of non-aboriginal was prohibited unless with the approval of the Collector. Now a ryot could transfer his holding by sale or lease for a period of five years.

Abolition of Zamindari and Malguzari

The year 1951 is a year of landmark in the history of land revenue. During the year, as epochmaking measure was adopted by the Government for the abolition of zamindari and malguzari system by the enactment of Madhya Pradesh Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act, 1950 (I of 1951). Under this Act, all proprietary rights in estates and mahals vested in the State Government as on the 31st March, 1951 barring

home-farm land, homestead, private wells and tanks and occupied land held by proprietors and tenants, all rights and title and interest vesting in the Proprietor or any Person having interest in such proprietary rights through the proprietor, vested in the State Government. The home-farm or other lands under the cultivation of proprietors were settled with them.

Compensation Paid

For the loss of proprietary rights, the proprietors were entitled to compensation in accordance with the scales prescribed in the Act. Further, petty proprietors were entitled to rehabilitation grant. The amount of compensation was payable in instalments not exceeding eight. All secured debts or liabilities due by the outgoing proprietors, except the unsecured debts, were scaled down by the Claims Officers appointed under the Act. Tenants were allowed to hold lands in their previous rights as tenants of the State and pay rent to Government as payable to the ex-proprietors. The tenants were further given facilities to acquire plot-proprietary rights in the lands held by them on payment of a nominal premium. The village administration was to be run on the lines of the ryotwari villages through a Patel.

A special department, namely Land Reforms Department was constituted for implementing the scheme under the Act. The change brought cultivators in direct contact with Government and the way for a more vigorous village life and adoption of improved methods of farming. This measure in the long run improved the economic condition of the people in the rural areas of the District.

Consequent on the abolition of the proprietary rights, the tenants were given free rights of transfer of land. Restrictions over the exercise of nistar rights and grazing in the village forests were removed and concessions of free picking of mahua flowers and taking of a limited quantity of timber for the repairs of houses and agricultural implements of the cultivators were further extended. Thus, the year 1951 brought revolutionary changes in the tenancy system in the District, as elsewhere in the State.

Present Position

The Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Raiyats and Tenants (Acquisition of Privileges) Act, 1950, had been enacted for facilitating the abolition of proprietary rights by affording protection to tenants from ejectment, etc. Thereafter, steps were taken for the consolidation of land laws and simplification of land tenure system. These steps were embodied in the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1954 (II of 1955) enforced from the 1st October, 1955. The Code recognized two classes of tenure holders, viz., **bhumiswami** and **bhumidhari**. The **bhumiswami** status was given to all those who were previously known as **malik makbujas** or plot-proprietors or were holders of **abadi** site, held land as **ryot malik** and as absolute occupancy tenants.

The **bhumidharis** were those who previously held land as occupancy tenants, as **ryot** or **ryot sarkar**. But the types of tenures were identical in nature with the difference that a **bhumidhari** could not mortgage his interest in the land nor could such interest be attached or sold in execution of any decree or order. A **bhumidhari** had the option to acquire **bhumiswami** rights by paying three times the land revenue to the State Government. Moreover, an occupancy tenant of a **bhumiswami** and **bhumidhari** could acquire ownership rights on payment of premium at 10 to 7 times of the rent, respectively.

Land Revenue Code, 1959

The position of land tenures and tenancy reforms was again reviewed after the new State of Madhya Pradesh was constituted in 1956. The result was the enactment of a unified Land Revenue Code, 1959 (XX of 1959) that came into force from the 2nd October, 1959.

It is an important step towards providing a uniform legislation in the State composed of four regions and multiplicity of legislation land revenue and tenures. In keeping with their historical backgrounds, there were different sets of laws regarding land revenue, agricultural tenures, village management and other ancillary matters. This code incorporated almost all the important features of land reforms as envisaged in the Second Five Year Plan in regard to the uniformity of tenures, protection of tenants against arbitrary rejection, rack-renting and conferring rights of **bhumiswami** on them.

The Code provides for only one class of tenure, viz., **bhumiswami** for all those who hold land for agricultural purposes from the State, in place of existing multiple tenures with varying incidences. **Bhumiswamis** have rights of transfer subject only to one restriction that such transfer is not above a prescribed ceiling limit or make the holding of the transferer on uneconomic holding below ten acres. They shall also, subject to certain rules in respect of cutting of certain species of trees, have full rights over all kinds of trees in their holdings.

All persons holding land from **bhumiswamis** as lessees, sub-tenants or **shikmis** on the date of coming into force of the Code has been termed as occupancy tenants. The Code confers the rights of a **bhumiswami** subject on them. The amount of compensation payable to an original **bhumiswami** for the land over which his occupancy tenant claims the rights of **bhumiswami** shall be equal to 15 times the land revenue of the land which will be recovered and paid to the original **bhumiswami**. The number of **Bhumiswamis** in the District as in 1965-66 was 5,75,565 which stood at 5,79,685 in the year 1970-71. The number of Government **pattedars** was 1,435 in the year 1970-71, while **Bhoodan-Dharaks** were 17 and village servants 820 in the same year.

To provide land to the tiller of the soil, lease or sub-letting has been prohibited except by certain types of disabled persons and in very emergent cases. In the case of an unauthorised lease, the rights of an occupancy tenant shall accrue to the lessee in such land.

The Code aims at the ultimate transfer of village management including recovery of land revenue, control of nistar rights, etc., to an elected gram panchayat and, till it is formed, to an elected Gram Sabha as a stop-gap measure, in place of a Patel. The compensation paid to Patels were as under..

Table No. XI—3
Compensation paid to Patels

Year	Amount
1963-64	82,667
1964-65	84,951
1965-66	86,688
1966-67	81,854
1967-68	30,656
1968-69	46,254

Provisions have also been made for *shramdan* for maintenance of works of public utility, for the encouragement of planting of fruit-bearing trees on Government unoccupied land so as to keep alive the principles of *vanmahotsav* and for tanks to restore *nistar* rights, which the residents of village exercised on the day the rights of intermediaries were abolished.

Other Sources of Revenue

The fiscal systems of the three states were different from the one obtaining now. These states being almost independent in financial matters, all their sources of revenue were only 'State' subjects. The Reports on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces depict the details of the different sources of revenue, viz., land revenue, State Excise, forest, etc. Registration fee was not in application in all the states. However, the income from the land revenue, forests and excise was common in all these states.

The total receipts of Surguja State, which was financially rich State amongst these, were Rs. 1,45,386 in the year 1905. This increased to Rs. 2,65,757 in 1910, Rs. 2,43,147 in 1920 and Rs. 5,59,445 in 1930. Similarly, the total receipts of Korea State increased from Rs. 23,204 in the year 1905 to Rs. 58,294 in 1910, Rs. 92,972 in 1920 and Rs. 2,84,207 in 1930. The total receipts of Chang Bhakar State decreased from Rs. 10,985 in 1905 to Rs. 10,915 in 1910, but increased to Rs. 17,177 in 1920 and Rs. 22,828 in 1930. Similarly the position regarding income from other sources of revenue, besides land revenue, increased day by day.

Since the merger of these states in the year 1948 into Surguja District, the pattern of revenue receipts has changed into 'Central' and 'State' subject. At present, the important items of Central revenues are the Union Excise Duties, Income Tax and Estate Duty. Some particulars about these revenues, so far as they concern Surguja District are given below.

Central Excise

The main excisable commodities in the District are tobacco, vegetable, non-essential oils, cotton fabrics, package tea, electric fans, electric motors, chinawares, etc. The details of receipts under Union Excise duties are given in the Appendix.

Income Tax

At present, the assessment and collection of Income Tax in the District is the duty of the Income Tax Officer. He has also been entrusted with the assessment and collection of three more taxes, viz., Wealth Tax, Gift Tax and Expenditure Tax. He also collects the Estate Duty. Receipts from Income Tax has been given in the Appendix.

State Revenue

Certain important sources of the State Revenues, not already covered previously, are State Excise, Forests, Sales Tax, Stamps, Taxes on Motor Vehicles Registration, entertainment tax and electricity Duty.

State Excise

The State Excise Duty was one of the important sources of income in the former States. At present, it is levied on country liquor, Opium, Ganja, etc. The revenue from this source amounted to Rs. 12,24,910 in the year 1951-52 which reached during the year 1960-61 to Rs. 19,82,199 and Rs. 80,98,140 in 1972-73.

Sales Tax

This tax was introduced in the District after the merger of the States in 1948, under the Central Provinces and Berar Sales Tax Act, 1947 (XXI of 1947), which was replaced by the Madhya Pradesh General Sales Tax Act, 1958 (II of 1959). The Central Sales Tax has also been introduced in the District from the 1st July, 1957 under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

The third Tax is levied on the sales of motor spirits under the Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act. These Acts are administered by the Sales Tax Officer. Professional Tax has also come within the purview of the Sales Tax Authorities with effect from the 1st April, 1967. This tax is collected where the income is Rs. 4,200 per annum or above under the Madhya Pradesh Vritti Vyapar Ajivika Aur Sevayojan Kar Adhiniyam, 1966.

Receipts from Sales Tax increased from Rs. 27.38 lakhs in 1965-66 to Rs. 57.89 lakhs in 1973-74.

Forests

The forests are generally sold by auction and the responsibility for collection of revenue is with the Forest Department.

The sources of forest revenue are departmental offences, vendors, and Nistar Panchayats. Revenue accruing from forests was Rs. 8,11,155 in 1951-52 which increased to Rs. 29,70,935 in 1960-61 and Rs. 233,57,556 in 1972-73.

Taxes on Motor Vehicles

The income under this head is derived from the registration of motor vehicles, issuing of licenses to drivers, conductors etc.

Stamps

The income under this head is from the sale of stamps of various denominations both judicial and non-judicial. The revenue from this source increased from Rs. 77,779 in 1958-59 to Rs. 93,606 during 1960-61 and Rs. 5,82,013 during 1972-73.

Registration

The income under this head derived from the registration fee, copying fee, etc., which are levied under the Indian Registration Act, 1908. The rates of registration has been revised in the year 1965. The table given below depicts the number of documents registered and the income derived from them between the period 1961-62 and 1971-72.

Table No. XI—4**Number of Documents Registered**

Year	Income (Rs.)	No. of documents registered
1961-62	18038	2348
1965-66	47984	5169
1966-67	60450	5840
1967-68	64497	6100
1968-69	57626	5516
1969-70	71641	6276
1970-71	78386	6606
1971-72	85759	6700
1972-73	107147	—
1973-74	98985	—

Source : Registrar, Registration Office, Surguja and Economics and Statistics Department, Bhopal.

Due to increase in the culturable area in the District after the Second Plan period, trend in registering the documents is on increase.

Entertainment Tax

The income under this head is collected from the sale of stamps for entertainment tax levied on Cinema shows and other such entertainment programmes, which is arranged on tickets. The receipts in the year 1951-52 was Rs. 23,817 from this tax which increased to Rs. 35,412 in 1960-61 and to Rs. 4,33,371 in 1973-74.

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Early History

There is some archaeological evidence around Ramgarh hill of a very civilized race having ruled this area at one time in the remote past. But later, many forest tribes predominating over the area and riven by internecine wars among the chieftains, must have made for a rather precarious law and order condition despite a society controlled under their own customary rules. The Feudatory States Gazetteer described the aborigines of the erstwhile Surguja State as 'quiet and simple' but mentioned two of them, namely, korwas and khorkus as, 'liable to outbreaks of crime'. It usually took the form of an attack on "Ahirs" who "allowed their cattle to damage the cultivation of these aborigines"¹. Armed with bows and arrows, spears and axes they were also described to have attacked the passing traders occasionally.

But besides these practices, life in general seemed to be simple and free of decoit as reflected in this observation about the former Korea State, a part of the present District. "The people of the State are not litigious. The civil cases are of an extremely petty nature; generally the parties come in with their witnesses and state their case, the chief settles the matter and they stand by the order. The crime is also usually trifling and petty in character¹." Nowadays, there has been a general increase in litigation. However, some criminal practices as narrated above and said to have been pursued by some particular tribes have practically been unheard of in the present.

In early days, the former constituent states of the present District lacked a systematic administration of justice, as no regularly constituted judicial institutions existed for the purposes. The villageman and patels were the authorities administering justice. Their decisions were not regulated by any written law nor so much by a well formulated or adhered to customary law as by the opinion of the judges themselves. In the punishment of criminals too, certain general rules were normally adhered to until, some particular occasion demanded a departure from them. The panchayats decided all kinds of civil cases. The most common subjects of litigation were succession to property, disputes on boundaries, trespasses of cattle, advances by patels and sahu-kars and non-performance of contracts.

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 257.

2. ibid. p. 304.

Judicial Organisation—Past

In 1905, the former states of Surguja, Korea and Chang Bhakar, which had upto then been attached to the Chhota Nagpur Division of Bengal, were transferred to the Central Provinces. The State offices were organised on much the same line as those in the British territory. The chief, hitherto, had been the final authority in revenue, civil and criminal cases save those more serious criminal cases which were referred to the Commissioner for confirmation of sentence. The relations with the British Government were regulated by a *sanad* granted in 1899 and reissued in 1905 when the respective chiefs came under the general control of the Commissioner; Chhattisgarh Division, as regards, all important matters of administration of justice and other disputes.

In Surguja State the justice was administered by the Chief himself. In civil and revenue cases his decision was final while, the Political Agent could advise a reconsideration of any case in which a failure of justice seemed to have occurred. In criminal cases the chief was empowered to pass an imprisonment sentence of either description for a period of five years or of fine upto Rs. 200 or both, but all sentences exceeding two years imprisonment or Rs. 50 fine were referred to the Commissioner for confirmation. In all cases of heinous offences, calling for heavier punishment, the chief exercised the powers of a committing magistrate, and all such cases were dealt with by the Political Agent, who exercised the power of a District Magistrate and Sessions Judge. But any imprisonment sentence exceeding seven years required the confirmation of the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, while a death sentence required Chief Commissioner's confirmation. The Chief was also assisted by a Magistrate appointed in the State to exercise the powers of a Second Class Magistrate and in civil matters those of a Civil Judge. Besides the Magistrate the Tahsildar, stationed at Ambikapur and a Naib-Tahsildar at Pratappur were exercising the powers of a magistrate of the Second Class and Third Class, respectively. The former dealt with suits upto the value of Rs. 300, while the latter tried suits upto the value of Rs. 50. Appeals in civil cases from both of them and from the Civil Judge lay to the Chief and in criminal cases to the Political Agent.

The Ruler of Korea State also administered justice himself and exercised similar powers in civil, revenue and criminal cases. In this State, the chief was assisted by a *Diwan*, lent by the Government. He exercised powers of a Magistrate of the First Class in criminal cases. In civil cases, appeals against his decrees lay to the Chief.

In Chang Bhakar State also, the chief himself administered justice and exercised powers as aforesaid in the case of Korea and Surguja. In all these States, British Laws, viz., Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Civil Procedure Code and Evidence Act, were all made enforceable. In other respects also, the spirit of the then British Indian acts was followed in deciding the cases.

Present organisation of courts

After the merger of the State though the administration followed the British pattern in general, each State, as narrated above, had a different judicial set-up. Afterwards the civil and criminal courts of the District were reconstituted. The Madhya Pradesh Civil Courts Act No. 19 of 1958 coming into effect on 1st January, 1959, has regulated the present constitution of courts since then.

Since 14th November, 1969, before which it was a part of Raigarh Civil District, Surguja revenue District, has been formed into an independent civil district. The District and Sessions Judge, Surguja with his headquarters at Ambikapur constitutes the highest court of the District. He is assisted by an Additional District and Sessions Judge and a Civil Judge, Class I, both stationed at Ambikapur. In addition to these three courts, the District has six Class II Civil Judges' Court too. Of these, two courts of Civil Judge, Class II are located at Ambikapur, while the remaining four class II Civil Judges have their headquarters at tahsil towns of Manendragarh, Baikunthpur, Surajpur and Ramanujganj.

Besides, the Collector is invested with the powers of a District Magistrate to enable him run the general administration of the District and maintain law and order. He controls the Sub-Divisional Magistrates, who are posted at the headquarters of every Sub-Division and are primarily responsible for prevention of crime and maintenance of law and order within their respective jurisdictions. They enjoy First Class Magisterial powers. In addition, previously, another Deputy Collector of a Sub-Division was also invested with the powers of Magistrate First Class to deal with the criminal cases separately.

Separation of Judiciary

There has been a complete separation of the judiciary from the executive since 14th November, 1969 the day on which the District was given a separate District and Sessions Judge. The details given above go to show that the District has since been provided with a well-nit judicial set-up so as to cover the whole of the area and population.

The practice of appointing a Deputy Collector independent of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in a Sub-Division as Judge Magistrate or Magistrate First Class to deal with criminal cases has been rescinded after the separation. Thus District Magistrate, Deputy Collectors and Tahsildars now exercise only executive powers.

Nyaya Panchayats

Institution of Panchayat, like everywhere in the country, has hoary traditional background in this part of the land too. Nyaya Panchayat is only a specialized form of the older "Gram Panchayat" which previously

used to settle minor disputes among villagers. Presently, Nyaya Panchayats constituted locally and meant to provide the village folk with cheaper, speedier and simpler justice, function within the frame-work of ordinary laws, enunciated for the purpose, and enable the representative of the people to participate in the administration of justice.

Nyaya Panchayats which were formerly established under the Central Provinces and Berar Panchayats Act, 1946 (I of 1947), later, after the reorganisation of States, came under the purview of the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, 1962. A Nyaya Panchayat normally covered the area of a revenue inspector's circle, the number of its members, being 5 to 10. The members, called the Panchas, were elected from amongst the members of the Gram Panchayats of that area, who in turn elected a Sarpanch from amongst themselves. The Nyaya Panchayats enjoys a number of civil and criminal powers defined under the aforesaid Act. They can entertain civil suits upto the value of Rs. 100 only, while on the criminal side they can try cases under certain sections of I.P.C. and can also impose fine upto the extent of Rs. 50. A judgement, decree or order passed by them is considered final with the limitation that, the District and Sessions Judge can call for and examine the records of a case and the Panchayat's orders, if necessary.

Incidence of Crime

Though figures are not available for earlier days, professional or organised form of crime was not much in evidence in the area. However, it was clear that the crime situation in the past differed from State to State. In case of Chang Bhakar—the interior most part—the old Gazetteer stated that, "Crime is not of a very serious nature and civil suits are particularly unknown. Heinous offence are very rare¹. In respect of Korea State also the position differed little and it was said that, "with the exception of a very few cases of thefts and house-breaking the crime is of a petty nature"². In Surguja State, according to the old Gazetteer, crime seemed to be more frequent as, "House breakings and dacoities form the bulk of the crime."³ Thus, the occasional outbursts of looting or robbery resorted to in those days in the Surguja forests, seem to have given way, as shown by later figures, to an increased amount of thefts of various description after the merger of the three former States into the present District, leading to an inter-mixing and rise of population. Among crimes of various nature, listed below in the table, those of more common occurrence were thefts, burglaries, cattle lifting and other petty offences.

1. *ibid.* E. A. De Brett, Bombay, 1909, p. 314.

2. *ibid.* p. 303.

3. *ibid.* p. 257.

All these, it would be noticed, were more or less, in their nature akin to theft and together claimed by far the largest share in the incidence of crimes, per thousand of population. Besides, robbery, riot and murder also figured somewhat significantly in the crimes of more serious nature with the latter two showing a generally increasing trend in the later years. Violations of special laws such as, Excise and Gambling Acts are not included in these crimes and as such have been dealt with separately.

Table No. XII—1

Incidence of Crimes

Year	Dacoity	Robbery	Murder	Riot	Burglary	Cattle Thefts	Ordinary Thefts	Kidnapping	Misc. I.P.C. Crimes
1950	5	14	17	31	441	124	847	12	386
1955	5	11	61	17	299	81	638	9	387
1960	5	21	47	19	331	80	544	8	506
1965	4	33	51	46	390	97	788	8	569
1966	8	18	46	28	517	158	836	6	524
1967	16	25	48	31	1,050	270	1,001	8	488
1968	9	17	54	45	651	121	665	9	612
1969	7	14	45	37	557	109	506	16	641
1970	7	12	60	51	650	145	525	17	616
1971	7	22	75	51	608	102	572	6	622

Source : Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

As would be clear from the table above, the year 1967 was the year of most numerous crimes as a whole, with offences akin to theft having a particular spurt. This table, though not setting any definite trend shows a general increase in the offences committed till 1966 with a downfall in the subsequent years. The increase particularly when compared with the past, may, at least partly, be due to the enforcement of various new laws since the state time and to general awareness of public in reporting all offences. Another table given below, shows the crime position of the District with a different angle, that of investigations, detections and convictions made out of the aggregate reported offences and may be construed as a report on the performances of the police in this field.

Table No. XII—2

Crime Situation

Year	No. of Offences Reported	No. of Cases Investigated	No. of cases detected	No. of cases in which conviction was obtained
1950	1,877	1,476	520	130
1955	1,508	1,285	590	496
1960	1,561	1,487	621	452
1965	1,976	1,881	795	443
1966	2,141	2,028	886	613
1967	2,937	2,843	1,315	794
1968	2,183	2,128	1,172	516
1969	2,032	1,959	1,123	369
1970	2,098	2,053	1,208	396
1971	2,065	2,023	1,000	377

Source : Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

A close observation of these figures indicates that the proportion of cases detected to total cases investigated has considerably improved after 1967, the fateful year as far as crimes were concerned. It may be that the sudden spurt in the crime rate that year may have forced the hands of law to react more forcefully in the matter.

Various crimes and their relative importance

Dacoity

The highest number of dacoities committed in the recent years was 16 in 1967, while the lowest as shown in the table was 4 in the year 1965. Generally, the dacoities were few in number, and were mostly petty in nature. Formerly in Surguja State, dacoity alongwith house-breaking was said to have formed the bulk of crime and, according to the State Gazetteer, "for these the Karwar, living on the boundary of the Palamau District" were said to be responsible. Although, no such single tribe could possibly be made responsible now, with no known local gangs, they seem to have been committed by criminals from adjacent areas.

1. Chhattisgarh Faudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, p. 257.

Robbery

During the last twenty years the highest number of robberies i.e., as many as 25, were committed in the year 1967, while only 11 cases were reported in 1955.

Murder

The largest number of murders committed in the District was in 1971, with as many as 75 as against the lowest of 17 murders in the year 1950. Its incidence per thousand of population varied between 0.02 in 1950 to 0.07 in 1955. The incidence in 1955 was higher than 0.05 of 1971.

House-Breaking

House-breaking incidents, majority of which were at night and may be taken as amounting to burglary, had a much greater frequency and varied between 299 in 1955 to 1,050 in 1967, during the period covered by the table above. Throughout, it had a heavy incidence along with ordinary thefts. Incidence of house-breaking incidents was higher than ordinary thefts cases only in the years 1967 and 1970 with the former having an incidence of 1.01 and 0.6 per thousand of population, as against respective figures of 0.9 and 0.5 for the latter.

Ordinary Thefts

Like burglary they are very frequent in occurrence in the District and cover all sorts of common thefts such as thefts in bazars and fairs, etc. These crimes are usually committed by local criminals. Mostly petty in nature, they had the highest incidence per thousand of population, equal or even surpassed, only some times, by burglaries.

The position of ordinary thefts as given below shows that the proportion of cases investigated to cases reported or that of persons convicted to cases investigated did not vary much, except in 1950 and 1955 when it was comparatively much lower.

All kinds of losses and damages are the natural outcome of the criminal activities, be they of serious or of trifling nature. Details of the value of property lost and recovered given below, give a comprehensive idea of the actual loss that the District population has to put up with.

Table No. XII-3
Value of Stolen and Recovered Property

Year	No. of cases in which Property stolen	No. of cases in which Property Recovered	% of Property Recovered to Stolen	Total Value of Property Stolen	Total Value of Property Recovered	Percentage of Value Recovered to Stolen
1950	1,388	199	14.3	55,992	26,074	66.5
1955	822	247	30.0	42,354	11,617	26.5
1960	943	328	34.7	1,04,111	24,324	23.2
1965	1,275	473	37.1	2,30,080	62,482	27.2
1970	1,240	450	36.2	2,66,020	95,667	35.9
1971	1,245	374	30.0	2,80,156	80,379	28.7

Source: Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

Offences under some special or local laws such as Excise Act, Gambling Act, or Prohibition Act are a category apart from those discussed above. Of these, gambling is an offence which by its very definition must be collectively carried on and hence proportionately involves a much larger number of offenders. Though erratic, yet there was a somewhat upward movement in the gambling offences till 1968 when 235 of such offences were recorded to have been committed under the Gambling Act. The number, however, had gradually come down to 134 in 1971. Offences under the Excise Act also did not exhibit a definite trend yet, on the whole, they showed a considerable decrease from as much as 502 offences reported in 1960 and 425 in 1955 to much lesser proportions in the later years with the exception of 1969, when over 300 cases were reported.

Detailed statistics are given below :—

Table No. XIII—4
Offences under Special Laws

Year	Excise Act		Gambling Act	
	No. of cases	No. of Offenders	No. of cases	No. of Offenders
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1950	220	227	44	629
1955	425	437	152	713
1960	502	515	62	317

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1965	266	301	148	1,084
1966	244	251	208	1,230
1967	167	174	160	790
1968	261	275	235	1,345
1969	309	327	185	1,077
1970	149	165	140	716
1971	191	205	134	651

Source : Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

Organisation of Police Force

The duty required of the police in the past differed from very light to very heavy in the different parts of the present District. Whereas, in respect of former Chang Bhakar State it was observed that "a large police force is not necessary", in respect of Surguja State, it was said that "the police work is probably the heaviest."¹ In Korea also, the strength of police was much less and the work too was of a lesser magnitude than Surguja. The Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer gives an interesting account of police organisation in these States.

Past Organisation

In the year 1905, the former Surguja State had 1 Inspector, 13 Sub-Inspectors, 12 Head Constables, and 127 Constables, besides 54 *Ghatwar* in its police force. The *Ghatwar* was perhaps the same class of rural police, who were later described by the old Gazetteer as *Goriat* or *Chaukidar*. The entire force was distributed over 21 police posts, and its total maintenance cost came to Rs. 11,532 as against Rs. 9,976 in 1904. The ratio of one policeman to population and area was 1,695 persons and 29.25 sq. miles. To give a glimpse of police performance in those days, there were 641 investigations made out of a total of 672 reported offences. The arrests made totalled 702 in 379 cases. Out of these in all 312 persons were committed and 187 acquitted or discharged. Property worth Rs. 13,869 was stolen that year, but of which property worth Rs. 3,745 was recovered.

Later by 1909, Surguja State was divided into 13 Station house circles with 9 out posts attached to them. The State, by then, was described to possess a larger number of Station houses than any other

State except Bastar, in the Agency. The police force consisted of one Inspector, 15 Sub-Inspectors, 18 Head Constables, 26 Writer Constables and 153 Constables. In 1911, the police force was reorganised with the number of station-houses reduced from 13 to 8, while the number of out-posts was increased from 9 to 12. For a population of 2,396 persons and an area of 34 sq. miles there was one policeman in the State, which showed a deterioration since 1905. A Criminal Investigation Department was created in 1915, and by the year 1916 a post of Deputy Superintendent of Police had also been created. The total strength of police force that year stood at 237 with a maintenance cost of Rs. 21,252 as against Rs. 13,614 in 1915.

Besides the police, the States Gazetteer also makes mention of another class, the rural police known as *Gorait* or *Chaukidar*. Getting their remuneration from local contribution from the village they served, each of them had a circle of villages to his charge. The *Gaontias* and villagers themselves used to decide what each village and a villager was required to pay. This system was said to work smoothly and the chief and the zamindars did not interfere in the matter. These *Gorait*s were drawn from the lowest classes such as *Pankas* and *Ghasias*.

In Korea State, in the year 1909, the total strength of police consisted of one Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Head Constables, 2 Writer Constables and 23 Constables. Besides, the *Zamindar* of *Khargawan* was also made an ex-officio Sub-Inspector for his zamindari, and was called *Thanedar*. In all, there were 3 station houses in the State at Baikunthpur, Patna and Khargawan. The total strength of police force in 1911 came to 41 when, there was one policeman to every 1,615 persons and every 39.78 sq. miles of area. Here also, like Surguja another class known as *Kotwar* worked as a sort of rural police. Each village had a *Kotwar*, who was remunerated in kind. The *Chaukidars* supervised the work of *Kotwar*s in the State.

The State of Chang Bhakar in those days, had the most meagre of police force among all the three States. The entire force consisted of one Sub-Inspector, four Head Constables and seven Constables. Besides, there were four officials of the *Chaukidar* class, locally called *rapats* each of whom used to exercise supervision over the village-watchmen (*Kotwar* class) of a group of villages entrusted to his charge. There was only one station house in the whole of the State, located at the headquarters town of the State, with two out-posts in the interior.

It is a long way to cover from the days of former States to the present and the most important turning point was the Post-Independence integration of various police units into a well knit uniform organisation. In 1951 the District had 29 Police Stations. The number remained unchanged till 1974. Besides the seven tahsil headquarters of Ambikapur, Surajpur, Baikunthpur, Manedragarh, Janakpur, Ramanujganj and Samri the other police stations are located at Lakhanpur, Rajpur,

1. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909, pp. 257, and 314.

Dhourpur, Sitapur, Kamleshwarpur, Premnagar, Jainagar, Pratappur, Ramkola, Jhhilmili, Ramchandrapur, Basantpur, Balrampur, Chandni, Shankargarh, Patna, Sonhat, Chirimiri, Khadgawan, Kelhari, Kotadol and Chalgali.

Present Organisation

Like other districts, the police force is headed by Superintendent of Police who before the reorganisation of states was known as District Superintendent of Police. He controls the police administration of the District through Deputy Superintendent of Police, heading various sub-divisions and other subordinate staff of Circle Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors under whose direct charge come the Head Constables and Constables. The police work comprises many divers activities like prevention, interception, investigation and prosecution of crime. For efficient pursuing of these duties the force has been divided into the following categories.

Prosecution Branch

The Police Prosecutor stationed at the District headquarters, looks after the prosecution of cases instituted by police in the courts and other related routine work. He is assisted in his work by Assistant Police Prosecutors most of whom are placed at various sub-divisional or tahsil headquarters to carry out the work under their respective jurisdiction.

Police Headquarters Lines

The Reserve Inspector heads the Surguja District Police Lines. Assisted by a Reserve Sub-Inspector he is responsible for the proper custody of stores and controls the policemen posted in the lines. He works under the general control of the Superintendent of Police. He also supervises the Executive Force in the District.

District Special Branch

It is also a separate branch for specially assigned work and is put under the charge of one Sub-Inspector, assisted by subordinate staff.

District Crime Branch

Headed by a Sub-Inspector and assisted by Head Constables and Constables their main duty is to help the executive force in prevention and detection of crime and also to keep a watch on ex-convicts and habitual criminals.

Besides this, the line staff of the Reserve Police also performs multifarious duties like escorting of prisoners, guarding treasury and judicial lock-up, etc. They are also called upon to perform emergency duties during riots and other similar breaches of law and order. The district has also been provided with the Special Armed Force.

The yearwise strength and cost of civil police in the District is tabulated below :

Table No. XII—5

Strength and Cost of Police

Year	S.P. and D.S.P.	Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	Head Constables	Constables	Total Cost (in Rs.)
1950	4	50	100	501	5,73,864
1955	3	48	98	544	6,98,646
1960	3	52	113	552	8,85,639
1965	5	59	128	624	12,37,290
1966	4	59	127	626	14,03,616
1967	4	75	127	617	14,61,034
1968	4	75	136	617	15,07,433
1969	4	47	136	617	18,95,729
1970	4	47	136	617	19,99,574
1971	4	47	136	617	19,00,674

Source : Superintendent of Police, Surguja.

Home Guards

Home Guards are trained on a quasi-military footing on a voluntary basis. The total strength of the home-guards in this district, headed by a-Company Commandant, is two companies plus 40 per cent. Each year new candidates are recruited for the vacant posts to complete the strength. They are recruited from the rural areas generally and any one between 19 and 40 years of age, of not less than 5 feet 4 inches of height and 31 inches chest and satisfying a literacy test is eligible for enrolment. The recommendation for enrolment is made by a Committee presided by the District Magistrate with the other members being the Company Commandant, and a non-official nominated by the State Government. On enrolment every home guard, called Nagar Sainik undergoes a course of training for a period not more than two months and is further bound to serve for a period of six months. Then, he may be placed on the Reserve for a further period during which he may be called up failing which, he is discharged.

Home Guards are called out for maintaining law and order in co-ordination with the police during emergency period. The District Magistrate is empowered to call out the Home Guards within the District, while out side the District, only the Commandant General, Home Guards, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur, is empowered to call them out. Usually all the home guards called out have been turning up on duty. Recruitment also, whenever, sought, has been brisk. The Home Guards, had a total strength of 157 in 1952 which increased to 193 in 1960-61, 257 in 1965-66 and to 330 in 1967-68. After promotion for the post of N.C.O., a superior rank, they are also sent for 75 days training to Khamaria (Jabalpur) almost every year. Thus, during the year 1971 when 45th, 46th and 47th N.C.O., training camps were held 5, 4 and 4 persons were respectively sent from this District. These Home Guards and N.C.O.s also pursue some other activities in co-ordination with the villagers which include sanitation and hygiene, medical, agriculture and social education, etc.

Jails and lock-ups

It would be both interesting and useful to look into the past of jails and their environ in the former States to have a comparative idea with the position obtaining at present. The jail in former Surguja State, described to have been reconstructed and enlarged, had an average daily population of 131.49 convicts during 1908. The various landlords used to pay annually the amount incurred on the up keep of prisoner from their respective estates. The jail was under the charge of the magistrate or Tahsildar who was assisted by a Jailor, a Head Warder and 17 Warders. The industries carried on were oil-pressing, weaving and wheat-grinding. Many of the prisoners were also employed outside the jail on brick-laying and gardening. There was no doctor attached to the jail but the medical officer for the town also visited the jail daily.

There was a jail in Korea State too, but in those days of early 'twentieth century' it was housed in temporary erections. It had accommodation for 12 prisoners, who were supervised by a Jailor and 4 Warders. The prisoners were, at that time, employed on construction of buildings in the then 'new capital' of the State, Baikunthpur.

The jail of Chang Bhakar State was only a namesake, consisting of mud-walled houses with tiled roofs. With accommodation for only 12 prisoners, it was even then described as having "too small" a number of inmates. In case of all the three states, prisoners sentenced to more than two years jail were used to be sent to the Central Jail, Raipur.

The District has now become an integral part of a well connected system of jails and sub-jails spread all over Madhya Pradesh under the overall control of Inspector General of Prisons, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The District Jail, under the charge of the Civil Surgeon who acts as the ex-officio Superintendent, is actually managed and supervised on whole time basis by a Deputy Jailor. He runs the administration through a sub-ordinate staff of Head Warders and Warders, etc. Female Prisoners are accommodated separately.

