

CHAPTER XVI. LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

The district of Dhanbad as is constituted at present was formerly part of the then district of Manbhum. Up to 25th October, 1956, Dhanbad had been functioning as one of the subdivisions raised to the status of a sub-district for all practical purposes with headquarters at Dhanbad.

Since 1879 there had been no change in the jurisdiction of Manbhum till the separation of Dhanbad into a district.

Regarding Revenue Administration in the early British period it has been observed by Shree B. K. Gokhale, I.C.S., in his survey and settlement Report of Manbhum district as follows:-

"The early days of British rule were marked by a constant struggle between the authorities and the Zamindar who was persistent in neglecting to pay the revenue demanded, and from time to time portions of the state were made over, generally unsuccessfully to farmers. Eventually the Decennial settlement was concluded in 1791 with the proprietor, and 18 months later, in March 1793 was made permanent and the revenue fixed at Rs. 55,794 this amount being arrived at by detailed assessment of every village within the zamindari with the exception of the numerous rent free grants, of which a list had been furnished by the Zamindar as early as 1771."

REVENUE SURVEY.

Regarding early Revenue survey operation in the then district of Manbhum of which Dhanbad formed a part it has been recorded that the survey operation continued from 1861 to 1867. The following quotation from the note on the operation of the survey in Chotanagpur will indicate the position existing at that time.

"The demarcations were commenced in 1861-62. During the year, 9 parganas, containing 1,715 villages covering an area of 1,072 square miles were demarcated. During 1862-63, 2,069 villages were surveyed covering an area 1,427 square miles. 3,272 villages were also demarcated. During 1863-64, 992 square miles were surveyed topographically. In addition 16 parganas were demarcated, 7 mauzawar and 9 parganawar, equal to 195 running miles. They were surveyed mauzawar." latter included 153 Ghatwali villages. During 1864-65, 8 parganas were surveyed, 5 mauzawar and 3 topographically. 390 villages containing Ghatwali lands covering an area of 400 square miles were demarcated and mapped. During 1865-66, 1,034 square miles were

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surveyed comprising 941 villages, two parganas were only surveyed mauzawar, the remainder of the work being topographical. During 1866-67 the survey was completed, 9 parganas having been surveyed topographically with the exception of Ghatwali tenures which were demarcated. The remaining parganas

There had been some agrarian troubles in 1869 and 1870 between the Zamindar of Tundi and his Santhal raiyats over the question of enhancement of rent and jungle rights. The situation took a serious turn and the then commissioner Col. Dalton had to intervene. The rights of the tenants in land and in jungle were confirmed. The existing rents were made current for further 7 or 8 years and after the end of that period the zamindar was assured of a moderate increase in rent.

In 1887, a survey and settlement of Nowagarh estate was under taken but it appears that the operation had not been very successful. During the year 1882-83 the Ghatwali survey of all the lands claimed by the Ghatwals was undertaken. The informal settlements of 52 Santhali Izara villages in Tundi Thana were carried out, under the orders of the Commissioner, by the S.D.O. of Govindpur in 1881 and subsequently in 1903 and 1904. The subdivisional headquarters was located then at Govindpur.

The last survey was undertaken in the district of Manbhum in 1918 to 1925 and the present district of Dhanbad was covered during that period. The survey was made under the Bengal survey Act (Act V of 1875) and the record of rights prepared under the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.

SURVEY OF MUNICIPAL AREAS.

During the period of the last survey (1918-25) Dhanbad was the only municipality which took full advantage of the operation and a set of maps was prepared showing details. The khesra was also prepared giving details.

The agricultural portions of the Dhanbad municipal areas was surveyed as a part of the ordinary district operation.

HISTORY OF LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

The district of Dhanbad was formerly a part of the district of Manbhum but after 25th October, 1956 was constituted in to a full-fledged district. The then district of Manbhum was divided; the sadar subdivision (purulia) of Manbhum going to west Bengal and the residuary portion remained in Bihar. The three police-stations, viz., chandil, Ichagarh and patamda of the old Manbhum district form part singhbhum district and chas and chandankiary police-stations were tagged to the newly created district of Dhanbad. The district of Dhanbad consists of 12 parganas, viz., Pandra, Jainagar, Khaspol, Jaitara, Mahal and Mandra for the sake of Land Revenue Administration.

