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FINAL REPORT
ON THE
SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT
OF THE

KASHIPUR, KARLAPAT, MAHULPATNA
AND MADANPUR-RAMPUR EX-ZAMINDARIES



IN THE
DISTRICT OF KALAHANDI
1963

By

SHRI S. SUNDARARAJAN, I.A.S.
SETTLEMENT OFFICER
SAMBALPUR MAJOR SETTLEMENT

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MAPS

- 1 A sketch map of the ex-State of Kalahandi showing the four ex-Zamindaries in the scale 1"=8 miles kept in a separate pocket attached to the inside of the front wrapper.

No. 49990—S. 97/68-R.

**GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT**



RESOLUTION

Dated Bhubaneswar, 26th September 1968

READ—Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the ex-Zamindari areas of Kashi pur, Karlapat, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur of Koraput and Kalahandi districts with the forwarding letter No. 1493-L.R.S., dated the 22nd February 1968 from the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Orissa, Cuttack.

1. Initiation of Settlement Operation—The Settlement Operation in the ex-State of Kalahandi was initiated by a notification issued by the Kalahandi Darbar in December 1964 and was continued after the merger of the State in the State of Orissa in 1948. Paragraph 4 of the Administration Orissa States Order, 1948 gave statutory force to the notification of the Darbar even after the merger. In 1952 the Bengal Survey Act, 1875 was extended to all the ex-State areas and in 1955 a notification for taking up survey was issued under the Bengal Survey Act.

The record-of-rights was prepared according to instructions issued from time to time basing on the custom and practice followed by the ex-Darbar administration. The Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958, was extended to the Sadar and Dharma-garh Subdivisions except the town areas in notification No. 26314, dated the 1st June 1962. The maps and records which have been finally published in May 1962 are deemed to have been finally published and the rents already settled are deemed to be settled under section 38(1) of the Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958.

2. Area and previous settlement—The Final Report on the Khalasa area of the ex-State of Kalahandi has already been published separately. This report relates to ex-Zamindari of Kashipur in Koraput district and Karlapat, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur in Kalahandi district. Previously regular

settlement was done in these areas in different times during the years 1917-18, 1926-27, 1929-30 and 1932-33. There are, however, many unsurveyed villeges in these areas where regular settlement was not done but records were prepared on the basis of 'Chak and Chauohadi' and seed capacity of the land. The present settlement operations have been done during the midst of several land reforms measures like abolition of Zamindaries and Gaunti tenures. The procedure followed in the present settlements are explained by the Settlement Officer in Chapter VII of his Report.

3. *Settlement of rent*—The soil units system' of assessment of rent has been followed in these areas in accordance with the earlier practice. This system has been explained by the Settlement Officer in Chapter VIII of his Report. It is seen that there has been increase in land revenue demand amounting to Rs 1,11,063-63 Paise, as a result of rent settlement operations. The increase comes to nearly 184 per cent over the demand of the previous settlement. This increase cannot be considered as excessive as rents were very low during the ex-State period. Besides, particular care has been taken to see that enhancement over the old rent does not exceed by more than 100 per cent where there has been no increase in the area of a holding.

4. *Financial implications*—The total cost incurred from the beginning of the settlement operation in these areas in the year 1953-54 till the end of 1961-62 comes to Rs. 11,50,000 approximately, the average cost per acre being Rs 2-60 Paise. Considering the hilly and difficult areas covered by the operation the cost appears to be reasonable. Government were pleased to order that no settlement cost should be realised from the tenants of Kalahandi including the tenants under the Mafidars. No fees were also levied on the tenants for distribution of Patta in these areas.

5. *General*—The report prepared by Shri S. Sundarrajan, I. A. S. Settlement Officer, is quite informative specially in respect of the ex-Zamindary areas and will be of great interest for reference. Government endorse the recommendation of the Board, recognising the meritorious work of Shri Janardan Das, ex-Settlement Officer, Government also endorse the recommendation of the Settlement Officer on the valuable services rendered by Shri J. N. Naik, O. A. S. (I), Charge Officer of the Settlement.

ORDER—Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Orissa Gazette*.

By order of the Governor
R. K. MISHRA
Additional Secretary to Government

MEMO. No. 49992-R.

The 26th September, 1968

Copy forwarded to the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Orissa, Cuttack, along with the copy of the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of Kashipur, Karlapat, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries in the district of Kala-handi.

2. It is requested that necessary steps may please be taken to print the said report after proper verification and to supply copies of printed reports to all concerned.

Sd

Under-Secretary to Government

1. *Adaptation*

www.oxfordjournals.org/doi/10.1093/oxfordjournals/mednuc.a010401

Instrumental, 600 000 744 000 000 000

Draft Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Four Ex-Zamindaries of Karlapat, Kashipur, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur of Kalahandi District, 1953—62

Part I

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL FEATURES

1. *Introductory*—The ex-feudatory State of Kalahandi had two broad political divisions known as the Khalsa and the Zamindari areas. The report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Khalsa area which were concluded in the year 1955 has since been separately published. This report which covers four of the total of five ex-Zamindaries (Lanjigarh excluded) is in many ways complementary to the one on the Khalsa area.

2. *Situation*—At the time the Survey and Settlement Operation which is now to be reported on was undertaken Kashipur ex-Zamindari was a part of the district of Kalahandi. But since the 1st August 1962 it has been transferred to the neighbouring district of Koraput, vide Revenue Department notification No. 32269—II-J-7/62-R., dated 11th July 1962. The district as it stands lies between 19°12' and 21°3' North latitude and between 81°14' and 83°47' East longitude.

3. *District Boundary*—The district is bounded on the north by the district of Bolangir, on the north-west by the Mahasamund subdivision of Raipur district (M. P.), on the east by Baliguda subdivision of Boudh-Phulbani district, on the south-east by Rayagada subdivision of Koraput district, on the south and south-west by Koraput and on the west by Bindra Nawagarh Tahsil of Raipur district (M. P.)

4. *Boundary Dispute*—There was a dispute between Phulbani and Kalahandi districts, on the alignment of the common boundary along the four ex-Zamindaries. The disputed area was administered in Kalahandi district. The map was prepared accordingly and was referred to the Collector, Phulbani, who except on three points accepted the boundary line. The discrepancies involved at these three points were subsequently reconciled after

joint spot verification. In respect of other districts some minor discrepancies were noticed which were reconciled after comparison with the boundary traces of the concerned villages.

5. *Areas*—The total area of the four ex-Zamindaries under report is 1,576 square miles. As ascertained from the papers of the previous Settlements the areas of Karlapat, Kashipur, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries were 248, 532, 346 and 424 square miles, respectively. The corresponding areas as ascertained during the present operation are 248, 568, 315 and 445 square miles, respectively.

The details of the area are given below :—

1. Total area of Revenue villages...644 square miles
- *2. Total area of Reserve Forests .. 255.3 square miles
3. Total area of unsurveyed hill slopes...676.7 square miles.

(* The figures relating to reserved forests were obtained from the Forest Department.)

Hitherto the total area of the district was considered to be 5,057 square miles. But the Settlement Operation now in progress in the Nawapara subdivision of the district has disclosed that the provisional area of Khariar ex-Zamindary would be 1,486 square miles as confirmed by the Survey of India in letter No. TDO-2932/66-B-I., dated the 21st May 1962. So the total area of the district prior to the reported transfer of Kashipur ex-Zamindary area to Koraput should be 5,231 square miles. Now after the transfer it should be 4,663 square miles.

6. *Natural features*—The entire area of the former state of Kalahandi can be physically divided into two distinct tracts, the plain tract and the hilly tract or Dongarla as it is locally called. The plain country is not continuous being divided here and there by hill ranges and isolated peaks. It, however, contains large pieces of lands fit for cultivation. The average elevation of this tract is about 900 feet above the sea level.

A major part of the four ex-Zamindaries now under report lies in the Dongarla, or the hill tract which is a continuation of the Eastern Ghats commencing five miles south-east of Bhawani-patna and extending southwards right up to the Koraput border. It rises into a series of precipitous hill ranges from the plain tract and forms a striking rampart along the eastern edge of the

Koksara-Ampani plain and south of Junagarh. In between the ranges of hills there are narrow strips of land extremely fertile, and splendidly watered, through perennial streams. The hills themselves are covered with dense forests abounding in wild animals, of both carnivorous and non-carnivorous types. The southern high lands are a vast tract of elevated country with a general altitude of about 2,000-3,000 feet and include the whole of Kashipur ex-Zamindary, the greater part of Mahulpatna and Karlapat ex-Zamindari and the Dongarala portion of the Khalsa area. Rising above the general level of the valleys of this table land are many flat-topped hills, known locally as malis. They are very characteristic of this region. Their general elevation is very consistent around 3,500-4,000 ft., climaxing in Kodinga Mali (4,200 ft.) at the extreme southern tip of Kashipur. This area is inhabited by the tribal people called Kondhas who live in isolated hamlets and practice podu or axe-cultivation resulting in wide spread denudation and destruction of the hill slope forests. In Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary the configuration of the ground, though hilly, is of a more broken nature and of a lower elevation than is the case with the southern highlands. In its south-eastern corner, however, there is an elevated tract with several peaks of 2,500 feet altitude forming the abode of the primitive kutia kondhas. This area is quite inaccessible and can be negotiated only on foot. Recently, a fair-weather road has been constructed in this area linking up Kashipur with Bhawanipatna via Karlapat and connecting the Rayagada-Koraput Road at Rabkona.

Kalahandi is in the catchment area of three important rivers: the Tel, the Indravati and the Nagavali. The tributaries of all the three rivers have their origin in the southern high lands, except the Raul which rises in Balliguda. The important tributaries of the river Tel are the Raul rising in Balliguda, the Utai descending from the hills south of Madanpur-Rampur; the Ret flowing from the mountains of Lanjigarh; the Burat gushing out from the southern end of Gundi Donger; the Sagada starting from the hills above Karlapat and the Hati which flows into the Tel near Sajkona. The Indravati river has its origin above the village of Thuamul and after taking a southerly course through Thuamul-Rampur, Kashipur and Mahulpatna, it descends into the plains of Nawarangpur near Khatiguda village. One noticeable feature of this river is that even in summer its water remains turbid. It has no tributaries, worth mentioning during its course through the district of Kalahandi. The main stream of the river Nagavali is known as Badanala originating around the Gunpur valley in the Thuamul-Rampur area. Most of these rivers are perennial in their upper and middle courses, whereas they dry up during summer in the plain area.

7. *Forests*—As stated earlier, there is no dearth of forests in the Dongarala area, but the situation in the plains is generally deplorable, for most of the village forests have disappeared due to expansion of unauthorised cultivation and what is even more serious, there has been a lamentable and all-too-rapid dwindling of the Gochar lands, due to the same reason. During the present Settlement Operation as many as 4,236 encroachments into village forests and waste lands were detected. The plain portions are fast becoming deplete from natural vegetation and unless immediate steps are taken for doing afforestation on a large scale, the people will face serious difficulties due to want of fuel and fodder. In the entire area of the four ex-Zamindaries under report there are only about 14.63 square miles of Bada-jungle (big tree jungle) and 37.89 square miles of Patra jungle (scrub jungle).

The forests in the ex-State area of the district consisted of (1) Reserved Forest and (2) Khasra or village forests. The latter was subject to the exercise of Nistar rights of the raiyats on payment of Nistar cess. In the reserved forest arrangements were made by Durbar for opening some Praja coupes wherefrom the villagers were allowed to remove the unreserved species (Abaran) and also bamboos without any payment for house building and other domestic purposes with special permission. Even now this system continues, but due to the rigidity imposed by the Forest Department there is some amount of discontent among the raiyats. The Forest Department do not recognise this as a right but treat it to be a privilege only.

There are at present 32 blocks of reserved forests in the four ex-Zamindarias under report covering an area of 255.3 square miles. Sal forests abound in Madanpur-Rampur and Karlapat ex-Zamindarias, but they are not so in Kashipur except in some areas and the upper parts of Mahulpatna and Karlapat. The common associates of Sal here are asan, dhawra, jamun kundu, behera, harida, kusum, mohul, kasi, bija, kurrum and tangani. Bamboos grow over an extensive area of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindari. Teak is almost rare in these areas. In-Kashipur, Champak trees of magnificent growth are very common. Towards Jubarajpur the hill slopes are clad in wild plantain groves.

8. *Fruit trees*—During the Durbar regime there was a restriction on the felling of fruit-bearing trees. This restriction has saved mango groves and mahua trees from reckless felling. Both these trees are important in the economy of the people. Mahua trees are very common in Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur area. The Mahua flowers are used not only for

feeding cattle, but also for the manufacture of liquor. The Kondh tribals use these as their food during the rainy season when other kinds of food material are not available. After the flowers the kernels of the mohua nut are gathered and pressed to get the cheapest cooking oil. This is used also for adulteration of ghee. In the plain area of Karlapat adjoining Junagarh area one finds plenty of babul trees, the timber of which is used for making agricultural implements. Kusum trees are abundant in Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary and are used for propagation of lac.

9. *Wild animals*—Kalahandi has always been famous for man-eating tigers. In the Dongarla area the man-eating tigers are still fairly numerous. The following figures will show the numbers of deaths due to wild animals during the last 10 years:—

1951	..	..	185
1952	..	..	203
1953	...	..	163
1954	..	..	129
1955	..	..	130
1956	..	..	145
1957	..	..	124
1958	..	..	97
1959	..	..	76
1960	..	..	104
1961	..	..	26

With the dwindling of forests the tiger havoc is also abating. Panthers and leopards are more numerous than tigers. Every year they take a heavy toll of the village cattle. Bisons are rare and the elephants are confined to the eastern hills in the Urladani area of Madanpur-Rampur, in the past hills in the Dongarla area was regarded as the "feeding ground and sanctuary of all descriptions of game". The position has now much deteriorated due to reckless poaching after merger. Sambar and Chittal (spotted deer) have almost vanished. Damage to crops by wild boars, elephants, monkeys, bears,

jackal and hyenas is not insignificant. The fauna on the whole is unfriendly and a liability to the cultivator rather than an asset.

10. *Communication*—(i) From the communication point of view this district is relatively underdeveloped and more so are the four ex-Zamindaries. During rainy season, Bhawanipatna, the headquarters of the district remains cut off from all important outlying places except Kesinga, Junagarh and Dharmagarh. After merger, communication has been given the top priority, but the bridging of the numerous rivers and hill streams will take a fairly long time. There are at present 345 miles of metalled road under the management of the P. W. D., 422 miles of moterable fair-weather roads and 74 miles of unmotorable road under the management of the Revenue Department, 17 miles of metalled and 102 miles of unmetalled motorable road under the N. E. S. and C. D. Blocks and 82 miles of earthen roads under the Grama Panchayats. Though the figures are impressive, as observed earlier much improvements needs to be done in the matter of communication in the district.

(ii) All the four ex-Zamindaries under report are connected to Bhawanipatna through fair-weather roads only. The 18 miles long Moter-Jaipatna road is the only route to enter into Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary. This road branches off at the 36th mile from Bhawanipatna-Papadahandi all-weather road. Construction of a bridge over the Kamal river which intersects this road is yet to be taken up. The Chhatikuda-Rampur road meets the State Highway (No. 6) from Bhawanipatna to Rayagada at the 10th mile. The metalling of this road has been completed but as many as seven bridges and culverts are yet to be taken up to make it all-weather. This road is 24 miles long and is the main approach to Rampur, the headquarters of Madanpur-Rampur Tahasil from Bhawanipatna, Risida is connected to Rampur by a revenue road which is 18 miles long. The construction of the State Highway No. 1 which starts at Amath and runs via Polma and Rampur to Phulbani border is nearing completion.