There are two sub-jail and four judicial lock-ups in Surguja District. Ramanujganj and Baikunthpur have a sub-jail each, while the four judicial lock-ups are located at Surajpur, Kusmi, Manendragarh and Janakpur. Each of the sub-jail was under the supervision of an Assistant Jailor while the lock-ups were supervised by the respective tahsildars.

The total daily average of prisoners in the jail though varying showed a definite increasing trend. The number averaged to 56.66 for 1950, 106.34 for 1960 and to 161.99 for 1970, as against 131.49 for Surguja State in 1908.

The number of prisoners according to the length of their sentences also varied appreciably and by far the largest section carried sentences up to a period of 6 months. A further break-up also showed that after 1960-61 there had been an increase in the number of prisoners with sentences below one month period. Details of population, religion and sentences of prisoners are given in Appendix.

Classes of Prisoners and their Welfare

The prisoners in the jail are divided into four classes of casuals, habituals, adolescents and juveniles. Of these, the adolescents and the juveniles are respectively sent to the specialized centres of long standing, the Borstal Institute, Narsimhapur and the Juvenile Reformatory School, Seoni. Other prisoners in the local jails are also given training in different vocations so as to enable them being self earning citizens and change their outlook.

Then, the jail has been provided with a whole time teacher and all prisoners are given the facility to attend the classes. The deserving prisoners are given the opportunity to pursue their studies further. The jail owns a library too, with books on moral education, agriculture and gardening. Besides, a reformist preacher has also been provided to impart cultural and moral instructions to the inmates. Below are given the details of Adult Education conducted by the jail teacher from 1950-51 onwards.

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Table No. XII—6
Education Among Prisoners

Year	No. Appeared	No. Passed	Percentage of pass
1950-51	17	14	82.35
1955-56	20	16	80.00
1960-61	22	18	81.81
1965-66	19	16	84.21
1970-71	25	23	92.00

Source : Superintendent of Jail, Surguja.

Board of Visitors

There is a Board of Visitors for the supervision of the jail administration. The Board consisted of both the official and non-official members who are appointed by the Government on the recommendations of the Commissioner and notified in the Government Gazette. The Collector and District Magistrate, Surguja is its ex-officio Chairman and the term of appointment of the Board extends to two years.

Prison Discipline

The jails in the District were governed by the Madhya Pradesh Jail Manual, which contains provisions regarding the establishment and management of jails, confinement and treatment of prisoners and maintenance of discipline. They are kept under a strict watch. The convicts under rigorous imprisonment are employed on different tasks. Long term prisoners are given temporary release for ten days besides remissions under the Good Conduct Rules. Prisoners of exemplary conduct become eligible to receive concessions like visit from friends, exemption from fetters, good conduct badges, remission of sentence and present of tools, etc. While convicts whose term exceeds six months but not life sentence are eligible for all these rewards, life-term prisoners are entitled to only first four benefits.

Nature of cases handled

The various cases handled by the different courts in the District on the criminal side, included offences against the State, public tranquillity, safety and justice, minor and serious offences against person or property

and other offences under Cr. P.C., special or local laws, etc., while among the civil cases they included suits instituted for money or movable property, suits for possession or recovery of immovable property, suits of establish right to pre-emption, mortgage suits (for foreclosure or sale of redemption) and suits for specific relief, etc.

Criminal Cases

Instituted under the Indian Penal Code, special and local laws or Criminal Procedure Code, the number of criminal cases disposed showed a decrease from 3,664 in 1969 to 2,304 in 1970 and to 1,722 in 1971 but this did not indicate a slackening in the Courts' work as, instead of any corresponding increase in the pending cases there was actually a fall in their numbers too. During the same period, the number of offences reported had, however, gone up from 1,371 in 1969 to 2,947 in 1971.

Though the total number of persons punished slightly decreased in consonance with cases disposed from 2,886 in 1969 to 2,782 in 1970 and 2,416 in 1971, a further breakup showed an interesting coincidence of increasing imprisonment sentences with respective figures of 269,459 and 724. This indicated cases of graver offences progressively coming up for hearing before the courts. But three years was too small a period to make any generalisations and it could only be termed as passing phase. The amount of fine imposed and realised during the period under review (1969-71) did not show much variance for the years 1969 and 1970 but stood widely apart for 1971 with fine imposed being Rs. 1,93,860 as against Rs. 18,863, only for fine realised. Details regarding convictions made, persons punished, witnesses examined and fine imposed and realised appear in the Appendix. Below is being given the number of cases disposed off and persons involved in them.

Table No. XII—7

Disposal of Cases

Year	No. of Cases		No. of Persons	
	Disposed	Pending	Disposed	Pending
1969	3,664	5,943	6,780	6,407
1970	2,304	3,366	3,731	7,007
1971	1,722	2,825	3,541	6,630

Source : District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

On the civil side suits for money and movable property predominated followed by title, claims and other suits. The number of suits instituted in the former category came to 317 in the year 1969, to 399 in 1970 and to 332 in 1971, while the number of title and other suits instituted in the same years was 195, 188 and 189, respectively. The cases disposed off by the subordinate courts as well as the courts of Small Causes during 1969 was substantially higher with 378 and 257, respectively as against 284 and 157, respectively, in the year 1970. Figures of 1971 also did not differ much from previous year. However, the duration taken by the cases after full trial which could be, in a way, related to cases disposed of during the same year, did not vary significantly with a total of 68,747 days in 1969, 60,989 days in 1970 and 66,618 days in 1971. This, in addition to the fact that, civil cases took a long time for disposal, also denoted the even tenor of work put in by the courts. The lesser number of cases disposed by the District Court was only an indication that, the higher amount of appellate work was being done. The appellate work consisted of criminal revision besides criminal appeals, and regular and miscellaneous civil appeals. Details regarding duration of civil cases, pending civil suits and revision and appeals appear in the Appendix while, below is being given the number of civil suits instituted and disposed off :

Table No. XII—8

Number of Suits Instituted and Disposed

Year	No. of Suits for Money and Movable Property	No. of Title and other suits	Disposal of suits by various Courts		
			District Courts	Sub-ordinate Civil Courts	Courts of Small Causes
1969	317	195	—	378	257
1970	399	188	2	284	157
1971	332	189	16	281	198

Source : District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

Legal Profession and Bar Associations

In early days, there were no law graduates in the area. The legal practice, was carried on by some unlicensed and unqualified persons. As shown by the information available, one of the earliest qualified legal practitioners was from Baikunthpur who has been practising there since 1942.

District Bar Association

The Surguja District Bar Association was established during the year 1950. i.e., after the merger of the three states into new District. At the time of inception it has only 6 practising lawyers on its rolls. The strength, however, had risen appreciably to 37 by the year 1969, in keeping with the increased litigation in the District. This may be due to higher education and general awakening of the people towards their rights. A constitution to denote and guide the formation and activities of the Bar was also adopted on its establishment. Besides, the District Bar Association, which acted as a uniting body for the District lawyers, various independent bars at important tahsil headquarters also existed to provide the benefits of an association to the local lawyers.

The Bar Association of Baikunthpur had the credit of having, as mentioned earlier, one of the oldest practising advocate members in the District.

Manendragarh Bar Association was found in 1953 and the membership at the time was only three.

The strength of advocates in the District has risen rapidly particularly in the recent years. Manendragarh seems to have led with as many as 14 members by 1972.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The organisational set-up of some of the important offices in the District is discussed here.

Agriculture

The Agricultural activities in the District are being looked after by a Deputy Director of Agriculture with headquarters at Surguja. The Deputy Director has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja District. He functions under the control of the Joint Director of Agriculture, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur and under the over all control of the Director of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture in his work is assisted, as in 1972, by 3 Assistant Directors, 3 Assistant Soil Conservation Officers, 24 Extension Officers at Block level, 4 Farm Managers, 32 Agricultural Assistants and usual staff. Each of the Assistant Directors has headquarters at Ambikapur, Baikunthpur and Ramanujganj, respectively; and the Assistant soil Conservation Officers are posted each at Ambikapur and Baikunthpur, respectively.

Co-operation

To look after the cooperative activities in the district, an office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies has been functioning from 1st September, 1957 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The office has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja District. The Assistant Registrar functions under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur and under the over all control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Assistant Registrar is assisted by an Audit Officer, five Senior Co-operative Inspectors, eight Co-operative Inspectors, 24 Co-operative Extension Officers at block level and usual staff.

Education

To look after the educational activities in the district an office of the District Educational Officer is functioning with headquarters at Ambikapur. The Office has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja district. The office functions under the immediate control of the Divisional Superintendent of Education, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur.

The District Educational Officer is assisted by one Assistant District Educational Officer and 34 Assistant District Inspector of Schools along-with usual staff.

Employment

To serve as an employment medium for the population in the Collieries located within the district an employment Exchange is functioning since 1959. Headed by Employment Officer the Exchange functions with headquarters at Manendragarh. The Employment Officer works under the administrative control of the Director of Employment and Training, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur. The Employment Officer is assisted by an Assistant and the usual staff.

Forest

The District is covered by four forest divisions for the purpose of protection, exploitation, regeneration and maintenance of forests. The Divisions are divided into Ranges which in turn are divided into Range Assistant circles.

A Range Assistant Circle consists of several Forest Guard Beats.

Each Division is under the charge of a Divisional Forest Officer. The Chief Conservator of Forest, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal exercises over all control on all these Divisions. For the purpose of survey and demarcation an office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest is also working in the district. Details of each of these offices are given below.

Korea Division, Baikunthpur

The Korea Division having jurisdiction over Baikunthpur and Manendragarh tahsils, started functioning from 1948. Its headquarters is at Baikunthpur and works under the immediate control of the Conservator of Forests, Shahdol Circle, Shahdol. The Divisional Forest Officer is assisted in his work by two Assistant Conservator of Forests, 102 class III (76 executive) and 26 class IV staff. The break-up of the Division is shown below:

S. No.	Range	Headquarters of Range	No. of Range Assistant Circles	No. of Beats
1.	Baikunthpur	Baikunthpur	3	16
2.	Manendragarh	Manendragarh	2	14
3.	Chirimiri	Chirimiri	4	21
4.	Ramgarh	Ramgarh	2	16
5.	Sonhat	Sonhat	2	10
Total			13	77

South Surguja Division

The headquarters of the South Surguja Division is at Ambikapur. It is functioning from 1961 and has jurisdiction over parts of Ambikapur and Surguja tahsils. It works under the immediate control of the Conservator of Forests, Bilaspur Circle, Bilaspur. There is a staff consisting of 460 executive and 51 ministerial employees belonging to class III and IV in the Division services. The break up of the Division is as follows :

S. No.	Range	Headquarters of Range	No. of Range Assistant Circles	No. of Beats
1.	Ambikapur	Ambikapur	4	27
2.	Lakhanpur	Lakhanpur	3	12
3.	Sitapur	Sitapur	2	15
4.	Surajpur	Surajpur	4	30
5.	Premnagar	Premnagar	2	16
6.	Kudargarh	Bhaiyathan	2	3
Total			17	103

Changbakhher Division

The office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Changbakhhar, has been functioning since 16th November, 1961 with headquarters at Shahdol. The Office has jurisdiction over the Changbakhhar Division and it functions under the immediate control of the Conservator of Forests, Shahdol Circle, Shahdol. The Divisional Forest Officer is assisted by one Assistant Conservator of Forest, 8 Forest Rangers, 2 Deputy Rangers, 17 Foresters, 81 Forest Guards and usual Class III staff.

The break-up of the Division is given below :—

S. No.	Range	Headquarters of Range	No. of Range Assistant Circles	No. of Beats
1.	Janakpur	Janakpur	2	9
2.	Kuwarpur	Janakpur	2	10
3.	Batrasi	Janakpur	2	7
4.	Katadol	Katadol	2	7
5.	Kamarji	Katadol	2	8
6.	Kelhari	Katadol	2	8
Total			12	49

Survey and Demarcation

The office of the Assistant Conservator of Forest, Survey and Demarcation, was established in 1963 at Ambikapur. All the four forest Divisions fall under its jurisdiction. The Assistant Conservator of Forest, assisted by 114 executive and seven ministerial staff, works under the administrative control of the Conservator of Forests, Working Scheme Circle, Madhya Pradesh, Rewa.

Industries

The Industries office which was established in 1959-60 in the district is headed by a Deputy Director of Industries whose jurisdiction extends over the entire district of Surguja. In his work he is assisted by an Assistant Director of Industries, three Extension Officers and other subordinate staff. This office works under the immediate control of the Zonal Industries Office, Durg.

Irrigation

An office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division is functioning since August, 1964 at Ambikapur. The Office has jurisdiction over Ambikapur, Baikunthpur, Manendragarh, Janakpur and Kusmi. It functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Bilaspur.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 51 executive and 45 ministerial staff including six Assistant Engineers. The Assistant Engineers are Sub-Divisional Officers of their respective Sub-Divisions, namely :—

1. Minor Irrigation Sub-Division I.
2. Minor Irrigation Sub-Division II.
3. Kunwarpur Sub-Division, Baikunthpur.
4. Minor Irrigation Sub-Division, Baikunthpur.
5. Scarcity Sub-Division, Baikunthpur.
6. Rehabilitation Sub-Division, Balrampur.

Survey and Investigation

For survey and investigation of Rehar (Irrigation) Project, a Sub-Divisional Officer, Survey and Investigation Sub-Division is functioning since May, 1964 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The office has jurisdiction over the tahsils of Ambikapur, Baikunthpur and Surguja. The office functions under the administrative control of the Executive Engineer, Survey and Investigation Division, Raipur. The Sub-Divisional Officer is assisted by 6 overseers, 1 Sub-Overseer and other usual staff.

Panchayat and Social Welfare

The office of the District Panchayat and Social Welfare Officer, Surguja District is functioning since 1st December, 1953 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The Officer has jurisdiction over the whole of the district. He functions under the immediate control of the Divisional Panchayat and Welfare Officer, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur and under the over-all control of the Director of Panchayat and Social Welfare, Madhya Pradesh Bhopal. The District Panchayat and Welfare Officer, Surguja is assisted by 17 Panchayat and Social Education Organisers, 4 Lady Social Education Organisers, a District Auditor, 9 Sub-Auditors, Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas and other ministerial staff.

Medical and Public Health**Civil Surgeon**

The office of the Civil Surgeon, Surguja is functioning since 1921, with headquarters at Ambikapur. It has jurisdiction over the whole of the district. He functions under the administrative control of the Director of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Civil Surgeon in his work is assisted by seven Assistant Surgeons, two Assistant Medical Officers, 11 Compounders, seven staff Nurses, two Radiographers, one Laboratory Assistant and one T. B. Organiser with usual staff.

Assistant Director (Malaria)

An office of the Assistant Director or Health Services (Malaria) is functioning since 6th January, 1965 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The Assistant Director has jurisdiction over the district of Surguja and Raigarh and Sakti tahsil of Bilaspur District. He functions under the immediate control of the Deputy Director of Health Services (Malaria), Indore, and under the over-all control of the Director of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Assistant Director is assisted by two Malaria Officers and usual staff. One of the Malaria Officers has headquarters at Baikunthpur with jurisdiction over the whole Surguja District.

Assistant Engineer, Public Health

An office of the Assistant Engineer, Public Health Sub-Division, Ambikapur is functioning since 1963 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The Assistant Engineer looks after the urban water supply scheme in Surguja district. The office functions under the administrative control of Assistant Engineer is assisted by four Sub-Engineers and usual staff.

Publicity

The District Publicity Office is headed by a Public Relation Assistant with the usual staff. It has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja district. The office functions under the immediate control of the Collector, Surguja and under the over-all control of the Director of Information and Publicity, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Public Works Department

An office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department (Building and Roads) has been functioning at Ambikapur since May, 1948. The office has jurisdiction over the whole Surguja district. It functions under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer P.W.D. (B & R) Bilaspur. The Executive Engineer is assisted by five Sub-Divisional Officers of the rank of Assistant Engineers, one Junior Engineer, 30 Sub-Engineers, 10 Works Assistants, one Divisional Accountant and other usual staff. Two of the Sub-Divisional Officers are posted at Ambikapur and one each at Baikunthpur, Manendragarh and Sitapur, respectively.

Rehabilitation

To look after the rehabilitation work of the migrants from the East in Surguja district an office of the Executive Engineer, Rehabilitation Division is functioning at Ambikapur. The Executive Engineer works under the administrative control of the Collector, Surguja and under the over-all control of the Secretary to the Government of Madhya Pradesh Rehabilitation Department, Bhopal.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by two Sub-Divisional Officers, one Divisional Accountant, nine Sub-Engineers, one Works Assistant and other usual staff of the District.

Sales Tax

An office of the Assistant Sales Tax Officer, Surguja has been functioning since 1965 at Ambikapur. The Officer has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja District. He works under the immediate control of the Assistant Commissioner, Sales Tax Circle Office, Raigarh. In his work the Assistant Sales Tax Officer is assisted by two Sales Tax Inspectors and usual staff.

Statistical Office

The District Statistical Office has been functioning since 1957 at Ambikapur. The District Statistical Officer has jurisdiction over the whole of Surguja district. He functions under the control of the Director of Economics and Statistics, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The officer is assisted by seven executive and one ministerial staff.

Tribal Welfare

To look after the activities concerning the welfare of the tribals in the district an office of the Deputy Director of Tribal Welfare is functioning since October, 1965 with headquarters at Ambikapur. The entire district is under his jurisdiction. The Deputy Director works under the administrative control of the Director of Tribal Welfare, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. The Deputy Director is assisted by one District Organiser, one Additional District Organiser, 11 Area Organisers, 15 Principals of Higher Secondary Schools and usual clerical staff.

Veterinary Department

An office of the Assistant Director, Live Stock, Surguja, is functioning with headquarters at Ambikapur. The officer has jurisdiction over the whole district of Surguja. He works under the immediate control of the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur and under the over-all control of the Director of Veterinary Services, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

The Assistant Director is assisted by 15 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, seven Sub-Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, 61 Stockmen, seven Bull Attendants, 15 Dispensary Attendants and usual staff.

Weights and Measures

The Office of the Inspector, Weights and Measures, was established at Ambikapur in the year 1961. Its jurisdiction extends over Ambikapur, Surajpur, Samri and Pal tahsils of the district. It functions under the immediate control of the Assistant Controller, Weights and Measures, Bilaspur Division, Bilaspur. The Inspector is assisted by the usual ministerial staff.

CHAPTER XIV**LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT**

Prior to the year 1937, there was no local self-government in the regions now forming the constituent parts of Surguja District. However, a Conservancy Committee was formed at Ambikapur, the headquarters of the erstwhile Surguja Feudatory State, in 1911 and this committee, for municipal purposes, managed and supervised conservation and sanitation of Ambikapur town. In wider sense, it may be said to have formed a nucleus of local self-government body subsequently organised in Surguja State. The committee was empowered to levy *haisiyat* tax in 1919, when it realised Rs. 163 under this head. The annual income and expenditure of the committee ranged from Rs. 370 to Rs. 615 and Rs. 132 to Rs. 658, respectively, during the second half of the third decade of this Century.

The Town Committee replaced the Conservancy Committee at Ambikapur in 1931, when its income was Rs. 1,019 excluding the opening balance of Rs. 239. It spent Rs. 1,113 in that year on sanitation and left a closing balance of Rs. 145. The town Committee, Ambikapur yielded place to Municipal Committee in 1939.

The real beginning of local self-government in Surguja District dates back to the year 1937, when the erstwhile Korea Feudatory State of Chhattisgarh Division and now a constituent part of Surguja District established first municipal committee at Baikunthpur, the tahsil headquarters of that petty principality. As stated above, Surguja State followed suit and established municipal committees at Ambikapur and Ramanujganj in 1939 and municipality at Menendragarh in 1943. These municipalities were created by respective Darbar Resolutions and governed by the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922). Changbhakar, also a Feudatory State and now also a constituent part of the District, had no such institution.

Till the year 1948, when these three Feudatory States integrated with the Central Provinces and Berar and subsequently formed Surguja District in 1951, all the Committees worked under the personal and headitary rule of their rulers, unresponsive to public opinion and unchecked by the British Political Agent, so far their working did not run contrary to the interest of the British Crown.

In 1950-51, it was found that the financial and working conditions of municipalities at Menendragarh, Baikunthpur and Ramanujganj were far from satisfactory and, therefore, Local Self-Government Department of

Madhya Pradesh decided to convert them into **gram-panchayats**.¹ But subsequently, in 1951-52 the State Government ordered that of those three municipalities, that of Manendragarh should continue to function and the remaining two should be converted into gam-panchayats². In case of Baikunthpur Municipality, the State Government issued a Gazette Notification on 17th January, 1953 in pursuance of the provisions of Clause (d) sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922) and notified its intention of withdrawal of the whole area comprised within the limits of Baikunthpur Municipality from the operations of the provisions of the said Act, Objections and suggestions to this were invited. This issued of conversion remained under active consideration of the Government till May, 1956, when the government reversed the previous order and finally ordered that Baikunthpur and Ramanujganj should continue to have municipalities³. Thus, all the four municipalities continue to function from their date of establishment. The details of their working for their subsequent period are given below:

Municipal Committee, Baikunthpur

This municipal committee, the oldest in Surguja District was created on the 15th April, 1937. Since then its working was governed by Darbar Resolutions of the Feudatary State of Korea and the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922). When in 1948 the State integrated with the Central Provinces and Berar the committee worked only under the said Act, of 1922. From 1st February, 1962, when the Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961 came into force, the committee worked according to the provisions of this Act. In 1956, when the final decision that Baikunthpur should continue to have a municipality was taken by the Madhya Pradesh Government, it was also decided that preparations for the fresh elections to the committee should be made. The Local Government (Urban) Department of Madhya Pradesh which supervised the working of this committee through the Deputy Commissioner, Surguja District, accordingly instructed the latter to take steps for fresh division of wards of Baikunthpur.

Fresh elections to this committee were held then in 1958-59. In 1969-70 the municipal area of Baikunthpur continued to be divided into five general wards. These wards elect their representatives. In addition to these five elected members, one member is selected. President is elected by the elected members. Chief Municipal Officer appointed by the State Government looks after the proper administration and working of this municipal committee.

1. File No. LSG (M) 1952/17-436 in Madhya Pradesh Secretariat Record Room.
2. File No. LSG-17-428/1953 in Madhya Pradesh Secretariat Record Room.
1. Local Self-Government Memo No. 2534-1413-M.-XIII, dated 21-5-1956. File No. 17-265.M in Madhya Pradesh Secretariat Record Room.

The municipal committee runs one dispensary. It switched on electricity in the town first in 1960-61. In the year 1962-63 the number of street-lights was 55. The committee maintains 10 drinking-water-wells in the town for the public use. In 1970-71 the income of this municipal committee from its various sources like house-tax, etc., was about Rs. 40,000. On the other hand the expenditure for the same year amounted to about Rs. 29,000. During the previous years commencing from 1960-61 and ending on 1969-70, its income and expenditure ranged between Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 29,000 and Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 32,000, respectively. Details of income and expenditure are appended at the end of this volume in the Appendix.

Municipal Committee, Ambikapur

This municipal committee, established in 1939, worked according to Darbar Resolutions and the provisions of the Central Provinces and Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922), till the year 1948. After integration of Surguja State, the working of the committee continued to be governed by the latter Act, during the years from 1948 to 1961. In February, 1962 the Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961 came into force. Since then it has been governing the working of this committee.

During the state regime the Municipal Committee Ambikapur consisted of one president, two vice-presidents and 10 members. Though the principle of election was adopted, half of the number of members were nominated by the Maharaja. Neither the people nor the members had any enthusiasm and interest in the elections or the working of the municipality as they experienced interference of the Darbar in the working of Municipal Committee of Ambikapur. After integration, the strength of municipal members gradually increased. In 1969-70 the town had fourteen wards out of which twelve were general and two reserved, one each for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The strength of members was 17 out of which 14 were elected and 3 were selected.

Income

During the state regime the sources of income of Ambikapur Municipal Committee mainly included rent from **nazul** land, **nazrana** realised for *Zamin-Bandobast*, cattle pound fees, etc. These sources annually yielded about Rs. 20,000. No grant was given to the Committee by the Darbar. After integration of the State old order changed yielding place to a new one. In 1949-50, the income sources of this municipal committee included tax on house, building and land, fees of various licences issued by it, grant-in-aid from the State Government and market uses, realised. These yielding an annual income of about Rs. 20,500, more than half of which was due to grant-in-aid received

Thus according to the classification of municipalities then prevalent, this municipality having an annual income below Rs. 50,000 belonged to the class VI. A new source in the form of octroi duty was introduced in 1950-51 and this helped the municipality of Ambikapur in considerably increasing its annual income. This source alone increased the income of the body by about Rs. 89,000 in that year and placed this body in class IV i.e. having an income of about Rs. one lakh and below Rs. 2,50,000. The main sources of income in subsequent years included octroi duty, tax on house, building and land, licence fees, market dues and grant-in-aid from the State Government. From 1963-64, conservancy tax was also introduced. Prior to it, people on their own, engaged or employed sweepers for conservancy purposes. In 1970-71, the total income of Ambikapur municipal committee, was about Rs. 4,67,000. This income includes about Rs. 45,000 received from the State Government as grant-in-aid for the scheme of municipal water-works under construction.

Expenditure

On expenditure side, during the days of the state regime, the Municipality spent its income mainly on running two primary schools, one Sanskrit Pathashala and one Ayurvedic dispensary, construction and repairing of Mansoon drains, roads, buildings and conducting sanitation activities like cleaning of streets, drains, etc. In subsequent years, after integration of the state, heads of expenditure included medical and public health, roads and buildings, water-supply, education, etc. Municipal Committee, Ambikapur spent about Rs. 4,74,000 in 1970-71. The income and expenditure figures of this Committee are given in appendix for the years from 1949-50 to 1970-71.

Achievements

The Municipal Committee, Ambikapur has some achievements to its credit. Formerly, the number of schools run by it was only two. In 1970-71, it was running only one high-school. By the end of the year 1970-71, the number of schools increased to 7 which comprised 5 primary, one middle and one higher secondary school. Expenditure on education in this year amounted to about Rs. 27,000. Efforts have been made by the committee to end the age-old practice of carrying night-soil as head-load by the sweepers. It purchased hand-carts and allotted them to the sweepers for the purpose of carrying away night soil. For this purpose the State Government granted Rs. 2,000 as grant-in-aid in 1959-60 to the committee.

As regards the water-supply to the town, it may be stated that Ambikapur Nagar Palika Parishad maintains in all 32 wells including 2 specially constructed for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. These two wells were constructed after receiving grant for them from the State Government during the Second Five Year Plan period (1956-57

to 1961-62). Besides, there is a reservoir in its jurisdiction. The Parishad has now got it deepened. Its water-supply scheme has been sanctioned by the Government. Work on the scheme is in progress. Pipe-lines are being laid. The Parishad spent Rs. 1,04,145 on this scheme during the years 1968-69 and 1969-70. The State Government have given Rs. 44,700 as grant-in-aid for the scheme in 1970-71.

The Parishad has also constructed market sheds and quarters for the sweepers. For the latter work it received grant from the State Government.

The town has been electrified. The Parishad bears the cost of street lights. The Parishad has donated Rs. 1,101 and Rs. 1,001 to the Vivekananda Memorial Trust and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan Reception Committee, respectively, in 1969-70.

Municipal Committee Ramanujganj

Early working

Surguja Darbar Resolution created this municipal committee on the 19th April, 1941, to look after the sanitation and conservation of Ramanujganj town. Its working was governed by Darbar Resolution and the Central Provinces and Berar Municipality Act, 1922 (II of 1922). The provisions of the latter Act remained applicable to it till February, 1962 when the Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961 came into force. In 1969-70 the total strength of municipal members was six out of which five were elected while one was selected. The town had five municipal wards one of which was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

The financial condition of this body was not satisfactory and therefore it was to be converted into gram panchayat in 1951-52. The Deputy Commissioner, Surguja District informed the State Government in 1953 that the Committee was trying its best to improve its working and financial conditions. The Government altered its decision and the Committee continued its working. In 1950-51 its annual income was about Rs. 2,655 while in 1960-61 it increased to about Rs. 10,215. In 1970-71 the income of this municipal committee amounted to Rs. 24,977. As regards expenditure the committee spent Rs. 3,689 in 1950-51 Rs. 7,349 in 1960-61 and Rs. 23,542 in 1970-71. Public health, public works and street-lighting are the main heads of expenditure. Income and expenditure of this municipality during the period from 1950-51 to 1970-71 with details are appended at the end of this volume.

The town was electrified in 1968. The number of street lights increased to 62 in August 1970 from 26 in January, 1968.

Municipal Committee, Manendragarh

This municipality was constituted on the 21st February, 1943, by a Resolution of Korea State Darbar. It worked under the provisions of the Central Provinces and the Berar Municipalities Act, 1922 (II of 1922) and Darbar Resolution.

After integration of this petty Municipality in the Central Provinces and Berar, it was found that the committee did not function properly. Its financial condition too was weak. Therefore, the State Government decided to convert it into **gram panchayat** in 1951, but the Government revised the decision and decided to give a lease of two years to this committee for improving its working and financial condition.

Manendragarh town was then (1952) divided into 7 wards represented by 7 members excluding the president. In 1953 re-division of municipal wards was achieved including the Railway Colony in municipal limits. The number of wards continued to be 7 represented by 7 elected members. One member was selected and thus the body consisted of 8 members.¹

The committee was dissolved in April, 1958 as a no-confidence motion was passed against the president of the committee who ultimately resigned. Subsequently, the number of wards of the town were increased. The Madhya Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1961, came into force in 1962. The total strength of municipal members increased to 12 of which 3 were selected and 9 elected. In 1969-70, the number of wards was 10 of which 2 were reserved, one each for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. These wards elected 10 representatives. The total strength of members was 12.

The committee electrified the town in December, 1964 when 60 street-lights were provided. In 1968, the number of tube lights in the street increased to 87. In 1971 their number again increased to 132.

Water-Supply

Manendragarh Municipal Committee had its own water-works for making water-supply to the town. In 1957-58, it was in receipt of a loan worth Rs. 5,00,000 under the National Water-Works scheme. It is now managed by the Public Health Engineering Department of the State Government. The committee pays water-charges to the Department for water supplied to the public of the town. The table below shows the expenditure made by the committee on water-supply, in a few recent years.

1. Gazette Notification No. 6657-3471-M-XIII., dated 25th November, 1953. Local Self-Government (Urban) Department.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

Table No. XIV—1

Expenditure on Water-Supply

Year	Rs.	Year	Rs.
1966-67	1,383	1969-70	4,080
1967-68	1,936	1970-71	5,559
1968-69	4,486		

Income

The income of the municipality is derived from various taxes like house-tax, conservancy tax, internal vehicle tax, etc., and licence fees. During the years from 1961-62 to 1970-71 its income had a rising trend. This can be studied from the income and expenditure figures for the above mentioned period given in the table appended at the end of this volume. The income which was Rs. 30,804 in 1960-61, gradually increased to Rs. 1,96,191 in 1970-71. Similarly, its expenditure was Rs. 1,75,870 in 1970-71 as against Rs. 29,421 in 1960-61. The main heads of expenditure were public health, public works, street-lighting and veterinary.

JANAPADA SABHA

Beginning

Unlike the Central Provinces and Berar, the princely States of Surguja, Korea and Changbhakar had no incorporated local authorities like District Councils of Local Boards for rural areas. Therefore, when these States were integrated in this Province, Janapada Sabhas were established for them on the 1st July, 1948. Instead of a tahsil each of these three States was constituted into a separate Janapada Sabha, irrespective of the number of tahsils it had. This accounts for a very wide difference in the size and population of these three Janapada Sabhas. The table below shows the size of these three Janapada Sabhas of Surguja District (including urban areas) and their population when they were constituted.

SURGUJA

Table No. XIV—2
Jurisdiction, Area and Population

Name of Janapada Sabha	Jurisdiction (Tahsil wise)	Total Area (in. sq. km.)		Population	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Surguja	1. Ambikapur	7.5	15,335	11,004	6,404
	2. Surajpur				
	3. Ramanuganj				
	4. Semri (Kusmi)				
Korea	1. Baikunthpur	5.00	3,193	7,993	1,36,21
	2. Manendragarh				
Changbhakar	1. Bharatpur	—	3,770	—	24,10

Thus, in constituting these Sabhas the only criterion observed was that the integrity of former States was to be maintained. The means of communications were very poor in these areas and the population was scattered over a large area. These resulted in hampering their progress.

Institutions

When these Sabhas were established in these integrated States of Surguja District, they had to begin from A. B. C, in all respects. They had no institutions of their own either to administer or to maintain. Therefore, the Government immediately transferred to them all Government institutions and functions in the compulsory and optional spheres mentioned in the Central Provinces and Berar Local Self-Government Act, 1948.

Unfortunately information about the various institutions that existed in these three Janapada Sabhas at the beginning is not available. The only available figures of the institution related to the total number of schools, number of dispensaries and number of veterinary dispensaries. The sub-joined table shows these numbers.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

Table No. XIV—3
Number of Transferred Institutions

Name of Janapada	No. of Schools	No. of Dispensaries	No. of Veterinary Dispensaries
Surguja	217	12	1
Korea	106	8	4
Changbhakar	28	4	1

Composition

As regards the composition of each of the three Janapada Sabhas of Surguja District it may be mentioned that the rural area of each of them was divided into electoral circles in 1951 as follows: Surguja Janapada Sabha 38, Korea Janapada Sabha 18, and Changbhakar Janapada Sabha 20. Janapada Sabha circles covered the urban and rural circles which elected the councillors of the Janapada Sabhas. The table below shows the number of councillors to be elected from the urban and rural circles of each Janapada Sabha:—

Table No. XIV—4
Number of Elected Councillors

Name of Janapada Sabha	No. of Councillors From	
	Urban Circle	Rural Circle
1. Surguja	1	38
2. Korea	2	18
3. Changbhakar	—	20

Allocation of the number of councillors which each municipal committee comprised in the urban circles of the respective Janapada Sabha was as shown below:—

Table No. XIV—5
Allocation of Elected Urban Councillors

Name of Janapada Sabha	Municipal Committee	No. of members
Surguja	Ambikapur or Ramanuganj	Jointly 1
Korea	Baikunthpur	1
	Manendragarh	1

Besides these elected members some councillors were selected and nominated. Till 1950 all the members were nominated throughout the province.

