

FINAL REPORT
OF THE
LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENT
IN
KALAHANDI DISTRICT

EX-STATE - KHALSA - AREA

1946 - 56.

2797



BY

J. DAS, M. A., B. L.,
SETTLEMENT OFFICER, KALAHANDI.

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BY STATE KHANSAHANA

1968-69

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Settlement Officer,
Kalahandi

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CORRIGENDA

1. In the 5th line of para. 9 of the Resolution the words "appreciate the valuable services rendered by Shri Das as Settlement" should be inserted between the words 'Government' and 'Officer'.
2. For "discrepaney" in the 5th line of para. 3 at page 1, read "discrepancy"
3. For "Handas" in the 1st line of para. 15 at page 3, read "Kandas"
4. For "power" in the 8th line of para. 15 at page 3, read "powder"
5. For "daugh ter" in the 4th line of para. 16 at page 4, read "daughter"
6. For "transfer land" in the 3rd line of para. 28 at page 27, read "transfer of land".
7. For "5 0 6" in the 4th line of table at page 9, read "5 0 0"
8. For "Bheti" in the 19th line of para. 39 at page 10, read "Bhuti"
9. For "Ruler" in the 4th line of para. 48 at page 13, read "Ruler(.)"
10. For "Forect" in the 8th line of para. 68 at page 17, read "Forest"
11. For "section" in the 3rd line of page 20, read "action"
12. For 'munсарis' in the 3rd line of para. 89 at page 20, read "munсарims"
13. For "earing" in the 37th line of para. 97 at page 22, read "caring"
14. For "record of Register" in the 8th line of para. 116 at page 29, read "Record of Register".
15. For "Rs. 4-8-9" in the last line of page 29, read "Rs. 4-8-0"
16. For "mnjmulī" in the last but 4th line of para. 135 at page 34, read "mujmulī".
17. For "Improvement lit" in the marginal notes of para. 160 at page 33, read "Improvement list".
18. For "hese" in the 1st line of page 45, read "these"
19. For "Solpes" in the 5th line of 2nd para. of Appendix XXIII, read "slopes"

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10. For "Forest" in the 8th line of para. 63 at page 17, read "Forest".
11. For "section" in the 3rd line of para. 20, read "action".
12. For "munshirs" in the 3rd line of para. 29 at page 20, read "munshirs".
13. For "earring" in the 37th line of para. 97 at page 32, read "earring".
14. For "record of Register" in the 8th line of para. 115 at page 29, read "Record of Register".
15. For "Rs. 4-8-9" in the 1st line of para. 29, read "Rs. 4-8-0".
16. For "munshir" in the last one 4th line of para. 135 at page 31, read "munshir".
17. For "Improvement III" in the margin of para. 133 at page 31, read "Improvement I".
18. For "these" in the 1st line of para. 45, read "these".
19. For "Solpes" in the 5th line of 2nd para. of Appendix VII, read "Solpes".

Government of Orissa Revenue & Excise Departments.

RESOLUTION.

No. S-202/62-42220/R.,

Dated Bhubaneswar the 7th/8th September, 1962.

Read:—

The final Report on the land revenue Settlement in Kalahandi district (ex-State Khalsa area) with the forwarding letter bearing No. XIV-4/62-4687 LRS. dated 22-5-62 of the Director of Land Records and Surveys thereon.

1. Initiation of settlement operation :—

The Settlement operation in the ex-State of Kalahandi was initiated by a notification issued by the Kalahandi Durbar in December 1946 and was continued after merger of the State in the Province of Orissa in January, 1948 as the aforementioned notification of the Durbar was construed to have statutory force after the merger under paragraph 4 of the Administration of Orissa States order, 1948. The first and second summary settlements of the ex-State were made in 1883 and 1888 respectively. The first and second regular survey and settlement operations were made in 1904-1905 and 1911-1912 respectively. There was also another settlement in 1922-23. The present Settlement is thus the sixth one.

2. Revenue System and early settlements :—

Chapter III of the Report deals with different revenue systems and tenures of the ex-State. When settlement operation was taken up the early history of revenue system of the ex-State of Kalahandi was obscure due to absence of any previous settlement reports and tenancy laws. This chapter not only gives a clear idea about the previous settlement operations and revenue system but also enumerates in detail the rights and liabilities attached to various tenures and tenancies.

3. Assessment of Rent :—

For Assessment of rent the soil unit system as adopted in Sambalpur has been followed because of its suitability in a hilly and irregular country like Kalahandi. The settlement Officer has explained the system in detail by giving concrete examples in paragraph 105 of the report.

4. Financial implications :—

The total expenditure incurred for survey and settlement operation of Khalsa area till 31-3-1956 amounted to Rs. 8,48,893-3-6. The rent roll was fixed at Rs. 4,92,022-7-0 as against Rs. 3,04,350-0-1 fixed in the last settlement. The percentage of increase over the assets of last settlement comes to 62%. The increase of Rs. 1,87,672-6-11 is due to improvement in classification and change in soil factors in 8 classes of lands and extension of cultivation. The cost of the operation per acre come to Re. 1/- (Rupee one) approximately which was very cheap.

5. Enhancement of rent :—

The rent in no case has exceeded the previous rent by 100% where there is no increase in the area. As far as practicable very attempt has been made not to cause any hardship to the tenant. Whatever increment in rent has been brought about is due to rectification of anomalies of last settlement and assessment on newly reclaimed lands.

6. Recovery of survey and Settlement cost :—

The decision of Government on this subject has been embodied in G. O. No. S-108/62-23050 R. dated 11-5-62 (Appendix XXII). According to this order, no settlement cost should be realised from the tenants including the tenants under Maufidars as they pay rent to the Maufidars at the same or even higher rates of rent. The question of realisation of the settlement cost at half rate from Maufidars who are assessed to half rent and exempting the Maufidars who are assessed to full rent from payment of such cost is still under consideration of Government.

7. Assessment of rent on Maufi holdings :—

The position as explained in paragraph 132 of the Report with regard to assessment of Maufi holdings has since been changed. According to the G. O. No. S-108/62-23050 R. dated 11-5-62 (Appendix XXIII) the Maufi holdings in Kalahandi should be assessed on the basis of the term of settlement namely, those who have enjoyed the Maufi for 15 years or less. Such lands should be assessed to half the rate of rent and those who have enjoyed the Maufi for more than 15 years their lands should be assessed to full rent.

8. Government regret the delay in finalising the settlement operation which continued for nearly 11 years from 1946 to 56. The reason for the delay are hilly and difficult nature of the tract, bad climatic conditions in the interior, non-availability of experienced staff and previous reports.

9. The report prepared by Sri Janardan Das, O. A. S., who was the Settlement Officer is of great interest. Despite unsurmountable difficulties in dealing with various problems, he was able to complete the operation successfully with a low cost due to his sincere efforts. Sri Das retired from Government Service in the year 1961 on invalid pension. Government Officer, Kalahandi and fully endorse his commendation in favour of Sri Purna Ch. Chand, now Deputy Collector and Sri Kapila Ch. Mohanty, non-gazetted Assistant Settlement Officer who rendered meritorious service in this operation

Order:— Ordered that the resolution be published in the Orissa Gazette.

By order of the Governor

B. K. Mishra,

Secretary to Government.

Copy of letter No. XIV-4/62 4687 LRS. dated 22-5 62 from Shri B. Mishra, I.A.S., Director of Land Records and Surveys Orissa, Cuttack to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Bhubanewar.

Sub:— Final Report on the Land Revenue Settlement in the Khalsa of Kalahandi district.

I have the honour to submit the Final Report on the Land Revenue Settlement in the Khalsa of Kalahandi district written by Sri Janardan Das, O. A. S., now retired.

2. The Settlement Operations were initiated in the Kalahandi ex-State (Sadar and Dharmagarh Sub-divisions in which the entire area under report lies) by a notification issued by the Kalahandi Durbar in December, 1946. The Kalahandi State merged with the Province of Orissa in 1948 and Kalahandi district was constituted on 1-11-49 by adding the Nowapara Sub-Division of Sambalpur district to the Kalahandi ex-State. A record-of-rights operation under the provisions of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1917 was ordered for the Nowapara Sub-division in 1956. Ordinarily one final report for the entire district should have been submitted. But the work in the Khalsa was completed in 1956, that in the ex-Zamindari tracts has just been completed and that in the Nawapara Sub-division will take another two to three years to complete, and the Board-of-Revenue considers that in these days of quick administrative changes particularly relating to Land Reforms it is necessary that the Final Report in respect of the Khalsa should not be held up. More over, the facts and circumstances in the Khalsa are some what different from the Zamindaries inspite of the fact that all the Zamindaries have been abolished. The scheme is therefore to prepare another-Final Report for the ex-Zamindaries of the Kalahandi ex-State and yet another for the Nawapara Sub-Division.

3. Sri Gopinath Singh was appointed as the Settlement Officer when the operation was initiated in 1946. He continued as such till May, 1949. Sri Sitaram Swain, Deputy Collector remained in temporary charge of the operation till 31-8-49. He was succeeded by Sri Janardan Das, Deputy Collector who continued as such till 1-6-60. During the incumbency of Sri Singh only preliminaries were done in respect of a portion of the Khalsa. It was during the incumbency of Sri Janardan Das that the operation was actually conducted and Completed in 1956.

4. The difficulties in conducting the settlement operations in the area were many. When the notification initiating the operation was issued there was no formal agrarian code and the relations between the State and the occupants on land used to be regulated by terms of leases and Sanads granted to the Gountia and other landholders. This position more or less continues even to day, though subsequent enactments of the State Legislature like the Orissa Tenants' Relief Act, 1955 substantially affecting the rights of occupants on land have application in the area. Added to this there was no completion report of any of the previous settlements and only fragmentary information about previous settlements should be collected from the files and registers of those settlement operation after a laborious search. Obviously these incomplete informations were not of such use. Thus the Settlement

Officer had to start the operation from the scratch. Naturally he had to make a detailed study of the various rights and interests in lands for their proper recording and wherever necessary had to obtain prior orders of the Board-of-Revenue and Government before taking action in the matter. These facts, to a very great extent, explain the delay that was caused in completing the operation.