(iii) The first 28 miles of the Bhawanipatna-Kashipur road are under the management of the P. W. D. and the rest under that of the Revenue Department. This road runs through Karlapat. A branch of it connects Thuamul-Rampur at Gunpur. Kashipur is connected to Rayagada-Koraput road at Rabkona. The distance of this road from Bhawanipatna to Rabkona is 97 miles. During rainy season Kashipur is approachable only from Rayagada side.

(iv) The Raipur-Vizianagaram railway line which passes through this district does not touch any of the ex-Zamindaries under report. The Rupra Road Railway-station is the main railway head through which the forestproduces of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary area are transported to other places.

11. *Rainfall and climate*—(i) The climate of this area is of the usual monsoon type but owing to its special physiographic features, it has certain peculiarities. The hot weather, which is ushered in at the beginning of March continues up to the middle of June. In the plains, the hot weather is very severe, but in the hills, it is mild and mercury generally does not rise above 100° whereas in the former temperatures of 116 to 118 degrees are frequently recorded in May and June. The cold weather in the plains is short; but in the southern high lands of Kashipur and Mahulpatna a prolonged winter season can be enjoyed. The climate in the plains is healthy but not so in the Dongarlas which have been declared as unhealthy localities by the Government of Orissa in Finance Department resolution No. 30, dated the 28th January 1958. The water of the small hill rivulets is polluted with the stagnant and decayed vegetable matter and as such it is very unhealthy. However, thanks to the National Malaria Eradication Programme, the ravages of malaria are on the decrease.

(ii) Detailed rainfall figures for this area are not available, but it is learnt from past records that the average rainfall in a year is 55.92 inches in the plains. In the southern plateau the annual rainfall some times goes up to 100 inches. Early showers in April and May are not uncommon in these hilly areas. They greatly mitigate the heat of summer.

12. *Minerals*—The Khondalite rock, which is available in plenty in this area, is reported to be very rich in mineral content of ores like graphite, bauxite and manganese. At present only one lessee is operating in this area, but several applications have been received for grant of prospecting licences. Graphite is available in Barpadar and Salepali villages of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary and manganese and bauxite in Kanajhola, Nisikhola and Podakana villages of Kashipur ex-Zamindary.

13. *Number of villages*—(i) The total number of villages surveyed during this operation is 1,017. They are distributed as follows:—

		Number of villages situated in plains		Number of villages situated in Dongarla areas
Karlapat	..	37	..	101
Kashipur	..	172	..	240
Mahulpatna	..	65	..	96
Madanpur-Rampur	..	184	..	122
Total	..	458	..	559

(ii) The largest village is Hirapur (Jaipatana thana No. 44) with an area of 3,702.68 acres and the smallest is Derenja (Kashipur thana No. 71) with an area of 0.79 acre. Teresinga Madanpur-Rampur thana No. 11) with 2,959 plots has the largest number of plots whereas the villages Kortikhol and Siarimal in Kashipur thana have only 1 plot each. There is no Nazul area in any of the four ex-Zamindaries.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

14. *Early History of Kalahandi*—There is no authentic record of the ancient history of Kalahandi ex-State or Karond as it is known. It is alleged that it was under the Ganga Kings until the year 1008 A. D. when it was given as dowry to one Raghunath Sai Deva, a scion of the Nagvansi family of Satranjigarh in Chhot-Nagpur. This Raghunath Sai Deva was the first member of the present family which has ever since uninterruptedly held sway until the year 1947 whereafter along with the other feudatory States it merged with the province of Orissa on the 1st January 1948. It is said that Karond was all throughout an independent State, paying no tribute to any power until it came under the sovereignty of Marhattas in the days of Raghuji Bhonsla. When the province of Nagpur lapsed to the British crown in 1853, Kalahandi came under the control of the British Indian Government and was subsequently made a feudatory State. At Mohangiri in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary some ancient temples which date back to the period of the Kosala Guptas are found and the excavation carried out during the Durbar regime have disclosed some interesting inscriptions.

15. *Origin of the ex-Zamindaries under report*—No old documents or Sanads are available to throw light on the origin or early history of these ex-Zamindaries. The only authority on which one can depend is the Gazetteer written by L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, I. C. S. According to him all these Zamindaries were granted originally as maintenance grants and each of them have been granted on more than one occasion and their respective areas changed by various chiefs. Kalahandi originally consisted of fourteen garhas (forts) to which four more, those of Kashipur, Mahulpatna, Chandragiri and Bisamgiri were subsequently added having been ceded in the year 1715. A. D. by Burha Biswambhar Deva, Raja of Jeypore. These eighteen garhs were at different times, bestowed as appanages on members of the royal family and eventually became the five Zamindaries. We are, in this report not concerned with Lanjigarh ex-Zamindary where revision Settlement is yet to be taken up. The ex-Zamindary of Karlapat was last granted by Rai Singh, the eleventh Raja of Kalahandi, to his youngest son Padman

Singh on a takoli of Rs. 500. It originally consisted of two grants, Karlapat and Mandibisi, but the latter was subsequently transferred to Kashipur. The ex-Zamindary of Madanpur-Rampur was last granted to Hatai Singh by the 19th Raja of Kalahandi. It originally consisted of 5 taluks, viz., Madanpur, Mohangiri, Taprang, Urladani and Baska but on account of inability of the Zamindar to manage the last one he was deprived of it by Raja Fateh Narayan Deva who annexed it to Khalsa area. The ex-Zamindari of Kashipur and Mahulpatna have originated from Thuamul ex-Zamindary which was constituted in 1856 with seven garhs. Originally Thuamul consisted of two garhas and was last granted in the year 1685 A. D. by Rai Singh Deva to his son Padman Singh. Subsequently, Mandibisigarh was transferred to it from Karlapat and four garhs, viz., Kashipur, Mahulpatna, Chandragiri and Bisamgiri when ceded as stated before by the Raja of Jeypore in 1715 A. D. were added to it. The Thuamul is divided into an elder and younger branch; the head of the former is known as Pat Raja while the head of the latter acquires the title That Raja. As there were constant quarrels between these two branches and the Raja of Kalahandi was unable to put a stop to it, the Zamindary of Thuamul was separated from Kalahandi in 1863, but as the same violent enmity was kept up between the two Rajas not withstanding. It was subsequently in 1866 found necessary to divide the Zamindary into two portions. Thuamul with the garhs of Mahulpatna, Depur and Bisamgiri, was made over to the Pat Raja while the That Raja was awarded Kashipur with the garhs of Mandibisi and Chandragiri. The Thuamul portion was, by desire of the people, re-attached under sanction to Kalahandi, while Kashipur for some time remained a separate Zamindari but was eventually also re-attached to Kalahandi. Mandibisi was treated as a sub-Zamindary under Kashipur ex-Zamindary.

16. *Abolition of Zamindary system*—After the constitution of India came into force with effect from the 26th January 1950 it was thought expedient to do away with all intermediary interests in order to secure economic justice for all and to prevent the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment. Accordingly the Orissa Estates Abolition Act, 1951 (Orissa Act 1 of 1952) was enacted and all the four ex-Zamindari under report along with several others were abolished with effect from 27th November, 1952 (vide Government of Orissa, Revenue Department notification Nos. 6962, 6963, 6964 and 6965-E-A-29/52-R., dated the 27th November 1952, reproduced in Appendix 1). The Mandibisi sub-Zamindary was the first to be abolished, vide notification No. 2721—11-EA-86/53, dated the 1st November 1952. At the

time of vesting Shri Purusottam Singh was the Zamindar of Karlapat, Shri Rudra Pratap Singh Deo of Kashipur, Shri Kishore Chandra Deo of Mahulpatna and Shri Durga Madhab Singh Deo of Madanpur-Rampur. Shri Nanda Kishore Deo was the sub-Zamindar of Mandibisi at that time. After abolition, these ex-Zamindaries were placed in charge of Anchal Adhikaris who functioned till the year, 1957. Now these are being administered as full-fledged raiyat-wari areas by Tahsildars.

CHAPTER III

THE PEOPLE

17. *Language, Race and Religion*—No full data are available exclusively for the area under report. So the statistics of the district as a whole in certain matter which hold good for the four ex-Zamindari areas has been utilised in this chapter. The principal language of the district is Oriya akin to Sambalpur dialect. According to 1951 Census, Oriya is spoken by 90.74 per cent of the population, Kondh by 6.71 per cent and Hindi by 1.74 per cent. As to the class composition, the same source of information discloses that 25.6 per cent of the population belong to Scheduled Tribes and 23.7 per cent to Scheduled Castes. So the aboriginal element in the population is quite large. The principal tribes among the aboriginals are Kondhas, Gonds, Sabars, Parajas, Pengu Parajas and Bhattodas. Most of the higher castes among the Hindus like Brahmins, Kshyatriyas, Karans and Kulthas are immigrants from other districts. The Doms are in majority among the Scheduled Castes. Hindus constitute 99.57 per cent, Muslims 0.21 per cent and Christians 0.12 per cent of the total population. The people on the whole are extremely simple in their way of living. Due to lack of educational facilities they still retain some of the unrefined primitive qualities and are generally backward.

18. *Increase in population*—The district as it stood until the 1st August 1962, was constituted in the year 1949 by the addition of Nawapara subdivision (taken from the district of Sambalpur) and the ex-State of Kalahandi. In 1901 the population of the area was 478,742 and in 1951 this increased by 380,039 souls or 79.4 per cent. From 478,742 in 1901 the population increased by 20.3 per cent to 576,122 in 1911, but in the next decade the growth slowed down apparently due to the effect of the influenza epidemic in 1919. The population stood at 586,635 in 1921. The next ten years, however, showed an increase of the population by 19.05 per cent to 698,381 in 1931. The increase in the decade 1931—41 was 13.8 and in the next decade the population rose by 8.1 per cent bringing it to 858,781 in 1951. The figures relating to census of 1961 are not yet available, but it is learnt that the provisional population figure of this district is 1,009,490 with 499,688 males and 509,802 females. Only 28,598 persons live in urban areas, the rest live in villages.

(ii) The following table will show the rise or fall in population in the four ex-Zamindaries under report during the decade 1941--51:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Zamindary	Population in 1941	Population in 1951
1	Karlapat ..	23,122	Correct figures not available.
2	Kashipur ..	53,887	53,106
3	Mahulpatna ..	45,439	48,987
4	Madanpur-Rampur ..	44,540	48,132

While there has been some increase in the population of Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries, there has been a little decrease in the population of Kashipur. This appears to be due to lack of facilities for further extension of **cultivation in the hilly areas of Kashipur and its malarious climate.** The Kondhs who predominate in this area do not appear to have as high a fecundity as others. In 1901 the total number of Kondhs in the ex-State area of Kalahandi was **103,086.** This number increased to **114,138** in 1941 which goes to show that there was an increase of only 11.7 per cent as against the overall percentage increase in the total population of the district.

(iii) The birth and death rates for the district are given below for the period from 1955 to 1959:—

	Birth	Death
1955 ..	31,905	17,160
1956 ..	31,298	17,911
1957 ..	25,767	19,380
1958 ..	24,240	23,710
1959 ..	34,715	21,139

The rate of death appears to be quite high in this district which speaks of the poor health of the people and lack of medical facilities.

19. *Density of population*—According to the census of 1951 the density of population of the district per square mile was 168·84; it was 100·52 in 1921, 116·35 in 1931 and 137·30 in 1941. In the year 1951, the density of population in Orissa as a whole was 243·38. Judged by this standard the density of population in the south as well as greater part of Madanapur-Rampur ex-Zamindari, especially the Kutiya Kondh tract south of Mchangiri are very very sparsely populated.

(ii) The following table will show the density of population in the different areas under report :—

	1941	1951
Karlapat ..	194·44	196·49
Kashipur ..	92·90	91·56
Mahulpatna ..	141·11	152·13
Madanpur-Rampur ..	98·10	106·01

20. *Town and villages*—There is no urban population in any of the ex-Zamindaries under report. Out of the 1,017 villages situated in the four ex-Zamindaries only one village, viz. Jajpatna has a population of more than 20,000. There are 14 villages which have a population of more than 1,000, but less than 2,000 and 44 villages with population between 500, and 100. The names of the villages having more than 1,000 inhabitants in 1951 are noted below:—

Ex-Zamindari	Villages	Population
1. Kashipur ..	Kashipur ..	1,875
2. Mahulpatna ..	1. Jaipatna ..	2,235
	2. Baner ..	1,531
	3. Hirapur ..	1,362
	4. Uchula ..	1,249
	5. Sargiguda ..	1,224
	6. Kermeli ..	1,202
	7. Pratap-pur ..	1,132
	8. Badkarlakot ..	1,082
	9. Pipalguda ..	1,050
	10. Mangalpur ..	1,033
3. Madanpur-Rampur ..	1. Teresinga ..	1,925
	2. Rampur ..	1,676
	3. Risida ..	1,505
	4. Saplahra ..	1,008

(ii) Jaipatna, the headquarters of the ex-Zamindar of Mahulpatna is a business centre of some importance. It is now the headquarters of Jaipatna Panchayat Samiti. Kashipur and Rampur which were the headquarters of the ex-Zamindars of Kashipur and Madanpur-Rampur, respectively, have now been made Tahasil headquarters and their importance is on the wax. The village Habaspur, the headquarters of the ex-Zamindar of Karlapat has a population of less than 1,000, but it has a good weekly market.

21. *The agricultural and land owning classes*—The economy of the district is essentially agricultural, for according to 1951 census 84.42 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture for their sustenance, whereas only 15.58 per cent derive their means of livelihood from non-agricultural professions. Of the agricultural classes 59.21 per cent are cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants, 5.59 per cent are cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants, 19.25 per cent are agricultural labourers and their dependants and 0.37 per cent are non-cultivating owners of land.

(ii) In the four ex-Zamindari under report there are 4,017 tenants in Karlapat, 13,220 tenants in Kashipur, 10,056 tenants in Mahulpatna and 11,562 tenants in Madanpur-Rampur. These figures include also maufidars. Among the tenants the castes are :—

Kondhs	..	10,632
Dombs	..	6,934
Gouds	..	4,422
Gonds	..	2,083
Telis	..	1,792
Jhodias	...	1,522
Bhattras	..	1,492
Kumbhars	..	1,335
Paiks	..	1,150
Brahmins	..	849

Sundhis	..	696
Parojas	..	586
Malis	..	579
Kshyatriyas	..	429
Bankas	..	429
Kulthas	..	408
Loharas	..	374
Pengu Paroja	..	359
Sabara	..	350
Keutas	..	213
Banjars	..	128
Other castes	..	2,092
Total		38,854

It is evident that the members belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes form about two-thirds of the total tenantry.

(iii) Besides, there are 6,901 Dongar cultivators who do not enjoy occupancy rights over the hill slopes they cultivate. Out of them 5,873 are Kondhs and the rest belong to different castes including Brahmins. So the idea that the cultivation of hill slopes is confined to Kondhs only no longer holds good. Even people of higher castes are now undertaking dongar cultivation.