Finances, Financial Resources

Like the institutions, these three Janpada Sabhas had no assests to form the beginning of the Janapada authority and Janapada Funds. Therefore, the Government had given advance to them to enable them to start their work. These were subsequently covered into grants. As regards the financial resources of these Janapada Sabhas, it may be mentioned that, in general, the sources of income were not too many. The sources included market fees and taxes, fines from the cattle pound, miscellaneous sources and cess income (including grant). Of the total annual income of these Janapada Sabhas only about 10 per cent were normally realised from the first the sources while the balance which formed about 90 per cent was from grants received from the Government. It makes clear that these Sabhas were mainly dependent on the Government to finance their activities. Looking to the needs of these completely undeveloped areas their financial position was not found sound. The minimum closing annual balance fixed for these Janapada Sabha was as follows :—

Rs. 15,000 for Surguja and Korea and Rs. 5,000 for Changbhakar Janapada Sabhas. In 1960-61 the income and expenditure figures of these Janapada Sabhas were as given below :—

Table No. XIV—6

Financial Position, 1960-61

Name of the Janapada Sabha	Income in Rs.	Expenditure in Rs.
Surguja	12,58,857	11,52,397
Korea	4,89,732	5,07,863
Changbhakar	30,772	33,579

Source : District Census Hand Book, Surguja, 1961.

Cesses

It may be mentioned that for the purpose of realising market fees some markets were declared as public markets by the Janapada Sabhas of the District. Their Janapada-wise classification was as under :— 44 in Surguja, 6 in Korea and 1 in Changbhakar. As regards the different kinds of cesses which were being levied till the time of Janapada Enquiry Committee Madhya Pradesh, 1952, it was found that no cess was recovered from raiyats or tenants but an administrative cess at 20 per cent. of the *takoli* was recovered from *Khorpeshdars*, *Illakedars* etc. residing in Surguja Janapada area. In Korea Janapada area following cesses were levied during the period under review :—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
School cess	3.	2.	0.	per cent. of land revenue
Hospital cess	3.	2.	0.	—Do—
Road cess	3.	2.	0.	—Do—
Police cess	3.	2.	0.	—Do—
Total ...	12.	8.	0.	—Do—

These were recovered from all concerned including tenants.

Changbhakar Janapada Sabha levied cesses of the following order :—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Kotwali cess	0.	0.	3.	In the rupees.
School cess	0.	0.	6.	—Do—
Postal cess	0.	0.	6.	—Do—

and these were recovered from all concerned including tenants.

It is interesting to note that provisions of section 85 of the Act of 1948 under which compulsory cess was leviable were modified in its application to these areas in such a way that the tenants and ryots were excluded from its operation and cess was recovered only from the tenure-holders. When in 1951 intermediaries were abolished these taxable tenure holders too ceased to exist. But the Government compensated the Sabhas for the loss.

Other Income Services

On the recommendation of the Janapada Enquiry Committee, the Government decided to introduce the compulsory cess in these merged areas at the rate of 30 pies in a rupee. It was also decided that no additional cess would be there. Professional tax on income from non-agricultural sources was imposed. The Government also agreed to assign to Janapada Sabha a share in come from land revenue at the rate of 5 per cent.

Functions

Obligatory and discretionary functions allotted to the Janapada Sabha were the main heads of expenditure. The compulsory functions included establishment, management and maintenance of schools, hospitals, dispensaries and other measures of public medical relief, the control of epidemics, vaccination, establishment of rest houses, markets, management of cattle-pounds and ferries, construction and maintenance of roads, maintenance of veterinary dispensaries, etc. But the income of all the three Janapada Sabhas of Surguja District proved unequal to the proper performance of all the obligatory functions allotted to them. Optional duties included management of fairs, agriculture shows development of cottage industries, etc. But these too again remained unfulfilled due to paucity of funds. Income and expenditure figures of these Janapada Sabhas are appended at the end of this volume.

As regards the composition of each of the three Janapada Sabhas of Surguja District it may be mentioned that rural area of each of them was divided into electoral circles in 1951 as follows: Surguja Janapada Sabha—38, Korea Janapada Sabha 18 and Changbhakar Janapada Sabha—20. Janapada Sabha circles covered the urban and rural circles which elected the councillors of the Janapada Sabhas. The table below shows the number of councillors to be elected from the urban and rural circles of each Janapada Sabha.

Table No. XIV—7
No. of Elected Councillors

Name of Janapada Sabha	No. of Councillors From	
	Urban Circle	Rural Circle
Surguja	1	38
Korea	2	18
Changbhakar	—	20

Allocation of the number of councillors which each municipal committee comprised in the urban circles of the respective Janapada Sabha was as shown below :—

Table No. XIV—8
Allocation of Elected Urban Councillors

Name of Janapada Sabha	Municipal Committee	No. of members
Surguja	Ambikapur or Ramanujganj	Jointly 1
Korea	Baikunthpur	1
	Manendragarh	1

Besides these elected members some councillors were selected and nominated. Till 1950 all the members were nominated throughout the Province.

Working

In the beginning it was decided that the Janada Sabhas should consist of the standing committees. Subsequently, in 1953 one administrative committee, composed of one-third members of the Sabha excluding the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Janapada Sabha was created. These two latter office-bearers were chairman and vice-chairman of this new committee. This committee was removable by two-third strength of the Sabha. The number of standing committees was reduced to four from six. The Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Government was to function as a Janapada Executive Officer.

After elections to the Janapada Sabha the Sabha in its first meeting elected chairman and vice-chairman from among the members or from other persons residing in the respective Janapada area. The normal term of the Sabha was of five years.

Construction

The Janpada Sabha, Changbhakar completed construction of eleven wells at eleven places under its jurisdiction to provide water-supply. These were constructed at the cost of Rs. 12,508 during the years 1955-56 to 1959-60. The Sabha also sunk five wells during 1959-60 to 1961-62 at the cost of Rs. 3,962. Surguja Janapada Sabha utilised the grant in constructing hospital building and quarters in the premises of hospital. Allopathic dispensaries of Janapada Sabhas were taken over by the State Government in 1958 when provincialisation of allopathic dispensaries was ordered. The Janapada Sabha, Changbhakar opened two Hindi middle schools and 23 new primary schools, three Ayurvedic and one veterinary dispensaries during the first decade of its existence.

Under the three tier system of panchayats envisaged by the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act, 1962, all the Janapada Sabhas of Surguja District were reorganised as Janpada Panchayats at Block level.

Panchayats

The scheme of establishing village panchayats as village local self-Government unit was introduced in Surguja District after the integration of that region in Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Act, 1946 was made applicable to the District and village panchayats were established for carrying out municipal functions in their respective areas. In 1957 it was found that only 65 village panchayats were established in Surguja District. These were under the general control of respective Janapada Sabhas of the District. The latter bodies exercised supervision over the working of the panchayats at village level.

Constitution

The election of **panchas** of the village **panchayats** were held on the basis of adult franchise and by secret ballot. The number of **panchas** differed according to the population of the village. Normally their number ranged between 5 and 15. Besides, a **Patel** of the **panchayat** village was an *ex-officio panch* even though a maximum number of 15 **panchas** were working on the village **panchayat**. The term of **panchayats** was of five years. **Panchayat** is headed by a **sarpanch** elected by **panchas** from among themselves or from among the resident of **panchayat** village. **Sarpanch** nominated the deputy **sarpanch** from among the elected members or from the residents of the village. If the election of **sarpancha** and nomination of deputy **sarpanch** were delayed the Collector of the District was invested with power of nominating them.

On the ground of incompetence, neglect of duty, etc., the State Government was empowered to remove appointed **sarpanch** or deputy **sarpanch** appointed or nominated by such **sarpanch** or any appointed **panchas** and office-bearers. In the case of elected **sarpanch** it was laid down that no-confidence motion passed by two-third majority, could alone remove them. Janpada authority by two-third majority of the **panchayat** could remove any **panch** for various reasons.

Functions, Finance

Many obligatory and discretionary functions were entrusted to village **panchayats**. Among them figures mainly civic or municipal functions. But it was found that village **panchayats** had no adequate funds to carry out satisfactorily even the obligatory functions entrusted to them. The **panchayats** were empowered to levy various taxes like cess on land revenue or rent of land at the rate of six pies in the rupee, tax on all buildings and non-agricultural land to be recovered from the occupier or the owner, professional tax, trade tax, licence fees from broker, etc. These were compulsory taxes. They were also allowed to levy certain, discretionary taxes, tolls, fees or rates with the previous sanction of the prescribed authority. But these **panchayats** failed to tap all the sources, taxes and fees leviable by them. The net position was that their income source proved inadequate to provide the minimum services expected of **panchayats**.

As regards share of land revenue and grant-in-aid to these bodies, it was found that 5 per cent. of the land revenue was credited to the village development fund. The village **panchayat** could draw from this fund an amount equal to 5 per cent. of its own land revenue for any constructive activity, provided the village **panchayat** contributed like amount in cash or in labour in lieu thereof.

(2) The duty imposed under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 was increased by half per cent. on the value of property situated in the village **panchayat** area and about one-half of the amount collected on account of such increase was paid to these **Panchayats**.

(3) An initial non-recurring grant of Rs. 200 to every newly constituted village **panchayat**.

(4) 50 per cent. grant for development work.

(5) 75 per cent. for water supply and 66 per cent. for construction of roads.

Respective Janapada Sabha which exercised general control over village **panchayats**, were the final authority for approval of the budget of village **panchayats**, falling under their jurisdiction.

There were 407 **gram panchayats** working in the District of Surguja in 1965 when members were elected, selected, co-opted, nominated or appointed. The number of **panchas** varied from **panchayat** to **panchayat** and it ranged from 10 to 23 including a women *panch* and *panchas* belonging to the Scheduled Castes and/or the Scheduled Tribes.

The Director of Panchayats and Social Welfare supervises and controls the activities of **gram panchayats** with the assistance of his subordinate officers and other staff. He also looks after the programme of social education and social welfare which are being implemented through the medium of **gram panchayats**.

Nyaya Panchayats

Like village **panchayats**, **nyaya panchayat**, entrusted with judicial functions, were established in Surguja District under the Madhya Pradesh Panchayats Act then in force.

Generally, two or three **Nyaya Panchayats**, were established in one Revenue Inspector's circle. Each **Nyaya Panchayat** had within its jurisdiction not less than three **gram panchayats** and the number of villages ranged between 20 to 30. In 1957 their number was 12 in the District. The **panchas** of a **nyaya panchayat** are nominated by the Government from amongst the members of **gram panchayats** within its jurisdiction and their number was not less than five **panchas**. The **sarpanch** is appointed by the Government from among the **panchas** of **nyaya-panchayat** and he in turn appoints the **up-sarpanch**. The term of **nyaya panchayat** is of five years.

Other details of these bodies are given in Chapter XII of this volume.

Spread of Education among Women

In an educationally backward District like Surguja, female education was pathetically low. This was partly due to the indifferent, and even hostile, attitude of the people towards education. In 1909 there was only one girls' primary school in the District that existed in Surguja State, with 73 students. The pace of progress in the sphere of girls' education was so slow that in 1931 besides one primary school in Surguja State, one more such institution was in existence in Korea State, with 51 and 29 students, respectively.

After the merger of the States, particular attention was paid towards the problem of female education. As a result of the concerted efforts in this direction, the number of girl students in primary schools increased to 2,317 in 1951, and to 8,628 in 1960-61. At the end of the Third Five Year Plan their number further increased to 18,936 in 1965-66, and to 23,490 in 1967-68. The number of teachers in these institutions also increased from 40 in 1951 to 65 in 1960-61. Similarly, their number in Middle Schools increased from 5 in 1951 to 90 in 1960-61 to 624 in 1965-66 and to an impressive total of 1,938 in 1967-68. In Higher Secondary Schools also the number of girl students increased from 266 in 1960-61 to 853 in 1965-66, and to 1,357 in 1967-68.

Literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The spread of literacy among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been rather slow. In 1961 out of the total Scheduled Castes population of 60,276, only 3,228 were literate. In terms of percentage, only 5.3 per cent of the Scheduled Castes were literate, compared with 9.15 per cent for the general population of the District. Of this male literacy was as high as 9.6 per cent, while literacy among the Scheduled Castes females was pathetically low, i.e. only 1.04 per cent.

Similarly, out of the total Scheduled Tribes population of 5,76,288 in the District in 1961, only 24,467 were literates. In other words, only 4.2 per cent. of them were literates. Of this percentage, 7.6 per cent males, and 0.8 per cent females were literates.

General Education

The peculiar topography and socio-economic conditions of the District have played a significant part in slowing down the progress of education. It is in this background, coupled with the social and economic habits of the tribal people, that the progress of education should be viewed in the District. Since the merger of the States, however, special efforts

have been made to pull the District out of the morass of extreme backwardness, and to bring it at par with the more advanced districts of the State.

Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary education is preparatory to primary education, and is a recent innovation. It seeks to inculcate among children of age group 3-6 years, proper habits of health and social behaviour. In the year 1960-61 there were 2 Pre-primary Schools in the District, with 48 pupils, of whom 47 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. An amount of Rs. 3,675 was spent on these institutions, which had 2 trained female teachers. Five years later, i.e., in 1965-66 the number of Pre-primary Schools increased to 4, with a total of 123 pupils, of whom 47 were boys and 76 girls. One of these was managed by the Government and the remaining three by private bodies. They were looked after by 1 trained male teacher and 3 untrained female teachers, and an amount of Rs. 5,485 was given as grant-in-aid to them. In that year, while the number of the Scheduled Tribes pupils declined to 13, for the first time 10 pupils belonging to the Scheduled Castes sought admission. The number of schools went up to 5 in 1967-68, with 215 pupils on the roll. One peculiar feature of Pre-primary education in Surguja was that there was preponderance of girls in these institutions. Thus, out of 215 pupils, 117 were girls. Again, of the total number of pupils, 32 belonged to the Scheduled Tribes and 12 to the Scheduled Castes. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 6,240 incurred that year, Rs. 5,195 was received as grant-in-aid.

Primary and Junior Basic Education

The spread of primary education in the District up to the year 1951 has already been dealt with earlier. It was only after the merger of the three princely States and, particularly during the Five Year Plan periods that real emphasis was placed on the expansion of primary and junior basic education. The number of these institutions increased from 393 in 1951 to 500 in 1955-56 (end of the 1st Plan), and to 953 in 1960-61 (end of the 2nd Plan). During the same period the number of students increased from 25,201 in 1955-56 to 48,133 in 1960-61. At the same time the number of teachers rose from 1,378 in 1955-56 to 1,734 in 1960-61. In the year 1960-61 the total expenditure on these schools amounted to Rs. 21,31,684. The Third Five Year Plan period witnessed a tremendous spurt of education, when the number of students reached a record figure of 80,370 and the number of schools and teachers increased to 1,307 and 2,126, respectively. During the course of the next two years, i.e., in 1967-68 the number of students further increased to 83,734 and the number of schools and teachers to 1,338 and 2,669. Out of 1,338 institutions in 1967-68, there were 121 Junior Basic Schools, with 8,886 scholars and 297 teachers. Total expenditure on these increased to Rs. 34,069 in 1965-66.

headquarters of the State and is making satisfactory progress". A sum of only Rs. 247 was spent on education. The number of primary schools increased to three in 1916, of which two were private schools. The cause of education received a set-back when, in 1921, we find only one school in existence at Bharatpur, the head-quarters of the State. No further progress was recorded during the next decade and in 1931, there continued only one primary school in the State, with 52 pupils.

The merger of these States in the Central Provinces and Berar (later called Madhya Pradesh) and creation of Surguja District gave great impetus to the spread of education. In 1951, the number of Primary Junior Basic Schools went up to 393, with 23,300 scholars on the rolls, and 1250 teachers. In the same year, there were 19 Middle Schools, Higher Secondary and Senior Basic Schools, with a total of 626 and 262 students, respectively.

Literacy and Educational Standards

In 1951, the percentage of literacy in rural and urban areas of the tahsils of Surguja District was very low. Out of the seven tahsils of the District, Baikunthpur had the highest urban literacy (41.30 per cent) and Pal the lowest literacy (23.05 per cent), while in rural areas of these tahsils, Manendragarh had the highest literacy (9.60 per cent), and Surajpur the lowest (0.68 per cent). In terms of literacy in 1961, Pal and Surajpur tahsils continued to be the most backward in their respective areas, as before.

In 1961, in terms of literacy in the rural areas, Surguja was the fifth least literate district in the State and was also the least literate in Bilaspur Division. It had a literacy rate of 9.15 per cent., as compared to the State average of 17.13 per cent. While literacy amongst males was 15.39 per cent. the females lagged far behind with a percentage of only 2.62. In 1961 the District had a total population of 10,36,738 persons, of whom 5,30,166 were males and 5,06,572 were females. Of these, 81,590 males and 13,276 females were literate. It is also worth mentioning that while literacy in the urban areas of the District stood at 39.44 per cent, it was only 7.81 per cent in the rural areas.

During the decade 1961-71, the general literacy rate in the District advanced from 9.15 per cent in 1961 to 12.77 per cent in 1971. While male literacy increased from 15.39 per cent in 1961 to 20.38 per cent in 1971, the female literacy increased at a faster pace from 2.62 per cent in 1961 to 4.89 per cent in 1971.

The following table shows the progress of education during the decade :—

Table No. XV—1
Literate Population

	Total Population			Literate and Educated Population		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1961	10,36,738	5,30,166	5,06,572	94,866	81,590	13,276
1971	13,26,439	6,75,042	6,51,397	1,69,388	1,37,554	31,834

Educational Standards

As against 1,307 persons who possessed educational qualifications equivalent to Matriculation and above in 1951, there were 4,805 persons who possessed such educational qualifications in 1961. The following table gives the classification of literate and educated persons in the District in 1961 :—

Table No. XV—2
Educational Standards, 1961

	Persons	Males	Females
1. Literate, without educational level.	67,471	57,340	10,131
2. Primary or Junior Basic.	22,590	19,831	2,759
3. Matriculation and above.	4,805	4,419	386

Out of the above figures, 6,917 males and 3,301 females were literates, 3,705 males and 1,064 females were educated up to primary or junior basic standard. and 1626 males and 210 females were educated up to Matriculation standard in the urban areas of the District.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The ruins of innumerable temples some of which date back to a very early age, have been discovered at Dipadih, Deogarh, Kudargarh, inside Juba fortress, Koreagarh hill and Harchanka. The caves, paintings, temples, sculptures and on Ramgarh hill a *natya shala* (amphitheatre) believed to be the oldest stage of performing arts in the country, go to show that this region was a cultural centre in the Epic and the Classical ages.

On account of remoteness and hilly nature of the tract, and consequent lack of communications, the state of education in Surguja District, comprising three former feudatory States, namely, Surguja, Korea and Chang Bhakar, was unsatisfactory. The inaccessibility of the areas, predominantly inhabited by the tribals, perhaps, proved a serious impediment for spreading education.

When Surguja, Korea and Changbhakar feudatory States amongst others, were transferred in 1905 from the political control of the Bengal Government to the charge of the Central Provinces Government, education in these States presented a dismal picture. Thus, in Surguja State, with a population of over 3.5 lakhs and an area of over 6000 sq. miles, the number of schools was only 8 and the number of scholars was 171.

In Korea State, with a population of over 35,000 and an area of over 1600 sq. miles, there was in existence no school worthy of the name. In Changbhakar, with an area of over 900 sq. miles and a population of about 20,000, there were nominally two schools with 24 pupils.¹

Surguja State

As a result of the serious attempts made during the next two or three years to reach the people, the situation showed some improvement. In Surguja the number of schools rose from 8 in 1905 to 14 in 1907 and the number of scholars rose from 171 to 1004, and the total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1797². During the next two years i.e., in 1909 the number of schools further increased to 24, of which 2 were private and one was a girl's school. At the same time the number of scholars rose to 1713 and expenditure increased to Rs. 5402. An English Middle

School was also opened at the headquarters and a Deputy Inspector was appointed to supervise education in the State¹. Competent and certified teachers were appointed to look after these schools². The special feature of education in Surguja was that it was provided free of cost, and the entire expenditure was borne by the State.

Education institutions continued to make slow but steady progress in the State. In 1916 the number of schools increased to 27, including one High School, and the expenditure on education increased to Rs. 10,385. During the year, 65 boys were successful in Primary Examination³. In the year 1921, one boy passed the Matriculation Examination, out of two sent up. Although the number of schools decreased to 26 in 1922, the expenditure on education increased to Rs. 24,185, indicating provision of better amenities to the students⁴. In the year 1931, there were 36 schools in the State, including 1 High School, 1 Girls' School and a Sanskrit Pathshala⁵.

Korea State

There appears to have been gradual progress in the spread of education in Korea State. In 1907 there were 4 schools, with 277 scholars on the roll. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 602. In the year 1909, while the number of schools increased to 7, the number of scholars rose to 518, on whom Rs. 1478 were spent during the year. At the same time one primary school at Baikunthpur was raised to the level of a Middle School⁶. During the next five or six years the number of schools nearly doubled to 13 in 1916, with 815 enrolment, and an expenditure of Rs. 5,262. A decade and a half later, i.e., in 1931, the total number of schools stood at 23, with 1,133 scholars and an expenditure of Rs. 7,865.

Changbhakar State

In some areas of the District, as in Changbhakar State (present Bharatpur tahsil), the people seem to have been hostile to education. This is evident from the account given in the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer (1909)⁷. It records, "Education is very backward in the State. The aborigines are averse to sending their boys to school and the boys themselves are reluctant to attend. The result is that three out of four schools that were opened in the State, had to be closed for lack of support. In 1907, however, a primary school was opened at the

1. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, 1905, pp. 22, 26 and 27.

2. Ibid 1907, p. 25

1. Ibid. 1909, p. 10.

2. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, 1909 p. 257.

3. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces 1916, p. 7.

4. Ibid. 1922, p. 7.

5. Ibid. pp. 48-49.

6. Ibid. 1907, p. 30.

7. Ibid. 1909, p. 25

While the details of the progress have been given in the Appendix, the following table depicts the expansion of primary education during the Plan periods :—

Table No. XV—3
Primary and Junior Basic Education

Year	No. of Schools	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
1951-52	393	23,300	1,250
1955-56	500	25,201	1,378
1960-61	953	48,133	1,734
1965-66	1,307	80,370	2,126
1967-68	1,338	83,734	2,669

Middle School Education

The expansion of primary education, necessitated upgrading more and more Primary Schools to the Middle School level. In 1951, there were 19 Middle Schools, with 631 students on the rolls, and 67 teachers. And although there was no change in the number of institutions at the end of the First Five Year Plan i.e., 1955-56 but the total enrolment and teachers increased to 2,757 and 101, respectively. During the Second Plan period, there was remarkable increase both in the number of schools as well as students. From 19 schools in 1955-56, the figures rose to 52, with 2,258 pupils and 151 teachers in 1960-61. There was an expenditure of 2,99,347 on these institutions in that year. At the end of the Third Plan (1965-66), the number of Middle Schools stood at 126, while the number of students more than doubled to an impressive total of 4,964. The number of teachers also increased to 309, with a total expenditure of Rs. 4,17,341 on these schools. In the year 1968-69, the number of Middle Schools in Surguja District further swelled to 158, with 7,190 students and 438 teachers. Details of the progress of middle school education are given in the Appendix.

Secondary School Education

As in case of primary and middle school education, the secondary school education had a slow growth in the District. In the beginning of the First Five Year Plan, i.e., in 1951, there were only 4 Higher Secondary Schools in the District, with 315 students in all, including 53 female

students, and 47 male teachers. Throughout the Plan period not a single new school was opened in the District, yet the number of students swelled to 1,769, including 96 girls, with 67 male teachers. The real progress in this sphere was made during the Second Plan period when 7 new Higher Secondary Schools were added, 1 in 1956 and 2 each in 1958, 1959 and 1960. Thus at the end of the Plan period (1960-61) there were 11 Higher Secondary Schools, with 2,473 students and 156 teachers, of whom for the first time 16 were female teachers. The Third Plan period witnessed remarkable progress in the sphere of secondary education, when in 1965-66, the number of schools and students shot up to 24 and 6,758 respectively. At the same time the number of teachers increased to 290. During the next two years further progress was recorded. In 1967-68, there were 30 schools, with 7,943 students and 361 teachers. A table, detailing progress in the sphere of secondary school education is given in the Appendix.

Senior Basic Education

There are two types of Basic Schools in the District. Senior Basic Schools and Junior Basic Schools have been discussed under the category of primary education. In all these institutions, providing basic education, teaching of crafts forms an important part of the curriculum. In 1965-66 there were 5 Senior Basic Schools, of which 2 were under Government management and 3 were under the Local Bodies. The total enrolment in these schools was 537, including 8 girls. There were 16 male teachers to impart education, and the total expenditure was Rs. 44,661. In 1967-68, while the number of schools remained the same, the enrolment decreased to 468, including 6 girls, and the number of teachers increased to 25. The expenditure on these institutions amounted to Rs. 43,884.

Colleges

Prior to the year 1953 there was no provision of College education in the District. Now there are two Degree Colleges and a Post-Graduate College, imparting instructions in Arts, Science and Commerce faculties. All these institutions are affiliated to the Ravi Shankar University, Raipur. A brief descriptions of each of these colleges is given below.

Lahiri College, Chirimiri

The first institution of higher learning in the District was the Lahiri College. It was founded at Chirimiri, in 1953, by Korea Coalfield Education Society, headed by late B. B. Lahiri. Beginning as an Intermediate institution, it was upgraded, in 1956, to Degree standard in Arts. Later, in 1958, it got affiliation in B. Sc. and B. Com. courses. It is now a full-fledged Degree College in Arts, Science and Commerce

faculties. The College fulfilled a long felt need for the higher education of the Adivasis and low income group people, employed in different collieries. In 1958-59 the College had an income of Rs. 1,75,692 and expenditure of Rs. 2,46,004. Ten years later, in 1968-69 the total income was Rs. 2,02,595 and expenditure was Rs. 1,97,076.

Government Degree College, Ambikapur

The Government Degree College, Ambikapur was established in July, 1960. The College provided facilities for education upto degree standard in all the three faculties—Arts, Science and Commerce. In the year 1968-69, postgraduate teaching in Economics was started, and in the following year post-graduate teaching in Hindi was also provided. In 1972-73 post-graduate classes in English, and Commerce as well as in Botany were also started. The College had a strength of 137 students in all, in the year 1960-61, which increased to 383 in 1965-66 and to 609 in 1971-72. The expenditure on the institute increased from Rs. 1,18,938 in 1960-61, to Rs. 1,86,122 in 1970-71. The following table depicts the number of students in the different faculties and the number of teachers in the college during the last twelve years:—

Table No. XV—4

Progress of Government Degree College, Ambikapur

Year	No. of Students			No. of Teachers
	Arts	Science	Commerce	
1960-61	41	51	45	13
1965-66	158	188	37	31
1971-72	395	143	71	33

The College has a library of its own, catering to the needs of students in different branches of learning. It also has a hostel, providing accomodation to 50 students.

H. C. Home Science College, Ambikapur

This College was started at Ambikapur on 14th November, 1971 by M. P. Holy Cross Sisters Association. The institution provides teaching for degree courses in Home Science and Arts. In the year 1971-72 there were 89 students on the rolls for both the courses. During the year an expenditure of Rs. 1,04,333 was incurred. The building for the Home Science College has been constructed with the help of the Swiss Government, and the headquarters of the Association in Switzerland.

Professional and Technical Education

Industrial Training Institute, Ambikapur

With a view to providing technical training to the educated unemployed in the District, the Industrial Training Institute was opened at Ambikapur on 1st August, 1963. Opened in collaboration with the Government of India, 60 per cent of the expenditure was shared by it, and the rest was borne by the State Government. Now the entire expenditure on the Institute is borne by the State Government. In the beginning, 124 trainees were admitted in 6 Trades. The number of Trades in which training was being given in the Institute went up to 12 in 1971. They are being trained as Electrician, Wireman, Fitter, Pattern-Maker, Carpenter, Blacksmith, Turner, Welder, Moulder, Machinist, Composite Motor Mechanic and in Sheetmetal. The total admissions in 1971 went up to 172, against the provision of 348 seats.

The trainees are provided hostel facilities free of cost. They are also provided with free dresses for working in the work shop, and are not required to pay any fee for training. Besides other facilities, an Adivasi or a Harijan student is given scholarship at the rate of Rs. 45 per month. The total expenditure on the Institute increased from Rs. 20,111 in 1963-64 to Rs. 3,06,559 in 1971-72. A detailed information on the progress of this institute is given in the Appendix.

Libraries

The District Library was established at Ambikapur on 15th July, 1955. In 1970-71, it had a total membership of 318 members which swelled to 370 in the following year. The number of volumes in the Library increased from 6,869 in 1970-71 to 8,561 in 1971-72. A total amount of Rs. 4,529 was spent in the library in 1971-72, in which year it subscribed to 86 periodicals and journals.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Facilities in Early Times

In the former Surguja State in 1905, there was a dispensary at Bistrampur. The number of patients treated during the year was 2,213. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,810. Since the close of the year the feudatory chief had opened a new dispensary building. Vaccinations numbered 19,386 and the cost of vaccination establishment was Rs. 462¹. In the same year the expenditure under this head in Korea State was merely Rs. 40.² In that year there was no dispensary in Changbhakar State. The average number of vaccinations performed was 847³.

The dispensary at the present district headquarters was opened in 1906. This was named Laurie Dispensary, after the name of H. M. Laurie, who was Political Agent in Surguja when this institution was opened. It was manned by two Hospital Assistants, a compounder and other necessary staff⁴.

There was a bad epidemic of smallpox in Surguja in 1907. Good progress was made in vaccination, and the dispensaries, in which the chief took much interest were attended by a large number of patients. The number of patients treated at the State Dispensary in this year increased from 2,470 to 3,013, while the surgical operations performed increased from 32 to 40. Vaccinations rose from 5,043 to 8,369. The total expenditure on medical and vaccination establishments, etc., was Rs. 2,323 and Rs. 544 respectively⁵.

During this year a dispensary was opened and a Hospital Assistant appointed in Korea State at the headquarters town of Baikunthpur. Medicines worth Rs. 464 were purchased and supplied. A vaccinator was also appointed. The number of patients treated was 467 and the number of children vaccinated was 319. The number of births and deaths reported was 981 and 519 respectively. The expenditure on establishment etc. was Rs. 616⁶.

The Changbhakar State could provide the services of a vaccinator⁷ alone. At that time vaccination was not compulsory in any of these states⁸.

1. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, 1905, p. 22.
2. *ibid.* p. 26.
3. *ibid.* p. 27.
4. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 257.
5. *ibid.* p. 25.
6. *ibid.* p. 30.
7. *ibid.* p. 32.
8. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 304.

In 1908, the number of patients treated at the dispensary rose slightly from 3,013 to 3,040, surgical operations from 40 to 71 and vaccinations from 5,043 to 5,163 in Surguja. The total expenditure on medical and vaccination establishments, etc., was Rs. 2,922¹. These vaccinations were done by a staff of vaccinators employed in the interior of the State. Apart from done by a staff of vaccinated 552 persons².

In Korea State the total number of patients treated at the Baikunthpur dispensary was 2,115 in 1908. During the year 38 operations were also performed. The expenditure on medicines was reduced to Rs. 114 as against Rs. 464 in the preceding year. The expenditure on the dispensary was Rs. 854 as against Rs. 616 in 1907. The total number of vaccination rose from 319 in 1907 to 784 in 1908.

The number of births and deaths reported during the year 1908 was 1,265 and 1,435 respectively. The reason for high mortality was the outbreaks of cholera and smallpox which lasted for some months³.

Since 1912, though there was no municipality, there was a committee in Surguja State to look after the conservancy and sanitation of the headquarters town of Ambikapur. The dispensary at Ambikapur treated 5,184 patients in 1912, the cost of its maintenance amounted to Rs. 2,991. As many as 4,937 persons were vaccinated at a cost of Rs. 314. Births and deaths during the year declined from 5,708 and 3,587 to 5,214 and 2,998 respectively⁴.

The Baikunthpur dispensary in Korea State treated in all 2,326 patients in this year and performed 57 operations. The number of births and deaths also fell to 1,663 and 967 respectively. In all 2,058 children were vaccinated. The decrease was attributed to a failure in the supply of lymph. The expenditure on this work rose from Rs. 300 to Rs. 422⁵.

In Changbhakar, 246 deaths were attributed to malaria during the same year. Births and deaths numbered 464 and 240, respectively. The number of vaccinations fell to 514 and the expenditure on this account was only Rs. 23. Though there was no dispensary, yet there were two physicians and patients were treated free⁶.

1. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, 1908, p. 9.
2. Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer, p. 257.
3. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, for the year 1908, p. 26.
4. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, 1912, pp. 7-8.
5. *ibid.* p. 30.
6. *ibid.* p. 28.

During the year 1916 a new dispensary was opened at Chandni. Thus there were ten dispensaries in Surguja State, which were maintained at a cost of Rs. 4,632. The number of patients treated and operations performed rose to 7,768 and 137, respectively. Vaccinations increased to 7,392. Births and deaths declined to 2,061 and 1,600 respectively¹.

In the only dispensary of Korea State at Baikunthpur the number of patients treated rose to 15,116 in 1916 with 178 operations. During the year, 11 cases of injuries caused by tigers were treated, and 9 of the recovered. Expenditure increased to Rs. 3,415, owing to the high price of medicines. Vaccinations numbered 2,163².

In Changbhakar State 665 children were vaccinated in that year. There was a doctor at headquarters, though still without a dispensary. Medicines were supplied to the people free of cost. Births and deaths numbered 352 and 268 respectively.

In 1917 a new dispensary was opened at Sitapur, making 3 dispensaries in the state maintained at a cost of Rs. 4,547. The number of patients treated fell to 7,076. Major and minor operations were 5 and 187, while vaccinations totalled 6,499. Births and deaths rose to 3,571³ and 3,411⁴, respectively.

The fully equipped dispensary in Korea State in this year treated 16,005 patients and the major and minor operations performed were 31 and 159 respectively. Nine cases of injuries by tigers were treated of which 8 proved successful. The expenditure decreased to Rs. 2,873. The birth and death rates were 30.86 and 21.73 per mile. Vaccinations numbered 2,164⁵. A total of 549 vaccinations were performed in Changbhakar State in this year. Births and deaths numbered 296 and 238⁶.

In Surguja State, the year 1918 was exceptionally bad as the influenza epidemic caused great mortality; cattle disease and smallpox inflicted a further loss on the people. There were 3 dispensaries in the State, but only 2 remained open during the year at a cost of Rs. 3,461. The number of patients was 9,675 and that of major and minor operations 5 and 97, respectively. Vaccinations totalled 4,782 and births and deaths 3,866 and 8,716 respectively⁷.

1. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, 1918, p. 7.
2. *ibid.* p. 32.
3. *ibid.* p. 26.
4. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1917, pp. 6-7.
5. *ibid.* p. 32.
6. *ibid.* p. 24.
7. Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1918, p. 7.