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Now the administration is carried on the basis of police-stations and Anchals. There are six Revenue Thanas divided in to two subdivisions. Thanas are divided in to 16 police-stations spread over 10 Anchals which are divided in to 100 Halkas. The details are given below:-

Subdivision.	Revenue Thanas.
1.Sadrar subdivisionf.	1.Jharia. 2.Gobindpur. 3.Tundi. 4. Nirsa.
2.Baghmara subdivision	1.Topchanchi. 2.Chas.

Name of p.s.	Name of Anchal-cum Dev.Block.	Area in sq.miles.	No.of village.	Total Population.
1.Dhanbad	: Dhanbad Anchal	50.32	85	1,77,707
2.Kenduadih	: (Halka-8).			
3.Jogta	:			
4.Jharia	: Jharia Anchal	50	58	2,14,782
5.Jorapokhar	: (Halka-8).			
6.Sindri	:			
7.Baliapur	: Baliapur Anchal:	46	69	44,547
	(Halka-8).			
8.Gobindpur	: Gobindpur Anchal	151.75	225	78,456
	(Halka-10).			
9.Tundi	: Tundi Anchal	172	267	1,66,567
	(Halka-12).			
10.Chirkunda	: Nirsa Anchal	152	296	59,545
11.Nirsa	: (Halka-12).			
12.Topchanchi:	Topchanchi Anchal	74.7	121	59,161
	(Halka-10).			
13.Baghmara	: Baghmara Anchal	102	227	1,52,774
14.Katras	: (Halka-12).			
15.Chas	: Chas Anchal	178	148	1,14,193
	(Halka-10).			
16.Chandankiary:	Chandankiary Anchal	144	130	93,989
	(Halka-10).			

With the intent of doing away with an intermediary, augmenting the government revenue and ameliorating the conditions of the tenantry, the Government of Bihar

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Zamindari Abolition Act, 1949. The validity of this Act was challenged by the landlords and the court granted several injunctions and ultimately the Act was declared invalid. This Act was replaced subsequently by the Bihar Land Reforms Act of 1950. The validity of this Act was also challenged in Patna High Court which declared that the Act contravenes the provision of Article 14 of the constitution and was, therefore, invalid. The state Government considered this matter in consultation with the central Government and it was decided to amend the constitution and the constitution's (First Amendment) Bill, 1951 was passed. The competence of the parliament to amend the constitution was also challenged in the Supreme Court which ultimately decided the amendment of the constitution to be valid. In a subsequent reference the Supreme Court also upheld the validity of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

Under the provision of the B.L.R. Act, 1950, the estates and tenures vested in state of Bihar and were taken over in three phases.

The bigger estates having an annual income of Rs. 50,000 and above, viz., Jharia, Tundi and Nowagarh vested in Government under notification no. 87-LR, dated 6th November, 1951, no. 60-L-R, dated 12th November, 1951 and no. 85-LR, dated 6th November, 1951 respectively.

The other estates and tenures vested in the state of Bihar by area notification no. 3(b) of the B.L.R. Act, 1950 with effect from 1st January, 1956. The estates and tenures falling under the Chas and Chandankiary police station vested in the state by the area notification with effect from 21st September, 1957.

Out of ten *Anchals* nine have been converted into *Anchal-cum-* Blocks. The remaining one *Anchal* has also now been converted into a pre-extension Block.

In the *Anchal-cum-Block*, the Block Development officer deals with the revenue work besides the development work in the area. At the subdivisional level, the subdivisional officer looks after the revenue work being assisted by a Deputy Collector Incharge, Land Reforms. Further subdivision of an *Anchal* into Revenue *Halkas* has been effected on the general pattern of 10 *halkas* in each *Anchal* with modification and variation in certain cases to suit local convenience. It will, therefore, be seen that ten *Anchals* of the district consist of 100 *halkas* on the above pattern but there have been variations in case of each *Anchal*, i.e., Jharia, Baliapur, Dhanbad have 8 *halkas* each whereas Nirsa, Tundi and Baghmara have 12 *halkas* each. The remaining 4 *Anchals*, namely, Topchanchi, Chas, Chandankiary and Gobindpur consist of 10 *halkas* each.

Each revenue *halka* comprises of two Gram Panchayats and the district consists of 203, Gram Panchayats. With the process of democratic decentralisation the revenue work is being gradually entrusted to the Gram Panchayats.

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The primary work of rent collection and mutation has now been taken over by the panchayats and at present 181 panchayats have been entrusted with the rent collection work. All the panchayats, however, are doing mutation work.