22. Tribes and Castes—As stated earlier the principal tribes and castes residing in this area are Kondhs, Dombs, Gouds, Telis, Bhatras, Kumbhars, Paiks, Kshyatriyas, Kulthas and Brahmins.

(ii) The Kondhs stand easily the first in point of numbers and make up nearly ninety per cent of the inhabitants in the extensive Dongarkh area. They are ethnically of pre-Dravidian Stock and are still in the primitive stage of civilisation. The Kutia Kondhs residing in Mohangiri side of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary dress themselves scantily and tattoo their faces. The Kondhs who have taken to settled cultivation in the plain areas are known as "Desua Kondhs" as distinguished from their primitive brethren who still remain in the hilly areas, speak Kuri and practise shifting cultivation and are known as "Malia Kondhs". They are endogamous and village enogamy is common among them. There are various forms of marriage for acquiring mates. To mention a few are marriage by arrangement, marriage by elopement, marriage by capture, marriage by service and marriage by intrusion. Though they worship Hindu Gods, they have no aversion for beef. They also utilise cows for ploughing purpose. In Kalahandi the Kondhs occupied a privileged position in the sense that "it was the custom until recently for the Raja of Kalahandi to sit on the lap of a Khond on the accession while he received the oaths of fidelity". It is also said that the Raja was accustomed to marry a Khond girl as one of his wives, though latterly he did not allow her to live in the palace. These customs have been however, abandoned; though these may be probably interpreted as a recognition that the Rajas of Kalahandi derived their rights from the Kondhs.

(iii) The Gonds are not so numerous as kondhs. They are mostly to be found in the Taprang Pargana of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary. They are not as backward as the Kondhs.

(iv) The Gouds are to be found in large numbers in all the four ex-Zamindaries. They are of many sub-castes like Magdhas, Koslias, Darias, Dumals, Dudh Kanrias and Jharias. They are primarily cattle keepers who have settled in the ex-Zamindaries for the lure of pasture. But with the dwindling of pasture they now eke out existence mostly by working as agricultural labourers. They discharge the duties of Narihas in some villages and enjoy service grants for the same.

(v) The Dombs who are members of Scheduled Castes are not as backward as their counter-parts in other districts. In the areas inhabited by the aboriginals they occupy a privileged position. The Kondhs treat them as their counsellors. They are said to be very crafty and cunning. In the Dongarkh,

they are money-lenders and retail merchants. The village Choukidars are appointed from among them. They are gradually abandoning their ancestral occupation of theft and robbery and are turning to agriculture and more reputable callings. They are no longer a by-word for rascality in the local parlance.

(vi) The Telis, Malis, Ketus and Kumbhars have been classified as members of other backward classes. They have taken up cultivation in addition to their own ancestral profession. The Telis and the Kumbhars are mostly to be found in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries. The Sundhis are distillers of liquor and money-lenders. The Paiks who constituted the feudal militia and enjoyed nalia jagirs from the state are of three sub-castes, viz., Desia, Jhankar and Banka. The Bankas are inferior to the Desias. They have left off their ancestral callings of fighting and have taken up agriculture and service. The Bhattras are said to be immigrants from Warangal. They are good cultivators and resent the idea of classifying them as Scheduled Tribes. The Banjars who are also immigrants from Berar side occupy position of some importance in Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary. They sell salt in the Dongarlas by transporting their merchandise on pack-bullocks. Their female folks are very enterprising and specialise in quilt making. They wear a curious type of blouse.

(vii) The Brahmins though not very numerous are a very important section of the tenantry due to their education, social status and wealth. They are reported to have been brought from Sambalpur side during the time of Raja Udit Pratap Deo about the year 1867 who married a daughter of the Raja of Sambalpur. They enjoy many Brahmottar grants which usually constitute a rent-free settlement for Brahmins whose immigration as religious preceptors and learned men the Rulers formerly encouraged. Some Brahmin families have also migrated from Ganjam side. The Kulthas who are the predominating agricultural class in this district are to be found in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary. They have excavated big tanks and improved the lands considerably. The Kondh rebellion of the year 1882 was due to their discontent at being ousted from their lands by the Kulthas, a large number of whom were massacred by them. As landlords both the Brahmins and the Kulthas were oppressors, but with the abolition of Gounti system it has now become only a historical fact. The tenants belonging to Ksyhatriya caste are mostly off-shoots of the royal and Zamindary families.

23. Condition of raiyats—In the wake of merger of the ex-State with the province of Orissa the Zamindars were liquidated; the Gounti system was abolished with effect from the 1st April 1956 and now on the ruins of these intermediaries who were wielding considerable power a new class has emerged. The 'Ma bap rule' as described by Mr. R. K. Ramdhyan, I. C. S., in his report on Land tenures and the Revenue system of the Orissa and Chhatisgarh states has been replaced by a democratic and constitutional form of Government and administration. A new era has been ushered in conferring substantial rights and concessions on the raiyats which they were deprived of during the Durbar regime. Mr. Ramadhyani records that "in the past, it was common for a Ruler, a Zamindar or even a Thekadar, to levy anything from the people at will for almost any purpose; so long as they were powerful enough to do so, and relics of these numerous imposts (mangan, abwab, patta, etc.,) are to be seen to-day". Thus in those days the only security the raiyat had was that he was the hen laying the golden egg. The Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 abolished these imposts and with the abolition of intermediaries those relics are now gone. The most important impact of abolition of the intermediaries has been in setting up forces in society that have contributed to the emergence of a better equipped common man.

24. Tenancy legislation—There was no tenancy law in Kalahandi during Durbar regime though it is said that the spirit of the C. P. Land Revenue Act and the C.P. Tenancy Act was being followed. The Gounti patta was the only charter of rights and duties. The tenants had no right of transfer of their lands by mortgage, sale or otherwise though they could sublet their holdings with the Gountia's consent. They also had limited right over the trees in their holdings. The sukhbasis had no permanent right over their house-sites. The Orissa Merged States (Laws) Act, 1950 gave a death blow to these shortcomings and thereby the condition of the raiyats has much ameliorated.

25. Size of holdings—With the Orissa Land Reforms Act and the proposal for fixing ceiling limit in the offing, there is a marked tendency among the raiyats for subdivision of their holdings. Leaving aside the house sites of 12,414 Sukhbasis who have lands up to 25 decimals each the average tenancy

holding is now about 10 acres in extent. The following table will show the different sizes of holdings in the area under report.

0—5 Acres		6—10 Acres		11—15 Acres	
No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holding	Percentage
11,754	44·8	5,581	21·1	3,297	12·5

16—20 Acres		21—30 Acres		31—40 Acres	
No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holdings	Percentage
1,894	7·1	2,000	7·5	900	3·4

41—50 Acres		51—100 Acres		100 Acres and above	
No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holding	Percentage	No. of holding	Percentage
434	1·6	492	1·8	65	0·2

The result shows that uneconomic holdings (up to 30 Ac.) constitute 93 per cent of the total number of holdings. Out of the 65 holdings having more than 100 acres of land, 17 are owned by Brahmins, 13 by Kshyatriyas, 7 by Telis, 6 by Kondhs, 5 by Sundhis, 4 by Dombs, 3 by Bhatras, 2 by Paiks and 1 each by Goud, Gond, Banjara, Jhodia Bairagi, Kumbhar, Khandait and Karan.

26. Rural indebtedness—There are no previous settlement reports or other sources of information wherefrom the extent of rural indebtedness of the previous settlement period could be judged nor any such information has been collected during the present settlement operation. The economic survey of Orissa "Volume I", Government of Orissa Publication, however, gives some statistics which are quoted here. According to this report

though the average size of agricultural holding is the highest, the average annual income of a farming family is Rs. 292.44 only as against the all Orissa average of 409.24. This may be due to lack of good marketing facilities resulting from the lack of communication facilities. The average debt per family in Orissa is Rs. 64 whereas it is only Rs. 29 in Kalahandi. This is, however, not indicative of the economic advantageous position of the farmer of Kalahandi. On the other hand it shows that his scale of operation is smaller and his level of earning is poor. In Kalahandi the co-operative movement is not much developed and the money-lender still rules the field. About 80 per cent of loans are secured from this source and about 48 per cent of the loans carry an interest of 50 per cent and more. This is definitely a very unhappy picture and needs special attention of the Government for development of the district. Another index of the primitive character of the economic organisation of this district is that 48 per cent of the agriculturists' loans consist of grains.

27. *Condition of agricultural labourers*—As referred to earlier, according to 1951 census, 19.25 per cent of the population of Kalahandi consists of agricultural labourers. These labourers are of two types—casual labourers and attached labourers. The former are known as Bhutis while the latter as Halias.

28. *Casual labourers*—In this part female labourers are more in demand for such operations as transplanting, weeding and harvesting. Male labourers are generally engaged for ploughing fields. A male labourer usually gets wages of Re. 1 or 1 mano of paddy for putting in labour for eight hours whereas a female labourer gets wages of 10—12 annas or three adas of paddy per day. In 1942-43, according to the annual administration report of the Durbar regime the usual wages varied from Rs. 0-2-6 to Rs. 0-4-0 for each male adult and Rs. 0-1-6 to Rs. 0-2-0 for each female adult. These rates of course rose to Rs. 0-4-0 to Rs. 0-6-0 in the case of males and Rs. 0-3-0 to Rs. 0-6-0 in the case of females towards 1945-46. Considering the present price level, there has been no proportionate increase in the level of wages and the condition of the labourers continues to be the same as it was. With the implementation of various development schemes, however, the employment opportunity has considerably gone up. In the hilly areas the labourers get much lower wages and their conditions are becoming worse day-by-day.

29. *Attached labourers*—The Halias are appointed on yearly basis from one Pousha Purnima to next Pousha Purnima. At the time of appointment a Halia gets a lump-sum in cash

varying from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 according the custom prevalent in the locality and ability of the person concerned. This is locally known as 'Uden'. This is some sort of advance paid to the Halia which is offered as an allurement to secure his service. Besides this amount a Halia gets one Putti of paddy every month which is known as 'Masri'. This is paid on a weekly basis. A Halia also gets three pieces of cloth, one during the rainy season, the second at the time of 'Nuakhia' festival and the third which is usually a wrapper during the winter. Besides the basic wages, a Halia also has some other emoluments. At the time of harvest he gets the last load from the field which is known as 'Bhara' and for cumulative overtime work at night at the time of threshing one puti of paddy towards bonus which is known as 'pol pual'. At the time of 'Nabarnna' a kind-hearted employer pays one rupee extra for drinking besides ration (Bhatia) for the day. The head farm-servant is known as 'Behera' or 'Khamari' and the young Halias who are fed at home are called 'Gharkhias'. In Kashipur ex-Zamindary the rates of 'Uden' and 'Masri' are much less than elsewhere. The annual wages of a Halia may be estimated as follows :—

	Rs.
(i) Uden ..	40
(ii) Masri at the rate of one puti per month equivalent to Rs. 13 in cash for 12 months. ..	156
(iii) Cost of three pieces of cloths ..	9
(iv) One putti of paddy towards harvest bonus. ..	13
(v) Miscellaneous payments ..	12
Total ..	230

This does not even come to Rs. 20 per month. So the lot of the attached labourers cannot by any standard be called enviable. As there is no other alternative for employment in non-agricultural sector, they somehow or other carry on even though it is at a level of the barest subsistence. Their wages are of course supplemented by the casual earning of their wives and children at the time of transplantation and harvesting. Though the rich cultivators have become richer due to rise in prices of foodgrains,

the effects of economic developments have not yet percolated to the poorer segments of the society. They are yet to be organised into unions to threaten their employers with any corporate action.

30. Present state of agricultural prosperity—The merger of the ex-State with the province of Orissa conferred some new occupancy rights on the tenants. With the opening of the Raipur-Vizianagaram railway line in 1930 things had already started improving gradually. Like in all other areas, after the World War II the prices of foodgrains have consistently shown an upward trend which has induced the cultivators to pay more attention to cultivation. The launching of intensive cultivation scheme, five-year plans and implementation of community development and N. E. S. Programme has brought some improvement in the condition of the agriculturists. The substantial raiyats and the ex-Gountias in the plain area can now boast of more tiled roofs and pucca buildings than they had ever before. The standard of comfort too has increased. More number of raiyats can now afford to use bi-cycle and mill-made cloths. The use of modern textile sarees is not uncommon among the women-folk of higher castes. But the condition of the aboriginals in the hilly areas who continue to be semi-naked and live in leafy-huts still strikes a wide contrast with that of their counterparts in the plains.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE

31. *Classification of Agricultural area*—The following table will show the occupied area, unoccupied area fit for reclamation and unoccupied area unfit for reclamation in each of the ex-Zamindaries under report :—

	Karlapat	Kashipur	Mahulpatna	Madanpur-Rampur	Total
Occupied area ..	27,715.78	80,555.58	86,176.77	84,797.92	
New fallow land	97.25	30.17	63.88	N1	
Total ..	27,813.03	80,585.75	86,240.65	84,797.92	
Unoccupied					
Fit for re-clamation like grass lands, shrubs, jungles and others.	4,592.35	7,487.32	7,978.27	7,768.93	
Unfit or not meant for re-clamation like big trees, forests, Gochar, Groves, areas under water, hills and rocks or covered by rocks and buildings.	9,184.94	29,840.59	37,219.14	28,456.86	
Total—Unoccupied area.	13,777.29	37,327.91	45,197.41	36,225.79	
Grand Total ..	41,590.32	1,17,913.66	1,31,438.06	1,21,023.71	

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The figures show that there is hardly much scope for further extension of cultivation in any of the ex-Zamindaries. The hope for future lies only in intensive cultivation which will of course very much depend on irrigation facilities.

32. *Expansion in occupied area*—During the last Settlement only 458 villages of the area under report were surveyed. In the rest of the villages assessment was made on putti-padan basis. The estimate of area was made by seed capacity (paddy) and the seed capacity of 1.40 acres was taken as one putti. According to this rough calculation the total extent of the occupied area in the four ex-Zamindaries was 185,105.90 acres. Now this figure has gone up to 277,035.21 acres which means that there has been increase in the occupied area by 49.66 per cent. The increase has been more in Mohulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries than the other two. Even after giving due allowances for the rough estimated area of the unsurveyed villages of the last Settlement, the large expansion in cultivation may be attributed to the opening of the Raipur-Vizianagaram Railway line, growth in population and the intensive cultivation scheme of the Government which encouraged reclamation of lands by the landless Adivasis.

33. *Cropping pattern and acreage under different crops*—The following table will show the acreage under different crops in all the four ex-Zamindaries under report. The data have been collected from Jinswar statements prepared at the time of survey between the years 1953 and 1956.