5. The Khalsa comprises an area of 1943 sq. miles out of which 327 sq. miles are reserved forests and hills. The remaining 1316 sq. miles was covered by the operation. The density of population is 168.84 per sq. miles according to 1951 census.

6. Chapter I of the report gives a general description of the tract and other matters of general information. Particular reference may be made to paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the report dealing with communications. The district head quarters is not connected with the headquarters of the State by an all weather motorable road. Equally meagre are communication facilities in-side the district. The Raipur Vizianagaram railway line goes in one extremity of the area and is not of much help particularly to agriculturists.

7. Chapter II deals with agriculture, crops and other connected matters. As has been mentioned by the Settlement Officer in Paragraph 19 of the report, improvement in agriculture was not appreciable in the early thirties of this century because of the inaccessibility of the area, bad climatic conditions, prevalence of Bethi and Begari and restriction on transfer of land. Spectacular changes came over after the merger of the State with the Province of Orissa. When substantial rights to the raiyats were conceded. In all area where not less than 80 per cent of the population depend entirely on agriculture, the new rights of the raiyats coupled with the high prices of agricultural commodities were reflected in spectacular improvement of agriculture.

8. Rain-fall is quite heavy and fairly assured but it is limited to the period between June and October and even in these periods droughts and excessive rains are not infrequent. The necessity for assured water supply from sources of irrigation has been keenly felt by all interested in the land and land revenue. As a matter of fact, the patta issued to the Gountias after the settlement operation in 1922-23 specified in clause 23 that it is one of the main duties of the Gountia to keep all tanks and Katas in proper repair and ensure free distribution of water for irrigation purposes. In clause 24 of the same patta it was enjoined that constructions of tanks on Bhogra Khudkast and raiyati lands would not require prior permission of the State. With the introduction of improved agricultural practices through the Community Development organisation the tenant is feeling more and more inclined to put the land to more profitable use and availability of irrigation facilities is the cry of the day.

9. Chapter III of the report deals with the previous settlements and the revenue systems. The Settlement Officer has given a detail history of the previous settlement operations. He has also stated in detail the rights and liabilities attached to various tenures and tenancies. The only point which needs special mention is the position of raiyats. The raiyati land was not transferable until the merger of the State with the Province of Orissa. Transfers used to take place in the guise of surrender to the Gountia, (the

village headmen appointed by the State for collection of rent and general management of the village) and resettlement by him in favour of the transferee. He used to levy a fee (usually 25% of the consideration money) to become a party to this fraud on the law prohibiting transfer of raiyati land. He had however no authority to resettle surrendered holdings of aboriginal tribes enumerated in clause 12 of the aforesaid Gounti patta in favour of non-aboriginals. While granting free transfer of lands belonging to raiyats. The Orissa Merged State (Laws) Act 1950 made a provision that transfers of land belonging to persons of aboriginal tribes in favour of non-aboriginals would require the prior permission of the S. D. M. The term "aboriginal tribe" was defined in the Act to mean any tribe notified as such by the Provincial Government. No such notification has yet been issued. This provision of the law is thus a dead letter but in practice aboriginal tribes intending to transfer their land sometimes take permission of S. D. Os.

10. While settlement operation were at a concluding stage, Government abolished the Gounti rights by compromise and took over direct collection and direct management of villages. The procedure followed was that the Gountia applied to surrender his rights and to take the Bhogra and Khudkast lands in settlement on raiyati terms. Bhogra lands were however settled with such persons as were found in possession on 1-7-55 but a fraction thereof was reserved for the Gram Panchayat. More or less similar rules were to apply to Khudkast lands but actual settlement of Khudkast lands raiyati terms has not yet been taken up.

11. Chapter IV deals with the present settlement operations. Details of the work done in different seasons have been mentioned in the report.

12. The Settlement Officer explains this Chapter the methods followed in classification of land and in allotting a factor to each class. The allotment of factors to different classes of land is correlated to the method of rent settlement and has nothing to do with record-of-rights as such. The Settlement Officer explains in his report the procedure followed in reserving Rakhit and Sarbasadharan lands and in Settlement of waste lands. For expeditious disposal of business the Collector delegated certain powers to the Settlement Officer in the matter of settlement of waste lands and encroachments this system worked quite satisfactorily.

13. In chapter V the Settlement Officer deals with the rent settlement. He explains in detail the soil unit system of rent calculation which was followed in the last settlement of Kalahandi as in all the western districts of the State. On the basis of crop experiments the soil factors were fixed. Villages were classified into a number of groups homogeneous on the basis of their relative advantages and disadvantages and unit rates were allotted to each village.

14. Chapter VI deals with the Maufi tenures, the large number and variety of which is the common feature in all the ex-State. These are not absolute grants. In practice, however, the Brahmottar and Devottar grants are not interfered with unless there are strong grounds calling for such interference. The Settlement Officer enumerates the policy followed in dealing with these Maufis in the matter of recording and assessment.

15. Chapter VII relates to peculiar features of the hilly tracts locally known as Dangarla, inhabited mainly by the khonds. The method of

shifting cultivation which they follow has been dealt with in paragraph 24 of the report. For recording the right in respect of this shifting cultivation a different procedure was followed. The mode of assessment which has also been explained in paragraph 146 of the report was also totally different from the soil unit system.

16. Chapter VIII contains the description of the record-of-rights and other technical details followed in its preparation.

17. Chapter IX explains the financial results. The assets of the Khalsa were fixed at Rs. 492022.44 nP. at this settlement against Rs. 304350.02 nP. of the last Settlement. This increase of 62% is due both to in classification and change in soil factor and on account of extension of cultivation. The latter item accounted for Rs. 33350.00 nP. The total expenditure incurred for the operation from the beginning till its conclusion was Rs. 848893.22 nP. excluding an amount of Rs. 75363.62 nP. towards the cost of forms and stationery and reproduction of maps. A sum of Rs. 107429.96 nP. was realised at remeasurement fee, court fees etc. in course of the operation. Taking into account all these, the cost of the operation works out to Re. 1/- per acre which is very cheap in these days of high prices.

18. In paragraph 205 of Chapter X the Settlement Officer enumerates the difficulties that confronted the organisation in carrying on the work with necessary expedition and the Board appreciates that inspite of these difficulties the operation was concluded without any unusual delay.

19. The appedices reproduce some of the important orders of Government and Board and relevant correspondence on important subjects.

20. The Board desires to place on the record the sincere and meritorious services of Sri Janardan Das, Settlement Officer, but for whose devotion to duty this difficult and annoying job could not have been successful completed with such a low cost. The Board also endorses the commendation of the Settlement Officer in favour of Sri Purna Chandra Chand, now Deputy Collector and Sri Kapila Charan Mahanty non-gazetted Assistant Settlement Officer who rendered meritorious service in this operation.

CHAPTER - I

General description of the tract.

Area, boundary natural features

The district of Kalahandi lies between 19° 3" and 21° 3" North Latitude and 82° 20" and 83° 50" East Longitude. It comprises the ex-State of Kalahandi and the ex-Zamindari of Khariar. The areas of the ex-State of Kalahandi and the ex-Zamindari of Khariar are 3745 and 1312 Square miles respectively. The total area of the district is thus 5057 Square miles.

2. Districts of Bolangir and Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) are to its north and west, district Koraput is to its South and districts of Boudh-Kandhmals and Koraput are to its east.

3. A portion of the boundary of the Khalsa area under report adjoins the boundary of Raipur district in Madhya Pradesh, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. The common boundary lines with these districts were duly compared and verified after a reference to the district authorities concerned and passed with their consent. There was no discrepancy worth noting.

4. The ex-State territory according to the natural features may be divided into two distinct tracts viz., the plain country and hill tracts locally known as 'Dangarla'. The general elevation of the plain tract is about 900 feet above the sea level and it stretches from the Tel river south and east for about 40 miles and again from Bhawanipatna it sweeps round on the west through Junagarh and runs southwards to Koraput border for about 50 miles. This tract contains large areas of cultivated land and soil approaches more to the character of black cotton soil. Specially the tract beginning from Junagarh to Ampani ghat is an open country. The rivers Tel, Hati, a tributary of Tel and Utai flow in the plain tract. In the plain tract there are dense jungles in the area under Bhawanipatna, Kegaon, Kesinga and Lanjigarh Police stations. There are important teak forests in the area lying on the bank of the river Tel.

5. The hill tract is a continuation of the eastern ghats and commences from about 5 miles south-east of Bhawanipatna and stretches up to the border of Koraput district. Long ranges of hills stand up from the plain like a vast wall and form a conspicuous land mark in the scenery. In between the ranges of hills there are strips of land where there is cultivation with hamlets of Kandhas. Their breadth varies from one mile to 3 miles. They are intersected with perennial streams issuing from the plateaux above. The tract is inaccessible and can be negotiated by foot only. Recently a fair weather road has been opened via Karlapat which runs to Thuamul-Rampur and Kasipur and connects the Rayagada-Koraput road at Rapkana. Except an area of 410 square miles which is in khalsa, the rest had been included in the zamindari areas of Karlapat, Kasipur, Lanjigarh, Mohulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur. The river Indravati tributary of Godavari flows through a portion of this hilly tract. The tract is densely covered with forest where wild animals of different varieties and also man-eating tigers are found in abundance.

6. The present settlement operation was first started in the khalsa portion of ex-State territory comprising an area of 1913 square miles which was under the direct administration of the Ruler. Out of this 627 square miles are forests and hills and the total village area is 1316 square miles.