In the dispensary at Baikunthpur 22,656 patients were treated in this year. In all 18 major and 110 minor operations were performed. Of the former, 10 were on account of injuries caused by tigers, 9 of these cases were successfully treated. The expenditure increased to Rs. 4,860. The birth and death rates were 25.80 and 101.61 per mille. Vaccinations declined to 824¹.

Indian medicines and quinine supplied free by the Changbhakar State were dispensed by an Indian doctor at the headquarters. Vaccinations numbered 228. The decrease was due to the absence of the vaccinator. Births and deaths were 311 and 942, respectively in this year².

During the year 1919, out of the three, only one dispensary worked throughout the year for want of Medical Assistants in Surguja. The Branch dispensary at Sitapur was transferred to Samri. The number of patients declined to 5,703. Major and minor operations performed were 7 and 113. Vaccinations numbered 4,433 and births and deaths 2,531 and 6,826. The total departmental cost amounted to Rs. 3,461³.

In Baikunthpur, the headquarters town of Korea State, the number of patients treated in this year was 22,911. In all 101 operations were also performed. Of the former, 9 were on account of injuries caused by tigers, 6 of which proved successful. The expenditure decreased to Rs. 3,933. The number of births and deaths reported were 1,009 and 2,266. Vaccinations increased to 2,116⁴.

In Changbhakar, 492 children were vaccinated. Births and deaths numbered 606 and 624⁵ respectively.

The conservancy committee, in charge of sanitation at Ambikapur, received Rs. 565 and spent Rs. 540 in 1921. In this year there was only one dispensary as against 3 in 1920, 2 being closed for want of doctors. The number of patients treated was 6,448 as against 17,084 in the preceding year on account of the closure of the two dispensaries, only 99 operations were performed. Vaccinations numbered 6,936 and births and deaths 6,341 and 5,363 as against 3,941 and 4,045 respectively, in the preceding year. The total cost decreased from Rs. 10,955 to Rs. 9,170⁶.

The progress made in the field of public health in the 'twenties' was at par with that of the previous decade. The yearwise details for the three states, for the period 1905-30 taken together, may be summarised as below.

1. *ibid.* p. 32.
2. *ibid.* p. 21.
3. *ibid.* 1919, p. 8.
4. *ibid.* p. 32.
5. *ibid.* p. 24.
6. *Ibid.* 1921, p. 11-12.

'One hospital each at Ambikapur, Sitapur and Bohla were functioning under able doctors in Surguja State. There was one peripatetic dispensary under a separate doctor who used to provide treatment to the patients at their respective residences in the entire State. On an average, 10 to 12 thousand patients were treated in these hospitals who received medicines as well. 8 vaccinators were appointed who used to vaccinate 5 to 7 thousand persons every year¹.'

In Korea State, there was only one hospital at the capital Baikunthpur till 1928 in which about 20 to 21 thousand of patients were treated every year. School teachers, Patwaris and Policemen used to distribute quinine in the villages in the usual malarial season in the rainy days every year. About two thousand vaccinations per year was the average yearly estimate. This was performed by duly appointed vaccinators in the form of door to door service in each village. In 1929 a branch dispensary was opened at Khargawan².

There was no hospital in the entire Changbhakar State till 1930. But there was a *vaidya* at Bharatpur, who used to distribute Indian and European medicines to the needy. The people in general were used to traditional local treatments by herbs etc³. In this connection, the following remark pertaining to that time is worth mentioning. "The people are extremely healthy and appear quite satisfied with their own remedies for their small ailments⁴."

The office of the Civil Surgeon was established as early as 1931 and it still continues to function effectively with varied responsibilities entrusted upon it with the pace of time.

During 1931-1947 various civic bodies were established which started public health activities as their main function. The municipalities at Ambikapur, Baikunthpur, Ramanujganj and Manendragarh were established during years 1939 to 1943. Public health activities were among some of the most important and obligatory duties of these civic bodies.

The Janapada scheme was introduced in 1948, and there were 3 Janapadas in the district, one each at the state headquarters of the 3 merging states. The Janapadas also did commendable work as far as the public health activities were concerned. In 1952 there were 12, 8 and 4 dispensaries run respectively by Surguja, Korea and Changbhakar Janapada Sabhas⁵. The Town Area Committee, Chirimiri spent a sum of over Rs 12,000 in the decade 1951-52 to 1960-61. In 1962-63 this committee was converted into a Gram Panchayat.

1. Raghbir Prasad, *Zharkhand Zankar*, p. 50.

2. *ibid.* pp. 144-45.

3. *ibid.* p. 169.

4. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, p. 315.

5. S. M. Sinhdoo, *Surguja ka Aitihāsik Prishtha*, p. 66.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Vital Statistics

On an average about 10,000 persons of each sex took birth every year during the period 1954-71. Out of this about 10 per cent. were born in the urban areas. However, males always outnumbered females in this respect. It is evident from the figures given in the Appendix that the birth rate, death rate and especially the infant death rate have been the same for all practical purposes in most of the year in rural areas vis-a-vis the entire area of the District. These figures are more for the urban areas alone, where people take shelter in large numbers for securing maternity, nursing and treatment benefits.

Formerly the Municipal Committees and similar bodies recorded births and deaths in respect of urban areas and submitted a statement to the Civil Surgeon. The vital occurrences were also reported to the nearest police stations, from where the report was passed on to the Civil Surgeon. In the rural areas the Kotwars reported vital events to the Station Houses for onward transmission to the Civil Surgeon. The Civil Surgeon compiled separate figures for rural and urban areas and transmitted the same to the Director of Health Services, Bhopal.

Present Set-up

With effect from 1st April, 1970 the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, XVIII of 1969, promulgated by the Government of India, came into force in Madhya Pradesh. The Station Officers in rural areas have been declared Registrars of Births and Deaths under the Act. So also, in urban areas, the Chief Municipal Officers, the Health Officers of Corporations and Town Administrators of Public Sector Undertakings began to function as Registrars of Births and Deaths. They send monthly returns of vital occurrences to the District Registrar (District Statistical Officer). The District Registrar compiles figures and sends them to the Chief Registrar of Births and Deaths (Director of Economics and Statistics), Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

Important causes of mortality

Fever and smallpox have been the most important causes of mortality in the District in the decade 1951-61. Smallpox was later on controlled. The other causes were Cholera, dysentery, tuberculosis, prenatal and post

natal complication, injuries, etc. The following table shows the number of deaths from various causes for a few selected years during the period 1954-72.

TABLE No. XVI—1
Deaths in the District from some selected causes 1954-72

Causes	1954	1956	1961	1966	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cholera	14	180	3	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	721	219	2,370	—	57	67	28	119
Fever	10,621	11,880	7,402	7,151	5,524	4,943	5,706	6,974
Dysentery	118	222	162	205	602	648	529	783
To B.	1	1	9	116	116	159	115	15
Injuries	N.A.	10	110	—	445	184	322	373
Natal and Post Natal	1	N.A.	26	—	31	16	27	84

Source: Civil Surgeon and D.S.O. Surguja.

Diseases Common to the District

Smallpox

As memory is short, it is probably hardly recognized now, what a terror this disease was at one time, but the name of the goddess Mata Devi remains as historical evidence and in a few remote places even now any interference with her ministrations is deeply resented by the villager.

The operation of primary vaccination is now accepted by the vast bulk of the people. This affords protection for a limited period, say upto 7 or 10 years of age. For complete eradication of the disease, revaccination at the age of 10 years must also be compulsory.¹ Vaccination statistics during the period 1951-61 are given below :—

Table No. XVI—2
Vaccination Statistics (1951-1974)

Year	Number of Vaccinations	Number of revaccinations
1951	4,365	15,060
1956	30,502	83,128
1961	52,694	69,525
1971	67,558	1,85,919

1. Recent Sanitary Developments in the Central Provinces, 1915, pp. 16-17.

The National Smallpox Eradication Programme was launched in the State from 1st December, 1962. In the year 1961-62 again Surguja was one of the 7 districts which were comparatively highly infected. Intensive vaccination campaign (primary and re-vaccination) was launched in the rural and urban areas¹.

Ambikapur was the headquarters of one of the 11 units of Smallpox Eradication Programme opened in the State in 1962-63. It catered to the needs of adjoining tahsils and districts. Upto the 31st of January, 1963 about 8 per cent. of the population under jurisdiction was covered. In the first stage it was serving a population of about 14 lakhs which was nearly doubled in the second phase². By the end of December, 1963 over a million vaccinations were performed³ and the percentage of population covered was 74. In Ambikapur, and surrounding areas, 78.7 per cent. of the population was covered, vaccinating and re-vaccinating over 4,20,000 persons.⁴

Upto the 31st of October, 1964 about 65 per cent. of the population of the entire District was vaccinated. The number of vaccinations rose to 6,83,000⁵. Again, upto the end of October, 1965, 8,66,000 vaccinations were performed, covering 77.1 per cent. population⁶. This percentage rose to somewhere between 80 to 95 per cent. in the District in the following year⁷, when National Smallpox Eradication week was celebrated from 25th September to 1st October, 1966⁸.

In 1967, the number of persons suffering from smallpox was 63. Out of them 15 died⁹. The percentage of vaccination still improved in this year. It was somewhere between 90 and 95. Later on, the National Smallpox Eradication week was celebrated from 6th November to 12th November every year. In 1969-70, 34 persons suffered from this disease, out of which 9 died¹⁰.

Malaria

There are probably very few persons who have not passed through the unpleasant experience of an attack of malaria and probably had several relapses afterwards. This disease is capable of producing havoc when it appears in a virulent form among the poorer classes and especially among children. The disease is endemic, i.e., is always present in a very large part of the forest area¹.

1. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department M. P. 1961, p. 27.
2. *ibid.* 1962-63, pp. 27-31.
3. *ibid.* 1963 p. 24.
4. *ibid.* p. 25.
5. *Svasthya Vibhag ki Sakriyata ka Sankshipta Vivaran*, 1964.
6. *ibid.* 1965, p. 25.
7. *ibid.* 1966, p. 15.
8. *ibid.* p. 16.
9. *ibid.* 1967, pp. 16-18.
10. *Lok Svasthya Vibhag ka Varshik Prashaskiya Prativedan*, 1969-70, p. 21.
11. Recent Sanitary Developments in the Central Provinces, 1915, pp. 4-5.

The malaria control programme was of the nature of pilot projects and one such project was started in Surguja in 1949. Baikunthpur was the headquarters of this endemic unit. Till 1956 its activities were extended to the entire district. In 1961 it was working under 'National Malaria Eradication Programme, launched in 1959. Surveillance operations were started from 1960. Surveillance workers combed out the residual infection in the community by house to house visits in search of fever cases. All fever cases were subjected to microscopic examination of blood slides to detect malaria parasites. Those found positive were contacted and given radical treatment¹.

This unit completed nearly 97 per cent. to 100 per cent. target of D.D.T. spraying in both the rounds in 1961-62, covering 4 towns, about 2,400 villages, over 1,80,000 houses and nearly 5,500 cattle sheds.

All the 23,685 blood smears received were examined and only 18 cases were found positive. The total number of fever cases was, however, 26,652 on a population of 10,36,669 from 1st January to 31st August, 1961².

In 1963-64, the major portion of Baikunthpur Unit was proposed for entry into "consolidation phase 1964-65" i.e., it was considered fit to stop D.D.T. spray operation, whereas the remaining portion continued in "Attack phase".³ Anti-malarial drugs, such as, Chlroquine and Daraprim (pyrimethamine) tablets were, however, distributed to the patients by all the centres.⁴

The unit consisted of four sub-units, namely, Manendragarh, Surajpur, Ambikapur and Ramanujganj, which were further divided into 32 sectors and 130 sections.

Though the incidence of the disease is reduced, positive cases are still prevalent all along the District, particularly in foot hills of Menpat area. The Unit was running in 'Attack Phase' in the year 1970.

The number of fever cases detected was about 1 lakh each during the period 1969-71. Much more blood smears were collected and the number of positive cases fell rapidly from 428 in 1969 to 294 in 1970 and only 57 in 1971. It was on account of vigorous campaign for D.D.T. spraying throughout the District both in the rural and urban areas in two rounds every year.

1. Health Services in M. P. 1956-61, pp. 16-17.

2. Brief Report of M. P., 1961 p. 69 and 71.

3. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department; M.P., 1963 p. 11.

4. Ibid. p. 12.

Yaws

According to 1951 Census, the number of Yaws infected villages was 219 in the District. The disease was rampant throughout the area. The rural tahsil-wise break-up was as tabulated below.¹

Table No. XVI—3

Yaws infected Villages and Persons

S. No	Name of Tahsil (Rural)	No. of villages	Persons	Males	Female
1.	Surajpur	47	58	42	16
2.	Pal	37	59	18	41
3.	Samri	6	23	16	7
4.	Baikunthpur	63	374	258	116
5.	Manendragarh	44	140	92	48
6.	Bharatpur	22	24	17	7
Total		219	678	443	235

Source : Surguja District Census Handbook, 1951.

Yaws is endemic in the South-Eastern part of the State, including Surguja District. There was one Anti Yaws Unit at Jagdalpur in 1959-60 having 5 teams one of which has been serving the District. It consisted of one Sanitary Inspector, two technicians, one peon and one driver. It was provided with a jeep by the UNICEF. About 90 per cent. of the population at risk in the District was covered.

The results of the Primary and Resurvey² show that out of the 35,460 examined, only 123 were found positive. Thus the infection percentage was only 0.34.

Yaws infection was reduced in the District in 1961 and it was limited to only Janakpur tahsil. Kol being the most widely distributed tribe in the District, the disease is locally known as "Kol Roga" or "Kol Khata", as distinct from the "Gongi Roga", the popular name in Bastar. In this year the number of active cases treated was 65³.

1. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department M. P. for the year 1959, p. 5.

2. Ibid. pp. 8-9.

3. Ibid. 1961, pp. 19-20.

The disease was controlled to a large extent by the effort made under the Anti-Yaws Programme. The "Emergency Medical Relief" Scheme of the Tribal Welfare Department sanctioned a large sum for its treatment in the Government hospitals and primary health centres. The doctors and Sanitary Inspectors of the District were given special training at Sidhi in 1964¹ to enable them to treat such patients more efficiently.

Till 1966, its occurrence came down to 0.5% and hence Anti-Yaws Programme was ended and patients, if any, were treated at the primary health centres².

Leprosy

The number of clinics attached to hospitals and dispensaries was 13 in the District in the year 1961³, and 11 in 1963-64. Five new S.E.T. Centres (Survey Education Treatment Centre), under the Government of India's pattern, had been established in the District under the Tribal Welfare Department during 1962-63. Those S.E.T. Centres had been located at the Primary Health Centres, and Non-Medical Assistants (leprosy) gave treatment of leprosy, did leprosy survey and propaganda in the area, and covered a population of 15,000 under the guidance of the Medical Officer of the Primary Health Centre⁴. In 1969-70, in all 401 patients were provided effective treatment⁴.

Cholera

Cholera infection broke out in 1932 in Surajpur, and the then Sitapur tahsil. This was regarded as one of the very important events of that year and is still remembered⁶. This very fatal disease originates in most cases from impure water⁷. The gradual improvement in water-supply system both from pipe and wells especially in fairs has practically eradicated the disease from the District.

Venereal Diseases

During 1957, UNICEF had allocated serological equipment to the V. D. clinic working at Ambikapur, where 3,029 cases were treated in this year. The disease was more common in urban than in the rural areas⁸.

1. *Svasthya Vibhag ki Sakriyata ka Sankshipta Vivaran*, 1964, p. 14.
2. *ibid.* 1966, p. 11.
3. Health Services in M. P., 1956-61, p. 38.
4. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P., 1963, p. 19.
5. *Lok Svasthya Vibhag ka Varshik Prashaskiya Prativedan*, 1969-70, p. 16.
6. District Census Hand Book, Surguja, 1951, p. 238.
7. Recent Sanitary Developments in the Central Provinces, 1915, p. 7.
8. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P., 1957, p. 6.

In a span of 8 months, 576 cases of confirmed V.D. had been treated¹ after the installation of new set of equipments. This clinic continued to offer diagnostic and treatment facilities.

Influenza

Special arrangements were made at all the hospitals and dispensaries for the treatment of influenza cases, when it broke out in the District in 1957, as a part of the countrywide epidemic. Intensive health propaganda was done, advising people on the preventive and curative aspects of the disease through cinema-slides, leaflets, posters, pamphlets, lectures and radio talks. Restrictions were imposed on public congregation at places, including fairs and festivals².

Tuberculosis

In 75 villages of Ambikapur, Manendragarh and Surajpur tahsils, over 80,000 persons were tested, of whom nearly half were vaccinated in 1956. However, work was not done every year³. The teams moved from district to district.

The second round of B.C.G. vaccination in the District was completed in 1962-63. This work was mainly carried out in the rural areas of the District with encouraging results⁴.

By the end of 1969-70 only 20 Districts were covered in the State under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, of which Ambikapur (Surguja) is the 20th. Under this scheme free medical examination and treatment is provided. The Ambikapur Centre functioned as a District T. B. Centre, under which the Primary Health Centres were carrying on the activities⁵.

Public Hospitals and Dispensaries

As everywhere else there has been a regular expansion of medical and public health services in the District, especially after independence. In the beginning of 1951, there were two hospitals and twelve dispensaries

1. *ibid.* 1958, p. 7.
2. *ibid.* 1957, pp. 7-8.
3. Census of India, 1961, Madhya Pradesh, District Census Hand Book, Surguja District, p. 448.
4. Brief Report, M. P., 1962-63, p. 15.
5. *Lok Svasthya Vibhag ka Varshik Prashaskiya Prativedan*, 1969-70, pp. 11-12.

in the District. A decade later, in 1961, the number of hospitals decreased to 1 with 60 beds, while the number of Primary Health Centres with 73 beds in all, and dispensaries increased to 13 and 9, respectively. The decrease in the number of dispensaries was due to their conversion into Primary Health Centres during the decade 1951-61. In addition to these there were 9 Family Planning Clinics and one Venereal Disease Clinic and their number rose to 9 in 1961. A list of these centres in the District is given in Appendix.

Raghunath Hospital, Ambikapur

This, being the District headquarters hospital, is staffed with 7 Assistant Surgeons, 11 compounders, 7 staff nurses alongwith the required number of Assistant Medical Officers, Radiographers, Laboratory Assistant, T. B. Organizer and officer, ministerial staff to assist the Civil Surgeon. The Assistant Surgeons look after various sections such as General, Eye, Dental, etc. Women are treated by a Lady Assistant Surgeon. The number of deaths which occurred in the hospital by various causes, such as fever, T.B., injuries, delivery, etc., was 805 from 1962 to 1966, whereas the number of births from 1961 to 1968 in the hospital was 1707. The ratio of death to birth has, therefore, roughly been 1:2 during this period. The infant mortality rate per 100 live births, has been widely varying with a minimum of 10.53 in 1963 to a maximum of 63.63 in 1964, and there is no sequence of upward or downward trend. So is the case with the maternal mortality rate per 1000 total births. It varied from 12 in 1965 to 32 in 1963. However, in this case the variation range is not so great. This, anyhow, indicates that the incidence of infant mortality rate is, as elsewhere, higher. In 1968, these mortality rates came quite close, being 17.5 (infant) and 21.0 (maternal), respectively.

The number of indoor patients gradually increased from 1,751 in 1961 to 2,309 in 1965 and then it became more or less stationary, being on an average 2,264 for the following three years. The number of beds available for them also remained stationary at 60.

The number of outdoor patients increased, however, from 25,772 in 1961 to 43,983 in 1966. It again came down to 30,405 in 1968.

Police Hospital, Ambikapur

The Hospital building was constructed through Shramdan by Police Department and Rs. 10,000, given by the State Government. It was inaugurated in 1962. There were 12 beds in the hospital in 1970. There

was a small staff of about 8 persons, including a doctor, compounder, nurses, etc. From 1963 to 1969 it catered to the needs of about 200 indoor patients every year. The number of outdoor patients varied much, but during the last 3 years of the above period, it was roughly 3,000.

Government Dispensary, Patna (Tahsil Baikunthpur)

In this dispensary there were 6 beds and the number of indoor patients ranged between 20 in 1961 to 76 in 1967, except in 1966 when it rose to 140. During this period the average number of outdoor patients was roughly 9,000. During the decade the maximum number of deaths occurred on account of fever and smallpox in the area under its jurisdiction.

Government Dispensary, Chirimiri (Tahsil Manendragarh)

The number of beds was 6 and starting from 394 indoor patients in 1961, it treated 929 patients in 1964. The number then gradually fell down to only 96 in 1967.

Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

The number of registered allopathic medical practitioners was on an average 15 in the first half of the 'fifties. It was 18 in 1956, 21 in 1959 and 27 in 1961. The number of registered midwives increased, however, from 2 in 1954 to 27 in 1961 and the number of registered nurses from 5 in 1957 to 8 in 1961¹.

Except Ambikapur Municipality no other municipality was running any dispensary or aushadhalaya, till the end of 1969. The particulars of this aushadhalaya are given hereunder.

Maharani Bijeshwari Nagarpalika Ayurvedic Aushadhalaya, Ambikapur

Established on 20th October, 1945, the aushadhalaya has a Vaidya, with an assistant. From 1961 to 1965, the average number of patients treated was nearly 21,000 per annum. This number came down to nearly 14,000 in 1966. Since 1967 onwards the average number remains somewhere between 9 and 10 thousand. This seems to be a direct indication of availability of more medical facilities provided by other institutions opened during the decade. The Municipality receives an annual grant of Rs. 1,360 from the State Government of this aushadhalaya.

1. Surguja District Census Handbook, 1961, p. 447.

The number of Hospitals, Dispensaries, Doctors and Beds (tahsil-wise) at the end of 1962-63 is given below:—

Table No. XVI—4

No. of Medical Institutions, Doctors and Beds (1962-63)

Tahsils	Hospitals	Dispensaries	Doctors	Beds
1. Ambikapur	6	4	11	98
2. Surajpur	1	2	3	26
3. Baikunthpur	2	2	4	34
4. Manendragarh	2	2	3	24
5. Janakpur (Bharatpur) ...	1	—	1	10
6. Samri (Kusumi)	2	—	2	16
7. Pal (Ramanujganj)	4	—	4	20
Total ...	18	10	28	228

Source : Civil Surgeon, District Surguja.

Progress of medical and public health institutions

During the Plan period, due to paucity of midwives to implement the Development schemes and considering that the training of Auxiliary Nurse-cum-Midwives is of two years duration, the training of non-professional *Dais* or Assistant midwives was continued at Ambikapur in 1957¹ and 1958². This training centre was subsequently transferred to Sagar³ in 1959-60.

During 1958 the State Government accorded sanction to start the Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives training at Surguja under the Tribal Welfare Department⁴. The Centre was opened in 1959 at the Main Hospital, Ambikapur⁵. It continued in 1960⁶.

1. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P., 1957, p. 13.
2. *ibid.* 1958, p. 13.
3. *ibid.* 1959, p. 19.
4. *ibid.* 1958, p. 14.
5. *ibid.* 1959, p. 19.
6. *ibid.* 1960, p. 8.

In 1958, Family Planning Clinics were opened at Sitapur and Surajpur¹. In 1959, one allopathic dispensary each at Jakhanpur and Raghunathpur were opened. In this year, Primary Health Centre at Manendragarh was also opened, besides rural family planning clinics at the Primary Health Centres located at Baikunthpur, Ramanujganj, Khadgawan and Bharatpur².

In the year 1958-59 a provision of Rs. 1,46,625 was made for the development of medical and public health services. This sum was utilized for the recurring expenditure of the Primary Health Centre, Sitapur (Rs. 6,375) and the National Malaria Eradication Programme (Rs. 1,40,250), in the District. The Public Health Engineering Department formulated a scheme of drinking water supply in rural areas, giving Rs. 16,000 as 50 per cent. grant for the construction of 11 wells³. Arrangement for 8 wells of drinking water in rural areas with a grant of Rs. 8.19 lakhs was also made in the year 1959-60⁴.

In 1959-60, the budgetary provision for medical and public health was Rs. 2,59,750, out of which Rs. 1.35 lakhs were for the continuance of Malaria Control Unit. Primary Health Centres Sitapur, Surajpur and Baikunthpur needed Rs. 45,000. The family planning clinics at Sitapur and Surajpur were continued and four such clinics were started at Baikunthpur, Ghargawan, Ramanujganj and Bharatpur. In addition 13 village allopathic dispensaries were also continued. There was provision for the training of non-professional *dais* (midwives) at Ambikapur.

One primary health centre at Balrampur and another at Shankargarh were proposed to be constructed in this year under the welfare schemes for the Backward Classes. Similarly 4 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, 2 at Kusumi and one each at Shankargarh and Balrampur were proposed to be started in this year⁵. All these centres were subsequently constructed and started functioning.

During the Second Plan period (1956-61), a sum of Rs. 10.39 lakhs was spent on various schemes which included taking over of financial control of 5 primary health centres by the Medical Department and the establishment of two allopathic dispensaries under this scheme. Thirteen village dispensaries were provincialised.

A Malaria Control Unit and seven village family clinics were also established and in all 28 non-professional and 12 professional *dais* were (midwives were trained during the Plan period)⁶.

1. *ibid.* 1958, p. 2.
2. *ibid.* 1959, pp. 1-2 and 36-37.
3. *Dvitiya Panchvarshiya Yojna, Jila Surguja*, 1958-59, p. 7.
4. *ibid.* *Vikas Karyakrama*, 1959-60.
5. *ibid.* p. 32.
6. *Dvitiya Panchvarshiya Yojna Pragati Prativedan (1956-61), Jila Surguja*, p. 10 and 43.

As mentioned above, under the schemes for the welfare of Backward Classes, two primary health centres at a cost of Rs. 1.21 lakhs and four maternity and child welfare centres at a cost of Rs. 0.21 lakhs were established¹. Thus in all five new primary health centres were opened at the Block headquarters Kusumi, Pratappur, Sonhat, Shankargarh and Balrampur² in 1961, which included the two, mentioned earlier.

At District Hospital Ambikapur, an urban family planning clinic was established during 1961-62³. Also a rural family planning clinic, was opened at the Primary Health Centre, Pratappur during the same year⁴.

The preliminaries for the construction work of a building for T. B. Clinic Ambikapur, at an estimated cost of Rs. 88,210 was in progress in 1961-62⁵. It was subsequently completed.

In 1962-63, additional post of Radiographer was sanctioned for the Main Hospital, Ambikapur and Baikunthpur⁶. In Ambikapur, Lakhanpur and Rajpur Blocks, primary health centres were opened at Bhafoli, Lakhanpur and Rajpur, respectively⁷. Also, a rural family planning clinic was opened at the Primary Health Centre, Sonhat in the same year⁸.

During the last three years of the Third Five Year Plan, i.e. from 1963-64 to 1965-66 there has been a regular expansion of medical and health activities in the District. On an average Rs. 7 lakhs were spent every year on about 16 districts, the important ones of them being (1) Opening of post-mortem centres, (2) establishment of public health laboratories and purchase of X-ray equipments, (3) starting of rural public health centres, (4) opening of Ayurvedic aushadhalayas, (5) continuation of maternity homes, family planning clinics, tuberculosis, smallpox and malaria eradication programmes, (6) rural and urban water supply schemes, etc.,

For backward classes, 5 Leprosy Control Centres and 20 drinking water wells construction schemes were given special attention¹⁰.

In the year 1963-64, the the District headquarters hospital at Ambikapur was sanctioned X-ray diagnostic machines to provide radiological services¹¹.

1. *ibid.* p. 11 and 44.
2. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P., 1961, p. 7.
3. *ibid.* 1962-63, p. 49.
4. *ibid.* p. 55.
5. Brief Report M. P., 1961, p. 81.
6. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P. 1962-63, p. 2.
7. *ibid.* p. 4.
8. *ibid.* p. 55.
9. *Tritiya Panchvarshiya Yojna Vikas Karyakram, Jila Surguja*, 1963-64, 1964-65, and 1965-66 pp. 36-37.
10. *ibid.* p. 45.
11. Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department, M. P., 1963, p. 1.

In the same year an eye camp was organised by Primary Health Centre, Baikunthpur. It was then, a new feature for the District¹. Operations were performed and spectacles distributed free.

The District Family Planning Sub-Committee started functioning during this year². Small Scale Vasectomy camps alongwith family planning orientation camps became a popular and routine feature by this time. The following table gives a glimpse of the progress.

Table No. XVI—5

Number of persons who availed of Family Planning Methods

(1956-57 to 1968-69)

Year	Number of		Number to whom conventional contraceptives were issued or I.U.C.D. loop inserted.
	Vasectomies	Tube Tying	
1956-57	4	—	—
1957-58	3	—	—
1958-59	—	—	—
1959-60	5	—	113
1960-61	9	1	139
1961-62	11	2	469
1964-65	131	28	N.A.
1965-66	575	22	227
1966-67	2,274	41	438
1967-68	11,934	18	815
1968-69	3,524	32	930

Source : Civil Surgeon, Surguja.

1. *ibid.* p. 34.
2. *ibid.* p. 28.

Ambikapur Block was selected for the first time in the year 1966-67 for the implementation of the scheme regarding supply of nutritive food to the needy, especially to pregnant and feeding mothers and babies. The District Officers of the Fisheries, Veterinary, Revenue, Agriculture, Public Health Education and other departments were given training for the successful implementation of the scheme in this District. UNICEF supplied milk powder, medicines, biscuits, etc. These and a few other items were distributed through various agencies, one of which was health institutions of all kinds¹.

The District was again declared drought stricken in the following year, and the scheme continued to function. In 1967-68 Sitapur Block was also included under this scheme².

In 1969-70 again an eye camp was organised at Surajpur by the State Government³.

The Chirimiri branch of the Madhya Pradesh St. Johns Ambulance Association organised, in 1969-70, local competitions to create interest in the public in its activities, important ones of them included education and training in first-aid, hygiene, sanitation, etc⁴.

Sanitation

The sanitation work was looked after by the four municipal committees at Ambikapur, Manendragarh, Ramanujganj and Baikunthpur. It was one of their most important functions. In rural areas, Panchayats performed this function.

No slum clearance or underground drainage schemes were in operation in any of the municipality of the District till the end of the last decade. The water supply scheme at Ambikapur has been completed and the protected water supply is being managed by it to the town. In Manendragarh P.H.E. Department maintains the water works. In other two municipal towns and big villages river, pond or wells are the main sources of water supply. The wells are maintained by the concerned authorities with the help of Sanitary Inspectors and Medical, Block or municipal staff as the case may be. Members of the touring staff alone mix potassium permanganate in the far off wells, as and when they happen to tour. Antimalarial measures and vaccination activities have already been dealt with in detail elsewhere in this chapter. The yearwise expenditure incurred by these civic bodies on public health activities has been tabulated in the chapter on Local Self-Government.

1. *Svasthya Vibhag ki Sakriyata ka Sankshipto Vivaran*, 1966, pp. 25-26.

2. *ibid.* 1967, pp. 23 and 27.

3. *Lok Svasthya Vibhag ka Varshik Prashaskiya Prativedan*, 1969-70, p. 33.

4. *ibid.* pp. 29-30.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Prohibition

During the early years of this century, the State administration of Surguja adopted Excise Administration of the former Central Provinces and Berar in a large measure. It was considered purely as a source of revenue. It was entirely in the hands of the Chief. The excise system in force was the out-still system. The right of manufacture and sale of spirituous liquor was given to the highest bidder through yearly auction. An Excise Daroga and four peons looked after the collection, etc. The brewing of handia or kusna (rice-bear) was forbidden.

In the year 1901, total number of liquor shops and outstill shops was 176. Thus, on an average one shop existed for every 8759 k.m. and 1991 persons¹.

Opium, Ganja

Regarding the consumption of opium and ganja, the sale was regulated through recognised shops. The number of ganja and opium shops in 1901 was 12. Opium stocks used to be procured from the District Treasury at Bilaspur and that of ganja from the wholesale vendor at Bilaspur. They were not grown locally. Predominantly a tribal district, Surguja is inhabited by a cross-section of different tribes and castes. The Tribal customs, religious and social traditions sanction drinks. Saontas, Korwas and Korkus were all addicted to liquor, and brewed it not from rice but from gondhli, meru and kuthi. The Manjwars, Ahirs, Kols, Oraons, Bhunhars and Gonds all consumed rice-beer freely.

Sale of Intoxicants in Surguja

The policy of the erstwhile Surguja State had been to restrict the number of shops for the sale of intoxicant drugs. The monopoly for manufacture and vending of country liquor was sold by the State administration through auction. The receipts on account of licence fee for the sale of country liquor amounted to Rs. 26,633 in the year 1907. For the first time, the State Government appointed an Excise Daroga in the year 1908¹. In the year 1910, total number of shops increased from 194 in previous year to 212. Of these 196 were of liquor, 13 of ganja and opium and 3 of tari. Excise receipts amounted to Rs. 41,929 in that year. Steps were also taken to discourage smoking of opium in 1912. In 1921, the number of shops was 196 and receipts amounted to Rs. 37,464. A decade later the number of shops increased to 200. The excise receipts also increased to Rs. 1,35,549.

1. *Chhattisgarh Feudatory States Gazetteer*, 1909, p. 256.

1. *Feudatory States Administration Report*, 1908, p. 9.

No Prohibition in Tribal Areas

Way back in 1921, the Government in Central Provinces and Berar adopted prohibition as the "ultimate goal of its Excise Policy", but it refrained from defining any specific date for its attainment. The new policy drifted away from temperance to total abstinence and directed its restrictive measures to the extinction of even moderate drinking. Reviewing the policy of prohibition, the Committee in 1935 made it clear that in the zone comprising the aboriginal areas, 'Prohibition' must remain a distant ideal, and that it would be a grave error to experiment with any pre-concieved idea of total prohibition in those tracts².

The aforesaid Committee report was, however, shelved and in 1938, Central Provinces and Berar Prohibition Act was passed. The Government policy exempted Europeans, members of armed forces and the aborigines³ from the perview of the Prohibition Act. As such, the Act was never extend to Surguja District. Thus in case of liquor, **ganja** and **bhang**, the District has always remained "wet". The consumption of **ganja** and **bhang** is now restricted through licenses, whereas, the opium consumption in general stood prohibited since 1st April, 1955. **Charas** consumption, which is strictly prohibited in all other districts of Madhya Pradesh is also prohibited in Surguja.

Since various measures to restrict or prohibit the use of liquor met with little success all over the State, the Government of Madhya Pradesh after considerable celebrations shelves the idea of total prohibition. An Ordinance No. 9 of 1966, the Madhya Pradesh Madya Nishedha Vidhi Nirasan Adhyadesh was promulgated to repeal the Prohibition Act of 1938, and the Ordinance came into force with effect from 1st September, 1967.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes

Population

Containing a large population of Scheduled Tribes, 55.49 per cent. of the total population, the District ranked fourth in the State of Madhya Pradesh in respect of proportion of Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Castes constituted 5.81 per cent of the total population in 1961. The following table gives the population of Scheduled Castes and Tribes according to the Census of 1971.