Paddy	Acreage	Other cereals	Acreage	Oil-seeds	Acreage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Bhatad h a n (Early paddy).	30,960.22	1. Ragi ...	23,163.18	1. Til ..	3,989.21
2. Sarada-dhan (W i n t e r paddy).	94,340.71	2. Guljl a n d Jhari.	12,485.95	2. Castor ..	660.65
3. Ambadha n (Sum m e r paddy).	127.00	3. Maize and Jhudung. (Horse bean)	6,508.03	3. Mustar d and Sesa- mum (Alsi).	12,210.85
		4. Suan and Kosla, etc.	25,960.71	4. Groun d- nut.	20.87
		5. Kudou ..	27,800.39		
		6. Minor mil- lets li k e jawar, bajra, etc.	97.03		
		7. Wheat ..	208.52		
Total ..	125,427.93		96,223.81		16,881.58

Grand

Pulses	Acreage	Cash crops	Acreage	Other crops	Acreage
7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Greengram (Mung).	1,838.13	1. Cotton ...	21.40	1. Potato ..	49.73
2. Blackgram (Biri).	3,167.62	2. Sugar-cane	564.16	2. Sweet Potato.	58.18
3. Horsegram (Kulthi)	14,701.65	3. Tobacco ..	382.17	3. Turmeric	275.90
4. Red-gram (Arhar and kandul).	1,997.20	4. Betel ...	3.75	4. Chilly ..	580.38
5. Gram, Butra, Mo-suri, etc.	3,900.22	5. Fibres ...	315.11	5. Onions and garlic.	96.59
				6. Spices ..	233.34
				7. Other crops.	271.08
				8. Orchards	964.34
	25,604.82		1,286.59		2,529.34

Total 2,67,954.97

An area of 8,668·89 acres which is under double crops has been included in these figures. As will be seen from the figures given above, paddy is the main crop inasmuch as 44·9 per cent of the total cultivated area. In Kashipur ex-Zamindari paddy yields the pride of its place to crops like ragi, suan, kosala, etc., which are cultivated on the hill slopes. The Kondhs mostly live on these cereals. Kudou is very extensively grown in Madanpur-Rampur area. Kudou and ragi are the favourite and staple foodgrains of the aborigines to whom these crops commend themselves as very hardy, calling for little outlay or trouble. Among the oil-seeds sesamum (Alasi) and among the pulses, kulthi are the dominant crops. The vast coverage of area under crops like Suan, Kudou, Gulji and horse-gram implies unfertility of the soil obtaining in this area and ultimately indicates the weak character of the agrarian economy. Cash crops like cotton, sugar-cane, tobacco, jute, etc., constitute such a small proportion of the total cropped area that its contribution to the cultivator's income is scarcely of any significance. Sugar-cane is mostly confined to the fertile bank of the river Tel in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindari.

34. *Soil and classification of lands*—The soil of the hilly tract is generally rugged. It is an admixture of pebbles, stones and sands, earth forming a very low percentage of the different components. The colour of the soil in this area is generally reddish. In the plain portion of Karlapat and Mahulpatna the soil shows the characteristics of black cotton soil retaining moisture for a longer period and is suitable for raising a second crop like grams. The soil of the area on the whole is not very fertile. The sticky clayey type of soil which is predominant in this area is known as Khalia. This type of soil contains a fair percentage of calcium carbonate. Yet in the stretches of level country at the bases of hills where silt is brought down during rains from the wooded upland, patches of deep black soil of highest quality are found. In the river valleys the soil is mostly alluvial. In this undulating country, however, the nature of soil cannot be the only consideration for classification of lands. The difference in productivity due to what is technically known "Position", that is to say, the lie of the surface broadly divides the lands into four classes, viz., Bahal (Bottom land), Berna (Dell), Mal (Terraced slopes) and At (up land). The first three classes have again been subdivided into four each, according to the irrigation and village drainage received. The fourth class has also been subdivided into four according to the quality of soil and crops grown thereon.

28. *Method of cultivation* —(i) The old traditional method of cultivation is still in vogue though here and there, a few progressive cultivators owning large holdings have taken up modern

method of cultivation by introducing tractors and water pumps. The intensive cultivation scheme followed by community development and national extension service programme has been responsible to certain extent for the introduction of improved paddy seeds and popularisation of the use of chemical fertilisers and green and compost manuring. But these programmes have so far only touched the fringe of the tenantry. The average cultivator still avoids manuring his fields. The lands in the Dongarla and on the hill-foots are of course manured by natural process by the decayed vegetable matters contained in the stream water. Weeding is generally neglected. Only on the alluvial soil of river banks cultivation is most careful and laborious.

(ii) In the cultivation of paddy crops generally, transplantation is preferred to sowing. The reason apparently is that the seeds, if they are sown on the steep terraces are liable to be washed away by the heavy downpour of early monsoon month. In this part there are three distinct methods of sowing broadcasted paddy, viz., Khardi or dry sowing of seed in the light soils before the onset of the monsoon; Bahri or wet sowing in the beginning of the rainy season and Achhra or the late sowing of germinated seed in the Bahal lands. Enquiry from the cultivators reveals that the seed capacity of a good piece of land is $\frac{2}{3}$ th of a puti per acre whereas it is one puti in poorer land.

(iii) There are innumerable varieties of paddy seeds but all fall into the three main varieties: the early, the medium and the late. The early varieties of paddy are sown on Mal and At lands, the medium varieties on Berna land and the late varieties on Bahal land. Among bahal paddy the Jhilli puagi and the Chinamali, among Berna paddy the Majhili, Jhilli and Kakudi manji and among the Mal paddy the Kusums, Karni and Bausa-buti are the most common in this part. The recently introduced 1,242 paddy has been found very suitable for the Bahal lands of this area.

(iv) From out of the total cultivated area 62 per cent have been classified under At kism, 9 per cent under Mal kism, 10 per cent under Berna kism and 14 per cent under Bahal kism. Thus more than half of the area under crops is not suitable for paddy cultivation.

35. *Amdhan*—In the hilly areas of Kashipur and Karlapat the stream-beds are cultivated with summer paddy. This is locally known as "Amdhan" as its period of cultivation corresponds with the season of mango crops. The stream-beds are

converted into terraced fields when the flow of water goes down and the plants are transplanted towards the end of February. The crop is generally harvested towards the end of May. Amdhan is cultivated only in 127 acres of stream-beds.

36. Shifting cultivation—It will not be out of place to mention the shifting cultivation practised by the kondhs and others on the hill slopes. It is locally known as "Dongar chas" or "Kudki chas". A patch of forest is selected on a hill slope often with divination and religious sanction. About February, trees are felled and left to dry and towards the end of April or in the beginning of May the woods are burnt in one place and ashes are spread all over the field. The kondhs use kodkis or hoes for cultivating the soil. As soon as rain comes they sow by broadcast the seeds of mixed crops such as jhudung, biri and kating. After the crops are harvested the land is left unemployed for some time until the second year's cultivation cycle commences. In the 3rd year they sow ragi, kosla and kangu. Thereafter the plots thus exhausted are abandoned to recuperate in its natural way. The period of inactivity is from four to six years in this part. The main evil effects of shifting cultivation are soil erosion, destruction of valuable timber resulting in decrease of rainfall. The Forest Enquiry Committee set up in the year 1959 has in its report opined that besides being a positive source of evil, the podu cultivation is itself inherently defective and economically unsound.

37. Results of crop-cutting experiments—At the time of attestation during the years 1954-55 and 56 random crop-cutting experiments were made in as many as 389 plots in the different ex-Zamindari areas. The results of yield per acre of different classes of land were found as follows :—

1. Bahal Khari Pani	21 to 24	maunds of paddy
2. Bahal Pani	18 to 22	maunds of paddy
3. Bahal Khari	17 to 21	maunds of paddy
4. Bahal Mamuli	16 to 20	maunds of Paddy
5. Berna Kharipani	16 to 19	maunds of paddy
6. Berna Pani	16 to 18	maunds of paddy
7. Berna Khari	15 to 16	maunds of paddy
8. Berna Mamuli	11 to 15	maunds of paddy
9. Mal Kharipani	11 to 14	maunds of paddy
10. Mal Pani	10 to 14	maunds of paddy

11. Mal Khari	10 to 13	maunds of paddy
12. Mal Mamuli	8 to 12	manuds of paddy
13. Kachhar, At Khari At Unhari	2½ to 4	maunds of green-gram or black-gram.
14. At Mamuli	2½ to 6	maunds of horse-gram or ragi.
15. Barchha	20 to 25	maunds of molasses

There were no experiments on the last item, but the outturn was ascertained by enquiring from the intelligent tenants. Weather condition and rainfalls in these years being very good some allowances have to be made for poor results in abnormal years. The average outturns of three main classes of land can be said to be as follows :—

Bahal	18 maunds
Berna	14 maunds
Mal	10 maunds

38. *Cost of cultivation*—It must be pointed out at the very outset that the problem of cost analysis is beset with many difficulties and as such it may not be possible to analyse the cost of cultivation with utmost scientific accuracy. In an under developed district like Kalahandi it is too much to expect the cultivators to keep accounts of the cost of cultivation. Secondly, the cost varies according to the size of the holding, the nature of the soil, the customs prevailing in the area, and availability of labour especially at the time of transplantation and harvesting. The cost also differs from crop to crop. Lastly, while computing cost it becomes extremely difficult to assess the cost of the labour contributed by the farmer himself and the members of his family and the depreciation of his stock and building. So it may be said that the computation of cost is merely a rough one and can by no means be said to be scientifically accurate. Dr. Sadasiv Mishra in his "Economic Survey of Orissa" (Volume I, page 227) has observed that "the actual cost of cultivation which includes the labour and the materials supplied by the farmers' family amounts to Rs. 53 per acre as against the rice crop amounting to Rs. 52 in value. The actual cost is, therefore, slightly higher than the yield for Orissa, as whole". According to him cultivation of rice continues in this uneconomic manner only because this occupation is regarded as mode of living and not as business proposition. The point is highly debatable since it may be said

that the labour put forth by the farmer is wage-earning and not in itself a capital investment and an agriculturist is a combination of the labourer and the capitalist. Elsewhere in this report the present-day prosperity of the agriculturists and rise in their general standard of living, have been explained. Had cultivation been a losing concern at least there would have been large scale abandonment of tenanted lands and emigration from the district. But the contrary is the truth. According to a rough estimate the cost of cultivation absorbs a little more than one-third of the gross produce. No doubt the cost of bullocks and other implements has gone up in recent times, but along side the prices of foodgrains have also gone up. Now-a-days a pair of working bullocks can be had at Rs. 250. The average prices of agricultural implements have been found out to be as noted below:—

	Rs. P.
Plough ..	5-00
Plough share ..	3-33
Spade ..	5-83
Sickle ..	2-00
Axe ..	2-00
Total	18-16

The cost of cultivation of an acre of Bahal land can be analysed as follows :—

	Rs. P.
1st ploughing ..	4-00
2nd ploughing ..	4-00
3rd ploughing ..	4-00
Seeds ..	10-00
Manure ..	4-00
Thinning ploughing (B'huda) ..	4-00
Weeding ..	3-75
Fencing and watching, etc... ..	2-00
Harvesting, carrying and threshing, etc. ..	8-00
Other costs ..	3-00
Investment cost ..	3-25
Total ..	50-00

(ii) It has already been shown that the average yield of one acre of Bahal land is 18 maunds which at the present day market value will fetch about Rs. 144. So the apparent profit is Rs. 94. The value of straw has been excluded as it is used only as fodder in this area and has no commercial value.

39. *Irrigation*—The annual rainfall of the district is between fifty and sixty inches. In the hilly areas it is much more. It is reliable and although the timing of different showers may materially affect the yield of the harvest, total failure of crop due to lack of rainfall is unknown. During the last 25 years there were only partial failures of crops during the years 1938-39, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58 and 1962-63. In such years necessity arises for irrigating the fields from the water stored in bunds and tanks.

(ii) From out of the total area under cultivation only 25,018·11 acres of land have got irrigation facilities. This area is only 8·9 per cent of the total cropped area. No figures are available to compare if the area under irrigation has gone up since the last Settlement. The following statement will show the number of water reservoirs and wells and the area they irrigate :—

	..	Number	Area irrigated in Acres
1. Reservoirs in Government khata serving the purpose of irrigation.	..	635	18,818·92
2. Reservoirs recorded in raiyati khata serving the purpose of irrigation.	..	256	4,692·48
3. Wells-pucca	..	204	653·70
4. Wells-kutchha	..	2,029	
5. Streams or springs	..	..	853·01
Total	...		25,018·11

(iii) The Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary has the highest number of water reservoirs whereas the number of such reservoirs is the lowest in the Kashipur ex-Zamindary area where due to excessive rainfall there is hardly any necessity for irrigation. Besides

irrigation tanks there are 278 tanks under Government Khata which are not used for the purpose of irrigation. At present there is not a single major or medium irrigation project in this area. But investigation is a foot for tapping the rivers Utei, Sagada, Indravati and Ret for irrigation purposes. The proposed Indravati hydel project will irrigate about 1, 50, 000 acres of land in Mahulpatna and the Utei Project about 32,000 acres of land in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries.

40. *Sources of irrigation*—The main sources of irrigation in this area are Sagar, Kata, Munda, Bandhs, wells and natural streams or springs. The undulating nature of the tract is very suitable for execution of irrigation projects like Sagars and Katas.

41. *The Sagar and Kata*—These are formed by putting an earthen embankment across a drainage area. A big kata or tank is known as "Sagar". In the newly executed M. I. Projects of the Revenue Department now sluices are being provided for letting out water for irrigation. The areas these projects command are mostly bahal lands and are assured of good crops even in the years of scanty rainfall. These projects are triangular in shape and are provided with surplus weirs through which superfluous water is allowed to pass. The Bayasagar at Habaspur and Harihar Sagar at Rampur are two such big old projects of this area.

42. *The Munda*—It is nothing but a Kata on a miniature scale irrigating a few acres of land. Generally its water dries up in summer. Most of the Mundas have been recorded in raiyati khatas.

43. *The Bandha*—The bandha is a square tank with embankments on all its sides mostly used for drinking and bathing purposes. Some tanks are also being used by the Grama Panchayats for pisciculture now.

44. *The Wells*—Most of the wells in this area are kutchas. These wells are used mainly for irrigating sugarcane fields and baris where vegetables are raised. The water is lifted by means of Tenda.

Besides, these artificial sources of irrigation there are natural streams and springs the water of which is used for irrigating lands in the hilly areas.

45. *Discontinuance of unnatisadhan lists*—Prior to abolition of Gounti system, the Gountias had a special responsibility with regard to construction and repair of irrigation projects in

their respective villages. Clause 23 of the old Gounti Patta 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. More or less, construction of a new tank or improvement of an existing one was a condition precedent to conferment of protected status on a Gountia at the time of execution of agreement after the expiry of the term of a Settlement. In order to keep a record of it, in the last Settlements, "Unnatisadhan lists" were prepared in respect of jal-chars which were excavated or repaired by the Gountias or tenants, though these were kept in the khatas of the ex-Zamin-dars. As pointed out by the then Settlement Officer, Shri Janardan Das, O. A. S. in para. 36 of his final report on the Settlement in khalsa area of Kalhandi these 'unnatisadhan lists' created a wrong impression in the minds of the Gountias in the Khalsa area who did not hesitate to claim right over the reservoirs excavated or improved by them. After abolition of the Gounti system as there was no longer any necessity for continuance of these 'unnatisadhan' lists, Board of Revenue was moved for their discontinuance in Settlement Officer's letter No. 1256, dated the 1st May 1956 (vide Appendix 8) to which they agreed (vide Appendix 9). On the analogy of the instructions of the Board from its defunct Sambalpur Wing (vide Appendix 10) which were meant for Khalsa area all tanks excavated after the last Settlement in tenanted holdings have been recorded as private tanks. All other tanks excavated in Government lands either prior to last settlement or after have been recorded as Government tanks. The lands getting irrigation from the tanks and reservoirs have been so noted in the record-of-rights.