7. The total number of villages in the ex-State khalsa area which is under report is 1327. Out of this 974 are in the plains and 353 in the hilly tract (Dangarla). The villages of the plains specially situated to the south and west are densely populated whereas the villages of the hilly tract are sparsely populated. The hilly tract is mostly inhabited by Kandhas and Doms who are in the primitive stage of civilisation. The area of these villages ranges from 0.77 to 730.00 acres and the tenants depend much on the cultivation of the hill slopes. In the plains there are some big villages, the area of the biggest village being 4984.61 acres.

8. The density of population per square mile according to the Census report of 1951 is 168.84. This figure does not, however, hold good in respect of hill tract which is very thinly populated and villages are not only small but are situated at long distances from one another.

9. Until recently the communication of the district (ex-State area) was far from satisfactory. The roads were not all weather due to intersection of many hill streams which had not been properly bridged over. After the "merger" of the ex-State with the Province a vigorous programme for metalling the old roads and constructing new ones has been taken up. New bridges and culverts are under construction and some have already been completed. The more important roads are :—

(i)	Bhawanipatna to Ampani	...	...	50 miles
(ii)	do. to Amath ghat (Bolangir road)	...	...	32 "
(iii)	do. to Dharmagarh	...	...	28 "
(iv)	do. to Khariar	...	...	42 "
(v)	do. to Rayagada road	...	...	23 "
(vi)	do. to Gunpur	...	...	28 "
(vii)	Chhatikuda to Madanpur-Rampur	...	...	24 "
(viii)	Moter to Jayapatna	...	...	16 "
(ix)	Madanpur-Rampur to Mohangiri	...	...	16 "
(x)	Amath to Rampur via Palam	...	...	18 "
(xi)	Rapkana to Kasipur	...	...	26 "
(xii)	Gunpur to Kasipur	...	...	35 "
(xiii)	Madanpur-Rampur to Risida	...	...	20 "

10. Besides the above roads the Revenue Department has taken up construction of many new roads under its Development programme. The total mileage of P. W. D. roads and Revenue roads are at present 358 miles. Dharsa or village paths exist in almost every village and it is possible to motor to most of the villages in the plains in the interior after December. One new road has been constructed within the hilly tract which can be used only in summer season. All P. W. D. roads have been surveyed in 4 lines with a breadth of 66 ft. i. e. 24 ft. for the road proper and 21 ft. on either side for drains and earth-work for the road. Foot-path and temporary cart tracks on the field have not been surveyed or recorded.

11. The Raipur-Vizianagaram Railway line runs for about 25 miles and has 5 stations in the ex-State area namely Kesinga, Kandel Road, Rupra Road, Narla Road and Lanjigrah Road.

12. The population of the district according to the Census of 1951 is 858781 out of which the figure relating to the ex-State area is 638931 souls. The population of the khalsa area which is under report is 441121. The Census of 1951 records an increase of 8% over the figure of 1941. About 80% of this population are agriculturists. The principle castes inhabiting this tract are Brahmins, Kultha, Gour, Kumbhar, Pyke, Banka, Teli, Bhatra, Mali, Kandha, Gond, Sabar and Dom.

13. Out of the total number of 69194 holdings in the area the number of holdings held by people of different castes are noted below :—

Brahmins	...	2461
Kultha	...	2191
Gour	...	13725
Kumbhar	...	1541
Pyke	...	1673
Banka	...	1720
Teli	...	2128
Bhatra	...	1652
Mali	...	3325
Kandha	...	11910
Gond	...	4036
Sabar	...	2299
Dom	...	12350
		61011

The remaining 8183 holdings are held by other castes.

14. Good lands and most of the villages are held by the Brahmins and Kulthas. Kulthas predominate in the North-east and brahmins in the South-west. They are good agriculturists and are reported to have been brought from Sambalpur side during the time of Raja Udit Pratap Deo near about the year 1867 who married a daughter of the Raja of Sambalpur. They have excavated big tanks and improved the lands considerably. Kultha and Brahmin Gountias are well-to-do persons of the locality and have erected good pucca buildings in their villages and own fertile lands but condition of the tenants under them is generally poor who live from hand to mouth and are in debt. Besides having larger areas of land under them they also do money and paddy lending business. The rising of the Kandhas in Kalahandi in 1882 was due to their discontent at being ousted from their lands by the Kulthas, a large number of whom were slaughtered and beseiged in the rising. The oppression of the tenants by Kultha and Brahmin gountias was a common feature in Kalahandi before though such things are not heard of now.

15. The entire Dangarla area is inhabited by Handas with sprinkling of Doms who act as creditors and advisers of the former. The area being less attractive and inaccessible, the kandhas seem to have retreated there and settled down there to lead their own way of life undisturbed. The Kandhas generally grow ragi, turmeric, kandul and kosala on the hill slopes by burning forest growth. All their income from the fields is spent within 4 to 6 months and major part of it in drinks. For half of the year they live on only ragi and power of tamarind seeds, mango stones, edible roots and tubers. Their needs are few and they want to remain aloof from the civilised life and avoid to have contact with the people of the plains. When not

engaged in field work they spend their time in drinks and Dhap dance with their women folk. The Doms are found throughout the tract. They are a bit shrewd and cunning and many of them own land and also do a little business in hand woven cloth and agricultural produce. Nabanna in the month of Bhadraba and Pousapurnima are the important festivals in the tract when people generally put on new clothes and eat good food. In Dangarla area they observe Pusapurnima and also other festivals in the month of Chaitra when fowls, goats and buffaloes are sacrificed and liquor is consumed liberally. For days together they drink and dance without doing any work and at this time it is extremely difficult to get the services of a labourer even on heavy payment.

16. The Ex-State of Kalahandi is said to have formerly belonged to a family of Gangabansi Rajput, the last member of which brought one brother of Raja of Chhetanagpur in the year 1008 A. D. and gave him his daughter in marriage together with the right to succession of the Gadi. It originally consisted of 14 garhs (Forts) to which four more namely Kasipur, Mohulpatna, Chandragiri and Bisamgiri were subsequently added having been ceded in the year 1715 A. D. by the Raja of Jeypore. Of these garhs tracts were bestowed at different times to the members of the ruling family as maintenance grants which formed into 5 zamindaris namely Kasipur, Mohulpatna, Lanjigarh Karlpur and Madanpur-Rampur. It is alleged that Kalahandi was an independent State paying no tribute to any power but it eventually came under the dominion of Mahrattas and in the days of Raghuji Bhonsala a Takoli was assessed and regularly paid to the Raja of Nagpur. The State was not one of Garjat states which composed the group under Patna and Sambalpur. When in 1853 the province of Nagpur lapsed to the British Crown, Kalahandi came under the jurisdiction of the British Government and was created a feudatory State in 1867.

17. The names of some of the recent Rajas may be mentioned here for the purpose of this report.

Raja Jugsai Deo	...	1796—1831
Raja Fatenarayan Deo	...	1831—1853
Raja Udit Pratap Deo	...	1853—1881
Raja Raghu Kishore Deo	...	1883—1897
Maharaja Brajamohan Deo	...	1897—1939
Maharaja Pratap Keshari Deo		1939 up to-date.

18. During the time of the 1st four Rules large number of maufi (Rent free) grants were made to the Brahmins and the deities most of which are continuing till now. When Raja Udit Pratap Deo died in 1881, his adopted son Raghu Kishore Deo was recognised as heir by the Government of India. He was murdered in 1897 by one of his servants and was succeeded by his son Raja Brajamohan Deo. He died in 1939 and was succeeded by the present Maharaja Sri Pratap Keshari Deo. After independence all the native States were merged with the neighbouring Provinces, the State, Kalahandi was merged with the province of Orissa on the 1st. January, 1948. It formed part of the district of Bolangir till the end of October, 1949 and was constituted into a separate district on 1-11-1949 along with Nawapara subdivision (ex-Zamindary of Khariar) of Sambalpur district.

CHAPTER - II

Agriculture.

19. Due to inaccessibility of the area, bad climatic conditions, prevalence of Bheti and Begar and a system which restricted transfer of land and left the tenants at the mercy of the village head-man, improvement in agriculture was not appreciable in the early thirties of this century. With the opening of the Raipur-Vizianagaram Railway line in 1930 and abolition of Bheti and Begar, things started improving gradually. Spectacular changes came over the area after its merger with the province of Orissa as new rights were conferred on the tenants who became more conscious. According to the Census of 1951, 84.42% of the total population depend on agriculture for their sustenance, while only 15.58% derive their means of livelihood from non-agricultural profession.

20. The population of the area (ex-State Khalsa) where the present operation has been completed is 441121 and about 80% of this depend entirely on agriculture. The cultivated area of this tract has increased from 555234 acres recorded in the Settlement of 1922 to 641021 acres at present.

21. The agricultural year in this tract commences on the 1st. day of June.

22. The principal crops are - Paddy, Gurji, Kudo, Kulthi, Til, Ragi, Gram Masuri, Mung, Mustard, Biri, Arhar, Wheat, Sugarcane and Tobacco. The acreage under different crops as collected from the Jinswar statements prepared at the 1st. year of survey operation between 1946 and 1950 are as follows :—

Paddy	...	...	348217 . 23 acres
Kudo, Gurji etc.	....	....	158710 . 02 „
Kulthi	...	....	29748 . 88 „
Til	...	...	27142 . 32 „
Ragi	...	....	13820 . 46 „
Gram, Butra, Masuri	...	....	13578 . 40 „
Mung	....	....	10884 . 66 „
Mustard	...	....	10571 . 48 „
Biri	...	...	8862 . 35 „
Maize and Jawar	...	...	6451 . 92 „
Caster	...	....	6040 . 86 „
Arhar	..	...	4958 . 96 „
Sugarcane	...	....	2759 . 50 „
Spices	...	...	1843 . 61 „
Cotton	...	....	1350 . 79 „
Wheat	....	....	1333 . 34 „
Fibres	...	...	996 . 84 „
Ground-nut	...	....	745 . 21 „
Other crops	...	....	665 . 02 „
Tobacco	....	...	319 . 20 „

An area of 18620.72 acres which is under double crops have been included within these figures.