1. Report of M. P. Prohibition Enquiry Committee, 1957, p. 3.

3. *ibid.* p. 6.

2. *ibid.* p. 6.

Table No. XVII—I

Population of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, 1971*

	Scheduled Castes Population	Percentage to total Population	Scheduled Tribes Population	Percentage to total Population
Rural	56,839	4.6	7,32,393	59.2
Urban	6,933	7.8	9,501	10.6
District Total ...	63,772	4.8	7,41,894	55.9

*Final figures

According to the Census of 1971 (Provisional) figures, largest concentration of both the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was noted in Ambikapur Tahsil. Their population was 18,659 and 2,68,911, respectively.

Tribal Economy

According to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Lists (Modification) Order, 1956, there are 15 Castes (including their synonymous groups which have been treated as Scheduled Castes in Surguja. Similarly, 32 tribes (including their sub-tribes and synonymous groups) have been Scheduled in the District.

Agriculture is the main-stay of the tribal economy. As large as 93.68 per cent of the working population was found cultivating the land or working as agricultural labourers according to Census, 1961. Yet another pursuit which attracted them most was 'mining', quarrying and live stock in which 10,575 or 2.9 per cent of their working population (3,58,574) was engaged. More than a third of their population (37.7) consisted of non-workers who did not participate in any economic activity.

The Scheduled Castes, are comparatively less dependent on agriculture. Against 82.41% amongst the tribals, the cultivators amongst Scheduled Castes accounted for 58.9% of the total working force. According to the Census of 1961, nearly 20.6% earned their livelihood as agricultural labourers. Found to be more diffused in other sectors of the economy, nearly 6.1% were engaged in mining and quarrying, 8.9% at household industry and 4% in other services, consisting of domestic or personal services. Considerable section of their population consisted of non workers which accounted for 44.53%, leaving only 55.47% of economically active population.

The distribution of population by industry is given in the Appendix.

Tribal Development Blocks

There were 17 Tribal Development Blocks, including Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Blocks in the District in 1968. Of these 5 were in Ambikapur Tahsil, 3 in Pal Tahsil, 2 each in Surajpur, Manendragarh and Samri tahsils and one each in Surguja, Baikunthpur and Bharatpur tahsils. Provisional area, number of villages, density and population of these Blocks are given in the Appendix.

Extending over an area of 17,770.35 Sq. Km. (6,865 Sq. miles) and an over all population of 5,78,846 Tribal Development Blocks recorded a density of 33 persons per sq. km. in 1968. Comprising 1,642 villages the Scheduled Tribes population was estimated to be 3,92,278. Surguja is included in the North Eastern Zone of the area Scheduled for the purposes of development. Gonds (2,37,885), Kavar (92,132), Oraon (1,06,186), Nagesia (28,172), Bharia (26,938), Binjhar (21,891), Korku (14,768), and Majhar (10,096¹) were the principal tribes who resided in the area.

Among the Scheduled Castes, Chamars outnumbered the others. Keeping in view the large number of tribals and the intensity of the backwardness of the area, it has been the endeavour of all the departments of the State to formulate schemes and plans in such a way as may provide opportunities to these people to derive maximum benefit from the general development and welfare programmes. The Tribal Welfare Department acts as the co-ordinating agency and supplements the activities of the normal development departments of the State.

In order to formulate the guide-lines for speedy socio-economic development of these classes, the State Government has constituted the Tribal Advisory Council, consisting of 20 members.

The Collector looks after the control and advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes in Surguja. To assist him, a Deputy Director heads the Departmental administration divided into two zones, viz., Ambikapur and Baikunthpur. An officer of the rank of District Officer has been posted in each of the two zones to assist the Deputy Director. The development schemes for these classes are mainly concentrated in 17 Tribal Development Blocks as per list in the Appendix. In each Block, one Development Assistant and one Circle Organizer have been posted, who assist the District administration in execution of the Departmental schemes.

Protective Legislations

One of the worst forms of exploitation to which tribals were exposed has been through traditional money lending. This in turn leads to uprooting the tribals from their land and reducing them to serfdom. The

1. Population figures in brackets relate to Census, 1961.

incidence of indebtedness among the tribals has been known to be very high. To save the tribals from the clutches of the money-lenders, the Debt Relief Regulation was enforced in the Scheduled Areas of the State from August 15, 1963. With a view to making these regulations more effective, by incorporating certain changes, the Relief Regulation Act, 1967 for Scheduled Tribes was enacted and enforced in the area.

Legal Aid

For providing economic relief to the Adivasis and Harijans, the Government introduced various measures. One of them is to give them legal-aid. During the First Plan period, legal-aid to the extent of Rs. 50 was given to one Harijan and Rs. 1,621 to 9 persons of Scheduled Tribes in Surguja. Similarly, legal-aid amounting to Rs. 150 to a Harijan and Rs. 2,400 to 6 persons of Scheduled Tribes was also given during the years 1967-68 to 1969-70.

Removal of disabilities

To remove the social disabilities, Government made applicable in the year 1955, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. The Act declared observance of untouchability at public places an offence. As elsewhere, success of this social legislation in the District cannot be ascertained merely on the basis of number of offences registered with the Police Department. In Surguja no case was registered during the past decade. But a general observation can be made. Owing to the fast changing village scene, for which quick modes of conveyance, education, democratic functioning of various institutions and Government are responsible, much laxity in the outlook of general masses towards their fellow beings is observed. Gradually the age-old practice of untouchability is dying out.

Aid to Non-Official Organisations

A few non-official organisations are also working for the welfare of tribals. In Surguja, Madhya Pradesh Vanvasi Seva Mandal, established in the year 1944, is working for the social, economic and educational advancement of these people. Large amount of grants-in-aid has been sanctioned by the Department to this Organisation in the past. A sum of Rs. 2.67 lakhs during the Second Plan Period, and Rs. 3.40 lakhs during the Third Plan period was granted to it. During subsequent periods, the amount sanctioned by the Department gradually increased from Rs. 1,58,177 to Rs. 1,64,442 in 1969-70 and to Rs. 1,99,605 in 1971-72. Since 1966-67, a total sum of Rs. 16,36,465 was granted to this organisation.

The Vanvasi Seva Mandal is running 6 Ashrams, 2 Middle Schools, 14 Primary Schools, 4 Balwadis, 3 Ayurvedic dispensaries and one Maternity Centre in the District. To improve the living conditions of the sweeper class, 19 houses were constructed by the Mandal at a cost of Rs. 17,100. Additional 16 plots of land at a cost of Rs. 8,000 were also acquired by it. To improve the working conditions, the sweepers in the District were supplied 55 hand-carts for carrying night soil at a cost of Rs. 4,538.

Economic Advancement

Agriculture is the main-stay of the economy of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Of the total population of the Scheduled Castes (60,276) and Scheduled Tribes (5,76,228) in the District the workers numbered 33,438 and 3,58,574, respectively. according to the Census of 1961. Majority of the Scheduled Caste workers were found engaged in 'cultivation' (19,509) and worked as 'agricultural labourers' (6,906). Similarly, amongst the tribals, 'cultivation' claimed 2,95,507 workers and 'Agricultural labour' class numbered 40,438. It had been a general trend in the past that the aboriginals of the State gradually lost proprietary lands in favour of traders and agriculturists. Hence, to provide legislative security of land tenure to the Scheduled Tribes, the Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue Code, 1959 placed restrictions on alienation of holdings to persons other than the Scheduled Tribes.

During the Second Plan period (1956-61), for the ameliorations of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population, a sum of Rs. 14.91 lakhs was spent in the District. The schemes included the award of scholarships, and opening of schools and hostels also. Apart from these, for improving the cattle wealth, 6 pedigree bulls were distributed. Four demonstration farms and 3 multi-purpose co-operative societies were also opened. The other measures included the development of tussersilk industry, crop competitions, opening of 3 veterinary hospitals, 2 primary health centres, 4 children welfare centres, 24 km. of rural road construction, etc. Under the scheme of allotment of fallow land to landless persons of the Backward Classes and Tribes, a large number of its members were distributed fallow land. During the Second Plan period, nearly 1,485 hectares of land was allotted to 656 persons of these classes. The number of beneficiaries increased many-folds during the Third Plan Period. About 7,032 hectares of land was distributed amongst 5,396 persons during this period. The scheme was continued during the subsequent years and in 1971-72, nearly 2,732 hectares of land was distributed amongst 2,403 persons of these classes. The table in the Appendix shows the yearwise progress of the schemes under the classified categories.

Agriculture Department

The Department has been striving for the economic welfare of these classes ever since the dawn of planned era. During the First and Second Plan periods, a large quantity of improved seeds and artificial fertilizers were distributed among them. During the subsequent plan periods, various other scheme were also implemented. During the Fourth Plan period upto April, 1972, about 1,614 tonnes of fertilizers, 519 tonnes of improved seeds, 1,100 litres of liquid pesticide and 306 qtls. of powder pesticide were distributed amongst the persons of these classe. A detailed account of the progress of various schemes can be seen in the Appendix.

Agricultural Subsidy

With a view to making these classes good agriculturists and to better their economic conditions, agricultural subsidy for the purchase of bullocks, seeds and agricultural implements, poultry, construction of wells, soil conservation, etc., is also given to these classes. During the Third Plan period, 61 persons of Scheduled Castes and 710 persons of Scheduled Tribes were given Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 1,50,000, respectively, under the schemes. A sum of Rs. 95,390 also sanctioned for soil conservation in 1,014 hectare land.

With a view to helping these classes to permanently settle on land, the Department of Tribal Welfare has been spending large sums on the construction of huts and development of colonies. Till the Third Plan period, 14 colonies for 336 families were completed at a cost of Rs. 2,15,449 in Surguja District. Apart from these, a number of schemes under animal husbandry, agriculture extension, dry-farming, field-bunding, horticulture, etc., were also implemented in tribal areas of the District. Five bunds at a cost of Rs. 25,862 and 24 km. of village roads at a cost of Rs 15,000 were constructed in tribal areas during the Second Plan period. An additional 21 km. of village roads were constructed during the Third Plan period.

Health and Rural Sanitation

Rural health in predominantly tribal District of Surguja poses a formidable challenge to the huge task of economic welfare in the region. The absence of protected water supply and balanced diet causes a variety of chronic ailments amongst them. Steps were already taken during the Second Plan for opening 2 primary health centres and four maternity and child welfare centres in Surguja. By the year 1971, the number of primary health centres in Tribal Development Blocks increased to 17, i.e. one in each Block area. Apart from these, there also existed 4 maternity and child welfare centres in the Tribal Blocks of Bharatpur, Chanda, Mainpat and Kusmi. Apart from these, (primary health centres were also opened in the non-Tribal Blocks.

Since water-borne diseases are rampant in the region, much emphasis has been given to the schemes for adequate supply of hygienic drinking water to tribals all the year round. In this connection huge sums were spent under different plan periods.

During the Second Plan period (1956-61), 56 wells for Scheduled Tribes and 7 wells for Scheduled Castes were constructed by the Government at the cost of Rs. 1,03,439 and Rs. 15,801, respectively. The scheme continued during the Third Plan period (1961-66) also and 3 more wells for Scheduled Tribes and 2 wells for Scheduled Castes were constructed during this period. The Government spent a sum of Rs. 85,011 and Rs. 36,661 respectively, on the construction of these wells. Since

then the progress of the scheme has been slow, and only 4 wells in 1966-67 and 2 wells in 1968-69 were constructed in tribal areas at a cost of Rs 8,000 and Rs. 4,000, respectively.

Co-operative Societies

To minimise the exploitation of tribals at the hands of non-tribal traders, the Government has been striving to organise co-operative societies, both for purchasing the produce of the tribals and also for selling consumer goods to them. For the purpose an Apex Society was established at the State level to promote the development of co-operatives among the tribals. The Apex Society provides finance and technical knowledge, and arranges to market the produce collected by the primary societies. It has extended its activities in Surguja District also. Since 1950-51, when there were only 3 co-operative societies (all multi-purpose) functioning in Surguja, their number increased to 116 in 1967-68. Of these, 93 were multi-purpose societies and 23 industrial co-operative societies. The total membership, share capital and working capital amounted to Rs. 7,872, Rs. 55,536, and Rs. 7,48,174 in the year 1967-68. To help the societies, Government also advanced a loan of Rs. 45,349 during that year. The three multi-purpose societies in the District which pioneered the movement in Surguja are of Kusmi, Laxmangarh and Sonhat.

Grain Golas

For the storage of grains, the tribals are also being helped to develop the storage capacity. In the year 1968 there were 65 grain Golas in Surguja. Of these, 35 were constructed up to the Second Plan period, and 30 during the Third Plan period:

Charitable Endowments

Organisation for the Control of Public Trusts and Charitable Endowments

In the Central Provinces and Berar, the Religious and Charitable Trusts Act was passed in 1937. After an amendment in 1948, it came to be replaced with a new Act, entitled Madhya Pradesh Public Trusts Act, 1951. This Act excluded from its operation the Muslim Wakfs. The Muslim Wakfs were governed by the Muslim Wakfs Validating Act, 1913 (VI of 1913). Later, the Wakfs Act, 1954 (XXIX of 1954) provided for better administration and supervision of Wakfs. The Wakfs Amendment Act, 1959 was enforced in Surguja in 1959. Public Wakfs Extension of Limitation Act, 1959 (XXIX of 1959) repealed the Ordinance 2 of 1959. The Wakfs of the District are thus under the administrative control of M.P. Wakfs Board, Bhopal.

In Surguja, the main controlling authority of the public trusts and most of the charitable endowments established in the District is the Collector. He is the Registrar for the purpose. All trusts are required to get themselves registered with Registrar, who looks after the proper management and functioning of these institutions in the District. The provisions of the Act make it obligatory on all the public trusts to keep their accounts in the Central Co-operative Bank of the District. The Manager or the Secretary of the trusts are authorised to operate the accounts with the said Banks for the smooth running of the day-to-day essential activities. All the public trust committees prepare their annual budgets and send them for the Registrar's approval. The accounts of these institutions are subjected to an audit and inspection by the Local Fund and Audit Department, but generally the accounts are checked and certified by the local auditors, who are deputed and authorised by the Registrar.

In the year 1969, there were 5 public trusts in Surguja. Brief description of each one of them is given hereunder :

Dharmada Trust Committee, Ramanujganj, Surguja

Registered in October, 1949, the pioneers who established it included Ramanuj Sharan Singh Ju Bahadur, the former Maharaja of Surguja State. The Trust was established for nourishing religious faith among the followers of Hindu and Muslim religions. With a secular object of promoting faith in individual's religion, the Trust held a capital of Rs. 34,000 during the times of the former State. It was under the direct control of the former ruler. The principal sources of its income after the merger of the State in Madhya Pradesh were through the Adatiyas, who were directed to deduct Dharmada at the rate of 4 annas (25 paise) per hundred rupees and income from Dharamshala and shops. The trust has a considerable movable and immovable property which includes four temples, one mosque, Dharamshala and a few rented houses, etc., worth about Rs. 20,000 in 1972. Dharmada from Adatiyas also continues to be a source of its income.

Shri Banshidhar Temple Trust, Balangi, Surguja

For the management of the temple, which is about 200 years old, a trust was established and registered in the year 1953. The temple was repaired at a cost of Rs. 7,500 and is the centre of religious activities. Registered with a capital of Rs. 8,897 donated by Ramkripal Dass, the trust has a movable property worth Rs. 9,642 in 1972.

In 1966-67, the Trust earned an income of Rs 5,182 against an expenditure of Rs. 3,849. During the subsequent period the income of the trust fluctuated between Rs. 2,944 in 1967-68 to Rs. 6,154 in 1969-70. Similarly, the expenditure ranged between Rs. 2,276 in 1967-68 to Rs. 3,638 in 1969-70. In 1970-71, against an expenditure of Rs. 2,883 the trust had an income of Rs. 3,658.

Shri Ram Mandir Trust, Manendragarh, Surguja

The trust was established in the year 1969 and was duly registered in December, 1965. Established for the promotion of religious and cultural activities, the trust had a movable and immovable property worth about Rs. 40 thousands.

Against an income of Rs. 4,419 in 1966-67, the trust incurred an expenditure of Rs. 2,950. During the subsequent period also the trust enjoyed a sound economic position. The income of the trust ranged between Rs. 4,207 in 1968-69 and Rs. 5,108 in 1969-70. Against an income of Rs. 4,711, the trust spent Rs. 4,156 during the year 1970-71.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Representation in Union Legislature

Surguja District was constituted in 1951 subsequent to the merger of the erstwhile feudatory States of Surguja, Chang Bhakar and Korea, hence the history of its representation in the legislatures begins with the First General Elections held in 1951-52. The Surguja-Raigarh Double Member Parliamentary Constituency created by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (Madhya Pradesh) Order, 1951, covered the District besides a large portion of Raigarh District. One seat of this double member constituency was reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Thus, Surguja was represented in the Lok Sabha by the two members elected from this constituency.

Although the extent and number of seats of the aforesaid constituency remained the same during the Second General Elections, 1957, also its name was changed to Surguja Constituency instead from Surguja-Raigarh Constituency by the Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies Order, 1956.

In pursuance of the two members Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, the double-member Surguja Constituency was converted into a single-member Constituency by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961 for the Third General Elections, 1962. The extent of this constituency was also changed. It covered all the Assembly Constituencies of the District except Sitapur Assembly Constituency which was included in the Raigarh Parliamentary Constituency. The Surguja Parliamentary Constituency was declared reserved for Scheduled Tribes. This position continued during the Fourth General Elections, 1967 and the Mid Term Lok Sabha Poll in 1971 except that instead of Sitapur included in Raigarh Parliamentary Constituency, Manendragarh and Baikunthpur Assembly Constituencies were now included in Sidhi Parliamentary Constituency in these Elections. The number of votes and votes polled in these constituencies during all the elections described above are shown in the table below :—

Table No. XVIII—1
Lok Sabha Elections

Constituency	Total Number of Votes	Total Number of Votes polled	Percentage of Votes polled
<i>First General Elections 1951-52</i>			
Surguja-Raigarh	16,09,024	6,24,338	42.59
<i>Second General Elections, 1957</i>			
Surguja	15,61,832	4,62,295	29.53
<i>Third General Elections, 1962</i>			
Surguja	4,27,701	1,20,838	28.25
Raigarh	4,38,535	1,83,038	45.68
<i>Fourth General Elections, 1967</i>			
Surguja	4,39,322	1,52,033	34.61
Sidhi	5,19,407	2,38,369	45.18
<i>Mid-Term Poll, 1971</i>			
Surguja	4,73,139	1,50,048	31.71
Sidhi	5,49,150	2,22,369	40.49
<i>Elections of 1977</i>			
Surguja (S. T.)	5,49,984	2,31,721	45.24
Sidhi	5,90,957	2,53,659	44.95

Representation in State Legislature

For the purpose of the First General Elections to the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly held in 1951-52, the District was divided into five Constituencies namely, Ambikapur, Pal, Manendragarh, Samri and Sitapur of which the first three were double-member constituencies. The relevant details such as number of seats allotted to each of them, number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, total number of electors, votes and valid votes polled with percentages are shown in the table given below —

Table No. XVIII—2

First General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, 1951-52

Name of the Constituency	No. of Seats allotted	No. of Seats Reserved for		Total No. of Electors	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of Col 7 to 6.
		Sch. Castes	Sch. Tribes				
1. Ambikapur	2	—	1	1,06,906	1,06,806	45,518	42.72
2. Pal	2	—	1	88,817	1,77,634	44,615	25.1
3. Manendragarh	2	1	—	1,00,325	1,00,325	29,891	29.89
4. Samri	1	—	—	50,180	50,180	12,635	25.1
5. Sitapur	1	—	—	63,108	63,108	23,693	37.54

After the Reorganization of States in 1956, certain changes in the

After the Reorganization of States in 1956, certain changes in the name, extent and number of seats allotted to these constituencies were made by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956. As a result the total number of Vidhan Sabha members elected from the District during the Second General Elections, 1957, increased to nine from eight. The details of these constituencies are given below :—

Table No. XVIII—3

Second General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, 1957

Name of the Constituency	No. of Allotted Seats	No. of Seats Reserved for		Total No. of Elections	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Column 7 to 6
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1. Ambikapur	2	1	—	1,14,774	2,29,548	40,401	17.70
2. Pal	2	—	1	86,261	1,72,522	39,688	23.00
3. Manendragarh.	2	—	1	92,455	1,84,910	45,519	24.61
4. Sitapur	1	—	1	45,845	45,845	11,723	25.57
5. Surajpur	2	—	1	97,556	1,95,112	40,524	20.77

In pursuance of the two Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, all the double member constituencies which were in existence during the foregoing elections were abolished. Consequently, the District was divided into nine single-member Constituencies by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961 for the Third General Elections held in 1962. Thus, though the total number of seats in the District and the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes remained the same, the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes increased to four from three, as is clear from the following details :—

Table No. XVIII—4

Third General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, 1962

Name and Class of Constituency	Total No. of Electors	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled	Percentage of Column 3 to 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Manendragarh (Scheduled Tribes)	64,422	17,659	27.41
2. Baikunthpur	50,202	16,360	32.58

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3. Bhaiyathan (Scheduled Tribes)	52,506	13,823	26.32
4. Surajpur	55,108	16,047	29.12
5. Pal	47,958	11,197	23.34
6. Samri (Scheduled Tribes)	48,065	13,275	27.61
7. Lundra (Scheduled Castes)	47,311	11,822	24.98
8. Ambikapur	62,129	18,354	29.54
9. Sitapur (Scheduled Tribes)	49,211	13,116	26.65

The extent of some of these constituencies were changed by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1964. The old Bhaiyathan constituency (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) was abolished and two new constituencies, namely Premnagar (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) and Lakhanpur were created bringing the total number of constituencies to ten. The number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes also increased to six. No seat was, however, reserved for the Scheduled Castes this time. The table given below shows the names of these constituencies alongwith the number of voters and votes polled in each of them.

Table No. XVIII—5

Fourth General Elections to Vidhan Sabha, 1967

Name and Class of Constituency	Total No. of Votes	Total No. of Valid	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Manendragarh (Scheduled Tribes)	54,220	18,931	34.91
2. Baikunthpur	65,301	41,351	63.32
3. Premnagar (Scheduled Tribes)	55,182	15,484	28.06
4. Surajpur	55,976	27,904	49.41

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
5. Pal (Scheduled Tribes)	56,465	12,569	22.24
6. Samri (Scheduled Tribes)	52,140	18,078	34.67
7. Lundra (Scheduled Tribes)	57,045	15,033	26.35
8. Ambikapur	52,959	22,559	42.62
9. Lakhanpur	54,595	19,872	36.39
10. Sitapur (Scheduled Tribes)	54,960	16,927	30.70

During the Fifth General Elections, 1972 no change was made in the extent and number of these constituencies. The details regarding the number of voters and valid votes polled in each of these constituencies is shown below:—

Table No. XVIII—6

Fifth General Elections to Vidhan Sabha

Name and Class of Constituency	Total No. of Voters	Total No. of Valid Votes Polled.	Percentage of Col. 3 to 2.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Manendragarh (Scheduled Tribes)	61,078	24,206	42.00
2. Baikunthpur	75,930	45,344	62.45
3. Premnagar (Scheduled Tribes)	64,706	25,831	41.98
4. Surajpur	60,707	32,049	55.89
5. Pal (Scheduled Tribes)	67,048	28,880	45.86
6. Samri (Scheduled Tribes)	63,617	28,853	48.58
7. Lundra (Scheduled Tribes)	65,902	23,436	37.70
8. Ambikapur	63,420	36,280	60.71
9. Lakhanpur	61,913	30,272	51.74
10. Sitapur (Scheduled Tribes)	64,341	27,392	47.30

POLITICAL PARTIES

Congress

In the First General Elections of 1951-52, the Congress Party put up two candidates from the Double Member Surguja-Raigarh Lok Sabha Constituency. It won the reserved seat by polling 1,48,487 votes. The other general seat was won by an independent candidate who got 1,01,178 votes as against 90,788 votes polled by the Congress candidate.

During the Sixth General Elections to the Vidhan Sabha held in June 1977, the number of constituencies remained the same except that Lakhanpur constituency was replaced by Pilkha. The table below shows the election details of these constituencies in 1977.

Table No. XVIII—7

Vidhan Sabha Elections 1977

Name of Constituency	Total No. of voters.	Total No. valid votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Manendragarh	80,971	25,241	32.11
2. Baikunthpur	84,987	38,730	46.82
3. Premnagar	68,421	19,961	30.05
4. Surajpur	71,421	32,246	46.66
5. Pal	67,255	19,739	30.37
6. Samri	60,583	22,392	38.26
7. Lundra	67,568	22,956	35.37
8. Pilkha	75,246	27,139	37.23
9. Ambikapur	77,648	28,720	37.96
10. Sitapur	62,332	24,461	41.23

For Vidhan Sabha, only seven candidates of the Party were in the field as it contested only one seat of the Double Member Ambikapur Constituency. Of these seven, one candidate from the reserved seat in the Double Member Manendragarh Constituency was declared successful uncontested. For the general seat of this Constituency the Congress got 9,040 valid votes and lost the seat to an independent candidate. In the Samri Constituency the Congress polled 5,188 valid votes and won. but in the Sitapur Constituency its candidate who polled 6,968 valid votes lost to an independent. For the general seat of Ambikapur Double Member Constituency, the Congress candidate polled 27,236 valid votes and won. The reserved seat of this constituency went to an independent candidate.

uncontested. In the Pal Constituency, the reserved seat was won by the Congress as it got 7,924 valid votes, but the general seat for which it polled 7,674 valid votes went to an independent candidate. Thus, four of its seven candidates were successful.

The Elections of 1957.—In the Second General Elections, 1957 the Congress again set-up two candidates for Lok Sabha from the Surguja Double-Member Constituency. Both these candidates, polling 1,51,100 (in general seat) and 1,28,227 (in reserved seat) valid votes were successful.

The Congress contested and won all the nine Vidhan Sabha seats in the District by polling 10,368 (for reserved seat) and 10,784 valid votes in Double-Member Pal Constituency, 5,386 valid votes in Sitapur Constituency, 6,286 (for reserved seat) and 8,562 valid votes in Ambikapur Double-Member Constituency, 8,753 and 6,622 (for reserved seat) valid votes in Surajpur Double-Member Constituency and 12,191 and 8,814 (for reserved seat) valid votes in Manendragarh Double-Member Constituency.

Elections of 1962.—During the Third General Elections, 1962 the Congress contested from Surguja and Raigarh Constituencies for Lok Sabha. It was successful in Surguja Constituency where it got 43,505 valid votes. In the Raigarh Constituency it secured 47,874 valid votes and lost.

For Vidhan Sabha the Party set up nine candidates of whom four won the election from Manendragarh, Bhaiyathan, Sitpur (all reserved of the Scheduled Tribes) and Pal Constituencies. They polled 8,38,34,542; 5,425 and 6,188 valid votes polled by it in the constituencies where it faced defeat was 3,872 in Baikunthpur, 5,826 in Surajpur, 3,783 in Samri, 5,202 in Lundra and 3,314 in Ambikapur. In the Samri Constituency, an independent candidate was declared successful.

Election of 1967.—In the Fourth General Elections, it contested from Surguja and Sidhi Parliamentary Constituencies. It secured 63,385 and 1,32,069 valid votes respectively, in these constituencies, and captured both the seats.

The Congress candidates contested from ten Vidhan Sabha Constituencies of the District. They polled 11,283 in Manendragarh (Scheduled Tribes), 33,987 in Baikunthpur, 16,625 in Surajpur, 5,513 in Lundra, 6,369 in Pal, (both Scheduled Tribes), 9,194 in Ambikapur and 5,885 valid votes in Sitapur (Scheduled Tribes) Constituencies and captured all these seven seats. In Premnagar, Samri (both Scheduled Tribes) and Lakhanpur, the Party got 4,155,3255 and 6,352 valid votes, respectively and lost.

Lok Sabha Elections of 1971.—In the Mid Term Lok Sabha Elections held in 1971, the Congress (lead by Jagjiwan Ram) again set up its candidates from Surguja and Sidhi Constituencies. In Surguja Constituency it secured 78,859 valid votes and captured the seat. But in the Sidhi Constituency its candidate who got 52,617 valid votes was defeated by an independent candidate.

Congress in the Vidhan Sabha Elections of 1972.—The Congress candidates contested from ten Vidhan Sabha Constituencies of the District. They polled 13,127 in Manendragarh (Scheduled Tribes), 33,534 in Baikunthpur, 13,658 in Surajpur, 15,342 in Pal (Scheduled Tribes), 9632 in Lundra (Scheduled Tribes), 24,492 in Ambikapur, 15,913 in Lakhanpur and 11,949 valid votes in Sitapur (Scheduled Tribes) constituencies and captured all these eight seats. In Premnagar and Samri (both Scheduled Tribes) Constituencies, the party got 6,334 and 9,117 valid votes respectively and lost.

1977 Elections.—In the 1977 elections to Lok Sabha the Congress again contested the two Lok Sabha seats from Surguja and Sidhi but lost both the seats having secured 65,769 votes out of 2,31,721 valid votes from Surguja and 65,495 votes out of 2,53,659 valid votes from Sidhi.

For the Vidhan Sabha the party contested for all the ten seats but could with only one seat from Sitapur having secured 13,231 Valid Votes out of 24,461 votes cast.

Jana Sangh

During the first and Second General Elections of 1951-52 and 1957, respectively, the Party did not contest for Lok Sabha. During the Second General Elections, its six candidates were, however, in the field from Sitapur, Surajpur, Ambikapur and Manendragarh Assembly Constituencies. In Sitapur and Surajpur the Party candidates got 1,159 and 2,245 valid votes, respectively, and lost. The two candidates in the Ambikapur Constituency together polled a total of 4,786 valid votes and lost. In the Manendragarh Constituency 5,352 valid votes were cast in favour of its two candidates, but they were defeated.

The Jana Sangh set up a candidate for Lok Sabha from Surguja Constituency during the Third General Elections, 1962. But he was unsuccessful as he could secure only 22,228 valid votes. It also contested from all the nine Vidhan Sabha Constituencies in the District.

But only one of its candidates was successful in Lundra Constituency, where he polled 5,480 valid votes. The number of valid votes polled by the party in the rest of the constituencies where it lost was 3,549 in Manendragarh, 2,020 in Baikunthpur, 1,957 in Bhaiyathan, 1,746 in Surajpur, 1,328 in Pal, 2,118 in Samri, 4,201 in Ambikapur and 2,182 in Sitapur.

During the Fourth General Elections, 1967 the Jana Sangh candidates contested from Surguja and Sidhi Lok Sabha Constituencies. 52,953 and 33,326 valid votes were polled by them in the aforesaid constituencies, respectively. Hence both of them lost. Of the ten Vidhan Sabha seats contested during this election, the Party got three seats namely Premnagar, Samri and Lakhanpur where 5,044, 9,652 and 6,791 valid votes respectively were polled by it. In the remaining seven constituencies where it was defeated, the number of valid votes polled by it was 4,042 in Manendragarh, 1554 in Baikunthpur, 7,876 in Surajpur, 4,016 in Pal, 5,132 in Lundra, 6,964 in Ambikapur and 4,306 in Sitapur.

In the Mid-Term Lok Sabha Poll, a candidate of the Jana Sangh Party fought the election from Surguja Lok Sabha Constituency, where its candidate polled 54,818 valid votes and lost.

During the Fifth General Elections, 1972, the Jana Sangh candidates contested from all the ten Vidhan Sabha Constituencies of the District. They polled 13,562 in Premnagar (Scheduled Tribes) and 13,230 valid votes in Samri (Scheduled Tribes) respectively and won both the seats. In the remaining constituencies, where it was defeated, the number of valid votes polled by it was 8,591 in Manendragarh, 1538 in Baikunthpur, 8,024 in Surajpur, 10,248 in Pal, 7,510 in Lundra, 7,599 in Ambikapur, 6,274 in Lakhanpur and 8,231 in Sitapur. In 1977 the party was merged into the Janata Party.

Janata Party

In March 1977, the Swatantra party, the Jana Sangh, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, Socialist, Praja Socialist Party and the Congress (organisation) were merged to form a new party called the Janata Party which contested for the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections of 1977.

For, the Lok Sabha elections of March 1977 the Janata Party contested the Surguja and Sidhi Lok Sabha seats under the symbol of the Bharatiya Lok Dal and came out victorious, securing 1,65,952 votes out of 2,31,721 valid votes while the constituency had a total 5,49,984 votes. From Surguja and 1,41,968 votes out of 2,53,659 valid votes from Sidhi constituency.

For the Vidhan Sabha elections of June 1977 also the Bharatiya Lok Dal symbol was allotted, to the Janata party which contested all the 10 seats from the District and was successful in gaining 9 of the seats. The table shows the details.

Table No. XVIII—13

Janata Party in Vidhan Sabha Election 1977

Constituency	Total No. of voters	Total valid votes polled	Votes polled by Janata Party	Next rival party
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Manendragarh	80,971	25,241	13,011	8,118
2. Baikunthpur	84,887	38,730	15,343	14,347
3. Premnagar	68,421	19,961	9,918	5,066
4. Surajpur	71,421	32,246	12,695	5,919
5. Pal	67,255	19,739	13,840	4,034
6. Samri	60,583	22,392	12,127	1,953
7. Lundra	67,568	22,956	11,652	7,750
8. Pilkha	75,246	27,139	16,323	2,687
9. Ambikapur	77,648	28,720	16,809	11,911
10. Sitapur	62,332	24,461	3,182	13,231

Ram Rajya Parishad

During the First General Elections, 1951-52, the Ram Rajya Parishad contested elections for Parliament only. Its two candidates from the Surguja-Raigarh Double-Member Parliamentary Constituency together polled 1,44,470 valid votes and lost. No Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha seat of the District was contested by the party during the Second General Elections, 1957. In the Third General Elections, 1962 the Parishad, however, put up two candidates for Lok Sabha and nine candidates for Vidhan Sabha. Its candidate in the Raigarh Parliamentary Constituency won the election by securing 56,991 valid votes, but the together candidate in the Surguja Constituency got only 12,704 valid votes and lost. Of its nine candidates for the Vidhan Sabha, only one candidate from Surguja Constituency, who got 4,880 valid votes, was successful. The number of valid votes polled in the other eight constituencies where it lost was 219 in Manendragarh, 1,348 in Baikunthpur, 3,393 in Bhaiyathan, 1,195 in Pal, 1,149 in Samri, 1,140 in Lundra, 1,890 in Ambikapur and 2,392 in Sitapur. In the Fourth General Elections of 1967 and Mid-Term Lok Sabha poll held in 1971, the Ram Rajya Parishad did not contest any seat in the District.