46. *Cattle*—The cattle are mostly of poor breed and of stunted growth. Of late steps have been taken through the agency of Panchayat Samitis for upgrading the local stock by introducing red Sindhi bulls in the rural areas. The Kashipur ex-Zamindari is famous for its ghee. The live stock of the entire area under report are as follows :—

Bullocks	..	47,439
Cows	..	33,549
Bulls	..	377
Calves	..	18,619
Male buffaloes	..	6,113
She-buffaloes	..	8,078
Young stock including Buffalo-calves	..	22,481
Goats	..	17,794

Sheep	7,497
Horse and ponies	99
Swain	1,206
Ploughs	25,780
Carts	3,995
Other stocks	1,476

There appears to be one plough for every 10 acres of cultivated land and 5 acres of land under rice crop.

(ii) Bhawanipatna and Dharmgarh in the Khalsa areas are the most important cattle markets in the district. Generally the buffaloes are imported from the M. P. side. The people in these area generally depend upon supply of good bullocks from outside markets like Bobili, Parvatipuram and Manapuram. Due to ruthless encroachments, the gochar lands are becoming scarce in the plain area and so the cattle mostly live on stubble in the fields after harvest and during the rains on a few blades of grass gathered from the ridges of paddy fields. Free-grazing is allowed in the khesra forests but fees at the following rates are realised by the Forest Department for allowing cattle to graze in the reserved forests :—

	Tenants' rates per head.			Outsiders' rate per head		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1. Cow and bullock	0	4	0	0	8	0
2. Buffalo	0	6	0	0	8	0
3. Goat and sheep	0	2	0	0	3	0

47. *Local Measure*—The local measures in use are : —

2 gidhas	..	one sola
2 solas	..	one ada
4 adas	..	one mano
20 manos	..	one putti
4 puttis	..	one pustoma
2 pustomas	..	one purug.

One Adda of rice is equal to 80 tolas or 930 grams in weight, One maund of paddy in weight is however, equivalent to 56 Addas in measure. The metric system of weighment has been recently introduced in this district. This has created a slight confusion in the minds of the people in the rural areas who were long accustomed to the measures enumerated above.

48. *Agricultural year*—The agricultural year in this area commences from the first of June.

CHAPTER V

TRADE AND COMMERCE

49. *Old trade routes*—Before the ex-State of Kalahandi was opened up by Raipur-Vizianagaram section of the Railway in the year 1932, it was a remote, inaccessible and land-locked tract of country, known by few and shunned by outsiders for its wilderness and for its evil reputation as a malarious place. Until the year 1905, Kalahandi was within the jurisdiction of the political Agent at Raipur and naturally all its traffic and communications tended in that direction. Trade was mostly with Raipur, which was the nearest large town ; though some business was done in salt, tobacco and oil-seeds with Kalyansinghpuram and other centres in Madras by means of pack-bullock trains. The lac of Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary was finding its way to Rajim Bazar in the C. P. and its gram to Nawarangpur market via Ampani. The people of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary were carrying on their trade with Tushra in the neighbouring State of Patna and Baliguda in Ganjam district. After the opening of the tract by the railway and development of other communication facilities after merger it has now become increasingly integrated with the larger economy of the country.

50. *Present trade routes*—It has already been stated earlier that none of the ex-Zamindaris under report is connected by any railway and as such the bulk of their exports continue to come long distances by road to Raipur-Vizianagaram section of the South-Eastern Railway passing through Kesinga and Rupra Road of this district and Rayagada of Koraput district. The trade of these areas now follows the lines mentioned below :—

- (i) The produce of the plain portion of Karlapat and Mohulpatna ex-Zamindaries finds its outlet through Kesinga railway station which is fed by the all-weather P. W. D. Road running right from Moter to Kesinga. Local trade of the villages of Karlapat is transacted at Kamalpur market which is connected to Junagarh via Chilgura by a Revenue road. The weekly market at Nawarangpur still attracts the produce of Mahulpatna.
- (ii) The Railway station at Rupra Road drains the produce of Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary which consists mostly of timber and bamboos. Local trade of this area is still transacted at Tushra and Balliguda markets.

- (iii) The produce of Kashipur ex-Zamindary as well as the hilly portions of Mahulpatna ex-Zamindari find their ways to Rayagada railway station through Koraput-Rayagada road.

The other trade routes are no longer very important. The Sambalpur-Titilagarh railway line which has just opened and the projected Bailadila-Kotawalsa railway line passing through the Koraput district will have their effects upon the trade of these areas in due course. The impact of the Bhilai Steel Plant in the Madhya Pradesh has already been felt. The future of the district, however, lies in linking Kesinga with Jeypore on the projected Bailadila-Kotawalsa railway line and improvement of the roads leading to interiors.

51. *Trade and Industries*—Foodgrains, pulses, oil-seeds, timbers and other minor forest-produce like bamboos, Kendu, leaves, Sabai grass, Broom grass, lac, etc., are the principal exportable commodities of these areas. Salt, tobacco, kerosine, wheat, potatoes, sugar, cloth and yarn form the bulk of the imported commodities. No detailed statistics are available to have an idea of the volume of trade in these areas. But the export figures of rice and paddy of the district as a whole for the last four years as furnished by the Supply Department give one some idea about the trade potential of this area—

1958-59	.. (Khariff year)	.. Rice	.. 33,221.00 tons
		.. Paddy	.. 1,334.00 tons
1959-60	.. (Ditto)	.. Rice	.. 24,125.25 tons
		.. Paddy	.. 30,762.10 tons
1960-61	.. (Ditto)	.. Rice	.. 30,191.70 tons
		.. Paddy	.. 16,489.03 tons
1961-62	.. (Ditto)	.. Rice	.. 30,526.11 tons
		.. Paddy	.. 10,470.02 tons

- (ii) There are no industries worth the name in any of these ex-Zamindari. Weaving of coarse cotton cloths, making of brooms, manufacturing of coir, pottery, extraction of oil by indigenous, ghunnies, rope and basket making can be cited as a few cottage industries. In recent years some attempts have been made to boost black-smithy, pottery, carpentry and making of leather goods through the agency of Panchayat Samitis.

52. *Weekly markets*—Local trade is primarily channelised through the weekly markets which can be said to be commercial centres for the surrounding villages. In these market places the trade is in grain, vegetables, sweets, salt, spices, tobacco, oil, cloths, trinket, cattle and various odds and ends. The Domb women are very conspicuous in these weekly markets and can be called the retail merchants of the district. Jaypatna and Baner in Mahulapatna ex-Zamindary ; Tikiri and Kashipur in Kashipur ex-Zamindary; Rampur, Risida and Mohangiri in Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindary are some of the important weekly markets of the areas under report.

53. *The rise in prices*—The price of rice which is the main article of trade serves more or less as an index of the prevailing price structure. Reports on the previous Settlements in these areas are not available. Information about prices of rice was collected from certain old papers and State gazettes of the Durbar regime. The following table gives the price of the rice prevailing at Bhawanipatna town for the ten years preceding the last Settlement and for the ten years preceding the present one :—

Years		Prices in rice in seers per rupee.
1922-23	..	18
1923-24	..	18
1924-25	..	16
1925-26	..	15
1926-27		15
1927-28	..	17
1928-29	..	16
1929-30	..	16
1930-31	..	19
1931-32	..	20

Average ... 17 seers

Years	Prices in rice in seers per rupee.
1952-53	3½
1953-54	3½
1954-55	3½
1955-56	3½
1956-57	3
1957-58	2·2/3
1958-59	2·2/3
1959-60	2·2/3
1960-61	2·2/3
1961-62	2½
Average ..	3 seers.

(ii) The average price in the interior of these ex-Zamindaries was always cheaper by two to four seers. But there is no longer such wide difference in prices of foodgrains in different parts of the area under report though in the remote hilly areas one can still have about half a seer of rice more per rupee than in the plain.

54. *Rise in land value*—The average sale value of land at the time of last Settlement was Rs. 70 for an acre of first class land and Rs. 20 for the lowest class whereas the present value for an acre of first class land is Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 and Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 for the lowest class. Thus, the market value of land also gone up by 5 to 7 times.

PART II

CHAPTER VI

EARLIER SETTLEMENTS AND THE REVENUE SYSTEM

55. *Introductory*—No authentic records are available to know the system of land revenue assessment prior to the summary settlements held in the concluding years of the last century. In this connection a reading of the report of Mr. R. K. Ramdhvani, I.C.S., on 'Land Tenures and the Revenue system of the Orissa and Chhatisgarh States, Volume I, is recommended. According to his report "there was no system of assessment of revenue by the States". The revenue system was simply that of making certain demands upon the village headmen who were left to distribute the burden of the demand upon the cultivators in their villages in any manner they considered suitable, this being more or less on a par with the takoli or quite-rent payable by Zamindars or the tribute paid by the Chiefs to the paramount power". These settlements were never carried out in writing but after each successive 3 years a revision was made by the Zamindars with slight increase.

56. *The summary settlements*—A careful examination of the papers of the Durbar regime relating to settlement in the ex-Zamindari areas, and the rent assessment proposals submitted from time to time by the Superintendent or the Dewan of the State to the Political Agent at Raipur, reveals that the summary settlements were at first made for a term of three years which were later on increased to five years. In these settlements no map was prepared. The assessment was made on the basis of the Kut appraisal system in the plain area. A Khasra, showing the seed area or Kut held by each cultivator together with the other necessary details was prepared by the patwari with the assistance of a panch formed of the Gountia and respectable cultivators of the village. In the hilly areas where shifting cultivation was practised, a nominal assessment was made with the consent of the headmen. There were several such summary settlements before the regular settlements were made.

57. *The first regular Settlements*—The first regular settlement of the Karlapat Ex-Zamindari was done in the years 1917-18. Only 36 villages situated in the plain area were fully surveyed. The revision Settlement of this ex-Zamindari was conducted in the year 1929-30. This resulted in an increase of the total demand by 40 per cent. The first regular settlement

for the Madanapur-Rampur ex-Zamindari was done in the year 1926-27, that of Mahulpatna in the year 1927-28 and of Kashipur in the year 1932-33. These settlements yielded increase in total demands of 31, 53 and 50 per cent respectively. The lands were classified and the soil-unit system of the C. P. area was for the first time introduced. For each of the surveyed villages (they were 437 in all) Khasra and Jamabandi were prepared showing all the details relating to landlords and the tenants, the status, the rents payable, the classification of lands etc. For the unsurveyed villages in the hilly areas (Numbering 509) the records were prepared on the basis of "Chaka and Chouhadi" and seed capacity of the lands. Mr. R. K. Ramdhyan while dealing with these settlements in his report has stated as follows:—

"The Karlapat, Mahulpatna and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries have had regular settlements. The Kashipur Zamindari has also had a regular settlement. The term of the settlement varies from 10 to 15 years. No settlement reports are available. Considerable portions of the Zamindaries, like the khalsa portion, have not been fully surveyed and the settlement in these areas is only a summary one. The settlement of Zamindaries is in practice made under state control though the extent of the control seems negligible."

58. **Law and procedure.** It has been stated already that no Tenancy Act was in force in the ex-State area of Kalahandi. The Gounti Patta issued in the last settlement and the customs and precedents played an important part in the Revenue administration of the area. In the matter of procedure the spirit of C. P. L. R. Act, 1917, and C. P. Tenancy Act 1920 was followed. In short the Gounti Patta was the substantive part and the spirit of some provisions of the aforesaid C. P. Acts were the procedural parts of the law. Under the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 the laws in force whether substantive or procedural and the customs and usages subject to other provisions of the order, have been continued till amended. The Orissa Merged States (Laws) Act, 1958 which came into force with effect from the 3rd March 1950 has conferred new rights upon the tenants which they did not enjoy during the Durbar regime.

59. **Zamindaries.** (i) It has been stated earlier that the Zamindari system has since been abolished with effect from the 27th November 1952. It is however, necessary to know something about the incidents of this tenure.

(ii) The Zamindars were the proprietors of their estates but they were under the control of the Ruler who was accepted as the lord of the entire State. Their Zamindaries were sometimes taken under management by the State for gross mismanagement or incapacity or on account of minority of a heir. Whenever a case of succession arose conditions were imposed regarding the submission of a budget for five years, the appointment of an approved Kamdar, lease of forest produce only with sanction, nazarana and takoli. A sum of Rs. 1,500 was being realised towards nazarana in such cases. Strictly speaking the Zamindars should be entitled to make their own internal settlements but in practice the State was doing for them since long. No Zamindar had any criminal or civil powers but in revenue matters they had powers equal to those of the Ruler. They were paying separate takolis on the land revenue, excise & forest; revenue takoli was 10—15 per cent of the revenue and could be revised every 15 years; and the forest takoli was 10 per cent of the forest income. They were, however, entitled to appropriate the entire amount of cess and income from cattle pounds. They had no right to manage pounds, levy tolls, octroi, etc., nor had they any right to minerals. In respect of forests, they had considerable recognised rights. They could appoint and reject their Gountias without reference to the State. They were however, applying to the Dewan for proceeding against defaulters; they were not issuing their own processes. They could also create their own maufis, but it is said that the sanction of the State was necessary. They had their own land revenue staff. It can be said that the control of the State on revenue administration in the Zamindaries was very nominal, if any.

60. *Gountiahi Tenure*—The village headmen in Kalahandi were known as Gountias. After abolition of Zamindary, the gounti system became an anachronism and hence it was abolished by the Government of Orissa with effect from the 1st April 1956, vide O. Exty. No. 25—D/2-2-1956. Press Note reproduced in Appendix 13. All villages in these areas except a few held direct by the ex-Zamindars and Maufidars were managed by the Gountias who were more or less of their respective villages and acted as rent collector from the raiyats. They were executing a lease or Patta at the time of appointment for the period of settlement. During the currency of a lease the right of the son to succeed was commonly recognised, but after the expiration of the lease the Zamindar was at liberty to lease out the village to some one else. The Patta contained a number of conditions by which the relation between the Zamindar and Gountias and raiyats was being regulated. The lands held by them appertaining to their office were known as Bhogra over which unlike in the Sambalpur district they had no proprietary right, much less on the villages. They were holding their Bhogra lands rent-free but in the

summarily settled villages their remuneration was not a percentage of the assets as in other village where they were allowed Bhogra lands of rental valued at 20 to 25 per cent of the raiyati collection. Even though these Gountias were not proprietors of the villages, they were wielding considerable power. Besides enjoying the Bhogra lands which were generally the best lands in the villages they could bring as much area of waste lands as they liked under cultivation and could lease them out to their own relations. They had also the right to accept surrenders of land and reallocate such land or dispose of abandoned holdings. Although the raiyats had no right to transfer their lands, they could do this through the connivance of the Gountias who in exercise of their power under clause 11 of the old Gounti Patta allowed it in the guise of surrender and resettlement charging a decent salami at each such transaction. They had the customary right to get free labour from the tenants in the shape of Hal and Da-bheti for cultivation of their lands. The Gountia had, however, no right to sell or mortgage or transfer the Bhogra lands though they were privately sharing the same with their co-parceners. Lands reclaimed from wastes or acquired from other sources by the Gountias were known as Khudkast.