23. During the last 20 years there was no failure of crops except in the years 1938-39, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1950-51 when there was partial failure. There was, however, sufficient reserve stock to meet the requirement of the people.

24. Intensive cultivation scheme was launched in 1951. Attempts have been made to improve the agricultural condition by the introduction of the improved paddy seeds and popularising use of chemical fertilisers and compost manuring. Loans have been advanced to the agriculturists for purchasing agricultural implements, tractors, power pumps etc.

25. The country being hilly with varying soil surfaces all the cultivated lands are not the same. They have been classified into Bahal (Bottom land), Berna (Dell), Mal (Terraced slopes) and At (up-land) according to situation and productive capacity. The first three classes have again been subdivided into four each, according to irrigation and village drainage received. The 4th class has been sub-divided into four according to the quality of soil and crops grown. There is also difference in the yield according to the nature of soil in the village. The soil of villages in the jurisdiction of Koksara, Junagarh and Dharmagarh and portions of Kesinga Police station approaches more to the character of the black cotton soil and yield is generally good. Such soil retains moisture for a longer period and does not require much manuring. Grey, red and sandy soils are to be found in villages of Narla and part of Kesinga and Bhawanipatna police stations. The yield of Bahal land of first-class village having good quality of soil is generally higher than that of similar land of 3rd class villages having sandy soil.

26. Crop cutting experiments were made during the settlement on 1059 plots at random and where no crop cutting could be held the out turn was ascertained by enquiring from the intelligent tenants by the Assistant Settlement Officers in settlement Camps. The following is the figure of average outturn per acre from each class of land in normal years.

Bahal Kharipani	....	20 maunds.
„ Khari	....	18 „
„ Pani	....	16 „
„ Mamuli (sadharan)....		15 „
Berna Kharipani	....	15 „
„ Khari	....	14 „
„ Pani	....	13 „
„ Mamuli (Sadharan)		12 „
Mal Kharipani	...	12 „
„ Khari	....	11 „
„ Pani	....	10 „
„ Mamuli (Sadharan)		8 „
Barchha	... ..	25 maunds of molasses.
Kachhar	... ..	3½ maunds of Mung.
At Unhari }		3 maunds til or 3 maunds of Biri or 3 maunds of gram.
At Khari }		
At Mamuli (Sadharan)	...	3 maunds of Kulthi.

In years of timely rainfall and favourable weather 2 maunds more may be added as yield to each of the figures stated above. Yield of mung and til depend much on suitable weather conditions.

27. Enquiry from the cultivators reveals that one maund to $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of paddy is generally broadcast in one acre of land. Poor land takes more seeds than good and manured land because it provides less germination. Khari and bottom soil which is well manured require less seed. In upland Rabi crops such as Mung, biri and til the capacity is 8 to 12 seers per acre of land.

28. Price of land varies according to the quality of soil and situation of the village. Prior to the merger of the State with the province when transfer land was not permissible but could only be effected in the shape of surrender and re-settlement through the medium of the Gountia the average price for the lowest class of land was near about Rs. 20/- per acre and for the highest class about Rs. 100/- per acre, but after 1948 the price has gone up to about Rs. 50/- for the lowest and about Rs. 500/- for the highest class of land. A land having an annual yield of 50 pustomas (285 maunds) of paddy can be had for Rs. 5000/- at present. In villages situated in jungles and out of way places such land can be had at a cheaper rate. It will, therefore, be misleading to speak with precision the acreage value of land. The price land as gathered at attestation stages varies from village to village.

29. The average yearly rainfall is 55" in the district. As no statistics is available the details could not be given yearwise. monsoon usually breaks in the 3rd week of June. The 2nd half of August and Sep-tember, are critical periods for the tenants. Failure of timely rain during this period causes considerable damage to crops and during this time water stored in tanks and katas are generally made use of.

30. The main sources of irrigation are Sagar (big reservoir), Kata, Munda, Bandh and wells which are found in most of the villages. It was an established custom during the Durbar Government to take an agree-ment from the village headman (Gountia) whenever a village was leased out compelling him to excavate tanks and reservoirs for the agricultural improvement of the village and under clause 24 of the old Gounti Patta (vide Appendix XIX) he was to distribute water of such reservoirs free of any fee to the tenants for irrigation purpose. Gountias excavating Katas, Mundas were also given protected status which saved them from arbitrary eviction. The lands getting irrigation from the tanks and reservoirs have been noted in the Record-of-Rights. Distribution of water is to be made with the help of the Panchayat and village headman. The number of water reservoirs and wells existing in this area are noted below :—

(i) Reservoirs under Government khata which serve the purpose of irrigation	...	...	2637
(ii) Reservoirs under Government khata which do not serve the purpose of irrigation	...	...	824
(iii) Reservoirs recorded in royati khata which serve the purpose of irrigation	...	...	1013
(iv) Reservoirs recorded in royati khata which do not irrigate	...	...	132
(v) Wells - Pucca	...	...	114
(vi) Wells - Cutcha	...	...	9976

31. Kata and Sagar are formed by giving an earthen embankment across a drainage area. Mostly their shape is triangular and their area varies from 5 acres to 100 acres and even more. They command a valley the bottom

of which are bahal lands and good crops are assured even if there is scarcity of rain. Water from them is led to the fields below by a small channel cut at the end of the Dam.

32. Munda is smaller in size and resembles a miniature kata in shape. It irrigates less area and generally its water dries up in summer except in a few cases where it is very deep.

33. Bandha is a square tank with embankments on all sides and its water is specially used for bathing and drinking purposes. Big bandhas irrigate lands.

34. Sara is a natural formation on the banks of a river due to erosion by flood water and water there generally remains throughout the year.

35. Irrigation to Sugarcane fields and bari lands is generally made from wells. In villages most of the wells are cutcha having no masonry construction but Government have recently encouraged the tenants to have masonry wells. The following are the figures of total irrigated land in the area under report out of the total cultivated land of 641021 acres.

Well.

From water reservoirs recorded under		
Government khatian	...	61268 . 27 acres
From water reservoirs recorded in royati		
holdings	...	9306 . 57 „
From natural streams ...	...	3131 . 79 „
From Wells	...	4131 . 85 „

Besides the existing old water reservoirs a large number of minor irrigation projects have been executed and some are under execution. Some major projects have also been taken up.

36. All water reservoirs existing from before the settlement of 1922 which are still useful for the purpose of irrigation and drinking have been kept under the Government Khatian. Water reservoirs excavated by the tenants in their holdings after the settlement of 1922 have been recorded in the name of the tenants concerned, and rent has been assessed on them. From the records of the last settlement (1922) it is seen that 'Unnatisadhan' lists were prepared in respect of Jalchahs which were excavated or repaired by the Gountias or Tenants, though these jalchahs were recorded under Government Khata kept under rent free column. In the years 1941 and 1943 registers were prepared and maintained in the Land Records Office showing the names of persons effecting the improvement of these water reservoirs. The purpose behind the preparation of this paper and its value when all the water reservoirs were kept as Government jalchahs has nowhere been stated. There is no Final report of the last settlement to clarify this point. Clause 23 of the old Gounti patta (Vide Appendix-XIX) enjoined on the Gountias to maintain the tanks and reservoirs of their villages in proper repair and distribute water to the tenants free of any charge. So this clause did not confer any right on the Gountias but imposed an obligation on them. The "Unnatisadhan" list created a wrong impression in the minds of the Gountias that they had right over the reservoirs and under this misconception there were instances where the right to repair was transferred by execution of documents.

Water res-
ervoirs and
their imp-
rovement.

37. From the papers showing original lease of the villages it is seen that whenever a village was leased out to a Gountia he was made to execute an agreement to excavate water reservoirs for the agricultural improvement in the village. The Gountias being lease-holders (Thicadars) for the period of settlement (vide Appendix XIV) having absolutely no proprietary right in the village, their continuation as Gountia for a further term depended on their getting a 'protected status' by effecting large improvements in the village in the shape of Kata and Bandha. Secretariate Letter No. 44436-212 dated 22-7-1889 issued by the Officiating Commissioner, Chattisgarh Division copy of which will be found in the Appendix-XII will show that a Gountia who had spent largely on tanks was entitled to a protected status which means that he would not be arbitrarily evicted from the village. Evidently excavation of water reservoirs by a Gountia was part of his official function and the reservoirs excavated belonged to the village community over which the Gountia had no personal right. Bhet and Begar rendered by the villagers contributed much in the excavation of these tanks also. The Gountia being the controller of water and the State having no fishery department as such of its own, naturally he enjoyed the fishing right and preference in the matter of use of water. In the present settlement "Unnatisadhan" list on the lines of the last settlement has also been prepared. As in a settlement operation no fresh right can be created nor old right extinguished, the "Unnatisadhan" list does not carry any more weight than what it carried in the last settlement. It does not also form a part of the Record-of-Rights but is a subsidiary paper prepared for the purpose of reference only.

38. It is difficult to speak with precision the cost of cultivation per an acre of land as many factors are to be taken into account. No account is maintained by the cultivators because cultivation is more way of life than a business proposition with them; the stimulus is self supply rather than cultivation for profit. Agriculture is also beset with diverse problems of intricate nature. The cost varies according to the nature of the soil and crops grown, rate of wages, size of the holding and the custom prevailing in the locality. Roughly it absorbs a little more than $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the gross produce. But in case of cultivators of high class as for example Brahmins, Karanas etc. who themselves do not hold the plough but engage hired labourers in all stages of the operation the cost goes up to half of the gross produce. In case cultivation it is very high and tenants resort to such cultivation to give engagement to the field servants in summer months when there is less work in other fields. The following is a rough estimate of cost per acre of paddy land but cost is to be computed for the entire land under cultivation of the royat in which case it will necessarily be appreciably less.