Republican Party

The party was in the field at the time of the Fourth General Elections, 1967 only when it contested the Surguja Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats. But all its candidates suffered a defeat. The Lok Sabha candidate got 15,003 valid votes, while the candidates for the Vidhan Sabha secured 747 valid votes in Baikunthpur, 559 in Premnagar, 2,175 in Surajpur, 1,002 in Lundra, 745 in Ambikapur, 459 in Lakhanpur and 340 in Sitapur constituencies.

Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party

Two candidates of this party contested election for Lok Sabha from the Surguja-Raigarh Double-Member constituency. Both these candidates polled a total number of 1,39,415 valid votes and lost. The party did not contest in any other election either for the Lok Sabha or for the Vidhan Sabha.

Socialist Party

The Socialist Party set up only candidate from the Manendragarh Vidhan Sabha Constituency in the First General Elections, 1951-52. He polled 5,246 valid votes and lost. Similarly, in the Third General Elections, 1962 two candidates of the Party contested for Vidhan Sabha but failed to win. In the Manendragarh Constituency, the number of valid votes polled was 2,414 while 832 valid votes were polled in Baikunthpur Constituency.

During the Fifth General Elections, 1972 the party contested from Manendragarh, Baikunthpur, Premnagar, Surajpur, Pal, Samri, Lundra and Ambikapur constituencies and the candidates secured 2,488; 753; 502; 3,290; 4,256; 978 and 1,330 valid voters, respectively. All lost the seats. In 1977 the party was treated into the Janata Party.

Praja Socialist Party

Two candidates of the party contested from the Double-Member Surguja Parliamentary Constituency during the Second General Elections 1957. They polled 69,313 valid votes and lost. The party also contested all the nine Vidhan Sabha seats, but failed to win any of them. In the Double-Member Constituencies of the District, namely, Pal, Ambikapur, Surajpur and Manendragarh, the party got 5,022, 3,495, 4,082 and 9,549 valid votes, respectively, which the number of valid votes secured in the Sitapur Constituency was 1,684.

In the Third General Elections, 1962 the Surguja and Raigarh Parliamentary seats were contested by it where 21,133 and 23,377 valid votes respectively were polled by it. Both these seats were lost. It also set up seven candidates for the Vidhan Sabha. But only one of them

from Baikunthpur Constituency, who polled 7,886 valid votes was successful. In the other six constituencies where it suffered defeat, the number of valid votes polled was 3,095 in Manendragarh, 2,417 in Bhaiyathan, 551 in Surajpur, 684 in Samri, 2,083 in Ambikapur and 1,348 in Sitapur.

Both the seats of Parliament were contested by the candidates of the Party during the Fourth General Elections, 1967. But again they were defeated. They polled 9,808 valid votes in Surguja Constituency and 49,686 valid votes in Sindhi Constituency. None of the nine candidates of this Party who contested election for the Vidhan Sabha could win. 5,063 valid votes were polled by it in the Baikunthpur Constituency while 2,528 and 2,088 valid votes were polled in Manendragarh and Premnagar Constituencies. The number of valid votes secured in other constituencies was 704 in Surajpur, 1,659 in Samri, 1,322 in Lundra, 304 in Ambikapur, 1,493 in Lakhanpur and 1,276 in Sitapur. In 1977 the party was merged into the Janata Party.

Samyukta Socialist Party

During the Fourth General Elections, 1967 the party contested from Surguja and Sidhi Parliamentary Constituencies. It lost both the seats as it could poll only 10,884 and 23,288 valid votes respectively. It also set up eight candidates for the Vidhan Sabha but none of them was successful. It got 1,078 valid votes in Manendragarh, while in Premnagar it got only 716 valid votes. The number of valid votes secured in Pal and Samri Constituencies was 1331 and 3,512 respectively, while 453 in Lundra, 5,352 in Ambikapur, 958 in Lakhanpur and 2,390 in Sitapur Constituencies.

Communist Party of India

The communist Party was in the field at the time of the Mid-Term Lok Sabha Poll, 1971 when it set up a candidate from the Sidhi Parliamentary constituency. He secured 3,742 valid votes and lost. The Party has not contested any other election either for the Lok Sabha or for the Vidhan Sabha since that year.

Newspapers**Local Papers**

Being a predominantly Tribal area, where the means of communications are poor, journalism has a very recent origin in the District. Only two weeklies, namely, *Rashtra Chakra* and *Surguja Sandesh*, are published from Ambikapur. Besides weeklies, two fortnightly *Surguja Times* and *Giri Banwasi* are also published in the District. All these papers have their local circulation only.

Voluntary Social Service Organisations

These organisations are also of very recent origin in the District. They have, of course, rendered some significant public service in the various spheres of life. The activities of some important organisations of the District are being given below :—

Sarvodaya Samiti, Surguja

The Sarvodaya Samiti aims at economic and social upliftment of people. The Samiti was organised on 14th November, 1958 and since then it has earned a good reputation during the last 14 years in the field of rural uplift, and propagating Gandhian ideology and activities. Khadi Gramodyog Sub-office, Ambikapur has also merged in the Samiti since 2nd October, 1962. This body has 16 branches at Ambikapur, Bishrampur Mangari, Sitapur, Devgarh, Ulakiya (P.O. Pratapgarh.), Mendra Khurd, Parsa, Bhatti Khurd Khairwar, Kanti Prakashpur, Latori, Mafoli, Rajpur, Raghunathpur and Guruldih.

In the year 1969, there were 11 members, 26 salaried workers and 2 honorary workers for carrying out the activities of the Samiti. About two thousand persons are being benefited by the activities of this society. The main activities carried out by the centres of the Samiti are establishing adult education centres, Bal Wadi, Mahila Mandal, Bhajan Mandal and Village Protective force. Free medicines are also distributed for primary medical treatment. The following table shows the income and expenditure of the Samiti from the year 1960-61 onwards :—

Table No. XVIII—6

Income and Expenditure of the Samiti

Year	Income	(In Rupees) Expenditure
1960-61	1,890	14,700
1961-62	6,362	17,201
1962-63	6,869	21,172
1963-64	44,527	35,564
1964-65	53,126	50,483
1965-66	76,746	64,176
1966-67	55,049	54,815
1967-68	82,368	81,532
1968-69	61,402	73,783
1969-70		
1970-71		

It is receiving grants from M. P. Khadi Board, Ujjain, Khadi Gramodhyog Commission, Bombay, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Chattarpur, and Khadi Gramodyog Commission, Bhopal.

Mahila Mandal, Baikunthpur

The Mahila Mandal was founded at Baikunthpur on 2nd October, 1959. It aimed at improving the lot of the women and children in the Tahsil area. In the year 1969, there were 29 members of the Mandal and it is organizing one Balak Mandir to educate the children. The Mandal is getting grant from the Education Department for the same which was Rs. 1,332.95 in the year 1968-69 and the same amount in 1969-70.

Nishkalanka Ashram

The Ashram was founded in 1955 at Ambikapur. This Ashram is one of the three Rosarian Ashrams in India. The main purpose of the Ashram is to combat by prayer and penance all the spiritual evils that menace the modern world. Their activities are chiefly confined to their Ashram premises. Their diet is strictly vegetarian. The inmates of the Ashram earn their living by agricultural farming. They have their own dairy, poultry, bee-keeping, etc. They never go out of the monastery for preaching or for any missionary-activities.

Any good catholic who has finished at least his primary education may become a member of the institution. The Ashram had 18 members in the year 1972. The following table shows the income and expenditure of the institution.

Table No. XVIII—8

Income and Expenditure of the Ashram

Year	Income	Expenditure (In Rupees)
1963	26,546	32,694
1964	19,678	15,169
1965	19,446	20,329
1966	54,849	56,720
1967	65,403	60,590
1968	53,944	45,612
1969	1,00,568	1,06,777
1970	70,190	73,161
1971	53,896	53,346

Note.—Income includes Charity offering.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

Ambikapur (23°05'N;83°10'E)

Formerly the capital town of the erstwhile princely State of Surguja, it is now the headquarters town of the District. A fine palace of the old Chief is existing in the town. Ambikapur is not a railway station, but it is connected with many places within and outside the District by several first class and third class roads such as the Ambikapur-Pathalgoan (in Raigarh District) Road, Ambikapur-Baikunthpur-Manendragarh Road, Ambikapur-Ramanujganj Road, Ambikapur-Katghora-Bilaspur Road, Ambikapur-Partappur Road, etc. Regular buses ply on these roads.

The town is laid with fine roads with substantial buildings on both sides. The local rest house accommodates the visitors. Other common amenities of the civic life are available here. The climate is bracing. The population of this place, according to the Census of 1971 is 23,059.

Depadih (23°20'N, 83°30'E)

A village of Samri Tahsil, formerly it was included in the Chalgali tappa of the erstwhile Surguja State. It is situated about 41.6 kms. to the south-west of Samri. The nearest village to its east is Lamka. Depadih is connected with the tahsil headquarters by **Kutchha** roads.

About 1½ kms. from the village there are a few ruined temples and tanks. According to some historians Depadih was ruled by a Dravidian monarch, named Samni Singh. According to local tradition Samni Singh was killed in a battle with his contemporary Tanginath. Samni's seven ranis jumped into the tank and died. A huge stone figure of a man is pointed out to be of Samni's. In near proximity there is a ruined temple, enshrining an artistic figure of Mahisa Mardini. Some other gods and goddesses are also sculptured on the pillars along with Saivaic emblems of chain, trident, snake, etc. and flowers and leaves. A huge figure of Nandi is towards east. About 50 metres away from this temple there is another ruined temple and tank, containing stone steps on all the four sides and a ruined pillar in the middle. When the tank was re-excavated a few saivaic figures in stone were picked up. These objects are very old, resembling the Bhumra art. The population figure of this place was 530 in 1971.

Deogarh (22°45'N;83°25'E)

A village of Ambikapur tahsil, Deogarh is situated on the bank of the Rihand amidst calm and quiet scenic beauty. It lies about 1½ km. to the west

of the Bamlaya-Ambikapur Road. From Ambikapur its distance is about 40 kms. towards south. The place is also called Deoria, due to the great number of divinities scattered all around. There are several mounds, formed by the debris of temples, each crowned with a deity.

The archaeology of this place may date back to a very early age. Its Gauri-Shankar temple might have been constructed by a Nagavamsi ruler of the Bhara-Siva dynasty during 110 B.C. to 78 A.D. About 475 persons lived in the village in 1971.

Kudargarh (23°30'N;82°45'E)

A village of Surajpur Tahsil, Kudargarh is about 19.2 kms. from Bhaiyathan. It lies on the bank of the Goknai Nala, at a distance of about 35 kms. from tahsil headquarters towards north. The climate is bracing.

Kudargarh is famous for its temple of Bhagwati Devi. The shrine is situated on the top of a hill. It is said that formerly the temple was placed on a still higher altitude where few people could reach. Once the goddess appeared before her priest in a dream and ordered him to shift her temple in its present location.

Gauri Shankar Temple

Once when the place was a prosperous one, 11 Sivas (Ekadash Rudra) were installed in 11 temples, all situated on the river bank. These are in ruins. One of these Rudras was placed on a raised platform with an artistic painting of Parvati to its west. The special feature of shrine is that, even if 1000 pitchers of water are poured on the **Gauripith** it is never flooded, the water exits from a small hole near the **linga**. The temple is known as Gauri Shankar Mandir. It is a very old building of the Saiva period, containing many beautiful Saiva statues in its shrine, including Kal-Bhairav, Ganesh, Bhairavi, Gandharva, etc. Near about there are several other ruined temples with Saivaic deities, one of them is Ganesh feeding himself with Laddus, Kal-Bhairav holding **trishul, danda, Kharga and damaru** in his four hands and a long garland of beheaded crowns on his chest. One pillar depicts a Gandharva dance, another armed male and female figures. One of the females is trying to kill another female. A flight of steps is to reach the shrine. Several springs are also there, of which one, namely the Kapil-Dhara, is about 6 metres high. An annual fair is held on this spot, where people from distant places assemble to take bath and worship the God during the Ram Navami. Near the shrine of Bhagwati are some remains of tanks and a fort, assigned to one Raja Baland of the Vindhya region. He is said to have got chiselled figures of many gods and goddess in the village. The number of inhabitants of this place, in 1971, was 176.

Juba (23°43'N.; 83°26'E.)

A deserted ruined fortress to the Ramanujganj Tahsil it stands on the rocky shoulder of a hill, about 3.2 kms. to the south-east of Manpura village. The Krishna Nagar-Pratappur cart road passes at a distance of about 6.4 kms. towards east.

The ruins of the fortress command a deep gorge, over grown with jungle. Hidden among the trees are the remains of a few carved temples, almost covered with accumulation of vegetable mould.

Koreagarh (23°05'N.; 82°25'E.)

A hill of the Mahendragarh Tahsil, Koreagarh is situated at about 9.6 kms. to the east of Chormi. It is a hill of the erstwhile Korea State which rises in solitary grandeur from the plain. According to tradition the hill top was the abode of the local Kol Raja whose family is said to have been dispossessed 18 centuries ago by Raja Dharamall Shah. His descendants ruled till the merger of the State. Raja Dharamall Shah came to this State while returning from a pilgrimage to Jagannath. He established himself at Nagar, then to Rajali, then to Sonhat and finally Baikunthpur. The direct line from Raja Dharamall Shah became extinct in 1894. The last Chief Raja Sheo Mangal Singh Deo is a collateral relation of its last member. Some relics of advanced culture are traceable on the hill top, including a dry tank and many blocks of stone, which apparently at one time formed the walls of dwellings of considerable size. Local people say it was the fort of a Kol or a Buland Raja. The relics at Koreagarh and some fine tanks at Pori village are believed to be the creation of a race of an advanced civilization.

Ghaghora (23°25'N.; 81°55'E.)

A village of Bharatpur Tahsil, it is situated on the bank of the Danka river and on a **Kutchha** road connecting with Bharatpur. Bharatpur is about 11.2 kms. south of the village.

The main object of interest of this place is a cave known as **Sitamarhi**, containing a Mahadeo, represented by two monoliths. Similar **Sitamarhis** are found in the jungles of Kanjia and Chhataunda of the district. During 1971 the place was peopled by 55 souls.

Harchauka (23°50'N.; 81°55'E.)

A village of Bharatpur Tahsil, formerly it was in erstwhile Changbhakar State. It lies towards the north-western border of the Surguja District at a distance of about 19.2 kms. to the north-west of Bharatpur. The nearest main road is Bharatpur-Budwahi road running at a distance of less than 8 km. from Harchauka. The small river Mawahi flows past this village.

The remains of extensive rock excavations, supposed to be temples and monasteries were discovered here in 1970-71. They appear to be the work of a civilized race. In some man-made small caves of this village there are stone figures of Mahadeva. The number of inhabitants of this place was 425 according to the Census of 1971.

Ramgarh Hill (22°50'N.; 83°10'E.)

A high hill of the District with a peak, Ramgarh lies to the east of the great road from Allahabad to Rameshwaram, in the extreme south. Allahabad is about 384 km. from this hill.¹ It rises abruptly from the surrounding plains of the former Rampur tanna of the District. The nearest railway station, viz., the Kharsia Railway Station (in Raigarh District), is about 160 kms. away.

Hathpore

The hill consists of a long steep ridge rising over 308 metres from the plains. The ridge itself is capped at the south-western extremity by a sheer perpendicular mass of rock rising more than 308 metres again, above the main ridge. The whole range stretches from north to south. At the northern end of the lower ridge there is a vast tunnel known as 'Hathpore' because elephants could travel in it. A little revulet rising in and flowing through the valley at the foot of the spur, is jointed by another, which comes from beyond the next spur. The tunnel is about 139 metres in length and the mouth is about 17 metres wide. A long bench at a minimum height of about 1.23 metres above the bed of the nullah runs along the whole length of the tunnel. There are some **Kundas** in the "Hathphor" or "Hathpore", one of which is known as Sita Kunda. The water is beautifully clear and cold. Fairs are held on this spot in Magha (January/February), Chaitra (March/April) and Vaishaka (May/June). The spring is called the Turra. The spot is also known as Tilakmati from the red-coloured earth to be found there. A legend is current here that Rama marked Sita's forehead with this Tilakmati at this spot.

Pawuri Gate or Pauri Deori, Kabirchaura

On ascending the spur and reaching the main hill one comes upon a ruined gate way, known as the Powuri gate or Pauri Deori. The gate-way now consists of two enormous monoliths of stone, wedged between fragments of other stones. On either side of this gateway there lie huge blocks of cut stone, which probably once formed a wall encircling the base of the perpendicular rock above. Passing on through the gateways one eventually reaches the "Kabirchaura" (grave) of Dharma Das, the last Jogi of the Ramgarh Hill. A little further, there is a huge boulder with a small entrance cut in it. The

1. J. D. Beglar, Archaeological Survey of India Report, Vol. VIII, pp. 52-53.

boulder is known as Vashistha gupha, where the guru of Ram Chandra is supposed to have lived. Worshippers wending their way to the temples at summit of the hill are alleged to have been mystified by the supernatural utterances, proceeding apparently from this solid rock. There is also a votive Stupa called the Malkhana Goraya, an object of worship among the aboriginal tribes. Some boulders are scattered near about, which once formed probably the walls and the floor of a dwelling house.

Singh Darwaja Rawan Darwaja

From this place a flight of steps ascends to the perpendicular face of the rock and leads one to a gateway named the Singh Darwaja, built of great masses of enormous stones cut and carved in scroll work. The outer arch of this gateway is still standing. It is almost beyond belief, how human hands could build this with such huge stones on the sheer face of the rock. In near proximity there is a temple enshrining a statue of Siva in a half kneeling position. His hands are joined at the chest, half concealing an almond shaped emblem, similar to the Siva figure of Seorinarayan of Raipur District. Near the entrance there is a ruined watch house and traces of a massive stone wall running up to the summit. From the Singh Darwaja a ruined flight of steps (Ganesh Siri) leads to the remains of the Rawan Darwaja. The Rawan Darwaja contains the images of Rawan, his brother Kumbhakaran, a few dancing girls, Sita, Hanuman and others. From this point a narrow path goes to the summit, on either side of which there stand upright on the hill side, a few stone monoliths or Sati pillars, bereft of any carving or inscription. On the scarped face of the central anvil of the hill there is a place known as the Gosain Tilak. On the rock here there are several sculptured figures which are rude in design, but very bold in execution the subject-matters being elephant fights, etc. In a small space there are two stone male and female figures, dresses and other details resemble those of the earliest Gupta sculptures. Near about are some ruined and semi-ruined figures of mostly Saivaic divinities. They might belong not to a date earlier than these figures of Gupta affinity.

On the top of the hill there is a temple in fairly good condition, and made of enormous blocks of stones. It enshrines Rama with Sita and Lakshman in his either sides. Outside the temple there are figures of Mahadeo and Hanuman, and of Dharat and Vishnu within the building. About 61 metres below the summit there is a natural cave on the face of the rock. During the annual fair on the Ramgiri hill pilgrims visit this cave, believing it to be the abode of Valmiki. Some even say that Rama himself used to live there during his exile.

In the cave is found moist chalk. The cave has, by the removal of this chalk by the devotees, to make the sacred mark on their forehead after worshipping at the temple above, been hollowed to a great extent. Just below the cave there is a pool of transparent water, which is said never to vary in depth.

Sita Bongira

The most interesting remains of antiquity of this hill is a cave known as "Sita Bongira" that is, the residence of Sita. It is situated on the spur of the north eastern slope. This natural big cavern is improved by art. In shape the cave is long, about 14 meters long and about 4.2 meters wide with two rows of natural bench. The roof is a little less than 2 metres high at the entrance. Outside the cave there are several circular steps or rock cut benches and two series of smaller steps on either side. The whole arrangement is very artistic. The benches are arranged in crescent shaped terraces, serving probably seats for an audience of about 50-60, watching some performance in front of them. On the floor at the entrance of the Sita Bongira cave there are two holes, which might have been used to contain the wooden poles of a curtain, meant to protect the audience from the cold air of the winter night, when they retired into the cave after the show.

The Amptitheatre

Occasionally the spectators might have seated themselves on the benches within the cave when the dancing party might have performed its programme in front of the curtain. Probably dance and drama were projected here. This small amphitheatre in front of the cave, with its hemispherical rows of rock cut seats, arranged in tiers and pathways in between in concentric circles and radiants, reminds one of the plan of a Greek theatre. "And it will like wise be admitted that a great theatre in an Indian building that served similar purposes, has a strong bearing upon the question of the Greek influence on the Indian drama."¹

Inscriptions

Inside the cave there are several rock cut human figures, one of which has inscriptions on her head and foot. There is another inscription which in fact creates interest among antiquarians. It is an inscription of two lines, each measuring about a meter in length, cut on the right jamb of the entrance just below the roof of the cave. It is incised in the Asokan characters, more precisely in ancient Brahmi script, employed in Asoka's inscriptions. Besides this inscription, there is on the left jamb another epigraph of a single line inscription in mediaeval Nagari; also a single compound letter of the Asokan period "Pt" and a number of plain strokes, as if some one had kept a count of something.

Jogi Mara

At the southern end of the slope of the same hill there is another cave known as Jogi Mara. Its roof and ceiling are painted in red, yellow, brown, green and black, with painted figures of bird, flower, fish, tree and human being. At several places are painted ancient Chaitya window,

1. Archaeological Survey of India, Annual Report, 1903-04, 126-127.

PLACES OF INTEREST

two wheeled carriages drawn by 3 horses and surmounted by umbrella, like the carving of Sanchi and Bharhut. The back-ground of the frescos are painted white, which are divided into series of concentric circles by bands of red and yellow, occasionally with a geometrical design. Dampness has played havoc to these ancient paintings so much so, that large portions of the frescos have entirely disappeared. Never the less these pieces of art are regarded as the oldest specimen of wall paintings and believed to belong to the 3rd century B.C. The cave contains an equally ancient inscription of 5 lines, belonging to the same age and written in Asokan script. It is engraved near the right hand side of the entrance, just below the paintings covering the vault. The language is in pure Magadhi, more akin to the Magadhi of the grammarians than the inscription is similar to some extent to the Suraseni dialect of the ancient dramas, while the Jogimara inscription is composed in pure Magadhi.

The name of one "Thera Devta" is mentioned in one of these inscriptions. It is not to be confused with Devadatta, cousin of the Lord Budha. The lithic record was engraved by a sculptor named Devadina for his lover, one Surtanuka (Surtanuka) named Devandrasin (Devadasi).

Tradition says that Sita used to reside in the cave known as Sita Bongira. The Rihand or Reur river, which flows not very far from the foot of the hills is identified with the Mandakini, though some apply the name to the small rivulet which descends down the hill on the north, known as Turra. Tradition further says that Ramgarh hill is the famous Chitrakuta Hill of the Ramayana, Cunningham too is convinced of the truth of these traditions, because according to him Ramgiri Hill tallies with the description of the Chitrakuta of the epic in all points.

It may be added here, that about 9.6 km. east of Ramgarh Hill near Sirindhi and also on the bank of the Kohar are ruins of 12 temples. excavated by Dalgton in 1864. Close to these was a stone faced tank.

APPENDICES

1. A Cunningham, Corpus Inscriptionum Indicarum, Vol. I, Inscriptions of Ashoka, Archaeological Survey of India [Annual Report], 1903-04, P. 1280

2. O.P. Cit., Archaeological Survey of India Report, Vol. III, pp. 42-55

APPENDIX—A

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TABLE-I
Normals and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	No of year of data	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Ambikapur	50 a	25.1	37.1	18.8	14.5	19.6	217.2	403.0
	b	2.0	2.8	1.9	1.2	1.4	9.5	19.2
Janakpur	13 a	43.9	30.5	17.0	4.1	7.6	188.2	417.1
	b	2.7	2.5	2.4	0.5	0.7	7.0	18.5
Baikunthpur	38 a	31.7	39.4	24.4	13.2	20.1	200.4	437.4
	b	2.2	3.4	2.3	1.7	2.2	10.2	19.4
Surguja (District)	a	33.6	35.7	20.1	10.6	15.8	201.9	449.2
	b	2.3	2.9	2.2	1.1	1.4	8.9	19.0

SURGUJA

Table -I - Contd.

Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and years	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and years	Heaviest rainfall in* 24 hours	
(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	Amount (mm).	Date
515.1	222.8	71.6	17.0	5.8	1,657.6	144	62	341.6	1945, June 27
20.4	11.8	3.9	1.2	0.4	75.7	(1904)	(1912)		
382.8	199.9	36.8	12.7	3.8	1,344.4	133	52	165.1	1948, June 27
16.9	9.8	2.7	0.5	0.2	64.4	(1948)	(1941)]		
420.4	204.2	64.8	14.5	6.9	1,477.4	123	59	326.4	1915, July 4.
18.7	11.6	4.2	1.1	0.6	77.6	(1915)	[(1930)		
439.4	209.0	57.7	14.7	5.5	1,493.2	160	58		
18.	11.1	3.6	0.9	0.4	72.5	(1904)	(1941)		

(a) Normal rainfall in mm. (b) Average number of days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more). *Based on all available date up to 1962.
 **Years given in brackets.

APPENDICES

TABLE-II

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District
 (Data 1901-1950)

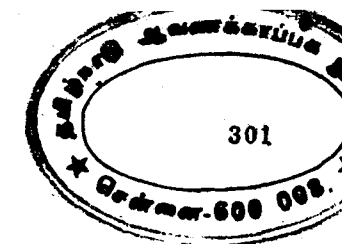
Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
801-900	1	1,601-1,700	9
901-1,000	0	1,701-1,800	3
1,001-1,100	1	1,801-1,900	6
1,101-1,200	1	1,901-2,000	1
1,201-1,300	2	2,001-2,100	0
1,301-1,400	3	2,101-2,200	0
1,401-1,500	8	2,201-2,300	0
1,501-1,600	14	2,301-2,400	1

SURGUJA
TABLE—III

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity (Ambikapur)

Month	Mean Daily Temperature		Mean Daily Minimum Temperature		Highest Maximum ever recorded		Lowest Minimum ever recorded		Relative Humidity	
	°C		°C		°C	Date	°C	Date	0830*	1730*
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	%	%
January	23.9	8.6	29.3	1958, Jan. 27	1.1	1954 Jan. 25	77	46		
February	27.1	10.4	33.3	1954, Feb. 20	3.9	1956, Feb. 7	65	33		
March	31.8	15.0	38.3	1955, Mar. 31	8.2	1957, Mar. 1	48	25		
April	36.6	20.3	41.9	1961, Apr. 23	12.8	1955, Apr. 19	34	19		
May	39.6	24.8	43.3	1956, May. 5	18.8	1960, May. 10	36	21		
June	35.8	25.1	43.3	1955, June. 6	19.0	1959, June 22	61	51		
July	29.5	23.2	37.1	1958, July, 7	20.6	1951, July, 4	87	80		
August	29.2	22.9	34.2	1958, Aug. 25	20.7	1958, Aug. 11	88	83		
September	29.5	22.1	33.9	1959, Sept. 22	19.4	1960, Sept. 29	85	78		
October	29.0	18.0	33.3	1957, Oct. 18	9.4	1954, Oct. 31	77	66		
November	26.0	10.5	29.6	1957, Nov. 3	4.4	1952, Nov. 30	68	51		
December	24.2	8.0	28.8	1960, Dec. 31	1.7	1955, Dec. 26	75	48		
Annual	30.2	17.4	..	..	..	..	67	50		

* Hours I. S. T.



APPENDICES

TABLE—IV

(Mean Wind Speed in/Km. hr.)

(AMBIKAPUR)

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
6.1	6.9	7.9	8.8	9.7	10.1	9.3	8.5	7.5	6.7	5.8	5.4	7.7

TABLE—V

Special Weather Phenomena

Mean No. of days with	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Thunder	1.7	1.9	3.5	2.4	4.0	10.9	7.9	9.4	6.3	1.1	0.1	0.2	48.8
Hail	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8
Squall	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fog	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	1.2

TABLE—VI
Land Utilization

(In thousand Hectares)

Year		Area According to village Papers	Forest	Area not Available for Cultivation (5+6)	Area put to non-Agricultural uses	Area Under Barren and Unculturable Land (6)
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1950-51		2,274	460	152	..	..
1955-56		2,219	1,152	130	73	57
1960-61		2,219	1,177	133	74	59
1965-66		2,199	1,089	121	73	49
1967-68		2,199	1,092	126	74	51
1971-72		2,199	1,193	126	76	50

Year	Other Uncultivated Land Excluding Fallow Lands (8+9+10)	Area Under Permanent Pastures and other Grazing Lands	Area Under Misc. Tree crops and Grove	Area Under Culturable Waste	Area Under Fallow Land (12+13)	Area Under Fallow Lands other than Current Fallows
(1)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
1950-51	..	..	..	..	..	..
1955-56	410	92	96	228	60	28
1960-61	346	92	94	160	65	35
1965-66	380	345	.2	35	78	34
1967-68	374	334	.2	40	99	42
1971-72	215	149	66	43	84	38

Year	Area Under Current Fallows	Net Area Sown	Area Sown More than Once	Gross Cropped Area
(1)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1950-51	76	391	32	423
1955-56	32	466	50	516
1960-61	30	497	60	557
1965-66	43	530	69	600
1967-68	57	508	57	566
1971-72	46	538	66	604

APPENDICES

TABLE—VII

Area Sown Under Principal Crops

(In Thousand Hectares)

Year	Paddy	Maize	Wheat	Barley	Gram	Tur	Rape and Mustard
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1950-51	240	25.9	3	6.1	5	2.6	15.6
1955-56	266	28.5	4	6.9	8	6.6	23.5
1960-61	282	31.0	6	8.4	9	6.8	24.2
1965-66	288	33.6	9	10.7	10	9.1	26.8
1967-68	278	34.5	7	6.8	6	9.5	19.1
1971-72	290.3	36.2	8	7.7	7	9.2	23.9
1975-76	293.1	38.7	14.5	9.5	9	8.4	27.3

TABLE—VIII

Out-turn of Principal Crops

(in Thousand Tonnes)

Year	Rice	Mize	Wheat	Barley	Gram	Tur	Rape and Mustard
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1950-51	88.1	16.3	0.8	1.4	1.3	0.7	4.0
1955-56	192.3	5.8	1.9	3.6	2.5	10.3	9.9
1960-61	206.6	34.3	3.5	5.6	2.9	9.1	8.8
1965-66	155.1	50.6	4.4	7.0	3.7	7.9	8.0
1967-68	181.9	53.3	4.3	5.9	2.2	9.9	5.3
1971-72	250.7	26.2	4.4	6.0	2.7	7.4	8.5
1975-76	222.8	36.5	8.7	7.2	3.2	9.4	13.7

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TABLE—IX

Gross/Net Area Irrigated

(in Hectares)

Year	Canals	Wells	Tanks	Other Sources	All Sources
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1950-51	..	1,384	1,745	635	3,764
1955-56	..	1,169	87	887	2,143
1960-61	..	1,758	103	1,274	3,135
1965-66	14	2,052	18	1,814	3,898
1967-68	324	2,728	29	943	4,024
1975-76	2,034	3,210	1,039	5,158	11,441

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TABLE—X

Livestock

Year	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horses and Ponies	Pigs	Total Livestock
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1951	7,36,892	1,21,465	1,850	1,76,178	16,109	5,725	10,58,239
1956	8,10,737	1,40,645	1,668	2,48,648	14,721	9,628	12,26,047
1961	9,13,624	1,64,803	1,750	3,15,702	16,961	12,081	14,24,925
1965-66	9,57,236	1,87,730	1,830	3,51,509	14,565	15,748	15,28,618
1971-72	9,81,262	1,49,771	1,547	3,23,400	11,352	18,807	14,86,139

TABLE—XI

Agricultural Implements

Year	Ploughs		Carts	Sugar Crushers		Oil Engines with pumps for Irrigation	Electric Pumps for Irrigation	Tractors	Ghanis
	Wooden	Iron		Power	Bull-ocks				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1951	1,46,954	..	8,543	..	165	12	..	2	359
1956	1,75,246	5	12,016	1	224	6	1	7	345
1961	2,15,468	229	9,888	..	293	13	1	30	344
1965-66	2,30,591	121	16,330	3	407	35	6	20	519
1971-72	2,35,765	70	13,536	7	404	483	328	60	253

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TABLE—XII
Employment in Trade and Commerce in the District

Tahsils (1)	1961			1971		
	Male (2)	Female (3)	Total (4)	Male (5)	Female (6)	Total (7)
1. Bharatpur	48	21	69	124	23	147
2. Baikunthpur	328	57	385	545	40	585
3. Surajpur	698	109	807	1,099	61	1,160
4. Pal	424	71	495	562	30	592
5. Manendragarh	1,399	183	1,582	1,821	100	1,921
6. Ambikapur	1,528	350	1,878	2,438	164	2,602
7. Samri	266	76	342	274	27	301
District Total	4,691	867	5,558	6,863	445	7,308

Source :—District Census Hand Book Surguja.

TABLE—XIII
Registrations and Placements

Year (1)	Registrations (2)	Placements (3)	No. on Live Register (4)
1961	328	6	321
1965	5,696	1,642	1,885
1966	6,765	1,542	1,124
1967	5,163	712	1,869
1968	4,921	712	1,651
1969	4,996	745	2,127
1970	5,283	816	1,982
1971	4,311	1,346	2,077
1972	4,570	861	2,540

TABLE—XIV
Receipts from Different Sources of Revenue

(In Rs.)									
Items	1951-52	1955-56	1960-61	1961-62	1965-66	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
State									
1. Excise	..	12,24,910	9,32,577	19,82,199	N. A.	31,01,220	53,47,921	77,56,237	80,98,140
2. Stamps	..	..	93,606	1,06,768	1,49,007	4,67,170	4,94,917	5,82,013	N. A.
3. Forests	..	8,11,155	8,48,291	29,70,935	..	54,28,261	..	1,28,41,155	2,33,57,556
4. Registration	..	..	..	18,038	47,984	78,386	85,453	1,07,147	98,985
5. Sales Tax	..	..	..	..	27,38,205	54,02,474	48,69,125	52,67,627	57,88,538
(a) Under (State) General Sales Tax Act.	..	..	..	3,46,381	15,99,248	29,85,918	27,68,767	28,09,534	30,85,530
b) Under Central Sales Tax Act	..	..	..	4,00,499	10,95,659	23,86,245	20,87,755	24,55,118	26,94,132
c) Under Motor Spirit and Lubrication Taxation Act	..	..	..	78,061	43,298	30,310	11,292	2,975	8,876
Entertainment tax	23,187	22,874	35,412	58,179	1,32,781	2,31,230	3,01,466	6,72,176	4,43,371

xx.—From respective District offices, Surguja District Census Handbook, 1961, P. 441 and Economics and Statistics Department, M. P. Bhopal, from 1961-62 to 1973-74.