(ii) After abolition of Gounti system the Bhogra lands except a fraction thereof which were settled with the respective Grama Sabhas as per Government directive, were settled by the Collector with occupancy rights on fair and equitable rent in favour of the persons who were in possession of the same on the 1st day of July, 1955. This subject is further explained in the next chapter.

61. *Maufi tenures*—As in the khalsa area of the ex-State of Kalahandi, various types of maufi grants are to be found in the areas under report. These grants have been broadly classified into four categories, viz., Debottar, Brahmottar, Khorposh and Anugrahi. Debottar grants were made in favour of deities for their maintenance and Sebapuja; Brahmottar Maufis were created in favour of Brahmins at the time of funeral ceremony of the deceased of the Zamindars' families; Khorposh or Babuan mafis were meant for maintenance of their family members and Anugrahi or favour grants were usually awarded for meritorious and courageous work rendered during warfare. Besides the above there is a peculiar kind of maufi called 'Karabethi' which is assigned to some temples and Maufidars for their maintenance in addition to the Maufi plots or villages granted to them separately. Such grants are not to be found in other ex-Zamindaris except Kashipur. The power of the ex-Zamindars for creating Maufi grants has nowhere been specifically laid down. Mr. Ramdhayani in his report on Kalahandi says "The Zamindars could create

their own Maufis but it is said that the Rulers' permission was necessary". Some of these are whole village maufis whereas the others are only for plots of land which are known as "Tukura" Maufis. Mr. Janardan Das, the then Settlement Officer in his Settlement report on Khalsa area has pointed out that the incidents of maufis in Kalahandi were of very restricted character, the usual custom being that any grant by any chief could be resumed or modified by any succeeding chief for good reasons. There are no rules governing maufis. Ordinarily the eldest son succeeds but the grant is jointly enjoyed by all brothers. Mutation is granted only in favour of one person and partition is not officially recognised. But there has been departure from this rule in several cases. No maufi could be mortgaged, sold or transferred but sikimi right could be created with permission of revenue authorities. The maufi holders must observe the conditions on which the maufi was granted. Besides quit rents, the maufidars are liable for payment of cess.

62. *Occupancy tenants*—As mentioned earlier, there is no tenancy law in this area. The moment land is settled conferment of occupancy right upon a tenant is said to be automatic. There is no custom or practice regarding any interim period after which he acquires occupancy rights. Except service tenure holders all other tenants who are not sub-tenants have occupancy rights over their lands. Prior to the merger the raiyats had no right to transfer their lands nor had they any right to cut the prohibited species of trees standing on their lands. They could of course sub-let their holdings with the Gountia's consent. This restriction on transfer, however, was being circumvented through the collusion of the Guntias who were permitting sale of lands in the guise of surrender and reallocation. Land abandoned or surrendered were at the disposal of the Gountias, but there was nothing in the Patta to clearly lay down what constituted abandonment or surrender. Surrendered holdings if belonging to aboriginals or certain other low castes were bound to be reallocated to a person of that class. The rent of raiyat's holding was fixed for the period of a settlement and he could not be ejected except for non-payment of rent or transfer of the same infringing the condition laid down in the Patta. When new land was being leased out by the Gountias they were charging Nazarana and if the land had forest growth, the Zamindars were consulting their forest staff before permitting cultivation. Tenants had right to excavate tanks in their lands. Succession to an occupancy holding was governed by the personal law of the tenant. Mutations were being effected by the patwaris and it appears no charge was made for the same. There were no rules regarding acquisition of land but on land acquired by the State 20 times the land revenue was being paid as compensation. Kind rent in the shape of rice, ghee,

oil, mung, goat thatching grass, etc., was prevalent. Rent receipts of the C. P. Type were issued to the tenants and the Gountias used to sign on them in token of receipt of rent. Though beggar had been officially abolished, the Gountias used to get tanks dug up or roads repaired in their villages through the raiyats. There were no separate rules for recovery of arrear rents. It is said that the Central Provinces procedure was being followed for the recovery of land revenue. Land Revenue was payable in two equal instalments by the Gountias on the 15th January and 15th April; the raiyats had to pay a month earlier. The Gountias used to levy interest on defaulted Kists at 12 1/2 per cent. After integration of the State to the province of Orissa, these existing rules and practices were modified to a great extent by paragraph 12 of the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948. The tenants were given right to transfer their lands except in the case of members of aboriginal tribes who were to obtain previous permission of the authorities for transfer of their lands to members of a non-aboriginal tribe; and to have full right over all kinds of trees standing on their holdings. The tenants in the adjoining Khariar ex-Zamindari which was all along enjoying British rule got the right to transfer their lands only in the year, 1953 and right over trees in the year 1958. Thus the tenants of the ex-State areas stole a march over them in the accrual of fresh right. The administration order gave a death blow to all kinds of Bethi, begar, Magan or all other customary dues. Now the rent is realisable direct from the tenants by the Naib-Tahasildars. The Kist dates have been kept in tact, but interest on arrear dues has been reduced to 6-1/4 per cent. The Bihar and Orissa Public Demand Recovery Act, 1914 governs the procedure for realisation of arrear dues. The Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1958 and the rules framed thereunder have been extended to these areas after final publication of record-of-rights of the present settlement and provide a better legal basis for future surveys and settlements.

63. *Village servants*—Three kinds of village servants are to be found in this area. They are the Choukidar, the Jhankar and the Nariha. The Choukidar is the village Watchman; the Jhankar is his assistant who also worships the village deity; and the Nariha is the water carrier who supplies water to the touring Officers. These village servants are remunerated through service holdings which are held free of rent except the Jhankar and Choukidar who pay a Japti assessment for the area held in excess of the maximum limit permissible. The village servants except the Choukidars were previously appointed by the Zamindars. In the case of Choukidar they had to obtain the approval of the State. Now the Subdivisional Officer is the appointing authority of the Choukidars and the Jhankars and the Thana Officer

is usually consulted before they are appointed. In the Dongarla, the village servants have no service lands where they are remunerated by the raiyats who supply 'Gandi Pej' to them. Gandi Pej consists of few cups of gruel of ragi and rice. During the present operation the service lands have been recorded as Chakran lands. There are at present 285 Jhankars, 584 Chokidars and 254 Narihas with 7,527.50 acres of service jagir lands, the valuation rent of which comes to Rs. 6,963.70. Under Revenue Department letter No. 22503—S-8/60-R., dated the 20th May 1960, reproduced in Appendix 18 the Choukidar and Jhankar chakran lands have been limited to 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively of the cultivated lands in a village. Land in excess of the limit have been assessed to full rent. Cesses have been levied on both service and excess land. Now there is a proposal for abolition of Choukidary system and introduction of beat police system in its place.

64. *Other Jagir holders*—Besides the village servants stated above, there were various other types of Jagir holders in these areas. A large number of them were found to be rendering personal service to the ex-Zmindars. After abolition of Zamindari system these categories of service grants came under the purview of section 8(3) of the Estates Abolition Act, 1951. Accordingly, proceedings were drawn up and they were discharged from the conditions of personal services and the Jagir lands were settled with them after realisation of nominal Salamis and back rent from the date of vesting by the Settlement Officer who was appointed as a Collector under the aforesaid Act, vide Government Notification No. 1389—II-EA-11/55, dated the 28th February 1956. There were a category of Jagirs known as Nalia Jagir the total area under whom was 910.76 acres with a rental valuation of Rs. 637-14-6. These Jagirs were originally created to serve the purpose of national militia. As their continuance was found to be no more necessary their Jagir lands were converted into raiyati in their favour as decided by the Board of Revenue in their letter No. 2700, dated the 13th December 1952, found in Appendix 12. Though these Jagirs have been abolished, it is noticed that in two cases of the village Danges Khal, Kashipur, thana No. 140 and the village Chandragiri, Kashipur, thana No. 142 the Nalia Jagirs still continue in the final record-of-rights. So also in the village Sialpala in Madanpur-Rampur P.S. a Kumbhar Jagir, the service condition of which was to supply earthen pots to the ex-Zamindar still continues. The Jagir tenants in these cases refused to deposit Salami and back rents. To this extent the final record-of-rights are incongruous.

(ii) The service tenants who render service to the community have been left undisturbed. At present there are 240 cases

of Debta Puja Jagirs, 3 cases of Kumbhar Jagirs, 2 cases of drummer Jagirs and 4 cases of miscellaneous Jagirs the total area under whom comes to 1,083.93 acres with a rental valuation of Rs. 884.10 nPs.

65. *Sukhbasi*—The owners of house-sites with no cultivated lands in a village are known as Sukhbasis. In the last Settlement, following the C. P. Settlement practice, the 'Abadi' or village site was shown only in outline and house sites were not surveyed. These plots were rent free and not transferable. As occupancy right was first conferred on the Sukhbasis by the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 and which was subsequently embodied in the merged States (Laws) Act, 1950, the homesteads (the area in each case not exceeding 0.25 acres) have been surveyed and assessment has been made thereon assigning the factor approved for 'Bari-Mamuli' land.

66. *Sikimi tenants*—Unlike in coastal districts of Orissa there are very few under-tenants in these areas. Wherever their possession was found to be a continuing one, they have been recorded as sikimi tenants during the present Settlement. Persons holding land on 'Kadoghena' system, i.e., on annual lease without continuous possession have not been noted in settlement papers. The raiyats under Tukura Maufis were previously called as Sikimi raiyats. They have been recorded as occupancy raiyats during the present Settlement.

67. *Dongarla tanats resorting to shifting cultivation*—Strictly speaking they are not tenants as they have no status. In the last settlements the records of the summarily settled villages contained only details of settled cultivation. Shifting cultivation was not assessed but it is said that the Gountias were some times realising land revenue from the hill kondhs who practiced shifting cultivation. This subject will be further dealt with in the rent settlement chapter.

68. *Cesses*—In the Karlapat ex-Zamindary the rates of cess were fixed at the following school, hospital & vaccination cess:—

	Re. 0-0-6	per rupee of rent
Patwari cess ..	At 0-1-0	per rupee of rent
Nistar cess ..	At 0-2-0	per rupee of rent
Bethi commutation cess ..	At 0-2-0	per rupee of rent

In the other ex-Zamindari the rates of school and Patwari cess were the same, but the rates of Nistar was one anna per rupee of rent. There was no Bethi commutation cess in Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary. The Mauji holders paid cess on the valuation rent of the Mauji land. After merger of the State with the province all cesses except Nistar were consolidated and reduced to annas two in the rupee by the Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948. The rate of Nistar cess was fixed at two annas per rupee.

69. **Maintenance of Land records**—The revenue work of the Zamindari was looked after by the ex-Zamindars or their Managers. The estates were divided into halkas. In the Karlapat and Kashipur ex-Zamindari there was one Revenue Inspector each. Besides, the Revenue Inspectors there were 4 to 8 Patwaris in each ex-Zamindary having 12 to 20 villages each. In the State there was one Chief Revenue Inspector who was looking after the work of these Patwaris, but the effectiveness of his supervision is doubtful. The standard of work of these Land Records staff who were correcting records on their own initiative was by no means efficient. There were no separate rules or instruction regarding the Patwaris and Revenue Inspectors and the C. P. Manual was referred to. The charge of the Patwaris as well as Revenue Inspectors was an impossibly large one and their work could not but be grossly inefficient. After abolition of the Zamindars the Tahsildars have stepped into their shoes and now the work has been systematised to a large extent. Much, however, depends upon the survey knowledge of the Naib-Tahsildars and Land Records Patwaris who have been now entrusted with the work of maintenance of land records.

CHAPTER VII

PRELIMINARY WORK IN THE VILLAGES

70. *Initiation of the present operation*—In notification No. nil, dated the 4th December 1946, published in the Kalahandi State Gazette of the 19th December 1946, the ex-Ruler of Kalahandi ordered for a revision of the Revenue survey and settlement in the entire State including the Zamindari with the exception of the reserved forests. The field operation was started in the year 1947 in the khalsa portion of Kalahandi. The State merged with the provinces of Orissa in January 1948. In the early part of the year 1951 when the work in the khalsa portion had fairly advanced, a proposal was submitted for extending the operation to the Zamindaris to which the Government in the Revenue Department agreed in their letter No. 1994—L. R. S.-XXI-38/52, dated the 25th October 1952. A provisional programme was accordingly drawn up which received the approval of Government in their letter No. 247—L. R. S.-XXI-38/52, dated the 29th January 1953, reproduced in Appendix 2. The item of rent settlement was, however, excluded from the revised programme as approved by the Board in their letter No. 1422—L. R. S.-XXI-95/54, dated the 22nd July 1954. In the meanwhile all the Zamindari of Kalahandi including Khariar vested in the State. This removed the necessity of realisation of cost from the Zamindars. The ex-Zamindari of Lanjigarh was excluded from the programme as the term of last settlement (1845-46) in that ex-Zamindari had not expired. The Government letter mentioned above clarified that the survey and settlement operations in the ex-Zamindari of Kalahandi ex-State would be done under the authority of the notification issued by the ex-Durbar and as such no fresh notification was necessary. The proposal for rent settlement in these ex-Zamindari areas was approved by the Government in their letter No. 1370—L. R. S.-XXI-24/54, dated the 11th June 1956.

71. *Legal Position*—It has already been stated earlier that there was no formal Revenue law or Settlement Code in the ex-State of Kalahandi. In the year 1950, the Law Department ruled that the survey and settlement operation without any statutory sanction was nothing but a mere enquiry by Government and the record of rights would have no finality attached to it. In 1952 the Bengal Survey Act was extended to all the ex-State areas and in 1955 a notification for taking up survey in the areas which had not then been finished from the operation was issued under the Bengal Survey Act. Necessary powers of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Survey under the Act were given to the Settlement Officer and Assistant Settlement Officers. The

Board of Revenue framed a set of rules for settlement of fair rents in the district of Kalahandi vide its letter No. 2306—L.R.S.-XXI-6/52, dated the 4th December 1952, reproduced in Appendix 14. According to a recent decision of the Supreme Court the order of the ex-Durbar initiating survey settlement and record-of-rights operations has the force of law. Though this order does not mention of final publication as such, the preparation of record-of-rights carries with it the implication of final publication. After the Orissa Survey and Settlement Act, 1960 came into operation, the record-of-rights already finally published are to be deemed as finally published thereunder by virtue of section 38 of the same.

72. *Charge*—Shri Janardan Das, Deputy Collector, who took over charge as Settlement Officer, Kalahandi in September 1969 continued as such till the end of May 1960 when he went on leave on health grounds. On the 1st July 1960, the jurisdiction of all Settlement Officers was reorganised and the operations in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Sambalpur districts were placed under one Settlement Officer with headquarters at Sambalpur. Shri Natabar Sahu, I.A.S. (Retd.), assumed charge as such on the 1st July 1960. For the intervening period of one month this Settlement remained under the control of Shri K. K. Samal, I. A. S., Settlement Officer of Dhenkanal-Cuttack Major Settlement. The work had progressed to the stage of draft publication during the time of Shri J. Das. By the time Shri Sahu joined the rent policy had already been approved. So he started with preparation of rent-rolls and by the time he handed over charge to Shri S. Sundarrajan, I.A.S., on the 30th June 1962, the final publication had been completed.