			Rs.	As.	Ps.
1st ploughing	...	...	3	0	0
2nd do.	...	...	3	0	0
3rd do.	...	...	3	0	0
Seeds	...	...	5	0	6
Manure	...	...	2	0	0
Bihuda	...	...	3	0	0
Weeding	...	...	5	0	0
Repairing & threshing	...	...	8	0	0
			32	0	0

Due to high cost of bullocks and iron implements, the cost has, no doubt, gone up in recent times.

39. The wages paid to the agricultural labourers and farm servants are invariably in kind and the rate varies in different parts. Field servants retained on yearly basis are known as Halias. They are generally appointed for a year from Pusho-purnima to next Pusho-purnima. Each Halia gets a lumpsum in cash per year varying from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 60/- according to the custom prevalent in the locality and ability of the person concerned which is known as 'Uden' and one puti (80 addas) of paddy per month. In some part they get a little less quantity of paddy but it is compensated at the end by giving a little more paddy after harvest. One piece of dhoti of 7 cubits in length in rains, one wrapper in winter and one dhoti on the occasion of 'Nuakhai' are also supplied to each Halia by the tenant. On festival days such as 'Nabanna' and Pusho-purnima he gets free ration. Persons having large number of halias maintain one head-halia who is known as Behera or Khamari. He gets a little more paddy and money. Big land owners are found to have retained 12 to 20 field servants. The field servants generally work from 5 A.M. to 12 Noon and again from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. From October to December when crops are in the field they sleep in the field at night on a 'machan' to watch the crops. Field servants engaged on daily basis during sowing and harvest season are known as 'Bheti'. They get 3 seers of paddy each as wage in sowing time and 4 seers in harvest time. The female daily labourers get paddy at half of this rate. Besides this, a young boy is maintained at the house of the master and fed daily who is known as 'Kuthia'. He generally tends the cows and sheep. The wages of a field servant may be estimated as follows :—

		Rs.	As.	Ps.
(i)	Uden (cash payment in advance) ...	50	0	0
(ii)	One putti of paddy monthly valued @ Rs. 13/- per putti for 12 months ...	156	0	0
(iii)	Cost of 3 pieces of cloth ...	9	0	0
(iv)	Payment of 2 puttis of paddy at harvest time @ Rs. 13/- per putti ...	26	0	0
(v)	Miscellaneous payment ...	9	0	0
	Total	250	0	0

40. The income is no doubt insufficient for the field servant to maintain his family. But his wife also earns something by husking paddy and working on daily wage-basis at the time of transplantation, weeding and harvesting.

41. Measures in use in rural area :—

2 gidhas	...	one sola
2 sollas	...	one Adda
4 addas	...	one mano
20 manos	...	one putti
4 puttis	...	one pustoma
2 pustomas	...	one purug.

The gidha is equal to 4 chhataks, one sola is equal to half seer and one adda to a seer of 80 tolas. All transactions in rural areas including payment of wages to the agricultural labourers are made in adda, mano, putti and purug. The value of a land is also assessed as having so many puttis of

padan seed capacity and so many purugs of yield (due to light weight 56 addas of paddy generally weigh one maund).

42. There are weekly markets at a maximum distance of 10 miles from every village to which places the agricultural and forest produce, vegetables, sweets, fire-wood, salt, tobacco, oil and in some cases cattle are brought and sold by the cultivators and artisans. Marwari Banias have penetrated into the remotest corner of the tract and have settled down in important centres. They buy grain and forest produce and sell cotton-thread, Kerosine oil, cloth and fancy goods. Among the local business men Doms and the Bhullias carry on a brisk trade in hand woven cloth. The Dom business man has considerable influence among Kandhas of the Dangarla area. The important bazars are at Utkela, Kesinga, Balipada, Bhawanipatna, Junagarh, Dharmagarh, Ranmal, Kuturu, Behera, Ampani and Koksara. Bhawanipatna and Junagarh are the only towns and the rest are big villages.

43. The important old trade routes were the following :—

- (i) Bhawanipatna to Raipur via Khariar
- (ii) Bhawanipatna to Sambalpur via Bolangir
- (iii) Bhawanipatna to Nawarangapur via Ampani
- (iv) Bhawanipatna to Balliguda via Mohangiri
- (v) Bhawanipatna to Parvatipur via Jugsaipatna and Bijepur.

These routes still exist but due to the opening of the Raipur-Vizianagaram section of the Railway most of the trades are now diverted via Kesinga railway station.

CHAPTER - III

Previous Settlements and Revenue System.

44. The 1st summary Settlement was made by Mr. Berry in 1883 and the 2nd summary settlement in 1888. In these settlements no map was prepared. Area was recorded in terms of seed capacity and rent was fixed on a consideration of the yield and paying capacity of the tenants. The 1st regular Survey and Settlement was made in 1904-1905 by Sri Kamal Lochan Pujhari of Sambalpur. All the villages were, however, not surveyed. The term of this settlement was for 7 years. The 2nd regular survey and settlement was made in 1911-12 and its term was for 10 years. The maps prepared in 1904-05 were corrected on the spot and records were brought upto-date. The last survey and settlement was made in 1922-23. The traverse stations according to the settlement of 1911-12 were plotted on new sheets and survey was done on these sheets. Such of the villages of the plain area as were not surveyed were also surveyed for the first time. The term of this settlement was 20 years which expired in 1943. Due to War conditions fresh settlement operation could not be taken up till December, 1946. In December, 1946 a Notification was issued by the Durbar for starting the present settlement operations. The following extract from Mr. Ramdhyani's report (1942) will give some idea regarding previous settlements in Kalahandi.

'The State was under management from 1896-1917 and during this period a settlement was made in 1904. The whole State was not surveyed regularly and a large number of Villages were surveyed by the mashat system

of Cuttack. The settlement except of certain villages was summary. The Dangarla was settled on the basis of seed capacity, plough or axe. The settlement resulted in an increase of revenue and the cost of settlement was met by a Patwari Cess. The term proposed for the settlement was four years departing from the previous customs of triennial settlement with Gountias but settlement was not taken up again till 1911 when a thirty percent enhancement was made and the period fixed as 11 years; individual enhancement amounted to 50%. In 1922 a new settlement was made on the soil unit system, enhancement was made up to 100 percent in the case of individual royats or villages and for the praganna it was limited to 60 percent. Where the assessment was 100% or more gradual enhancement over a period of ten years was prescribed. Gountias were allowed a 'drawback' of 25% (maximum). The Forest Cess which was an acreage rate was converted into a rupee rate resulting in an enhancement of 36%. This settlement is current now though its period of 20 years has expired".

45. There is no settlement report of the settlement 1922-23 not to speak of the report of the settlements previous to that. As remarked by Mr. Ramdhyani in his report about the revenue system of the ex-State of Kalahandi "the State has not proper settlement report even of the current settlement and little is known of its early revenue history". The old Gounti patta, (Vide Appendix-XIX) customs and precedents are the only guide from which the revenue system of the area has been gathered. No Tenancy Act was in force nor any Tenancy Acts of the old districts had been introduced. In short, all that existed was a Gounti patta which imposed some conditions on the headman and enumerated some rights and liabilities of the royats. There was nothing to bind the Gountia's relation with the royats regarding the method of recovery of revenue or the procedure to be adopted by the Revenue Officers. There was also no separate Wazib-ul-arz showing a complete list of customs and practices prevalent in the area. The administration reports of the Durbar mention that the spirit of C. P. Tenancy Act and Land Revenue Act was in force but in actual practice it is seen that most of the provisions of these Acts were not followed. As the tract borders M. P. (old C. P.) and it was in Chhatisgarh Agency, it was quite natural to adopt some system of the Central Provinces. As in Central Provinces, the revenue administration was completely based on the control of the village headman who in return, was to furnish a fixed revenue for the village to the Government. The headman had, however, no proprietary right in the village. Though designated as Gountia on the analogy of the headman of the Sambalpur district he was virtually a Thicadar taking lease of the village for the term of the settlement (P. A's. letter dated 12-8-1908 in Misc. revenue Case No. 79 and Order contained in Memo No. 309 dated 26-6-1909 in Appendix-XIII). The Ruler was the real proprietor and all lands and water comprising in the tract belonged to him. Hereditary right to succession to a Gounti tenure was not recognised. The lease or patta of a village was terminable at the next settlement. During the currency of the lease the right of the eldest son to succeed was recognised but after the expiration of the lease, the Ruler was at liberty to give it to some one else. The Gountias of some villages were granted protected status which meant that the Gountia had the right to renewal of lease (Thica) on its expiry and could not be arbitrarily evicted. The incident of protected status in Orissa States will be found in Secretariate letter No. 44436-212 dated 22nd July 1889 issued from the Office of the Political Agent a copy of which has been given in the Appendix-XII. Non-existence of protected status did not,

however, mean that the lease was to be terminated but it gave a discretionary power to the state authorities to terminate the lease. Many villages have been held from generation to generation by the same family without such status.

46. When a village fell vacant the general practice was to auction the Gountiship for the highest Nazarana if there were others to compete for it or for a fixed sum as 'Nazarana'. An agreement used to be taken from the new Gountia for effecting agricultural improvement in the village by excavating tanks and reservoirs.

47. Previously the Gountia was remunerated by the land known as Bhogra. In the settlement of 1922, 20 % to 25 % of the total rental of the village was fixed as his remuneration. If the rent value of the Bhogra was more than the percentage he was to receive, he was paying the excess amount as Japti but if it was less he was receiving a draw-back from the total rental of the village.

48. Notwithstanding the unstable position of the Gountia as enumerated above he wielded an enormous influence in the village and enjoyed the best lands of the village, as long as he did not indulge in any activity against the Ruler. Besides cultivating the Bhogra lands which was generally the best land in the village he could bring as much area of waste lands as he liked under cultivation and could lease them out to his friends and relatives. Under clause 13 of the Gounti patta found in the Appendix-XIX he had absolute control over the village waste and under clause 11 he could also settle surrendered and abandoned land with others. Although there was no right to transfer royati land yet through the medium of the Gountia transfers could be effected in the shape of surrender and re-settlement. Unless the Gountia could be won over by the offer of a decent 'Salami' there was no possibility of a new man getting land in the village. So the Gountia had a good source of income from such settlement of surrendered land and lease of waste land. The Gountia also used to get free labour from the tenants in the shape of Hal and Da-bheti for cultivation of his land.