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TABLE-XV
Number of Prisoners

Year	Prisoners at the beginning of the year			Received during the year			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1950	59	3	62	279	17	296	338	20	358
1955	92	4	96	357	22	376	449	26	475
1960	90	7	97	375	14	389	405	21	426
1965	136	4	140	692	28	720	828	32	860
1970	149	2	151	708	14	722	857	16	873
1971	176	2	178	776	20	796	952	22	974
1972	186	6	192	869	10	879	1055	16	1071
1973	195	1	196	858	23	881	1053	24	1077

Discharged from all causes			Remaining at the end of the year			Total daily average of the prisoner		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
270	18	292	64	2	66	55.4	1.62	59.66
366	21	387	83	5	88	83.22	3.90	87.12
369	17	386	96	4	100	101.20	5.14	106.34
695	31	726	133	1	134	127.21	2.26	129.47
681	14	695	176	2	178	159.11	2.98	161.99
785	16	782	186	6	192	207.03	2.97	209.99
860	15	875	195	1	196	217.24	4.00	221.24
862	20	882	191	4	195	192.11	3.19	195.30

Source.—Superintendent, District Jail, Ambikapur.

APPENDICES
TABLE-XVI
Prisoners Classification

Year	Christians	Muslims	Hindus and Sikhs
1950-51	..	..	..
1960-61	..	..	..
1965-66	..	..	..
1966-67	..	..	..
1967-68	..	..	..
1968-69	..	..	..
1969-70	..	..	..
1970-71	..	..	..
1971-72	..	..	..

Source.—Superintendent, District Jail, Surguja.

TABLE-XVII
Prison population according to length of sentence

Length of sentence	1950-51	1960-61	1965-66	1970-71
Below one month	..	..	..	..
1 to 3 months	..	..	..	..
3 to 6 months	..	..	..	..
6 months to 1 year	..	..	..	..
1 to 2 years	..	..	..	..
2 to 5 years	..	..	..	..
5 to 10 years	..	..	..	..
Above 10 years	..	..	..	..
Transportation for life	..	..	..	..
Death sentence	..	..	..	..

Source.—Superintendent, District Jail, Surguja.

SURGUJA
TABLE-XVIII

Number of convictions under various offences

Year	Offences Affecting Human Body	Offences Against Property	Offences Affecting Public Health	Offences Relating to Religion
1969	621	1,147	42	..
1970	442	376	..	..
1971	357	506	23	..

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

TABLE-XIX

Number of persons punished

Year	Imprisonment	Fines	Security Taken	Persons dealt with under Borstal Act
1969	269	2,617	259	..
1970	459	2,323	..	..
1971	724	1,692	..	..

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

TABLE-XX

Number of witnesses Examined

Year	No. of witnesses Examined on the				Amount disbursed as diet money to witnesses (in Rs.)
	First Day	Second Day	Third Day	Fourth Day	
1969	1,896	86	3	11	10,599.58
1970	1,801	421	128	28	22,633.38
1971	1,565	446		33	23,541.80

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

APPENDICES

TABLE-XXI

Fine Imposed and Realised

Year	Amount of Fine Imposed	Amount Realised	Amount of Fine written off
1969	73,316	64,481	41,361
1970	97,229	84,682	..
1971	1,93,860	18,863	60

Source.—District and Sessions Judge Surguja.

TABLE-XXII

Duration of Civil Cases

Year	Without Trial	Ex-parte	Admission	Compromised	After full Trial
1969	35,002	19,913	3,953	17,391	68,747
1970	18,239	18,019	50	12,525	60,989
1971	18,905	19,987	1,514	8,576	66,618

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

TABLE-XXIII

Number of Civil Suits Pending

	1969	1970	1971
Suits pending at the beginning of the year	451	475	718
Instituted during the year	508	587	535
Revived during the year	55	33	31
Otherwise received during the year	96	66	101
Total for disposal during the year	1,110	1,161	1,365
Disposed by transfer	542	377	317
Pending at the close of the year	475	718	890

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

SURGUJA
TABLE-XXIV
Revisions and Appeals

Year	Pending at the beginning of the year	Instituted and reinstituted during the year	Otherwise received during the year
1. Criminal Revisions			
1969	26	71	..
1970	26	39	..
1971	54	612	62
1972	..	..	..
2. Criminal Appeals			
1969	42	174	..
1970	53	98	..
1971	1.28	135	..
1972	..	..	..
3. Regular Civil Appeals			
1969	217	120	252
1970	197	37	21
1971	230	25	..
1972	..	..	..
4. Miscellaneous Civil Appeals			
1969	19	28	36
1970	41	14	..
1971	49	20	33
1972	..	..	..

Source.—District and Sessions Judge, Surguja.

TABLE-XXV
Income and Expenditure of Baikunthpur Municipal Committee

Year (1)	(In Rs.)	
	Income (2)	Expenditure (3)
1960-61	..	8,677
1961-62	..	13,883
1962-63	..	16,654
1963-64	..	14,804
1964-65	..	17,904
1965-66	..	21,729
1966-67	..	11,516
1967-68	..	29,056
1968-69	..	21,301
1969-70	..	27,197
1970-71	..	39,723

Source:—Municipal Committee; Baikunthpur.

APPENDICES
TABLE-XXVI

Total Annual Receipts and Expenditure of Ramanujganj Municipal Committee
(In Rs.)

Year (1)	Total Receipts (2)	Expenditure (3)
1950-51	2,655	3,689
1960-61	10,215	7,349
1961-62	7,582	7,706
1962-63	8,595	6,179
1963-64	7,482	6,566
1964-65	9,604	12,276
1965-66	10,461	11,110
1966-67	10,206	10,086
1967-68	10,271	11,364
1968-69	16,917	18,838
1969-70	17,931	16,962
1970-71	24,977	32,542

TABLE-XXVII

Annual Receipts and Expenditure of Manendragarh Municipal Committee
(In Rs.)

Year (1)	Income (2)	Expenditure (3)
1960-61	30,804	29,421
1961-62	33,329	35,090
1962-63	47,214	45,912
1963-64	51,089	52,263
1964-65	38,829	39,076
1965-66	64,492	62,086
1966-67	94,585	96,514
1967-68	1,02,965	88,203
1968-69	1,64,206	1,63,589
1969-70	1,68,212	1,64,480
1970-71	1,96,191	1,75,870

SURGUJA
TABLE-XXVIII

Receipts and Expenditure of Ambikapur Municipal Committee
(In Rs)

Year (1)				Receipts (2)	Expenditure (3)
1949-50	..	..	..	20,326	22,612
1951-52	..	..	..	1,81,596	1,15,514
1956-57	..	..	..	1,20,988	1,29,514
1961-62	..	..	..	2,26,264	2,94,771
1962-63	..	..	..	2,75,674	2,72,878
1963-64	..	..	..	4,34,855	4,31,041
1964-65	..	..	..	2,63,131	2,26,546
1965-66	..	..	..	2,53,716	2,66,798
1966-67	..	..	..	2,62,960	2,66,576
1967-68	..	..	..	N.A.	N. A.
1968-69	..	..	..	2,86,106	3,93,104
1969-70	..	..	..	3,12,621	3,02,539
1970-71	..	..	..	4,73,856	4,7,3856

TABLE-XXIX

Progress of Primary and Junior Basic Education

Year (1)	No. of Schools (2)	No. of Students		No. of Teachers	
		Males (3)	Females (4)	Males (5)	Females (6)
1951	..	393	20,983	2,317	1,210
1952	..	425	21,395	1,711	1,230
1953	..	425	20,728	2,117	1,290
1954	..	489	20,596	2,454	1,218
1955	..	520	22,483	2,718	1,338
1956	..	545	25,302	3,596	1,334
1957	..	679	29,266	4,538	1,400
1958	..	809	34,426	5,857	1,402
1959	..	902	40,288	9,393	1,432
1960-61	..	953	39,505	8,628	1,669
1965-66	..	1,307	61,434	18,936	2,004
1966-67	..	1,338	61,349	22,547	2,426
1967-68	..	1,338	60,244	23,490	2,529
1968-69	..	1,338	54,251	18,426	2,285

Source :—Surguja District Census Handbook and District Education Officer.

APPENDICES

TABLE-XXX

Progress of Middle School Education

Year (1)	No. of Schools (2)	No. of Students		No. of Teachers	
		Males (3)	Females (4)	Males (5)	Females (6)
1951	...	19	626	5	59
1952	...	19	828	28	64
1953	...	19	903	29	67
1954	...	19	1452	30	82
1955	...	19	2630	127	93
1956	...	22	2816	87	94
1957	...	27	1053	262	105
1958	...	27	1906	34	117
1959	...	43	1906	93	135
1960-61	...	52	2168	90	151
1965-66	...	126	4340	624	288
1966-67	...	153	5145	729	341
1967-68	...	158	8833	1938	381
1968-69	...	158	6358	832	406

Source :—Surguja District Census Handbook and District Education Officer.

TABLE-XXXI

Progress of Higher Secondary School Education

Year (1)	No. of School (2)	No. of Students		No. of Teachers	
		Males (3)	Females (4)	Males (5)	Females (6)
1951	...	4	262	53	47
1952	...	4	699	53	50
1953	...	4	876	64	57
1954	...	4	1253	88	59
1955	...	4	1673	96	67
1956	...	5	1683	128	87
1957	...	5	1855	203	94
1958	...	7	1746	173	90
1959	...	9	2070	270	96
1960-61	...	11	2207	266	140
1965-66	...	24	5905	853	267
1966-67	...	30	6422	1268	302
1967-68	...	30	6588	1357	318

Source :—Surguja District Census Handbook and District Education Officer.

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TABLE-XXXII

Statement showing the position of Trainees at I. T. I. Ambikapur

Trade	1963	1964	Feb. 1965	Nov. 1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1. Electrician	25	25	26	26	20	13	8	24	18	19
2. Wireman	26	36	28	23	12	9	10	10	11	9
3. Fitter	24	26	26	21	38	23	27	31	29	36
4. Pattern Maker	16	...	10	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
5. Sheet Metal	17	...	23	...	17	9	...	...	...	...
6. Carpentry	16	...	16	...	4	9	...	...	...	...
7. Blacksmithy	...	16	11	...	14	...	...	...	...	...
8. Turner	...	16	19	19	23	14	19	26	23	16
9. Welder	...	15	19	21	19	19	12	19	21	29
10. Moulder	...	25	20	17	18	14	8	10	12	12
11. M/Composit	...	21	17	7	15	17	14	15	14	17
12. Motor mechanic	...	...	...	...	33	24	20	45	35	34
Total	124	180	214	167	223	151	118	180	163	172

Source :—Principal, Industrial Training Institute, Ambikapur.

APPENDICES

TABLE-XXXIII

Births and Deaths Classified by Sex

(1)	Total/Rural/ Urban (2)	Birth		Deaths		Infant deaths		Birth Rate (9)	Death Rate (10)	Infant death rate (11)
		Males (3)	Females (4)	Males (5)	Females (6)	Males (7)	Females (8)			
1954	T.	8,574	7,839	6,736	5,734	539	539	18	15	1
	R.	7,409	6,794	5,902	5,012	505	508	18	14	1
	U.	1,165	1,045	834	722	34	31	105	74	3
1956	T.	10,347	10,019	7,636	5,949	571	215	25	17	1
	R.	9,160	8,884	6,517	5,397	397	103	21	14	1
	U.	1,157	1,135	1,119	552	174	112	110	80	14
1961	T.	10,074	9,500	6,095	5,120	888	687	24	14	..
	R.	9,085	8,538	5,455	4,625	801	614	22	13	..
	U.	989	962	640	495	87	76	93	54	..
1963	T.	12,381	11,654	5,846	4,470					
	R.	10,872	10,289	5,467	3,953					
	U.	1,509	1,365	651	517					
1969	T.	10,711	9,694	4,564	3,707					
	R.	9,549	8,628	4,006	3,245					
	U.	1,162	1,066	558	462					
1970	T.	8,994	7,966	4,735	3,689					
	R.	7,919	6,967	4,139	3,237					
	U.	1,075	999	596	452					
1971	T.	9,700	8,845	4,527	3,786					
	R.	8,329	7,624	3,831	3,214					
	U.	1,371	1,221	696	572					
1972	T.	9,323	8,615	5,231	4,451	431	335			
	R.	8,207	7,596	4,543	3,838	353	275			
	U.	1,116	1,019	688	613	78	60			

Source.—Civil Surgeon and District Statistical officer, Surguja.

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TABLE-XXXIV

Distribution of Population by Industry, 1961

Category	Rural/Urban	Scheduled Tribes		Scheduled Castes	
		Persons	Percentage	Persons	Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Total Population		5,76,088	100.00	60,276	100.00
	Urban	4,498	0.7	2,971	4.9
	Rural	5,71,790	99.3	57,305	95.1
2. Total Workers		3,58,574	62.3	33,305	55.47
	Urban	2,201	0.7	1,254	3.75
	Rural	3,56,373	99.3	32,184	96.25
Category of Workers					
1. Cultivator		2,95,507	82.41	19,509	58.9
2. Agricultural Labour		40,433	11.27	6,906	20.6
3. In Mining quarrying, Live Stock etc.		10,575	2.9	2,062	6.1
4. At Household		5,549	1.5	3,003	8.9
5. In Manufacture		473	0.13	139	0.4
6. In Construction		1,773	0.49	399	1.19
7. In Trade and Commerce		195	0.05	42	0.09
8. In Transport, Storage etc.		343	0.09	139	0.4
9. In other Services		3,726	1.03	1,339	4.00
10. Non. Workers		2,17,714	37.7	26,838	44.53

APPENDICES

TABLE-XXXV

Area and Population of Tribal Development Blocks

Tahsil/Block	Date of opening	Area in sq. km.	No. of Villages	Density	Total Population (1961)	Scheduled Tribes Population (1961)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. BHARATPUR						
1. Bharatpur (SMPT)	2-10-56	1,217	183	26	31,470	16,340
2. SAMRI						
1. Kusumi	15.10-62	411	108	90	37,098	34,008
2. Shankargarh	2-10-63	224	86	143	32,097	21,303
3. PAL						
1. Balrampur	2-10-63	354	115	90	31,979	18,095
2. Ramchandrapur	2-12-63	542	108	57	30,831	2,3583
3. Wadrafanagar	1-4-65	447	122	62	27,782	27,371
4. AMBIKAPUR						
1. Sitapur	2-12-63	204	204	48	41,841	29,909
2. Batrili	1-4-64	220	58	146	32,020	28,509
3. Mainpat	1-4-64	260	62	95	24,597	18,519
4. Udaipur	1-4-65	376	87	67	25,294	17,269
5. Rajpur	1-4-65	300	87	142	31,267	25,653
5. MANENDRAGARH						
1. Knadgwan	1-4-64	363	90	265	93,372	31,044
2. Manendragarh	1-4-64	380	132	71	27,035	24,324
6. SURAJPUR						
1. Pratappur	1-4-64	342	108	116	39,548	30,369
2. Odgi	1-4-65	595	100	48	28,712	16,999
7. SURGUJA						
1. Premnagar	1-4-65	325	65	85	28,521	19,434
8. BAIKUNTHPUR						
1. Sonhat	29-3-67	300	104	513	15,380	9,546

Source.—Statistics relating to Backward Classes of Madhya Pradesh, pt. II, pp. 31-32.

SURGUJA
TABLE—XXXVI

Fallow Land Allotted to Landless Backward Classes and Tribes
1956-72

Plan Period	Scheduled Castes		Scheduled Tribes		Other Backward Classes and Tribes	
	Persons	Hectares	Persons	Hectares	Persons	Hectares
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
II Plan period	17	17.6	468	1,267.2	174	200.0
III Plan period	367	46.0	4,174	5,935.2	855	850.4
1966-67	29	31.6	667	588.8	478	795.2
1967-68	36	44.0	1,880	982.8	451	449.6
1968-69	30	21.6	1,219	1,377.2	231	280.8
1969-70	..	..	10	6.0	..	..
1970-71	..	..	5	2.4	..	..
1971-72	246	206.4	1,824	1,878.0	333	647.2

TABLE—XXXVII
Seeds and Fertilizers Distributed during Different Plan Periods

Schemes	First Plan period		Second Plan period		Third Plan period		Fourth Plan period	
	No. of persons	Quantity	No. of persons	Quantity	No. of persons	Quantity	No. of persons	Quantity
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1. Fertilizers distributed.	628	59.16	3,249	371.28	9,474	1,251.54	10,609	1,513.64
2. Improved Seeds	703	112.20	2,610	465.12	8,139 + 135(Qtls)	1,028.10	6,325 + 39(Qtls)	519.18
3. Pumps etc. Installed (Nos.)	..	..	..	..	70	..	357	357 (Nos.)
4. Green Manure distributed (Quintal)	..	..	..	..	30	75 (Qtls)	77	77 (Qtls)
5. Tractors (Nos.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
6. Pesticide distributed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Liquid (Litres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	1,100 (Litres)
(b) Powder (Quintals)	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,300	300 (Qtls)

Source.—Agriculture Department, Surguja.

APPENDICES
APPENDIX—B—I

Irrigation Project Maintained by Public Works Department

S. No.	Name of Work	Location (Tahsil)	Year of start of work	Year of completion of work	Cost in lakhs	Designed Irrigation (In Hectares)	Area irrigated During 1971-72 (In Hectares)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Pre-Plan Works					Nil		
First Plan works							
Second plan works					Nil		
(a) Major or							
(b) Medium							
(c) Minor							
1	Kot Bandhaira Div.	Scheme Ambikapur	1956	3/58	0.15	193	252
2	Deogarh Tank		1956	3/58	0.10	153	89
3	Seedam Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	1956	3/58	0.24	202	270
4	Shrigarh Tank	"	1956	12/69	0.65	32	9
5	Pondipa Tank	"	1959	3/70	5.56	135	140
6	Mohra Tank	Baikunthpur	2/59	3.01	0.64	65	79
7	Kanchanpur Tank	"	2/60	3/64	0.14	17	8
8	Janakpur Tank	"	2/60	6/65	0-15	28	7
9	Peepaldand Tank	"	2/59	3/69	3.40	151	146
10	Kola Nalla Div. Scheme	Pal	9/59	6/70	1.50	146	101
11	Khadgaon Tank	Manendragarh	5/60	12/69	2.63	81	3
12	Bhopali Tank	Ambikapur	1957	6/69	5.28	283	225
Third Plan Works					Nil		
(a) Major							
(b) Medium							
(c) Minor							
13	Jhiki Nalla Div. Scheme	Samri	11/63	3/72	3.13	233	97
14	Mahan Nalla Div. Scheme	"	4/65	3/73	4.96	254	13
15	Suriya Nalla Div. Scheme	"	11/63	3/72	1.38	31.6	174
16	Sirkot Nalla Div. Scheme	"	2/64	3/72	1.74	121	104
17	Jawahar Nalla Div. Scheme	"	2/64	3/72	2.39	202	36
18	Bemganga Div. Scheme	"	3/64	3/72	1.49	206	145
19	Kanjia Nalla Div. Scheme	Bharatpur	3/64	12/69	0.86	162	2
20	Bhagwanpur Div. Scheme	"	3/64	12/69	0.79	101	..
21	Dabripara Tank	Baikunthpur	3/62	3/65	0.17	20	26

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(11)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
22	Gautrapara Tank	Baikunthpur	3/63	3/65	0.16	14	15
23	Bachbehari Tank	"	3/63	12/68	0.56	13	14
24	Sarbhoka Tank	"	3/62	3/65	0.18	16	..
25	Kudeli Tank	"	3/63	3/67	1.38	40	42
26	Bhalor Tank	Manendragarh	3/63	3/65	0.14	10	1
27	Dangora Tank	"	3/63	3/65	0.16	12	..
28	Belbehara Tank (Major)	"	12/61	6/70	6.16	182	30
29	Saraipani Tank	Ambikapur	1961	8/66	0.39	12	..
30	Luchki Nalla Div. Scheme	"	1961	6/69	2.17	222	217
31	Panag Nalla Div. Scheme	"	3/63	12/69	3.23	137	61
32	Sakhola Tank	"	1963	6/69	5.01	81	113
33	Dhaneshpur Tank	Surajpur	1964	4/67	0.58	56	..
34	Gangikot Tank	"	1964	3/67	0.45	57	43
35	Janwa Nalla Div. Scheme	Bharatpur	3/64	12/68	0.27	20	..
36	Singroli Tank	"	3/63	12/66	0.10	12	..
37	Ohiniya Div. Scheme	"	3/63	12/69	0.53	28	7
38	Mahendoli Div. Scheme	"	3/63	12/69	0.62	30	0.40
39	Singri Tank	Surajpur	3/63	3/67	0.20	20	..
40	Karia Nalla Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	2/67	3/73	2.14	121	214
41	Sohaga Tank	"	2/67	6/69	0.30	20	..
42	Shrigarh Tank No. -II	"	6/67	6/69	0.23	24	16
43	" III.	"	11/66	6/70	0.13	14	15
44	" IV	"	2/69	6/70	0.14	20	6
45	Rajpuri Div. Scheme	"	1/67	6/69	0.98	70	45
46	Devgarh Tank (Janakpur)	Bharatpur	2/67	6/70	1.12	23	2
47	Belbehara Tank (Minor)	Manendra-garh	2/67	6/70	0.51	24	0.40
48	Ghagra(M.garh) Div. Scheme	"	3/68	6/77	1.01	121	20
49	Mani Tank	Surajpur	8/67	6/70	0.58	72	2
50	Lahada Div. Scheme	Pal	7/67	6/71	0.92	81	..
51	Jhapda Div. Scheme	"	7/67	3/72	1.23	40	..
52	Batwahi Tank	Ambikapur	6/67	3/71	4.05	85	2
8	Kupa Div. Scheme	Surajpur	1/68	3/71	0.96	60	2

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
54	Chauti-Div.Scheme	Bharatpur	2/69	3/71	0.76	40	3
55	Khatembar Nala Div. Scheme	Manendragarh	1/69	3/73	8.60	640	..
56	Hasdeo Div. Scheme	Baikunthpur	3/69	3/71	3.33	125	15
57	Chhuriapat Tank	"	12/68	2/71	3.49	121	83
58	Dumaria Tank	Surajpur	1/69	3/71	7.08	590/229	7
59	Jamdih Tank	"	1/69	3/71	4.91	172	151
60	Deviganj Tank	Pal	1/69	3/72	3.99	97	19
61	Cirwani Nalla Div. Scheme	"	1/69	3/71	3.09	323	..
62	Chak Tank	"	1/69	3/71	0.94	20	..
63	Gidhi Tank	"	1/6	3/71	0.50	28	30
64	Rajketha Tank	"	1/69	3/72	1.73	28	..
65	Dhur Div. Scheme	Surajpur	1/69	3/71	1.03	97	..
66	Masanki Div. Scheme	"	1/69	3/71	0.75	70	10
67	Keshopur Tank	Ambikapur	1/69	6/71	1.31	81	69
68	Jangaon Tank	..	1/69	6/71	0.71	60	..
69	Gujarwar Div. Scheme	"	1/69	3/73	2.49	364	..
70	Kakna Tank	"	2/69	6/71	0.71	20	..
71	Karrapondi Div. Scheme	"	3/69	3/71	2.06	364	..
72	Basantpur Tank	Pal	1/69	6/73	3.53	112	..
73	Jurrapani Tank	Ambikapur	1/69	3/74	7.63	204	..
Fourth plan Works							
(a) Major				Nil			
(b) Medium				..			
74	Kunwarpur Tank	Ambikapur	12/71	6/71	85.53	4242	Work in progress
(c) Minor				Nil			
75	Champoghar Tank	Baikunthpur	5/69	6/70	2.60	114	..
76	Rajbandha Tank	Pal	12/69	3/73	3.10	81	..
77	Saksati Tank	Pal	12/69	3/73	5.59	121	..
78	Jhalpi Tank	Pal	1/70	3/74	12.88	634	Work in progress

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
79	Semra Div. Band	Surajpur	2/72	6/73	5.31	600	Work in progress
80	Sarwani Tank	Ambikapur	3/72	3/74	5.70	379	Do.
81	Gobri Tank	Baikunthpur	1/73	3/75	14.56	1550	Do.
82	Bajinathpur Tank	Surajpur	1/73	3/75	6.60	450	Do.
83	Khajuri Tank	"	1/73	3/74	3.01	230	Do.
84	Nadwah Tank	"	1/73	6/74	4.16	280	Do.
85	Pasta Tank	Pal	1/73	3/74	4.59	420	Do.
86	Trikunda Tank	"	1/73	3/74	2.75	186	Do.
87	Pondri Tank	"	12/72	3/74	1.95	103	Do.
88	Dhap Tank	Manendragarh	1/73	6/74	5.63	480	Do.
89	Pusari Div. Scheme	"	1/73	3/74	3.25	600	Do.
90	Kharalla Div. Scheme	"	4/73	6/75	7.63	1300	Do.
91	Jagatpur Tank	Surajpur	4/73	6/74	2.15	190	Do.
92	Amjharia Tank	Baikunthpur	4/73	3/74	1.94	140	Do.

Works under Survey or Investigation

1	Amhar Tank	Baikunthpur	..	..	24.63	1950	..
2	Sindori Tank	Surajpur	..	..	3.38	290	..
3	Khairbar Tank	Ambikapur	..	..	3.19	166	..
4	Shibpur Tank	Surajpur	..	..	3.07	396	..
5	Gagar Nalla Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	..	..	24.00	6050	..
6	Karwan Tank	"	..	..	8.11	700	..
7	Chanhan Div. Scheme	Pal	..	..	12.05	2500	..
8	Sonhat Tank	Baikunthpur	..	..	5.48	400	..
9	Badrikashram Tank	Surajpur	..	..	5.22	380	..

APPENDICES

APPENDIX-B-I

Irrigation Project Maintained by Public Works Department

S. No.	Name of Work	Location (Tahsil)	Year of start of work	Year of completion of work	Cost in lakhs	Designed Irrigation (In Hectares)	Area irrigated During 1971-72 (In Hectares)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Pre-Plan Works							
First Plan works						Nil	
Second plan works						Nil	
(a) Major or (b) Medium (c) Minor							
1	Kot Bandhaira Div.	Scheme Ambikapur	1956	3/58	0.15	193	252
2	Deogarh Tank		1956	3/58	0.10	153	89
3	Seedam Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	1956	3/58	0.24	202	270
4	Shrigarh Tank	"	1956	12/69	0.65	32	9
5	Pondipa Tank	"	1959	3/70	5.56	135	140
6	Mohra Tank	Baikunthpur	2/59	3.01	0.64	65	79
7	Kanchanpur Tank	"	2/60	3/64	0.14	17	8
8	Janakpur Tank	"	2/60	6/65	0.15	28	7
9	Peepaldand Tank	"	2/59	3/69	3.40	151	146
10	Kola Nalla Div. Scheme	Pal	9/59	6/70	1.50	146	101
11	Khadgaon Tank	Manendragarh	5/60	12/69	2.63	81	3
12	Bhopali Tank	Ambikapur	1957	6/69	5.28	283	225
Third Plan Works							
(a) Major (b) Medium (c) Minor						Nil	
13	Jhiki Nalla Div. Scheme	Samri	11/63	3/72	3.13	233	97
14	Mahan Nalla Div. Scheme	"	4/65	3/73	4.96	254	13
15	Suriya Nalla Div. Scheme	"	11/63	3/72	1.38	31.6	174
16	Sirkot Nalla Div. Scheme	"	2/64	3/72	1.74	121	104
17	Jawahar Nalla Div. Scheme	"	2/64	3/72	2.39	202	36
18	Bemganga Div. Scheme	"	3/64	3/72	1.49	206	145
19	Kanjia Nalla Div. Scheme	Bharatpur	3/64	12/69	0.86	162	2
20	Bhagwanpur Div. Scheme	"	3/64	12/69	0.79	101	..
21	Dabripada Tank	Baikunthpur	3/62	3/65	0.17	20	26

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(5)	(7)	(8)
79	Semra Div. Bund	Surajpur	2/72	6/73	5.31	600	Work in progress
80	Sarwani Tank	Ambikapur	3/72	3/74	5.70	370	Do.
81	Gobri Tank	Baikunthpur	1/73	3/75	14.56	1550	Do.
82	Bajjnathpur Tank	Surajpur	1/73	3/75	6.63	450	Do.
83	Khajuri Tank	"	1/73	3/74	3.01	230	Do.
84	Nadwah Tank	"	1/73	6/74	4.16	280	Do.
85	Pasta Tank	Pal	1/73	3/74	4.59	420	Do.
86	Trikunda Tank	"	1/73	3/74	2.75	186	Do.
87	Pondri Tank	"	12/72	3/74	1.95	103	Do.
88	Dhap Tank	Manendragarh	1/73	6/74	5.63	480	Do.
89	Pusari Div. Scheme	"	1/73	3/74	3.25	600	Do.
90	Kharalla Div. Scheme	"	4/73	6/75	7.63	1300	Do.
91	Jagatpur Tank	Surajpur	4/73	6/74	2.15	190	Do.
92	Amjharia Tank	Baikunthpur	4/73	3/74	1.94	140	Do.

Works under Survey or Investigation

1	Amhar Tank	Baikunthpur	..	..	24.63	1950	..
2	Sindori Tank	Surajpur	..	..	3.38	290	..
3	Khairbar Tank	Ambikapur	..	..	3.19	166	..
4	Shibpur Tank	Surajpur	..	..	3.07	396	..
5	Gagar Nalla Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	..	..	24.00	6050	..
6	Karwan Tank	"	..	..	8.11	700	..
7	Chanhan Div. Scheme	Pal	..	..	12.05	2500	..
8	Sonhat Tank	Baikunthpur	..	..	5.48	400	..
9	Badrikashram Tank	Surajpur	..	..	5.22	380	..

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
10	Jhura Tank	Manendragarh	..	..	7.50	700	..
11	Charoha Tank	Baikunthpur	..	..	3.00	300	..
12	Ani Tank	"	..	..	2.00	150	..
13	Ramnagarha Tank	Pal	..	..	10.00	600	..
14	Odari Div. Scheme	Bharatpur	..	..	15.00	2600	..
15	Ghungutta Div. Scheme	Ambikapur	..	..	40.00	7000	..
16	Koberpur Tank	"	..	..	15.00	1000	..
17	Mahadevmada Div. Scheme	"	..	..	20.00	600	..
18	Beharpur Tank	Manendragarh	..	..	1.50	150	..

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APPENDIX—B-II

Towns and villages in which weekly or fortnightly markets are held

1. BHARATPUR TAHSIL	
URBAN	Nil.
RURAL	Kamarjee (Thursday), Janakpur (Sunday), Ramgarh (Saturday).
2. BAIKUNTHPUR TAHSIL	
URBAN	Baikunthpur Town, Ward No. 2 (Sunday), (Thursday) Ward To. 5 (Sunday, Tuesday).
RURAL	Rajauli (Tuesday), Sonhat (Wednesday), Latme (Monday), Nagar (Tuesday), Patra (Saturday), Chitajhpr (Saturday), Kot (Tuesday), Bhakhar (Tuesday) and Kudeli (Monday).
3. SURAJPUR TAHSIL :	
URBAN	Nil
RURAL	Gobindpur (Monday), Rewati (Tuesday), Kharra (Wednesday), Kewara (Saturday), Khairadih (Monday) Baiyathan (Friday), Dawna (Sunday), Palandu (Saturday), Parbatipur (Saturday), Bharda (Saturday), Singhra (Saturday), Pratappur (Friday), Badsara (Thursday), Baskarpara, (Monday), Jagdishpur (Thursday), Jarhi (Sunday), Kerta (Thursday), Kersi (Tuesday) Gangauti (Tuesday), Basdaei (Sunday), Batra (Tuesday) Shankarpur (Lipini) (Wednesday), Kalyanpur (Kailari) (Saturday), Latori (Friday), Poudi (Govindpur) (Friday) Deonagar (Thursday), Surajpur (Sunday), Premnagar (Monday), and Bakalo (Sunday).
4. PAL TAHSIL :	
URBAN	Nil
RURAL	Kameshwarnagar (Saturday), Barwahi (Thursday), Belkurta (Wednesday), Ramchandrapur (Sunday), Balang (Thursday), Birendranagar (Monday), Pandri (Friday), Raghunathanagar (Saturday) Maghuli (Friday), Pashupatpur (Tuesday), Wadrabnagar (Sunday), Manikpur (Friday), Barti Kalan (Wednesday) Chalgali Khas (Saturday), Balrampur (Wednesday) Maharajganj (Tuesday), Dawara (Sunday).
5. MANENDRAGARH TAHSIL :	
URBAN	Manendragarh Ward No. 1 (Wednesday), Kethri (Saturday), Ghutra (Tuesday), Barbaspur (Friday), Jhagra-khand Colliery South (Wednesday) Saja Pahad (Chirmiri-A) (Saturday), Chirmiri (Saturday) Chirmiri-A (Sunday) Chirmiri Railway Ward (Friday), Chirmiri (Wednesday) and Pondi (Tuesday).
6. AMBIKAPUR TAHSIL :	
URBAN	Ambikapur Ward No. 2 (Sunday).
RURAL	Radpur (Sunday), Barion (Thursday), Dhorepur (Tuesday) Kakni (Sunday) Lundro (Monday), Udari (Friday), Bakirma (Wednesday), Khuitiya (Saturday), Rajunathpur (Thursday), Bhargidih (Saturday), Banssjhal (Friday) Batauli (Thursday), Darima (Tuesday) Junaia Khanpur (Wednesday), Salk (Friday) Sedam (Tuesday) Bataikela (Monday), Dandgaon (Saturday), Bandana (Saturday) Bhusu (Friday), Baria, (Thursday), Sitapur (Wednesday) Kedma and Pratapgarh (Sunday).
7. SAMRI TAHSIL :	
URBAN	Nil
RURAL	Chando (Monday), Bhulsi Kalan (Wednesday), Deori (Saturday), Shankargah (Monday) Kusmi (Tuesday) and Lerima (Monday),

Source—Surguja District Census Hand Book, 1961.

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APPENDIX—B—III

Important Fairs and Melas, Surguja District.