73. *Division of Blocks*—It has been mentioned earlier that during the earlier Settlement only the developed villages of these Zamindaries were regularly surveyed and the rest were summarily settled. And so for the first time in the history of Kalahandi cadastral survey was done and maps prepared for all the villages. In continuation of the blocks in the Khalsa area, the areas under report were divided into the following blocks:—

Block E .. Plain portion of Karlapat ex-Zamindary comprising of 52 square miles with 37 surveyed villages and 5 unsurveyed villages.

Block F .. Mahulpatna ex-Zamindary comprising of 346 square miles with 65 surveyed villages and 96 unsurveyed villages.

Block G Kashipur ex-Zamindary and hilly portion of Karlapat comprising of 728 square miles with 172 surveyed villages and 336 unsurveyed villages.

Block H Madanapur-Rampur ex-Zamindary comprising of 424 square miles with 184 surveyed villages and 122 unsurveyed villages.

74. Blockwise dates of commencement and dates of completion—The following table will show the dates of commencement and completion of different stages of work in each Block—

Name of Block	Commencement of survey and record writing	Completion of survey and record writing	Commencement of Attestation	Completion of attestation and draft publication	Last announcement of rent	Final publication
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B ..	16-2-1953	16-6-1953	10-1-1954	26-3-1954	25-2-1961	10-6-1962
F ..	4-12-1953	12-6-1954	10-1-1955	29-6-1955	25-2-1961	24-2-1962
G ..	11-12-1954	18-6-1955	5-3-1956	27-6-1956	15-3-1961	29-6-1962
H ..	3-1-1956	23-6-1956	1-1-1957	29-6-1957	28-4-1961	16-6-1962

75. Traverse & Kistwar—From old papers it is found that the earlier Settlements were conducted as far as possible in accordance with the general principles laid down in the Central Provinces Settlement Code. During the present operation the procedure as laid down in the Bihar and Orissa Survey and Settlement Manual and the Technical Rules with necessary modifications to suit local conditions were followed. In the surveyed villages, the old traverse stations of the last Settlement were plotted out on the new square sheets with the help of tracing glass and they were checked up on the spot before detailed survey was taken up. In the unsurveyed mouzas traverse had to be undertaken by means of plane table for the first time. For

conducting traverse in these unsurveyed hilly areas the order of the Board of Revenue communicated in its letter No. 884—XXI-68/54-L. R. S., dated the 28th April 1954 (vide Appendix 7)—on a reference (vide Appendix 6) made by the Settlement Officer during the settlement operation in the Khalsa area had to be adopted. The areas under cultivation with ploughs only were surveyed and the hill slopes under podu cultivation were not surveyed at all. The distance between the villages for the purpose of pentagraph work and preparation of muzumuli was measured by giving connecting line from a particular point of a village to another point of the nearest village with the help of magnetic needle and sight-vane. The locations of these villages were ultimately fixed in the muzumuli with the help of these connecting lines after a reference to topo maps. In every sheet at least one partial line was given by the Circle Officer or the Kanungo concerned before it was declared to have been passed. The plots were then inked up by Circle Draftsman and the sheets were made over to the Amins for khanapuri. Due to malarious climate and lack of communication facilities in the Dongarla difficulties were experienced by the field staff. In circle 'G' an Amin succumbed to death due to a severe attack of malaria.

76. *Khanapuri*—The following important records were prepared at the stage of Khanapuri.

- (a) Khewat, (b) Khasra, (c) Khatian, (d) Irrigation khatian, and (e) Fard Hawla.

The records prepared by the Amins were carefully checked by Inspectors as well as by the Assistant Settlements Officers and Kanungos. All disputed entries were entered in the dispute lists and decided by the A. S. Os. after local enquiry on the spot. The Inspectors checked 10 per cent of the khanapuri entries and the A. S. Os. and Kanungos 5 per cent each. The classification of lands approved for the khalsa area was adopted for these areas. Paddy lands have been classified according to their situation into three main classes, Bahal, Berna and Mal—each again subdivided according to the facilities of irrigation and natural supply of manure into four classes. The uplands or At have also been subdivided into four classes. Lands near house-sites where vegetables and such other crops are grown are known as Bari. The sugar cane fields are known as Barchha. The Bari Kisam has been subdivided into classes, but Barchha has been left

without any subdivision since irrigation is necessary for and is implied in Barchha lands. The details are given below:—

1. Bahal ...
 - (a) Bahal Khari Pani
 - (b) Bahal Pani
 - (c) Bahal Khari
 - (d) Bahal Mamuli (Sadharan)
2. Berna ...
 - (a) Berna Khari Pani
 - (b) Berna Pani
 - (c) Berna Khari
 - (d) Berna Mamuli (Sadharan)
3. Mal ...
 - (a) Mal Khari Pani
 - (b) Mal Pani
 - (c) Mal Khari
 - (d) Mal Mamuli (Sadharan)
4. At ...
 - (a) At Kachhar
 - (b) At Khari
 - (c) At Unhari
 - (d) At Mamuli (Sadharan)
5. Bari ...
 - (a) Bari Pani
 - (b) Bari Mamuli
6. Barchha

There has been a slight variation in classification of lands during the present settlement. Previously the Mal kism of land had five subdivisions and at six. In both these cases the subdivisions have been reduced to four. The Bari Kism of land has been, however subdivided into two, viz., Baripani and Bari Mamuli. Fruit gardens have been treated as a separate class and recorded as 'Bagicha'.

77. *Khanapuri Recess*—After closure of the camps, the common boundaries of the villages surveyed on the spot were checked by experienced Inspectors in the Drawing Section. The discrepancies found were rectified on the spot, after local enquiries. The maps were then compared with khasra in order to discover if there had been any omission or duplication of plots after which alamats (conventional signs) were inked up. Thereafter the maps were made over to the area section for

extraction of area by the help of acre-comb. Planimeter was used for extraction of area of large fields of 5 acres or more. If the area of particular fields extracted by the two extractors did not tally within the permissible limits as provided under rules, the area of such fields was ascertained by further check through experienced hands. The total area of a village found out by extraction of field areas was then compared with the total area of the same ascertained at the last Settlement which had been kept under lock and key. If the two areas tallied within a limit of 1 per cent, the village area was passed. If they did not tally the discrepancy was rectified by careful detailed check. The area statements were then made over to the khasra section for entering the area in the records against each plot. A milan khasra or detailed statement regarding the classification of lands of the village as well as a detailed crop statement of the village were prepared at this stage from khasra. After this the field areas were entered in the Khatians and the draft records were then made ready for attestation.

78. *Attestation*—The attestation work was done in Camps by experienced Munsarims and Peskars under the supervision of Attestation Officers. The entries in the khewats and khatians were explained to the tenants and the land-holders and mistakes found were noted in mistake lists on which orders were passed by the Attestation Officers. Any dispute raised by the parties was also decided after taking the evidence on both sides. The Sabik and the Hal maps were compared and any discrepancy noticed was rectified. In unsurveyed villages the Sabik records mentioned the extent of land in terms of seed capacity. As in many cases it was not possible to know as to how much of the occupied area was originally tenanted and how much had been encroached upon. All occupied lands, therefore, were treated as authorised ones. Mistakes regarding survey and changes after Khanapuri were also corrected by the survey Munsarims after local enquiry. After correction the records were draft-published in the presence of all concerned and the tenants were given an opportunity to file objections, if any, within 30 days of such publication to any entry or omission from the records. During the course of attestation village notes were prepared after a visit to each and every village. At this stage also enquiries regarding the tenures of gountias and maufi-holders, revenue demand, encroachments on communal lands, etc., were conducted of which details have been given in subsequent paragraphs.

79. *Hearing of Objections*—Objections filed both in the Camps and at Headquarters were tried locally in camp by the Assistant Settlement Officers. In all 399 objection petitions

were received. The objections generally came up on one of the following grounds:—

1. Partition
2. Claim by possession & ownership
3. Transfer by succession & purchase
4. Mutation of Gountiship by succession
5. Title by adverse possession
6. Change of status and classification
7. Claim of title over culturable waste

80. *Post attestation Recess*—After disposal of the objections,⁵⁴ revision petitions were filed before the Settlement Officer in the light of the provision in the C. P. L. R. Act, 1917. After their disposal the draft-published records were carefully checked by experienced Munsarims and Peskars under the supervision of Assistant Settlement Officers.

81. *Rent calculation & Fixation of Rent*—After final janch of the records, calculation of fair and equitable rent for each holding was taken up and rent-rolls were prepared. The minimum rent for a holding was fixed at 2 annas which after introduction of decimal coinage system was altered to 10 Ps.

82. *Publication of rent-rolls and hearing of objections*—From this stage the rules framed by the Board for settlement of rents in Kalahandi were followed. Rents finally settled as fair and equitable and incorporated in the rent rolls were announced in seven different Camps to the tenants after service of notice by proclamation. The rent-rolls were kept open for inspection for a period of 30 days and the tenants were given a chance to object to any entry in the rent-rolls or omission therefrom. In all 7,007 objections were received which were decided by the Assistant Settlement Officers in Camps. The objection petitions were mostly for mutation. In a few cases only, the quantum of rent or rate of rent was challenged.

83. *Appeals*—In all 21 appeals were preferred against the decisions of the Assistant Settlement Officers which were heard and disposed of by the then Settlement Officer Shri N. Sahu, I. A. S. (Retd.). In 17 cases the decisions of the Assistant Settlement Officers were upheld, in 2 cases the orders were modified and in 2 cases the orders were reversed.

84. *Re-Janch and Mukabilas*—After the objections were disposed of the new rents were entered in the Khantians and the records were once again checked by experienced Munsarims at the headquarters. Thereafter, the records were fair copied and compared with original records. As most of the safai Mohariirs were new and inexperienced their performance was not up to the mark. As per Board's orders No. 4226-L.R.S., dated the 25th July 1961 (vide Appendix 27) four copies of the records were prepared, the first one for the Tahasildar, 2nd for the Collector, 3rd for the Naib-Tahasildar to be used as working copy and the 4th for the tenants.

85. *Final Publication and Distribution of Pattas*—As per direction of the Director of Land Records & Surveys, Orissa, who inspected the office in the month of September 1961, all efforts were made for final publication of records before the 31st May 1962. Six camps were sent to different centres where Pattas were distributed to the tenants. On a reference by the then Settlement Officer (vide Appendix 28) the Government as conveyed in Board's letter No. 528—XXI-346/61-L. R. S., dated the 19th January 1962, (vide Appendix 29) ordered for distribution of Pattas among the tenants without realisation of any fee. Two copies of the records-of-rights with ordinary binding were made over to the concerned Tahasildar in the Camp itself. Final publication of records of 8 villages which were involved in appeal cases could, however, be done only in the month of June 1962. As the Deputy Director of Survey, Bihar, could not supply the reproduced copies of final maps in time, no maps could be sold at this stage.

86. *Consignment of records to the District Record Room at Bhawanipatna and Koraput*—After final publication, the Collectorate copies of record-of-rights have been bound up in the Record Room and along with other records as prescribed in rule 516 at the Bihar & Orissa Survey and Settlement Manual and are being made over to the Collector, Kalahandi. The record of-rights and other records relating to Kashipur area are being made over to the Collector, Koraput. The details of the records and registers are given in Chapter IX.

87. *Reconciliation of boundry between revenue villages & adjoining reserve forests*—It will not be out of place here to dwell upon some important topics having a special relevance to the present Settlement. There are 32 blocks of reserved forests in the areas under report. At the time of survey the Forest Department were requested to supply their maps, but they did not do so for a long time. After receipt of these maps in the year 1960, the cadastral survey maps were compared with these and it was found

that in most cases they agreed, but in certain cases the difference was very marked. So with the concurrence of the Divisional Forest Officer all discrepant points were verified on the spot and the boundary was finalised. In most of the cases the maps prepared in course of the present settlement were finally accepted.

88. *Abandoned villages*—In these hilly ex-Zamindaries the man-eater menace has been the cause of abandonment of many villages. The kondhs are at times found to be deserting their villages ex-Block and resettling in some other places. Long after the survey operation was completed in the Karlapat ex-Zamindari a person claiming to be the Gountia of 20 villages put in an application claiming that four of his villages, viz., Totaguda, Pariasur, Kuteljor and Tentulipadar had been left out from survey and record-of-rights operation. On an examination of the Demand Register of Kashipur Tahasil it was found that these were in fact revenue villages, but had subsequently been abandoned and no revenue was being realised. On the direction of the Director of Land Records & Surveys, Orissa, a miscellaneous case was initiated and after verification of the spot it was found that these villages were complete jungles adjoining reserved forests. The Settlement Officer accordingly rejected the claim of the applicant for survey of these villages.

89. *Gounti proceedings*—During attestation the Gounti proceedings were drawn up in respect of Karlapat and Mahulpatna ex-Zamindaris but these were subsequently dropped as Gounti system was abolished in the midst of settlement operation. On the abolition of Gounti, Bhogra lands were converted into raiyati by the Collector, but Khudkast lands were left as such though Government orders were to convert both the types of lands into raiyati and resettle them with the persons in possession. In 13 villages the Bhogra lands too could not be converted into rayati by the Collector. In anticipation of Collector's orders, all Khudkast lands in Kashipur and Madanpur-Rampur ex-Zamindaries were recorded as rayati. In 116 villages, however, as the record now stands, these lands have not been recorded in favour of any individual but as Khudkast only both in the status column and name column. It is unfortunate that at no stage of the operation a petition could be filed from the Collector's side for proper recording of these lands.

90. *Resettlement of surrendered, abandoned and aboriginal holdings*—According to clause 11 of the old Gounti Patta the Gountias could take possession of abandoned and surrendered holdings as their Khudkast land or could settle the same with their relatives after obtaining prior sanction of the State. Surrendered holdings, if belonging to an aboriginal or certain low

castes were to be realotted only to a person of that class. This restriction was imposed in clause 12 of the Patta. It was found that in many cases these restrictions had been infringed. In accordance with Board's letter No. 2700—L.R.S.-XXI-34/52, dated the 13th December 1952, the lands belonging to aborigines were settled with their successors. If they could not be traced out, lands were settled with the present occupants after realisation of five times the settled rent as Salami. So also in cases of violation of clause 11 the lands were settled with the present occupants after realisation of salami as stated before. There were 123 such cases.