49. Generally speaking there was one Gountia in each village but in 5 villages sikimi Gountias were found to exist. There was no fixed principle regarding the apportionment of village revenue between the Asal and Sikimi Gountia. It appeared that the relationship between the Asal Gountia and Sikimi Gountia was governed by custom and agreement. Although the Sikimi Gountia was a creation of the Asal Gountia yet the former had been given a status in old settlement papers and some had continued as Sikimi Gountia for more than 40 to 50 years. The Sikimi Gountia virtually took the entire responsibility of the village management allowing the Asal Gountia a nominal amount out of the commission of the village. Kabuliyat was being taken from the Sikimi Gountia on behalf of the Asal Gountia at the time of renewal of Settlement.

The Gountia under the maufidar was designated as Sikimi Gountia although the maufidar received only the revenue of the village having nothing to do with the affairs of the village. Where a maufidar did not also function as Gountia of the Village but another person was Gountia who actually cultivated Bhogra and acted as rent receiver, the latter has been recorded as Gountia and not as Sikimi Gountia in the present settlement.

50. Land incident to the post of Gountia is 'Bhogra'. Unlike the Gountia of Sambalpur district the Gountia of Kalahandi had a restricted right over his Bhogra. He could not sell or mortgage or transfer it in any way (clauses 7 and 8 of the old Gounti patta) though privately he might share the profit of Bhogra with his brothers or allow them to cultivate it. His right over Bhogra ceased when he was removed from the Gountiship. Bhogra in Kalahandi as in most of the ex-State districts had the characteristic of a service tenure.

51. Land reclaimed by a Gountia from the village waste, land purchased by him or acquired by him due to surrender or ejectment or any occupancy tenant was called Khudkast. Because a Gountia could not be his own tenant of any land except Bhogra lawfully acquired by him was termed "Khudkast". When the right of transfer had not been conferred on the tenant the Gountia could transfer this land and anybody cultivating khudkast for howsoever short time it may be, used to get occupancy right therein.

52. All the tenants of ex-State of Kalahandi holding cultivable land in the village (except service tenants and temporary lease holders) and paying rent are occupancy tenants. Occupancy right accrues from the moment a land is settled with a tenant. There is no old custom or practice regarding any period after which he acquired occupancy right. Until the merger of the State with the province of Orissa a tenant had no right to transfer nor could he cut prohibited class of trees standing on his lands. He could only surrender the land to the Gountia who in his turn settled it with others. The rule regarding restriction to transfer could be evaded by the method of surrender and resettlement with the connivance of the Gountia who was satisfied if a good Salami was paid. An occupancy royat was ousted from his holding for non-payment of rent or for transfer of his holding. The rent of his holding was fixed for the period of settlement. Royati land abandoned or surrendered was at the disposal of the Gountia but what constituted abandonment was nowhere laid down. It is said that proclamation was being issued asking the abandoning royat or his heirs to claim the holding but how far this procedure was followed and whether the Gountia was taken to task when he had done mischief in this matter cannot be stated with emphasis. Surrendered and abandoned holdings belonging to aborigines and certain low caste raiyats were bound to be reallocated to persons of that class and Gountia was not allowed to cultivate them himself or give them to his relatives. This rule was not applicable to the Gountias who were themselves aborigines. With the permission of the Ruler, however, settlement of such land with high caste persons could be made.

53. Rent receipt books of the C. P. type were issued to the tenants and the Gountias used to sign in them at the time of each payment. Gountias used to issue manuscript receipts in some cases.

54. Succession to an occupancy holding was governed by the personal law of the tenant.

55. Kind rent in the shape of rice, mung, ghee, goat was prevalent in villages which were assigned to the deities and other maufidars.

56. The existing tenancy rules of the area were modified by paragraph 12 of the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 conferring free right to

transfer and right over trees to the tenants after merger of the State with the province of Orissa.

57. The following village servants are found here who are remunerated through service holdings which they hold free of rent except that the Jhankars and Choukidar who pay a 'japti' assessment for the area held by them in excess of the maximum limit permissible.

- (i) Jhankar - He worships the village deity and assists the watchman.
- (ii) Choukidar - Watchman.
- (iii) Nariah - Water carrier.

The Choukidar and Jhankar are generally regarded as constituting the rural police and the Thana Officer is usually consulted when they are appointed. The Nariah is generally appointed by the Gountia in consultation with the Panchs.

58. According to the custom prevailing in each village, the Jhankar and Choukidar get some paddy from the tenants at the time of harvest. In Dangarla tract there is no service land and the Choukidar gets ration known as 'Gundi Pej' from the tenants for his maintenance. This 'Gundi Pej' consists of some cups of gruel of 'mandia' and rice according to availability supplied by each villager daily.

59. Under Revenue Department Letter No. 1828/XXI.6/52, I R S. dated 9-10-1952 contained in the Appendix-I the Choukidar and Jhankar chakaran lands have been limited to 3% and 5% respectively of the cultivated lands in a village. Lands in excess of the limit have been assessed to full rent. Cesses have been levied both on service and excess land.

60. In some villages Washerman, barber, potter and blacksmith cultivate lands free of rent for the service rendered by them to the village community. Except in Brahmottar and Devottar maufi villages where the maufidars utilise the services of such jagir holders, the jagirdars of other villages do not generally render any service.

61. Large number of persons owning no land except homestead plots (the area in each case not exceeding 0.25 decimals) are found in every village. They earn their livelihood as agricultural labourers of doing other occupation. The homestead plots had not been surveyed in the last settlement. They were rent free and not transferable. Right of occupancy was first conferred on the Sukhbasis by the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948. The homesteads have been surveyed and assessment has been made thereon assigning the factor approved for 'Bari mamuli' land.

62. There are maufidars in some of the villages who cultivate holdings rent free or on payment of a nominal rent known as Tanki or quit-rent. They are known as Tukura maufidars. Maufi tenures have been dealt with in Chapter VI.

63. All the tenures enumerated above which were found existing in the ex-State area have been recorded in the present settlement papers.

64. There were a number of jagirs known as Nalia Jagir the total area of which was 11734.78 acres and its rental valuation Rs. 10716-8-0. These jagirs were originally created to serve the purpose of national militia. Later on, the jagir holders were engaged for carrying daks, attending

officers in their touring camps, doing watch and ward duty at the Ruler's palace when required and presenting arms to the Ruler on the occasion of Dāsahara. As the jagirdars were doing no work now the jagir holdings were converted into royati in favour of the occupants as decided by Board of Revenue in their letter No. 2700 dated 13-12-52 found in the Appendix-VIII. In some cases, entire villages consisted of Nalia jagirdars and the head Jagirdar was known as Nalia sardar. The Sardar was recorded as Gountia of the village and the Jagir under him as Bhogra.

65. Some tenants being unable to cultivate their lands were found to have leased out portions thereof to other persons in return of an annual payment of a definite quantity of paddy or cash by the latter. Where possession of such under-tenant was a continuing one they have been recorded as Sikimi tenants. Persons cultivating on annual lease only known as 'Kadoghena' where possession was not continuing have not been noted in settlement papers. Tukura maufidars are also found to have permanently leased out portions of their maufi holdings in lieu of an annual payment of rent in cash or kind. Debottar maufi holdings have in some cases been leased out to others permanently in return of rent in cash or kind or for service to be rendered to the deity. Such under-tenants have been recorded as Sthitiban (occupancy) tenants under the maufidars. When the payment of rent was not fixed and varied from time to time the rent for this land has been noted 50% above the actual rent of the land or its valuation.

66. The tenants had to pay the following cesses over and above their rent during the Durbar regime.

School, Hospital and vaccination Cess - @ 6 pies per rupee of rent.

Patwari Cess - @ one anna per rupee of rent.

Nistar Cess - @ two annas per rupee of rent.

Bheti commutation cess - @ two annas per rupee of rent.

The Gountias and service holders also paid the cess on the japti jama paid by them for their excess land. The maufi holders paid cess on the valuation of the maufi land. After the integration of the State with the province all the Cesses except Nistar cess were consolidated and reduced to As. -/2/- on the rupee by the 'Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948'. The tenants now pay only As. -/2/- as Nistar cess and As. -/2/- for all other cesses combined per rupee of rent.

67. There was a Land Records Office with 19 Patwaris and 2 Inspectors during the Durbar regime, but the procedure of work as laid down in C. P. Land Records Manual was not followed. Matters were entirely left in the hands of the Patwaris and there was absolutely no check over their work. They recorded changes in the Annual papers but did not know whether such changes were in conformity with the rules prevalent in the area. The entries made by them were not supported by the order of a responsible Officer. The system of indexing and deposit of revenue records were not satisfactory. Statistics were also not correctly maintained. Enquiries on maufi holding and on Encroachment cases were done very carelessly and in stray cases only. In short, the main function of this staff was to perform some miscellaneous duties and to hold enquiry on petitions sent to them from different Revenue Courts. As soon as the Settlement Operations were started in December, 1946 a skeleton staff was only maintained and Patwaris and Inspectors were transferred to work as Amins and Inspectors under the Settlement Officer.

CHAPTER - IV

Present Settlement Operations.

68. The present Settlement operations started with the following Notification of the Durbar Government.

"Whereas the period of the current Settlement in the Kalahandi State terminated on 31st day of March, 1942 and whereas the Settlement Operation could not be taken up due to last great War, and whereas it is, therefore, necessary that there should be a revision of the revenue Survey and Settlement throughout the territories comprising the Kalahandi State but excluding the tracts covered by the Reserved Forest of the State, it is hereby directed that a revision of the Revenue Survey and Settlement be made in the territories comprising the Kalahandi State, but excluding the areas therein covered by Reserve Forests for the purpose of assessment of land revenue, for rent, takoli and other authorised Cesses, survey of land and the preparation of a Record-of-Rights".

