

CHAPTER XVIII

OTHER PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

193. 1952 General Election

The First General Election under the Constitution of India took place in 1951-52. The major political parties in the district were (i) Indian National Congress, (ii) Praja Socialist Party and (iii) Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party). The Ganatantra Parishad merged with the Swatantra Party in 1962. The district of Balangir was delimited into three double-member constituencies for the purpose of the First General Election held in 1951-52 out of which 1 seat was reserved for the Scheduled Caste and 2 seats for the Scheduled Tribe candidates. Out of a total number of 253,253 valid votes cast, the following vote were polled by different parties.

Assembly Seats		Number of valid votes polled
Congress Party	..	46,385
Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra)	..	185,204
Praja Socialist Party	..	11,560
Independent Candidates	..	10,104
Total	..	<hr/> 253,253 <hr/>

The Ganatantra Parishad won all the seats for the State Legislature.

For the election to Lok Sabha the district was amalgamated with the district of Kalahandi to make one double-member constituency. There was direct contest between the Congress Party and Ganatantra Parishad and out of 553,858 valid votes cast, the votes won by the parties were 167,364 and 386,494 respectively. The two seats were won by Ganatantra Parishad.

194. 1957 General Election

For the Second General Election the district was divided into four double-member and one single-member constituencies out of which 2 seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste and 2 for Scheduled Tribe

candidates. The total number of valid votes cast was 291,669. The following table indicates the votes won by candidates of different parties :—

Assembly seats

	Total number of votes polled
Congress ..	65,998
Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party)	200,896
Praja Socialist Party ..	13,034
Independent Candidates ..	11,741

The Ganatantra Parishad won all the 9 seats.

For the purpose of election to the Lok Sabha the district was amalgamated with the district of Sambalpur for the purpose of one double-member constituency. The total number of valid votes cast were 462,051. The votes won by different political parties were as follows:—

Congress ..	159,619
Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party)	266,101
Independent Candidates ..	36,331

Both the seats were won by the Ganatantra Parishad.

195. 1961 Mid-term Election

In pursuance of clause (c) of section 4 of Two-member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, the Election Commission amended in 1961 the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, to give effect to its decision to split up the double-member constituencies on the eve of the mid-term election which was held in June, 1961. Accordingly, this district was delimited into 9 single-member constituencies of which two seats were reserved for Scheduled Caste and two for Scheduled Tribe candidates. The total number of votes polled in this election was 176,707 out of which 148,371 were valid votes. In all, there were 27 candidates representing Congress Party, Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party), Praja Socialist Party and Independent for 9 Assembly seats. Total number of valid votes won by different Political Parties were as follows:—

Congress ..	38,487
Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party)	100,808
Praja Socialist Party ..	2,469
Independent Candidates ..	6,627

All the seats were captured by Ganatantra Parishad.

Election to Lok Sabha was held in February-March, 1962 and one single-member seat was allotted to this district for this election. Out of a total of 87,692 valid votes cast, votes won by different political parties were as follows:

Congress	..	32,910
Ganatantra Parishad (Now Swatantra Party)		50,929
Independent Candidates	..	3,853

The seat was won by the Ganatantra Parishad.

196. General Election, 1967

The Fourth General Election took place on the 21st February 1967. As in case of 1961 Mid-term election, the district was delimited into 9 Assembly Constituencies and one Parliamentary Constituency. Out of the Assembly Constituencies, only 2 were reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates. Among the political parties who contested for the General Election, the Indian National Congress and the Swatantra Party set up their candidates in all the 9 seats, Jan Sangh in 3 seats, Communist Party in one seat and Independent Candidates contested in 3 seats. Candidates of the Swatantra Party won the election in all the 9 seats. The following statement shows the total number of votes polled and the number of votes obtained by each of the parties :—

1. Total number of voters	..	588,274
2. Total number of votes polled	..	256,626
3. Total number of valid votes	..	241,038
4. Number of votes obtained by Swatantra Party		155,580
5. Number of votes obtained by Congress Party	..	65,664
6. Number of votes obtained by Communist Party		3,277
7. Number of votes obtained by Jan Sangh	..	4,308
8. Number of votes obtained by Independents	..	13,357

For election to Lok Sabha the district constituted one Constituency. Only candidates of Indian National Congress and Swatantra Party contested for the election and the candidate of the Swatantra Party came out successful. The following statement shows the relevant details:—

1. Total number of voters	..	465,745
2. Total number of votes polled	..	218,750
3. Total number of valid votes	..	20,887
4. Total number of votes polled by Swatantra Party		143,083
5. Total number of votes polled by Congress Party		60,804

197. Newspapers published in the district and their importance. Paper published outside the district in common circulation within the district.