91. *Enquiries relating to maufi grants*—At the Attestation stage all kinds of Maufi grants were enquired into by the Assistant Settlement Officers. Following the previous practice of assessing the Maufis to quit rent on a graduated scale, the Government in the Revenue Department vide its letter No. 1915-L.R.S., dated the 12th September 1956 (Appendix-23) have ordered that the Debottar maufis should continue without any interference so long as seba-puja continues, while the other maufis may be assessed on a graduated scale, viz, the successor of the original grantee is assessed to rent at one-fourth, his successor at half, his successor at three-fourth and the fourth generation at full rate. In the light of the above principle the enquiries made by the Attestation Officers were further scrutinised by another experienced Assistant Settlement Officer at headquarters who made a thorough and exhaustive study of the grants referring to the old Maufi Register and Sanada and other papers produced by the grantees. Each grant whether it constituted a whole village or a few plots of lands was dealt with separately in a proceeding on which the order was passed by the Settlement Officer. An interesting fact which came to light in course of these enquiries was that on the eve of merger of the princely State of Kalahandi with the province of Orissa, the ex-Zamindars took advantage of the fluid political situation and with or without the prior approval of the ex-Ruler created a number of maufi grants both whole village and tukura in favour of their relatives and deities. As the creation of such a large number of Maufis during a very short period was found to be unusual and previous permission of the Ruler was not forthcoming in a number of cases, a list with detailed particulars of all such grants was forwarded to the Collector for setting aside the invalid grants. Another striking feature is to be noticed in the creation of a number of maufi grants made by the ex-Zamindar of Kashipur in favour of his two wives for their maintenance. These grants were created immediately after integration of Kalahandi with the province of Orissa, i.e., between the dates the 2nd January 1948 to 15th January 1948. The problem in these cases was that the ex-Zamindar created the grants at a

time when he had no power to do so. The Kashipur ex-Zamindary was under Court-of-Wards management before merger, but the Ruler of Kalahandi released it from Court-of-Wards on the 27th December 1947. Subsequently this order of the Ruler was annulled by notification No. 11224-States, dated the 8th June 1949 of Home Department, Government of Orissa. Accordingly, all these grants were treated as illegal. Shrimati Sambhunath Priya Devi, the mother of the ex-Zamindar of Kashipur tried at the rent hearing stage for transfer of her maintenance grants in the villages Bandhpadar, Panchali, Puhundi and Tikiri to her daughter's son, but all these objections were rejected by the Assistant Settlement Officer against which appeals were preferred before the then Settlement Officer, Shri N. Sahu, I.A.S., Retd. who disallowed them on the ground that maintenance maintenance grants were not transferable. Long after the rent-objection stage the Collector, Kalahandi, filed a number of objections after obtaining special permission of the Charge Officer for setting aside the entries in the records-of-rights made in favour of the Thatrani Sahiba of Kashipur. In most of these cases the Collector's objections were upheld. In a few other cases he went on appeal and met with success. After final publication was over, the Collector filed 9 revision petitions before the Board of Revenue for correction of record-of-rights. In these cases the record-of-rights showed Shrimati Sambhunath Priya Devi as the Marfatdar of the deity Balaji Mahaprabhu. The revision petitions were allowed by the Member of Board of Revenue and the records were corrected in these 9 villages showing the Additional District Magistrate (Collector) as the interim trustee on behalf of the State Government (vide Appendix 25).

92. *Waste lands and Gochar*—During the last Settlements the anabadi lands were classified into six categories, viz, Bagicha, Bad-Jungle, Patra-Jungle or Patra Gochar, Jala Magna, Tikra Chatan and Bata Basti. These have been now reshuffled into 5 classes, viz., Gochar, Jalchar, Sarbasadharan, Abadjogya Anabadi and Abada-Aiogyia Anabadi. Mr. Ramadhyahi in his report. Vol. I at Para. 25 says "In most of the States, and has very little value, particularly in the jungly tracts where new cultivation is started. The paucity of cultivators here still persists, while large areas are available for cultivation. Consequently the States have to follow a policy of encouraging new cultivation and new settlement either directly or through persons who offer to become headmen and start villages". In the rent rate report of the last Settlement of Mohulpatna Zamindary, the then Settlement Officer mentions more than one third of the total area as still unoccupied. The cultivation according to him was increasing year by year and he hoped that large portion of the unoccupied area will be brought to cultivation in the near future.

Again according to him about 2,400 acres of big and bush jungles were fit for cultivation and the same was expected to be brought under cultivation in the near future for the tenants had no check or interference. The tenants had to take no trouble in bringing any unoccupied area under cultivation except to simply obtain permission which was readily granted by the Zamindar Sahib who was himself encouraging the people to bring all the unoccupied area under cultivation without compensation. Thus, it would appear that a policy of encouraging cultivation was followed and full scope was given for breaking new land from waste. Clause 13 of the old Gounti Patta provided that the Gountia of a village had right to lease out waste lands or to cultivate the same himself after reserving some percentage for pasturage and fuel according to requirement of the villagers. But what percentage of waste land was necessary for the requirement of the village has nowhere been defined. The Gountias seem to have taken full advantage of this flaw in the Gounti Patta. There was also no clause for preventing persons from cultivating waste land without obtaining prior permission of the Gountia. This power was of course withdrawn from the Gountias as early as 1950 in the order No. 6503—Rev-XXII-IV-2/50, dated the 23rd October 1950 of the Commissioner, Northern Division, Sambalpur. During the present settlement operation it was noticed that in most of the villages in the plain area the waste lands had shrunk like anything. But as the power to lease out waste land was vested in the Gountia, all reclamations made with his written consent prior to the 23rd October 1950 had to be recorded in the raiyati Khatian of the present occupants. So also all reclamations made without the written consent of the Gountia but not objected to by him within 3 years of such reclamation have been recorded in the names of the present occupants in the light of the provision under section 87(3) of the C. P. Tenancy Act, 1920. All other reclamations made after the 23rd October 1950 without prior permission of competent revenue authorities have been treated as encroachments. Notwithstanding the position stated above steps have been taken in the present settlement for reservation of 5 per cent to 7 per cent of the total village area as Gochar. Wherever waste land was found to be still in abundance there was no difficulty in reserving 10 per cent of the total village areas. According to section 2-A of the Orissa Prevention of Land Encroachment (Amendment) Act, 1962, unauthorised occupation of lands recorded as Gochar, Rakhit or Sarbasadharan shall be deemed to be as objectionable encroachments. Now that a definite area with a definite plot number has been recorded as Gochar in the present Settlement papers there will not be any difficulty in eviction of future encroachers, by the Revenue authorities.

93. *Encroachments and objections of Forest Department—*

In the foregoing paragraph it has already been stated that a large number of encroachments were detected in course of the survey and record-of-rights operation. Most of these encroachments were, however, found to be unobjectionable. Only encroachments upon old Jalchars serving the purpose of irrigation and drinking water tanks were considered as objectionable. It was decided by the Collector, Kalahandi, that all unobjectionable encroachments should be settled with encroachers before rent settlement so that they would not escape proper assessment. The Settlement Officer was accordingly empowered by the Collector on the 16th July 1953 under the provision of Administration of Orissa States Order, 1948 to settle land up to 5 acres in unobjectionable cases of encroachment. The other cases were to be handled by him. In fact the Settlement Officer initiated action in all cases, invited objections to the proposed settlement by issuing proclamation, heard objection if any, settled the unobjectionable encroachments which were within his powers and obtained Collector's orders in other cases. As per instructions of the Collector, in conformity with the prevailing Government policy the landless Adivasis possessing less than 5 acres of land were exempted from paying Salami. In the case of non-Adivasis Salami was charged at full rate. The following statement will show the work-load involved in settlement of encroached lands.—

Name of Ex-Zamindary	No. of encroachment proceedings	No. of encroachments	Total assessment of Salami payable
			Rs. nP.
1. Karlapat ..	19	40	792.50
2. Mahulpatna ..	153	1,174	47,942.55
3. Kashipur ..	149	1,083	10,028.65
4. Madanpur-Rampur	354	1,939	30,787.70
Total ..	720	4,236	89,551.40

Out of these 4,236 cases of encroachments, 3,252 could be settled on realisation of Salami of Rs. 59,182'00. The rest could not be settled as the parties failed to pay Salami. They have been treated as encroachers in Settlement papers. After all these were done, the Divisional Forest Officer, Bhawanipatna, at a very late stage wrote to the Settlement Officer for realisation of royalty in all cases for the trees standing on the lands already settled or proposed to be settled. He further suggested that unless forest royalty was paid, tenancy right should not be given to the encroachers. The Director of Land Records & Surveys, Orissa, who inspected this office in October 1960, mentioned in his inspection note that "in respect of cases where Nazarana has already been realised it will not be possible to withhold grant of tenancy right as the parties were asked to pay Nazarana to get tenancy rights and they have paid it". Where Nazarana was yet to be realised the cases were transferred to the Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer was advised to assess forest royalty and intimate the same to the former for realisation of royalty along with Nazarana. In spite of this decision the Divisional Forest Officer's representatives filed objection petitions in almost all rent settlement camps for cancellation of tenancy rights already granted. As such objections were beyond the scope of settlement proceedings, all these objections were summarily rejected by the Assistant Settlement Officers. In the Tikiri Rent Settlement Camp an objection was filed by the Forest Department claiming that 14 whole revenue villages were encroachments over reserved forests. On examination it was found that in the year 1943, the Maharaja of Kalahandi had converted these villages along with a belt of surrounding forests into Liliguma reserved forest. But this order of the Maharaja does not appear to have been implemented as rent is still being realised from tenants of some of these villages and the same are being shown as Revenue villages in the Collector's records. The objection of the Forest Department was accordingly rejected. At another stage the Divisional Forest Officer claimed with concurrence of the Collector that Podu cultivation should not be admitted as a right and no record of such cultivation should be prepared as admission of the right in the record would mean destruction of forests. The Director of Land Records & Surveys, Orissa, in his inspection note of April 1961, met this objection with the following observations.

" There is no doubt that in podu cultivation destruction of forests to some extent is inevitable. But podu has been admitted as a right for a very long time in Kalahandi and it can not be extinguished unless an alternate source of livelihood is provided for those who practise it ".

CHAPTER VIII

RENT SETTLEMENT

94. *System of Assessment*—In the last Settlement in each ex-Zamindari the soil unit system of assessment had been for the first time adopted. In the present operation the same system with a more regular procedure on a scientific basis was employed. This system involves "the reduction of the area of each holding to common denomination by multiplying the area of each class of land comprises in the holding by a figure representing its relative productiveness". This figure is called the "soil factor". The sum obtained by the process described above gives the total number of "soil units" contained in the holding and the reduced rent is found by multiplying the total number of units by the unit rate sanctioned for the village. The unit rate, which is generally a fraction of an anna, is expressed in decimal notation. Though this C. P. system of assessment has the appearance of being more complicated, in its actual application it has greater elasticity than the Orissa method. Moreover, it is the only system which is suitable for an irregular country like Kalahandi. Shri Janardan Das, the then Settlement Officer in his report on the Settlement operation in Khalsa area has elaborately dealt with the full implication of this system by citing concrete examples.

95. *General aim of the present operation*—It has been mentioned earlier that in these areas there were only 458 surveyed villages and the rest were all unsurveyed ones. Though it is said that the C. P. system has been followed in the last round of Settlement "it is doubtful if intelligent application of settlement principles has been possible at all, as there has been no check by a superior Officer in any case. In the matter of classification of villages and lands, on the whole, much arbitrariness prevailed. In the unsurveyed villages the rent was assessed in an irrational manner through the antiquated system of seed capacity of the land and the paying capacity of the raiyat. The general aim of the present settlement operation was not only to perfect in detail the record of land rights for smooth revenue and civil administration, but also to remove the obvious inequalities of rent, while obtaining a substantial enhancement due to rise in prices of staple food crops and improvement in communication and marketing facilities.

96. *Change in scale of factors*—In the soil unit system of assessment the determination of the scale of factors to be applied to different classes of land is the most important work. The

factor is nothing but a figure representing the relative value of each class of soil. The exact figures taken are immaterial, provided their relative proportion is unaltered. In revision settlement generally the scales of factors adopted in previous settlement is kept in tact unless there is sufficient reason for its alteration. The scale of factors which was sanctioned for the Khalsa area during the settlement of 1922 was later on adopted in each ex-Zamindary during the last round of settlements. Shri J. Das, the then Settlement Officer in his report on the settlement operation in the Khalsa area has given in detail the reasons for alteration in the soil classification and the scale of factors with regard to certain classes of land where it was found that the factors of the last Settlement had not borne proper relation with different classes of soil and factors prevailing in the neighbouring district of Bolangir. In the revised rent proposal submitted with this office letter No. 2353—XI-3/59, dated the 9th November 1959, Shri J. Das proposed for adopting the same scale of factors in the ex-Zamindary areas for the sake of uniformity. This was ultimately approved by the Government as will be found in the rent policy reproduced in appendix 18. Subsequently Shri N. Sahu, I. A. S. (Retd.), the then Settlement Officer noticed that Adi (ridge) class of lands was escaping assessment. So the factor of this class of land was fixed at five.

97. *Reasons for delay in approval of the rent policy—*
Before touching the subject of enhancement of rent during the present operation, it is proper to narrate briefly the reasons for delay in approval of the rent policy by the Government. Soon after the Government order (vide Appendix 15) was received for taking up rent settlement in the ex-Zamindary villages Shri J. Das submitted a rent proposal for 203 villages of Mohulpatna and Karlapat (Plain portion) ex-Zamindary the draft publication of which had long since been over with his letter No. 2419, dated the 28th September 1956. In that proposal he *inter alia* suggested for a slight modification of the principle of rent assessment in the khalsa while applying it to the ex-Zamindary villages though at the same time he wanted that the limit of enhancement in individual holdings should be confined to 100 per cent where there was no increase in total area. As at that time the standardisation of rent scheme, meant to rationalise the divergent rates of rent prevailing throughout the State by suitable enhancement in conformity with a slab rate, was under contemplation of the Government, the Board did not agree with the proposal. This scheme of course ultimately fell through. The Member, Board of Revenue, who

paid a visit to this Settlement in 1958 in his tour note observed as follows:

"Neither the slab nor the khalsa settlement proposed an increase of rent on the lands other than bad lands in good villages. Good land in villages would continue to pay old rent. There is no reason why there should not be at least a 25% increase over this. This has to be separately added in our proposals to Government."

In pursuance of these instructions of the Member, the proposed rents in few cases of typical villages in various groups were calculated and the results were communicated to the Board in October, 1958. Thereafter, a conference was held in the office of the Board of Revenue on the 8th December 1958. In Appendix 16 a copy of the note of discussion that followed is given on the lines of the suggestions indicated in the Note of discussion a revised rent proposal for all the four ex-Zamindari areas with a detailed statement showing the existing rent and the anticipated figures was submitted with this office letter No. 438, dated the 16th February 1959. This proposal envisaged a net increase of 144 per cent in revenue. The Board agreed with the proposal in toto and transmitted it to the Government with its letter No. 1023—XXI-3/58-L.R.S., dated the 5th May 1959, for approval. But the Government felt that difference between the policy adopted for rent settlement in the khalsa areas and that now proposed for the ex-Zamindari areas of the same district might lead to some justifiable clamour by the people in the ex-State areas. They accordingly wanted to know the financial implications if the same policy and unit rates were adopted in these areas. On this Shri Das had to submit a second revised proposal with this office letter No. 2359 showing therein clearly that by this proposal the average rent incidence would come to Re. 0-12-9, the comparative figures for khalsa being Re. 0-12-3. As still there was apprehension of a controversy on this issue, the then Member of the Board of Revenue, Mr. B. Sivaraman, I. C. S., paid a visit to Kalahandi on the 5th January 1960 and found out a number of precedents from old papers justifying the method of enhancement provided in the rent proposal. His tour note which will be of immense use for formulation of rent policy in subsequent revision Settlements is reproduced in Appendix 17. With this brilliant exposition of the principle on hand, there was no difficulty for the Government to accept the rent proposal (vide Appendix 18). The subsequent developments will be dealt with in due course.