Sd/ P. K. Deo,
Maharaja & Ruler, Kalahandi,
Dt. 4-12-46.

The operation was continued after merger of the State with the province of Orissa in January, 1948. Under paragraph 4 of the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 in respect of those matters which are not covered by the enactments applied to Orissa States the law in force in a State prior to the commencement of the Order (1-1-1948) whether substantive or procedural or whether based on customs or usage or statutes were continued to remain in force until altered or amended and therefore the aforesaid order was construed to have statutory force after the merger also.

69. Sri Gopinath Singh, B. A., Deputy Collector remained in charge of the Settlement operations from December 1946 to May 1949. Then Sri Sitaram Swain another Deputy Collector remained in temporary charge of the operation till 31-8-1949. I took charge of the operation from 1-9-1949.

70. The operation was first taken up in the Khalsa area covering 1943 Square miles only. For facility of work this tract was divided into 4 blocks as noted below :—

Block 'A' consists of 323 sq. miles 164 villages

Block 'B' ,, 610 ,, 337 ,,

Block 'C' ,, 600 ,, 472 ,,

Block 'D' ,, 410 ,, 354 ,,

71. The date of commencement and completion of different stages of work in the blocks are as under :—

Name of block	Commencement of survey & Record writing	Completion of survey & Record writing	Commencement of Attestation	Completion of Attestation & draft publication	Announcement of Rent	Final publication
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	20-1-1947	12-10-1947	4-1-1948	8- 9-1948	26-1-1953	9-10-1955
B	1-1-1948	30- 7-1948	2-1-1949	19-10-1949	28-5-1953	20-10-1955
C	4-1-1949	27- 7-1949	2-2-1950	15- 8-1950	30-7-1953	19-11-1955
D	24-2-1950	28- 8-1950	1-3-1951	8- 6-1951	26-6-1955	30- 1-1956

72. Due to several complications there was some delay in taking a decision about rent policy causing the long interval between draft publication and announcement of rent.

(a) Traverse & Kistwar.

73. Except in villages of block D in respect of which fresh traverse work by plane table was done for the first time, the old traverse stations of the last settlement (1922) were plotted out on the new square sheets for the purpose of kistwar survey in the present settlement. Detailed survey in the field was done on the procedure laid down in the Bihar and Orissa Survey and Settlement Manual and Technical Rules with necessary modifications to suit local conditions. After completion of detailed survey the maps were inked up by Circle Draftsmen and made over to another set of Amins for doing record writing work.

(b) Khanapuri or Record Writing.

74. The records prepared at Khanapuri were Khewat, Khasara, Khatian, Irrigation Khatian and Fard Hawla (Live stock). The Inspectors checked 10% of the Khanapuri entires and the A. S. Os. and Kanungoes 5% each. All disputed matters were decided by the Assistant Settlement Officer at the spot.

(c) Khanapuri Recess.

75. After completion of the Khanapuri work the records and maps were brought to the Head quarters. Boundary comparison (Sarhad milan) of villages was done in the Drawing Section by experienced Inspectors under the supervision of the Assistant Settlement Officer. When the village map consisted of more than one sheet the margin of the adjoining sheets was also checked and discrepancies found were rectified. The village maps were compared with the Khasara entries and conventional signs were entered at this stage.

76. From the Drawing Section the maps were sent to the Area Section for extraction of area. Areas of large fields over 5 acres were extracted by means of planimeter and smaller areas by means of acre-comb. If the total area of the village found by the present extraction tallied with the admissible limit the area was passed. Otherwise it was re-calculated. The area statements were then made over to the Khasara section for entering the area in the records against each plot.

(d) Attestation.

77. Attestation work of blocks 'A', 'B' & 'D' was done in the field by munsarims and Peskar under the supervision of an Assistant Settlement Officer at convenient centres. The work of block 'C' was done in camps. The entries made at Khanapuri were explained to all the tenants and land holders after a comparison with the map and records of the last settlement (1922). Any mistake found was corrected and dispute raised by the parties was decided. Enquiry regarding the Gountia, Revenue demand, maufi holders, condition of the village and crops and other customs were made at this stage and recorded in separate proceedings. The Attestation officers visited almost all the villages for this purpose. After attestation the record was draft published in the presence of all concerned and the tenants were given opportunity to file objections within 30 days to any entry in or omission from the record of such publication. In suitable cases this time limit was also extended.

(e) Hearing of Objection.

78. Objection petitions filed by the parties against any entry in or omission from the draft record were heard by Assistant Settlement Officers. The total number of objections decided in all the blocks was 1402.

(f) Revision cases.

79. Under section 39 of the C. P. Land Revenue Act, 1917, the spirit of which was followed, petitions of revision could be filed at any time even if a tenant failed to file objection within the prescribed period of time or was aggrieved by the decision of the Assistant Settlement Officer in any matter. This revisional jurisdiction was often invoked by the parties. The number of revision cases disposed of was 160.

(g) Post Attestation Recess & Janch.

80. After the decision of the objections and revision cases the records were corrected on the basis of the orders passed in these cases and they were finally checked in the Janch section.

(h) Rent calculation and fixation of fair rent.

81. As soon as janch was over, calculation of rent for each holding was taken up under the soil unit system of assessment and fair rent was settled by the Settlement Officer.

(i) Assessment and objection hearing.

82. Rent finally settled as fair and equitable was announced to the tenants at different centres by giving due notice to them and objections preferred by them against any entry in or omission from the rent roll were received. 7336 objections against the entries in rent roll were heard and decided by the Assistant Settlement Officers.

83. 182 appeal cases preferred against the decision of the Assistant Settlement Officers were also heard by the Settlement Officer.

(j) Fair copying and Mukabila.

84. As soon as objections were decided the records were fair copied and compared with the original records. Three copies of the record were prepared - one for the Collectorate, 2nd for the Land Records staff to be used as working copy and the 3rd for the tenants and other land owners.

(k) Final publication and distribution of Khatian.

85. Final publication was done at convenient centres and Khatians were distributed to each and every land owner on realisation of copying fee at the rate of one anna per plot up to a maximum of As. -/6/- per page except in the case of member of Scheduled tribes and Scheduled Castes where the charge was half of the rate as prescribed in Government Letter No. 2139-XXI-35/52-Rev. dated 17-11-52 (vide Appendix-XXI).

86. Printed maps were also sold at these Camps @ Rs. 1-4-0 per sheet.

(l) Correction of bonafide omissions and mistakes.

87. After Final Publication, 3224 petitions were received for correction of bonafide omissions and mistakes in the Record-of-Rights. Of these petitions 711 only related to mistakes and the rest to mutation on the ground of transfer of land due to purchase and succession. Changes that were brought to the notice of the Settlement Department after the final passing of the record were not noted in the record but were noted in a change register

specially prepared for the purpose so that they might be incorporated in the record in due course. An endorsement has been made in red ink in the royati khatian (parcha) issued to the recorded tenant for further section in the matter by land Record Staff.

(m) Consignment of record to the Record Room of the Collectorate
& Land Records Office.

88. The records and registers consigned to the District Record Room have been given in detail in Chapter VIII with explanatory notes.

89. In the present settlement full opportunity was given to the tenants to represent their cases in the different stages of the operation enumerated above. Nothing was done behind their back. The amins, munsaris and Officers who worked in one stage had to be changed for the work of the next stage as a sort of check as well as for rectification of mistakes committed by the workers of the previous stages. Notwithstanding such opportunities, the tenants do not appear to have taken full advantage of it due to their illiteracy and backwardness. Most of them came to apply for correction of mistakes and omissions in their record at the last stage after final records and printed maps were distributed to them. Many corrections which could have been conveniently done at the earlier stages had to be done at the last stage.

90. Cultivated land has been classified according to quality of soil and position, irrigation facilities and village drainage received. The same classification as adopted in the settlement of 1922 has been adopted in the present settlement with slight changes in the factor of some classes. The correctness of the factors were checked and found that there was no justification for changing the factors of the first three classes namely Bahal, Berna and Mal because out-turn of produce had not very much changed. But in respect of other classes of soil the factors were considered too low which were not justified either from the view point of product or comparison with similar classes of land in the neighbouring districts of Bolangir and Sambalpur. The factors represent the ratio in which the net value of different classes of land stand to one another, that is to say, the value of produce after deducting the cost of cultivation but not deducting the rent. It was the usual practice to take 26 factors as representing the comparative value of one acre of good soil in the tract, the reason being 26 annas approached in many villages the prevailing rent per acre of such land before. The scales of factors are generally revised in the light of circumstances such as rise in the value of a particular crop etc. No doubt soon after the advent of the 2nd World War the price of all the crops rose up abnormally and there is no indication of fall till now. At the same time the prices of agricultural implements including cattle, cost of labour and other necessities of a cultivator have gone up. So factors have not been raised in all classes of soil except in respect of such classes where it was clearly seen that the factors of the last settlement did not bear proper ratio when compared with the different classes of soil and the factors prevailing in the neighbouring district. Change in factors now made when compared with those of the last settlement (1922) are noted below.

Classes of soil.	Factor in last settlement.	Factor in present settlement.
A-(1) Bahal kharipani	26	No change
(2) Bahal pani	24	,,

Classes of soil.		Factor in last settlement.	Factor in present settlement.
	(3) Bahal khari	22	No change.
	(4) Bahal Mamuli (sadharan)	20	"
B-	(5) Berna kharipani	20	"
	(6) Berna pani	18	"
	(7) Berna khari	16	"
	(8) Berna mamuli (sadharan)	14	"
C-	(9) Mal kharipani	14	"
	(10) Mal pani	12	"
	(11) Mal khari	10	"
	(12) Mal mamuli (sadharan)	8	"
D-	(13) Barchha	20	30
E-	(14) At kachhar	5	12
	(15) At Unhari	5	8
	(16) At khari	5	10
	(17) At mamuli (sadharan)	3	5
F-	(18) Bari pani	8	15
	(19) Bari mamuli or orchard	8	10
G-	(20) Private Water reservoir	Nil	20

91. The out-turn per acre of Barchha land is 20 maunds to 25 maunds of molasses. Though the cost of cultivation of the barchha land is heavy yet the net profit after deduction of this cost is certainly much more than what a cultivator gets from one acre of good paddy land. Barchha lands of this tract are not in any way inferior to those of the neighbouring districts. It's factor has therefore been raised to 30.