Sr. No.	Place where Mela or Fair is held	When held		Local religious or other occasion or the Mela or Fair	Duration of the Mela or Fair (in days)	Average total attendance	Who manages the Fairs/Mela
		Hindi month	English month				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
				1. Bharatpur Tahsil Nil.			
				2. Baikunthpur Tahsil			
1	Wasti (Patna)	Jyaistha	May/June	Ganga Dussehra	1	300	Gram Panchayat
2	Batkunthpur	Jyaistha	May/June	Ganga Dussehra	2	2,000	Janpad Sabha
				3. Surajpur Tahsil			
3	Kudargad	Chaitra Sudi 9.	March/April.	Ramnavmi	1	2,000	Janpa Sabhad
4	Ramkola	Asvina	September/October.	Dussehra	2	500	Police
5	Shivpuri	Phalgun Badi 13.	February/March.	Shivratri	1	200	Janpad Sabha
				4. Pal Tahsil Nil			
				5. Manendragarh Tahsil.			
6	Khursia	Jyaistha	May/June	Ganga Dussehra	1	1,000	Local people
7	Chirmiri	Jyaistha	May/June	Ganga Dussehra	1	500	Local people
8	Pondi	Jyaistha	May/June	Ganga Dussehra	1	100	Local people
9	Khursia	Asvina Sudi 10	Sept./Octo.	Dussehra	1	2,000	Local people
10	Chirmiri	Asvina Sudi 10	Sept./Octo.	Dussehra	1	2,000	Local people
11	Siroli	Kartika Sudi 15	Octo./Nov.	Kartik Poornima	3	1,000	Local people
12	Anrisdhara	Phalgun Badi 13	Feb./March	Shivratri	2	500	Local people
				6. Ambikapur Tahsil			
13	Ramgarh	Chaitra Sudi 9	March/April	Ramnavmi	1	N.A.	Janpad Sabha
14	Sonpur	Vaisakha	April/May		3	N.A.	Urs Committee
15	Pratapgarh	Magha February	January/February	Gahar Guru	3	N.A.	Janpad Sabha
16	Devikra	Phalgun Badi 13	February March	Shivratri	5	N.A.	Janpad Sabha
				7. Samri Tahsil			
17	Shankaragarh	Magha	January February	Janta Fair	1	N.A.	Local people

Source.—Surguja District Census Hand Book, 1961.

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APPENDIX-B-IV

List of Post Offices Telegraph and Public Call Offices (As on 31-3-1960)
in Surguja District

Sr. No.	Name	Type Of office	Whether Telegraph and Telephone facilities also exist
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	CHIRMIRI	Sub-Office	T. O. P. C. O.
1	Devadand	Branch Office	"
2	Khargawan	"	"
3	Katkona	"	"
4	Pondi	"	"
5	Sermina	"	"
6	Tamdand	"	"
7	Udhanapur	"	"
8	West Chirmiri	"	"
2	JHAGRA KHAND COLLIERY	Sub-Office	T. O.
1	West Jhagra Khand Colliery	Branch-Office	"
2	South Jhagra Khand Colliery	"	"
3	KURASIA COLLIERY	Branch Office	T. O.
1	Gelhapani	"	"
4	MANENDRAGARH	Sub-Office	T. O., P. C. O.
1	Ghutra	Branch-Office	"
2	Kathotia	"	"
3	Kelhari	"	"
4	Nagpur	"	"
5	AMBIKAPUR	Sub-Office	T. O. P. C. O.
1	Ajabnagar	Branch-Office	"
2	Arrahabalrampur	"	"
3	Baghima	"	"
4	Bhetti	"	"
5	Darima	"	"
6	Dharampur	"	"
7	Durgapur	"	"
8	Dandgaon	"	"
9	Jamdih	"	"
10	Jainagar	"	"
11	Jamgala	"	"
12	Jawaharnagar	"	"

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(AMBIKAPUR CONTD.)		Branch Office	T. O., P. C. O.
13	Kalyanpur	"	"
14	Kamari	"	"
15	Karja	"	"
16	Khargawan	"	"
17	Kusmi	"	"
18	Kedma	"	"
19	Lakhanpur	"	"
20	Latori	"	"
21	Laxmangarh	"	"
22	Lorima	"	"
23	Lohpatra	"	"
24	Manoharpur	"	"
25	Pandonagar	"	"
26	Parsagudi	"	"
27	Pasta	"	"
28	Parsa	"	"
29	Raghunathpur	"	"
30	Rajpur	"	"
31	Raghupuri	"	"
32	Rehda	"	"
33	Sabag	"	"
34	Samri	"	"
35	Salka (Deori)	"	"
36	Shankergarh	"	"
37	Udaipur	"	"
6	AMBIKAPUR NARAYALAYA	Town-Sub-Office	
7	AMBIKAPUR TOWN	Town Sub-Office	T. O., P. C. O.
8	BAIKUNTHPUR	Sub-Office	
1	Amarpur	Branch	"
2	Barbaspur	"	"
3	Katghori	"	"
4	Nagar	"	"
5	Patrapali	"	"
6	Sohhat	"	"
9	BISHRAMPUR COLLIERY	Sub-Office	"
10	PATNA	Sub-Office	T. O., P. C. O.
1	Bakalo	Branch Office	"
2	Badsara	"	"
3	Deonagar	"	"
4	Ganeshpur	"	"
5	Gangote	"	"
6	Krishnapur	"	"
7	Premnagar	"	"
8	Pondi	"	"
9	Ramanujnagar	"	"
10	Ranai	"	"
11	Sarbhonka	"	"
11	PRATAPGARH	Sub-Office	T. O.
1	Bataikela	Branch Office	
2	Batauli		
3	Bargidih		
4	Dhoopur		
5	Durgapara		
6	Kot		
7	Lundra		
8	Sedam		
9	Setapur		

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
12. PRATAPPUR	Sub-Office	T. O.	
1 Basantpur	Branch Office	"	
2 Biharpur Chandni	"	"	
3 Barti Kalan	"	"	
4 Birendranagar	"	"	
5 Chalgali Khas	"	"	
6 Govindpur	"	"	
7 Gudril	"	"	
8 Karamdiha	"	"	
9 Koora	"	"	
10 Krishnanagar (Dhamni)	"	"	
11 Manpur	"	"	
12 Pendri	"	"	
13 Ranhat	"	"	
14 Raghunathpur	"	"	
15 Ramkola	"	"	
16 Rewata	"	"	
17 Sulsuli	"	"	
18 Salwami	"	"	
19 Wadrafnagar	"	"	
13. RAMANUJGANJ	Sub-Office	"	
1 Annapara	Branch Office	"	
2 Balrampur	"	"	
3 Chanda	"	"	
4 Dolangi	"	"	
5 Mahabirganj	"	"	
6 Maharajganj	"	"	
7 Ramchandrapur	"	"	
8 Sanwali	"	"	
9 Tatapani	"	"	
4. SURAJPUR	Sub-Office	T. O., P. C. O.	
1 Basdei	Branch Office	Phonocum system	
2 Bhaiyathan	"	"	
3 Chandramedha	"	"	
4 Dauna	"	"	
5 Orgi	"	"	
6 Patna	"	"	
7 Ramnagar	"	"	
8 Salka	"	"	

Note.—T. O., Telegraph Office, P. C. O., Public Call office.

Source.—Inspector, Post Offices, Ambikapur.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX—B—V

Community Development Blocks

Name of Blocks	Date of Establishment	No. of villages Covered	Population Covered
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Ambikapur	1-4-51	149	1,21,033
2. Lakhanpur	2-10-51	86	45,337
3. Lundra	1-10-62	114	61,181
4. Rajpur	1-4-61	89	45,660
5. Batauli	1-4-64	58	43,235
6. Sitapur	2-10-53	46	51,298
7. Mainpat	1-4-64	41	33,375
8. Udaipur	1-4-65	92	38,918
9. Shankargarh	2-10-59	89	38,064
10. Kusmi	2-10-56	106	60,733
11. Wadrafnagar	2-10-60	122	62,455
12. Balrampur	1-4-60	122	45,589
13. Ramanujganj	2-10-53	106	51,931
14. Surajpur	2-10-53	123	93,957
15. Ramanuj Nagar	2-10-62	58	50,713
16. Bhaiyathan	1-4-62	99	63,141
17. Odgi	1-4-65	100	36,724
18. Prem Nagar	1-4-65	70	38,251
19. Pratapur	1-4-58	108	58,815
20. Baikunthpur	2-10-53	150	87,835
21. Sonhat	2-10-58	105	20,194
22. Manendragarh	2-10-56	132	62,074
23. Khadgawan	2-10-53	90	83,733
24. Bharatpur (Janakpur)	2-10-56	183	37,238

APPENDIX-B-VI
Primary Health Centres and Sub-centres

Block (1)	P. H. C. (2)	Sub-Centres (3)
1. Sitapur	Sitapur	(1) Guturma (2) Lalitpur (3) Basin
2. Baikunthpur	Baikunthpur	(1) Amhar (2) Kasra
3. Surajpur	Surajpur	(1) Amgaon (2) Deonagar
4. Ramchandrapur	Ramanujganj	(1) Mahabirganj (2) Salwahi (3) Kameshwar
5. Khadgawan	Khadgawan	(1) Udhanapur (2) Jilda (3) Bardar
6. Bharatpur	Janakpur	(1) Chanti (2) Bhagwanpur (3) Deogarh
7. Manendragarh	Manendragarh	(1) Kathotia (2) Barbaspur (3) Kalchod
8. Kusumi	Kusumi	(1) Dumerkhola (2) Madguri (3) Bhulsi
9. Pratappur	Pratappur	
10. Ambikapur	Bhafoli	(1) Sukheri (2) Kareyan (3) Mendara Khurd.
11. Sonhat	Sonhat	(1) Lamta (2) Rajoli (3) Ghugra
12. Shankargarh	Shankargarh	(1) Manoharpur (2) Kamari (3) Deepadih
13. Balrampur	Balrampur	(1) Dumarkhola (2) Pachawal
14. Rajpur	Rajpur	
15. Lakhanpur	Lakhanpur	
15	15	33

Source:—Brief Report of Activities of the Health Department M. P. 1962-63, P-78.

APPENDICES—B—VII

Conversion Table

I. WEIGHTS

Table

10 milligrams (mg.)	= 1 centigram
10 centigrams	= 1 decigram
10 decigrams	= 1 gram (1 g.=1000 mg.)
10 grams	= 1 dekagram
10 dekagrams	= 1 hectogram
10 hectograms	= 1 kilogram (1 kg.=1000 g.)
10 kilograms	= 1 myriogram
10 myriograms	= 1 quintal
10 quintals	= 1 metric tonne (1 tonne=1000 Kg.)

From old units to new units :

1 Tola	= 11.66 grams
1 Chhatak	= 58.32 grams
1 Seer	= 933.10 grams
1 Maund	= 37.32 kg.
1 Grain	= 0.0648 gram
1 Ounce	= 28.35 grams
1 Pound	= 453.59 grams = 45359 Kg.
1 Quarter	= 12.706 Kg.
1 Handerweight	= 50.80 Kg.
1 Ton	= 1016.05 Kg.

From new units to old units :

1 Gram	= 0.085735 tola = 15.4324 grams = 0.0352740 ounce
1 Kilogram	= 1.07169 Seer = 2.20462 lbs.
1 Quintal	= 2.67923 maunds = 220.46 lbs.
1 Metric tonne	= 26.7923 maunds = 0.9842 tonne

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II. LENGTH

Table

10 millimetres (mm)	= 1 centimetre (cm)
10 centimetres	= 1 decimetre
10 decimetres	= 1 metre (1 m=100 cms= 1000 mm)
10 metres	= 1 dekametre
10 dekametres	= 1 hectometre
10 hectometres	= 1 kilometre (1 km=100 m)

From old units to new units :

1 inch	= 2.54 cms. = 25.4 mms. = 0.0254 m.
1 foot	= 30.48 cms. = 0.3048 m.
1 yard	= 91.44 cms. = 0.9144 m.
1 furlong	= 201.168 m.
1 mile	= 1.609344 km. = 1609.344 m
1 chain	= 20.1168 m.

From new units to old units :

1 mm.	= 0.0394 inch
1 cm.	= 0.393701 inch
1 decimetre	= 3.937 inch
1 m.	= 1.09361 yds. = 3.28084 feet = 39.3701 inches = 0.0497097 chain = 0.00497097 furlong
1 hectometre	= 0.062173 mile
1 kilometre (km)	= 0.62137 mile

III. CAPACITY

Table

10 Millilitres (ml)	= 1 centilitre
10 centilitres	= 1 decilitre
10 decilitres	= 1 litre (1 L=1000 ml.)

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10 litres	= 1 dekalitre
10 dekalitres	= 1 hectolitre
10 hectolitres	= 1 kilolitre

From old units to new units :

1 Ounce	= 28 ml. (to the nearest ml.)
1 gill	= 142 ml. (to the nearest ml.)
1 pint	= 568 ml. (to the nearest ml.) = 0.56825 L
1 quart	= 1 litre and 136 ml. (do) = 1.13649 L
1 gallon	= 4.54596 L
1 liquid seer	= 940 ml. (to the nearest 10 ml)

From new units to old units :

1 litre	= 1.75980 pints = 0.87990 quart = 0.219975 gallon = 1.1 liquid seer (Approx) = 35 liquid ounces (do) = 1000.028 cubic centimetres = 85.735 toals of pure water = 61.025 cubic inches = 1.000028 cubic decimetres
1 kilolitre	= 1 1.000028 cubic metres

IV. VOLUME

Table

1000 cubic millimetres	= 1 cubic centimetre
1000 cubic centimetres	= 1 cubic decimetre
1000 cubic decimetres	= 1 cubic metre

From old units to new units :

1 cubic inch	= 16.3871 cubic centimetres
1 cubic foot	= 28.3168 cubic decimetres = 28.316 litres
1 cubic yard	= 0.76455 cubic metres

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1 gallon	= 0.0045609 cubic metre
	= 4.5496 litres
	= 4.54609 cubic decimetres
1 ounce	= 28.4132 cubic centimetres
1 gill	= 142.066 cubic centimetres
1 pint	= 568.2440 cubic centimetres
	= 0.56825 litre
1 quart	= 1.1365 litres
1 litre	= 1000.028 cubic centimetres
	= 1.000028 cubic decimetres

From new units to old units :

1 cubic centimetre	= 0.061024 cubic inch
	= 0.0070390 gill
	= 0.0351949 ounce
1 cubic decimetre	= 0.0353147 cubic foot
	= 0.219969 gallon
	= 0.99997 litre
1 cubic metre	= 35.315 cubic foot
	= 1.30795 cubic yard
	= 219.969 gallon
	= 0.99997 kilolitre

V. AREA

Table

100 cm. square millimetres	= 1 square centimetre
100 cm. square millimetres	= 1 square decimetre
100 square decimetres	= 1 square metre
	= (1 sq. m.=10000 sq. m.)
100 sq. metres	= 1 acre or 1 sq. dekametre
100 acres	= 1 hectare. of 1 sq. hectometre
	[1 hectare(ha)=10000 sq. m.]
100 hectares	= 1 square kilometre

From old units to new units :

1 sq. inch	= 6.4516 sq. cm.
	= 0.00064516 sq. m.

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1 sq. foot	= 929.03 sq.cm.
	= 0.092903 sq.m.
	= 9.2903 sq.decimetres
1 sq. yard	= 0.83613 sq. metre
	= 0.00831613 acre
1 cent	= 40.4686 sq. metres
1 sq. chain	= 404.686 sq. metres
1 acre (4840 sq. Yds.	= 0.404686 hectare
or 10 sq. chains)	= 40.4686 acres
1 sq. mile (640 acres)	= 258.999 hectares
	= 2.58999 sq. kilometres

From new units to old units :

1 square cm.	= 0.155000 sq. inch
1 square metre	= 1550.00 sq. inch
	= 10.7639 sq. foot
	= 1.19599 sq. yards
1 acre	= 119.599 sq. yards
	= 0.0247105 acres
1 hectare	= 2.47105 acres
1 sq. kilometre	= 1.386101 sq. mile

APPENDIX—B—VIII

LIST OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF SURGUJA DISTRICT

S. No.	Name of the Freedom Fighter with Residence
1.	Shri Umed Singh Rawat, Mahamaya Road, Ambikapur.
2.	Shri Bhaskar Narayan Machwe, Deviganj Road, Ambikapur.
3.	Shri Mewaram Kalwar, Bauripara, Ambikapur.
4.	Shri Ramesh Chandra Dutta, Manendragarh.
5.	Shri Nitya Gopal Ray, Haldibari, Chirmiri.
6.	Shri Mahli Bhagat, Village/Tahsil-Kusami.
7.	Shri Moujilal Jain, Manendragarh.
8.	Shri Pannalal Jain, Chirmiri.
9.	Shri Anil Kumar Chatterji, Chirmiri.
10.	Shri Shankari Prasad Sen, Jhagarakhanda.
11.	Shri Jagdish Prasad Namdeo, Baikunthpur.
12.	Shri Gulab Ram Sonar, Manendragarh.
13.	Shri Dharam Singh, Manendragarh.
14.	Shri Amrit Rao Ghatage, Kedarpur Mohalla, Ambikapur.
15.	Shri Rajnath Bhagat, Village Kotba, Post-Rehara (Kusami).
16.	Shri Raghunandan Tiwari, Village Doomardih, Tahsil Lundra.
17.	Shri Majhram Gond, Village Phundurdihari, Tahsil Ambikapur.
18.	Late Shri T. V. Rao, Deviganj Colony, Ambikapur.
19.	Late Shri Anand Prasad Haldhar, Bauripara, Ambikapur.
20.	Late Shri Rajdev Pandey, Lakhanpur.
21.	Late Shri Ghunra Sao Halwai, Village Barion, Tahsil-Ambikapur.
22.	Late Shri Nainsingh Thakur, Bhatthi Road, Kedarpur, Tahsil-Ambikapur.
23.	Late Shri Hemant Kumar Kar, Haldibari, Chirmiri.
24.	Late Shri Ahibhooshan Mukharji, Domanhill Kalari, Chirmiri.
25.	Late Shri Gyani Darshan Singh, Purana Bus-stand, Ambikapur.
26.	Late Shri Shivdas Ram, Muhalla-Mayapur, Ambikapur.

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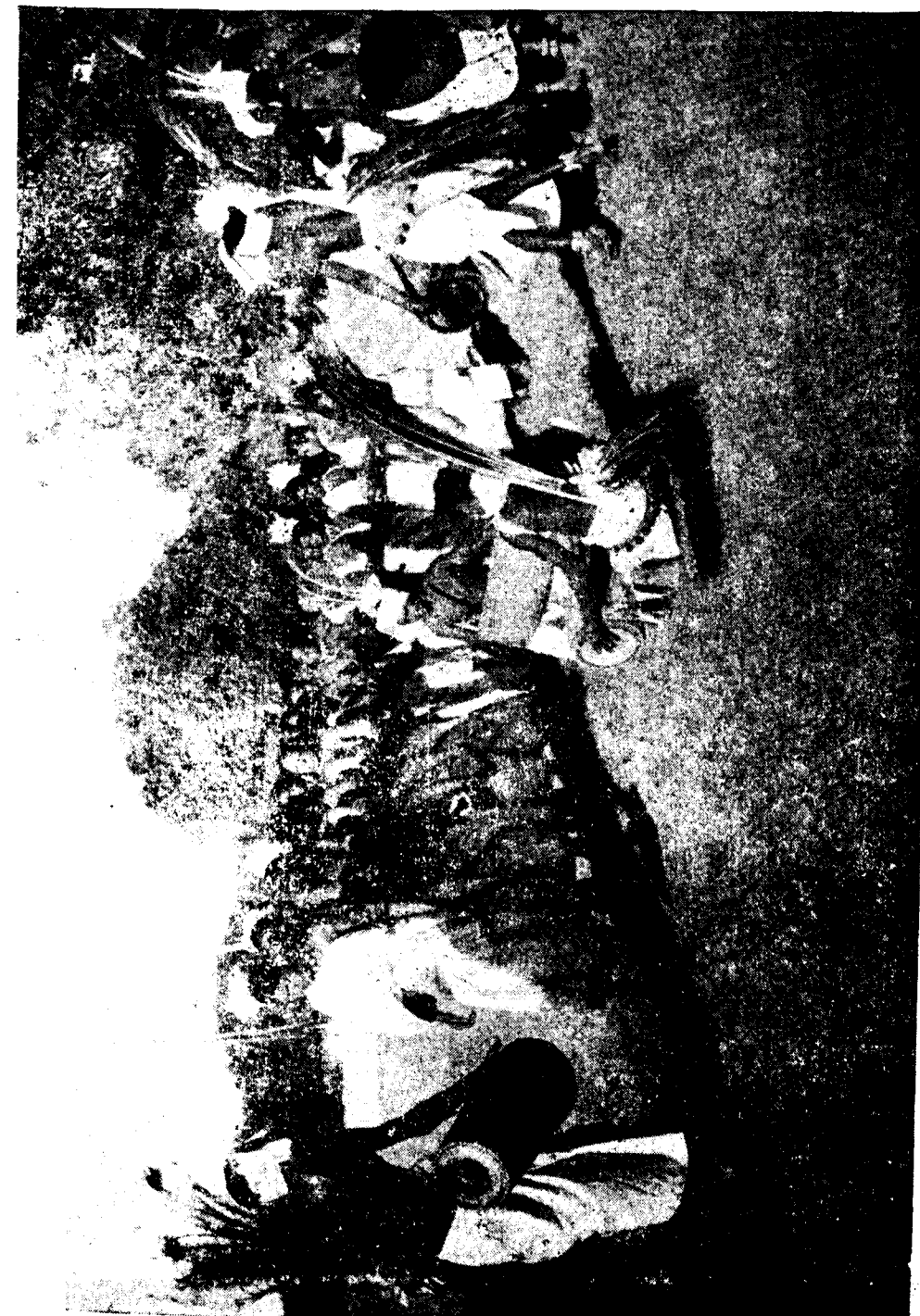
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Sarlul Dance of Oraon Tribe



Oraon Dancers

Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute



General view of Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Images on Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Amphitheatre, Sitabongira Cave, Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Human footprints, Sitabongira

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Ashokan Brahmi & Nagri inscription, Sitabongira Cave, Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



A view of Jogimara Cave, Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



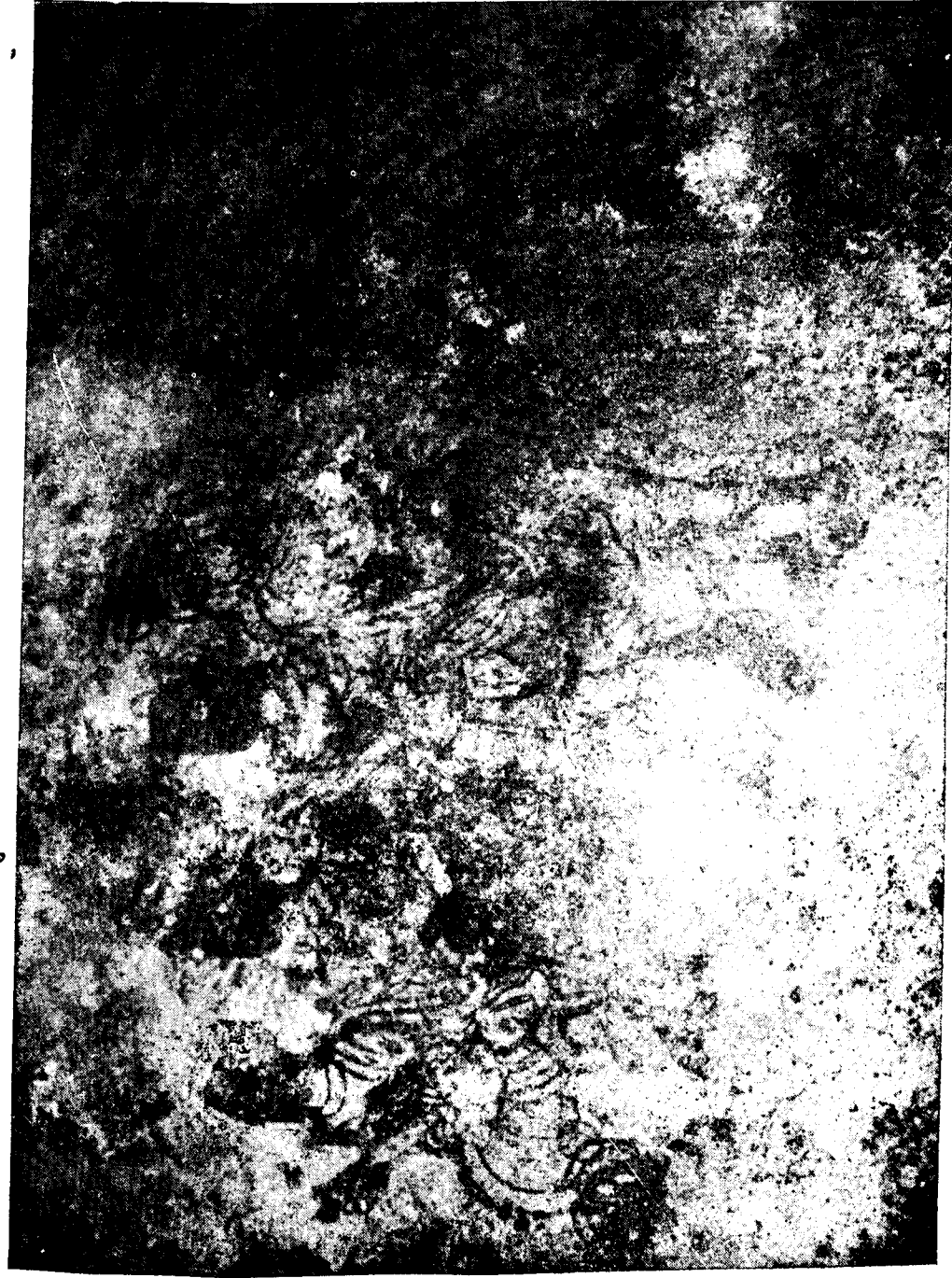
Singh Darwaja near Ramgarh Hill

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Paintings, Jogimara Cave

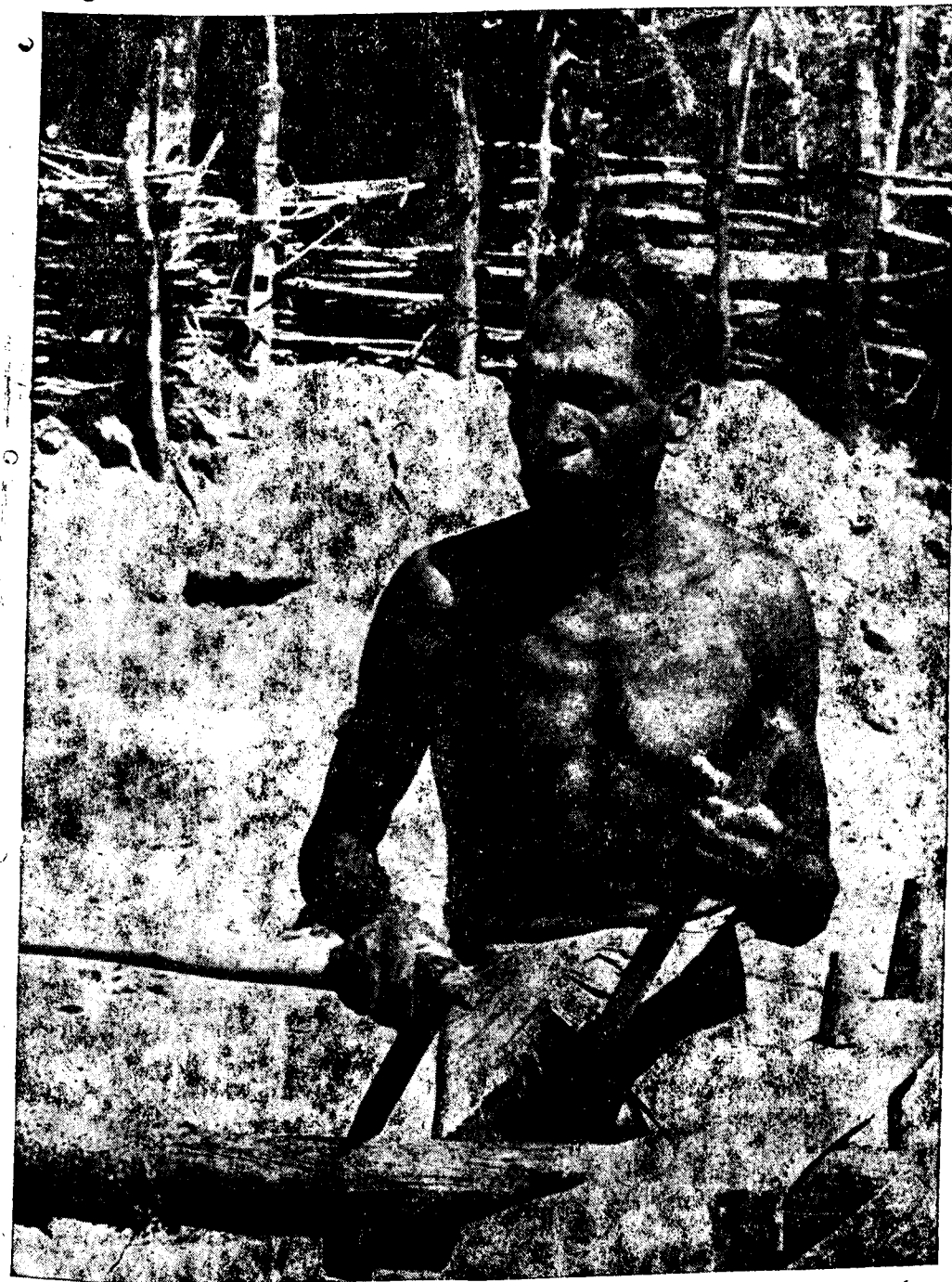
Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



Rock Painting, Jogimara Cave



Inscription, 3rd Century B. C., Jogimara Cave



Kanwar mending harrow

Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute



A Korwa Youth

Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute



Pando mother and child

Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute



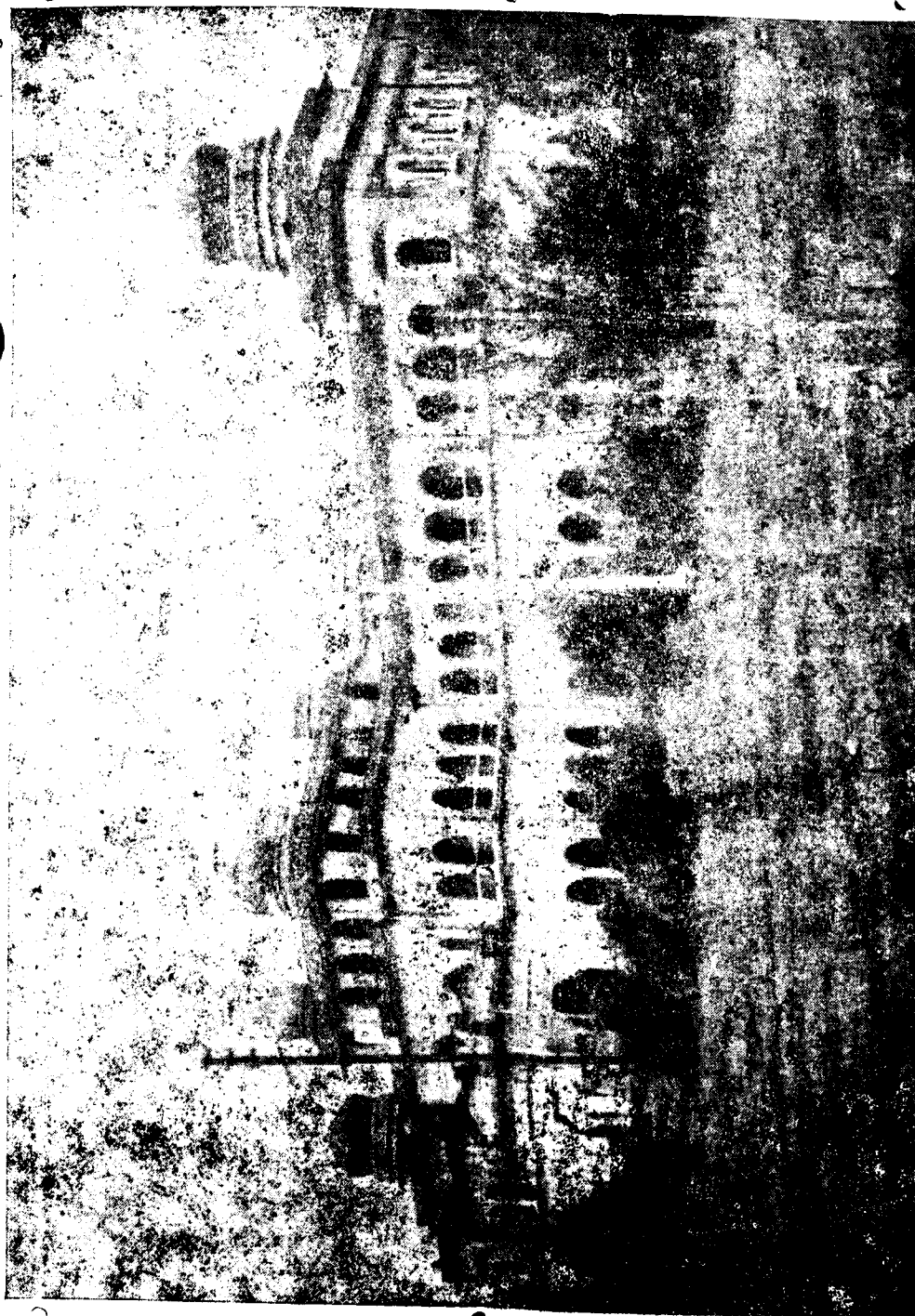
A Pando on way to hunting

Courtesy : Tribal Research Institute



Sculptures, Dipadih

Courtesy : Archaeology Deptt., M. P.



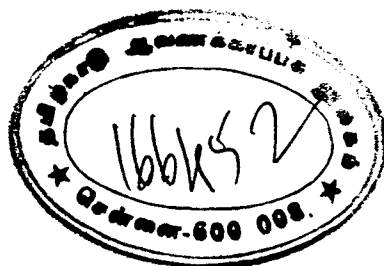
The Palace, Korea

ERRATA

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37	3	6	nome	some
	4	1	renewel	renewed
59	5	2	Pradesh between	Pradesh. Between
60	4	1	xery	very
71	3	7	generall	generally
72	7	2	Bridge	Bride
74	2	3	Gabira	Gahira
75	5	4	they	the
75	5	11	rejoining	rejoicing
77	3	3	performaned	performed.
80	1	1	people	peopled
97	1	Below 6	nahin to rahe nadi ki reti	khad para to howe kheti ; nahin to rahe nadi ki reti
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156	Table	Col. 6 (Sesamum)	72.80	87.58
"	"	"	87.58	72.80
166	3	5	privot	pivot
	6	2	work	working
175	1	4	commodiues	commodities
180	3	9	waste land which	waste land or land which

(2)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
194	2	7	character. ¹	character. ²
195	1	10	regarls	regards
201	Table-4	1	XIII	XII
216	4	5	Engineer is	Engineer who is
220	1	11	issued	issue
221	4	9	uses	dues
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229	Sub-heading		Other Income Services	Other Income Sources
229	3	6	share in come	share in income
244	1	7	mehely	merely
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250	Table	8	Natal	Pre-natal
264	3	3	celebrations	deliberation
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