No newspaper is being published in this district. The following papers are in common circulation:—

Oriya Dailies	.. The Samaj, Prajatantra, Kalinga, Swarajya, Janasakti, Matrubhumi.
English Dailies	.. Statesman, Amrit Bazar Patrika, Hindustan Standard.

Before merger of the ex-States, two weeklies in Oriya were being published in this district. They were 'Patana Dipika' and 'Prajamitra'. Their circulation was limited and they no longer exist. The 'Parijata', a bi-annual magazine of Pruthviraj High School, Balangir which started in 1937 is still continuing. In 1959, two weeklies, namely, 'Dunia' and 'Swatantra' came into existence and continued for a short time. Thereafter in 1961, weeklies namely 'Abhijan', 'Ganabarta' and 'Yugabarta' were started. 'Abhijan' and 'Yugabarta' are continuing.

198. Voluntary Social Services Organisations

(i) Sambhubhusan Orphanage, Sonepur

It was established in 1932. Children who have no parents or who are deprived of either of them or whose parents though alive are incapable of taking care of them due to their poverty are eligible for admission. Admission to the orphanage is limited to the children of the ex-state area of Sonepur. Children are maintained till they complete their education. Besides looking after orphans, the orphanage arranges and incurs expenses in their marriages, upanayans, etc. Its revised budget estimate for 1962-63 was Rs.9,458. A list of Sonepur Trust Fund is given in Chapter XVII.

(ii) Adivasi Seva Mandal, Chudapali

It was formed in 1961 with a view to organising constructive activities among the Adivasis.

Since its inception, it has established one High School on Ashram model at Chudapali. 20 acres of land have been received by the Seva Mandal as donation.

(iii) State Social Welfare Advisory Board

The activities of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board in the district consists in channelising the grants made by the Central Social Welfare Board. The institutions of Shishu Kishore Mahal, Balangir; Nrutyasangita Kala Parishad, Balangir; Apankara Pathagar, Balangir and Gandhi Sorbodaya Sevakutir of Balangir are aided by the State Social Welfare Advisory Board for different socio-economic activities.

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(iv) Mahila Samiti

Upto the end of March 1964, 436 Mahila Samitis have been organised with 13,980 members. Out of these Mahila Samitis, 104 Mahila Samitis have been registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The main activity of the Mahila Samitis is to improve the health of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children by providing reconstituted milk out of UNICEF skimmed milk powder. During 1963-64, 211 Mahila Samitis took up milk feeding programme in 15 Blocks of this district. 4,511 women and 10,945 pre-school children were fed milk as against the target fixed at 5,888 mothers and 1,420 children. A total quantity of 100,620.8 lb. of milk powder were consumed by the beneficiaries.

40 Mahila Samitis with 800 mothers and 2,000 pre-school children have been selected under the Applied Nutrition Programme in Patnagarh, Titilagarh, Loisinga and Deogan Blocks. These Mahila Samitis organise egg feeding twice a week from October to March and one day fish feeding and one day egg feeding a week from April to September of the year in addition to supply of reconstituted milk to the beneficiaries. 110 Mahila Samitis have been supplied sewing machines. Craft materials worth Rs. 45 each have been supplied to 72 Mahila Samitis only. 10 experienced tailors and 7 craft instructresses have been appointed in some Blocks of this district. So far 46 centres have been organised and 214 ladies have been trained in cutting and tailoring of simple garments. The ladies are also engaged in starting kitchen gardens and community gardens. So far, 5,707 kitchen gardens and community gardens have been started by the members of the Mahila Samitis. 625 members have also started poultry rearing on individual basis.

The Mahila Samiti members are also saving and helping Small Savings Movement. The members are also engaged in learning improved method of cooking, fruit preservation, child-care, Home-nursing, Family Planning etc. The Mahila Samitis are also assisting women folk in the villages in introducing and installing smokeless chullahs, water-seal latrines, soakage pits, compost pits, etc. Last but not the least is their effort to remove illiteracy, untouchability, superstitions and taboos from the rural areas.

(v) Yubak Sanghas

There are 439 Yubak Sanghas with 1,811 members on roll now in existence in this district. The members are taking up individual and group projects such as Dhanicha cultivation, compost making, rabi cultivation, use of improved seeds and fertilisers, kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, construction of village roads, digging of wells, raising

school orchards, collecting rations for mid-day meals, organisation of cultural and recreational activities, organisation of village cleaning drive and night patrolling, etc.

(vi) Sishu Raijas

There are at present 279 Sishu Raijas working in the district. The members of this organisation are trained in character building, leadership and discipline through sports, games, music, story-telling, drama, sight-seeing, gardening, picnics, etc.

(vii) Village Leader's Training Camps

So far 466 Village Leader's Training Camps have been organised in this district and 21,805 village leaders have been trained in Agriculture and other allied subjects. The main purpose of imparting this training is to enable the village leaders to actively participate in all the development programmes being implemented through Blocks.