92. All classes of At land (up land) had very low factors ranging from 3 to 5 in the last settlement. Enquiry revealed that all At lands are not of the same quality nor the yield is the same. At kachhar is a silted land situate on the bank of rivers or rivulets where mung, biri are extensively grown the price of which has gone up considerably in these days. Similarly At unhari is a better class of 'UP' land where til, alsi, in some cases gram and castors are grown. 'At' khari is a land which is situated near the basti site and gets village drainage and yields good crops. Hence the factors of these classes had to be changed to a reasonable extent. It was not considered desirable to keep the rent of these lands at such a low rate as it was done in the last settlement. 'At' sadharan is a land where kulthi, ragi, kudo and Gurji are grown but this land is not cultivated every year and it is allowed waste for a year. In any case the factor was considered to be too low and was raised to 5.

93. Vegetables, Tobacco, Chilli, Onions, Brinjal etc, are grown on bari land which is irrigated by wells and jowar, maise mustard are grown on bari mamuli land. They are generally situated near the village site. Their factors have been raised to 15 and 10 respectively in consideration of the factors of other soils.

94. In short the factors could have been raised further in consideration of the present net value of the yield from these lands but to avoid heavy pressure on the tenants who are accustomed to pay a low rent they have been raised only to a reasonable limit having due regard to the old factors.

95. Water reservoirs found existing in the villages prior to 1822 and recorded as Jalchars in the old Record-of-Rights have been recorded in the

Government khata. But such of the reservoirs as were excavated by the tenants and Gountias after the Settlement of 1922 on their own land have been recorded in their respective khatas and rent has been assessed. The factor 20 has been assigned to such land for the purpose of rent assessment.

96. Orchards (Bagicha) were rent free before. As after the last settlement some tenants have grown orchards and they wanted to keep the orchards in their own holdings the factor 10 which is also the factor for Bari mamuli land has been assigned to it.

97. Unlike other districts of Orissa there was no land known as Gochar in the ex-state of Kalahandi nor had such land been earmarked or quantity fixed in any village. As extensive areas were available and there was no competition due to inaccessibility of the area a policy of encouraging cultivation seems to have been followed and full scope was given for breaking new land from waste. The entire waste land of a village had been described in different names such as Patra, gochar, patra jungle, jhad jungle in the settlement papers of 1922 and the Gountia of the village had been given power to lease them out or to cultivate them himself after keeping some waste land for pasturage and fuel according to requirement under clause 13 of Gounti Patta. What percentage of waste land was necessary for the requirement of the village has nowhere been defined. There was also no clause for preventing persons from cultivating waste land without Gountia's permission. In short, the Gountia stood in the position of a land-lord in respect of waste land of his village. When settlement operation took place in 1946-47 it was seen that waste land in most of the villages had been cultivated with the oral or written consent of the Gountias and big areas had also been cultivated by the tenants without the permission of the Gountia and they had already possessed the same from 12 to 20 years. The Gountias had not taken any objection to such cultivation nor steps to dispose them. So waste land leased out by the Gountia and also waste land not leased out by Gountia but already cultivated by the tenants and not objected to by the Gountias within 3 years had to be recorded in the name of the present occupants. The power to lease out waste land having been vested in the Gountia, if any body cultivated the land which was not objected to by the Gountia, it was deemed that he had implied consent in the matter. Notwithstanding the position stated above steps have been taken in the present settlement to reserve 5% to 7% of the total village area as gochars. In villages where waste land was still found sufficient there was no difficulty to reserve even 10%. But there was difficulty in villages where the entire waste land had already been leased out. In such cases lands not actually reclaimed fully and still fit for pasturage were taken back as gochar. The Land Records Department during the Durbar regime had taken no steps in the matter of reserving waste land for the purpose of pasturage. On the other hand it was seen that the Land Records Patwaris had already entered vast areas of waste land of the village in the annual papers (mujuma) on the basis of the pattas issued by the Gountia without earing to ascertain whether the Gountia had earmarked any waste land for the requirement of the village. There was a general clamour against such indiscriminate cultivation of village waste land without looking to the interest of the village cattle but the position being as stated above, it was not possible to take any appreciable steps in the matter in all cases. In almost all the documents purporting to be a lease of waste land, no khasara number was given but the land was described by local names only.

98. The power to lease out waste land was withdrawn from the Gountias by Notification No. 8475-R, dated 24th December, 1949 issued by the Commissioner, Northern Division. All reclamations made after this notification without permission of Revenue authorities was recorded as encroachment in settlement papers.

99. Now that a definite area of land with a definite khasra number has been recorded in every village in the present settlement for gochar purposes they should be reserved.

100. All encroachments on water reservoirs meant for irrigation and drinking purposes and on public path were considered objectionable and reported to the Collector for action against encroachers.

101. The rule and practice regarding encroachments as stood during the Durbar regime and for some time after integration when things were in a state of flu, need be mentioned here. As stated in the foregoing paragraphs, prior to the issue of Notification No. 8475 R, dated 24-12-49 cultivation of waste land without permission was not considered to be an encroachment. As regards jalchars there were many useless jalchars which no longer served the purpose of irrigation or drinking, where the land had been silted up and encroachment over which was considered unobjectionable from all points of view. They used to be settled with the encroachers on imposition of a penalty. The Settlement Officer had issued an 'Istihar' laying down the procedure regarding encroachments of waste lands and useless jalchars and indicating the procedure to be followed about them in the settlement operation. This procedure was fully in keeping with the conditions and practices prevailing in the tract. In the ex-State area jalchar had a very wide meaning. It covered Kata, bandh, munda, nala, water channel, rivers, Sar, dhoda and other water logged marshy lands. The country being hilly and undulating having different soil surfaces, munda nala, dhoda and water logged areas are to be found in many places. Small mundas are easily made by putting a Dam in a drainage area which disappears after some time if left unrepaired. Similarly by natural formation 'nalas' and 'dhodas' appear and disappear. So also, courses of small rivulets and nalas change frequently. Now all these were not found according to their old configuration as shown in the maps of the last settlement of 1922. Some of them had become useless and completely merged with the adjoining fields of the tenants. As a matter of fact as clause 23 of the old Gounti patta shows 'bandh' 'kata' 'sagar' and big mundas were strictly considered to be jalchars in the real sense.

102. All encroachment cases had to be finalised after 1950 when the Orissa Land Encroachment Act (Act XXXIII of 47) was extended to the ex-State area by the Orissa Merged State (Laws) Act, 1950.

The provisions of the Encroachment Act when read with the instruction laid down in Letter No. 191 (6) R, dated 18th January, 1952 from the Under Secretary to Board of Revenue, Sambalpur to the District Officers makes it clear that land which were encroached upon prior to the 15th December, 1947 should not be interfered with unless such lands are necessary for the use of the community or unless otherwise objectionable.

The Settlement Officer was empowered by the Collector, Kalahandi in notification dated 16-7-1953 under the provisions of Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 to settle and up to 5 acres in unobjectionable cases of encroachments. Encroachment proceeding in respect of 187 villages covering

unobjectionable cases of encroachments were dealt with by him and penalty was realised from the encroachers.

A list of encroachments on useful water reservoirs and tanks which serve the purpose of irrigation and drinking was prepared and forwarded to the Collector for necessary action.

103. Under clause 11 of the old Gounti patta in Appendix-XIX a Gountia was prohibited from settling abandoned or surrendered royati land with himself or his relatives and under clause 12 of the said patta such land belonging to aborigines mentioned in that clause must be settled with the persons of that class only. 164 cases of settlement in contravention of these two clauses were found out and they were dealt with in accordance with the instruction laid down in Board's letter No. 2700 dated 13-12-52 copy of which will be found in the Appendix-VIII.

104. The towns of Bhawanipatna, Kesinga, Rupra Road and Junagarh the total area of which would be about 2 Square miles are the nazul areas in the Khalsa tract. They have been surveyed in the scale of 64" = 1 mile in the present settlement operation. A different set of rules and rate of assessment are applicable to these areas. As the records are not yet finalised reports about them will be given along with the Final Report for the ex-Zamindari areas of the district.

CHAPTER - V

Rent Settlement.

105. Assessment in Kalahandi is based on the soil unit system as adopted in Madhya Pradesh and Sambalpur district. It involves the reduction of the area of each holding to a common denomination by multiplying the area of each class of land comprised in the holding by the figure representing the relative productiveness known as 'factor'. The sum obtained gives the total number of 'soil units' contained in the holding. The rent of the holding is then obtained by multiplying the total soil units by the 'unit rate' of the village. The unit rate is usually expressed in the fraction of an anna in decimal notation. So the product of multiplication is considered as so many annas.

As for example, the holding 'A' consists of 10 acres of Bahal kharipani, 6 acres of Berna pani and 5 acres of At sadharan land. The factors of these lands are 26, 18 and 5 respectively. If the unit rate of the village where the land is situate be 0.77 the rent of the holding will be as follows :—

(i) Bahal kharipani 10 acres	...	$10 \times 26 = 260$
(ii) Berna pani 6 acres	...	$6 \times 18 = 108$
(iii) At sadharan 5 acres	...	$5 \times 5 = 25$

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$393 \times 0.77 = 302.61$ annas = Rs. 18-15-0. This is, however, not a final assessment. It is only a theoretical standard which is to be considered along with other matters. The figure obtained by applying factor and unit rate is called the 'deduced' rent. Using this as a guide, fair and equitable rent is fixed, on a consideration of the existing rent, and other matters, so as not