At the districts level, the revenue work is being carried on by the Additional Collector under the general control and supervision of the Collector.

INCOME FROM LAND REVENUE AND SPECIAL CASES.

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For all practical purposes the present set up of administration came in to effect from 1952-53. The rent demands for the years 1952-53 on wards are shown in the table below:-

Years.	Demand in Rupees(current).
1952-53	35,585
1953-54	35,585
1954-55	1,60,039
1955-56	1,46,424
1956-57	2,81,748
1957-58	3,31,532
1958-59	3,84,187
1959-60	3,91,620
1960-61	4,31,700
1961-62	4,60,152

The complete assessment of the demands has not yet been finalised. The zamindars in many cases did not make over correct zamindari papers like jamabandis and some of them did not file any paper at all. To assess the accurate demand of rent and cess, field Bujharat was put in to operation by which up-to- date- records were to be prepared in respect of the lands after spot enquiries if necessary and the income of the rent and cess therefrom recorded after bearing objections in respect of each village. The work is nearly complete. The accurate demand for the district would be shortly available. In any case, this demand should be higher than the present figures. The potential rent demand of the district taking in to account all categories of land as per last survey and settlement report of shree B.K. Gokhale, i.c.s., has been calculated at Rs. 6,91,093.00. Rent assessed u/ss 5,6 and7 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act and on *kabi.l*

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lagan (assessable) lands kind, rent commuted in to cash rent and rent assessed on the lands encroached upon and reclaimed, etc., have to be taken in to account to arrive at the correct demand. Besides there has been a large number of acquisitions of land under various Development schemes, viz., panchet Dam, Maithon Dam, Sindri Fertiliser, Fuel Research Station and several other projects. The rent of those lands will have to be naturally abated. A sum of Rs. 37,460 is further annually realised by the Mining Department as surface rent. Correct rent demand is expected to be arrived at soon. Until then the firm demand of the district can not, therefore, be correctly ascertained. It is however expected that the total rental demand of the district may go higher by approximately 40 per cent. Due to rapid industrialisation further areas are also likely to be acquired for industrial undertaking, i.e., Bokaro steel plant and coal washery plants, etc.

SAIRAT.

Besides income from rent income is also derived by leasing out Fisheries, Hats, Melas, Toddy Mahals and Ferry Rights which are negligible in number. These are termed 'sairats'. The number of different types of sairats on the rolls of the district which have been settled so far are as follows:-

Fisheries (tanks)	620
Hats	18
Mela	28
Others	14
Total	680

The demand of sairats from the year 1952-53 and onwards is detailed below:-

Year.	Demand(in rupees).
1952-53	1,515
1953-54	2,094
1954-55	8,327
1955-56	17,112
1956-57	38,486
1957-58	47,327
1958-59	66,561
1959-60	87,765
1960-61	87,232
1961-62	96,097

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CESS.

The District Road Cess Act, (Bengal Act X of 1871) and the provincial public works Act, 1877(Bengal Act II of 1877) provided for the construction and maintenance of roads and other mean of communication as also for the construction and the maintenance of public works.

Prior to 1916 cess was payable at the rate of half anna per rupee on the annual value of the estate and tenure and it was known as road cess or public works cess. By amendment of 1916, the nomenclature was changed to local cess and the rate of levy was raised to Re. 0-1-0 per rupee on the annual valuation. The cess rate was again raised in the year 1944-45 to Re. 0-1-6 per rupee of the annual valuation. The present provisions are for the assessment on the annual value of lands at the rate of not less than Re.0-1-0 or more than Re. 0-2-0 per rupee of the annual value. The maximum rate of Re.0-2-0 on the rupee was prescribed under Government notification no. 340II-IVC-16-6, dated the 13th March 1956. In the records of rights where there are 'jalsasan' right, the cess is fixed at the rate higher than the usual cess and in respect of such holdings the same rate of cess is being realised.

Prior to the vesting of the Estates under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, cess was paid to Government by the ex-intermediaries. Now the realisation of cess from the tenants is done by the state directly. The tenants pay generally at the rate of Re. 0-1-0 on every rupee of the rent payable for their lands according to the provisions of the Cess Act. As in the case of the demand of rent collectable from the Raiyats, the cess demand also has not been very accurately ascertained. The exact demand will, therefore, be available only after the Field *Bujharat*, etc., are completed. The following table shows the cess demand during the different years:-

Year.	Local cess demand (in rupees).
1952-53	6,138
1953-54	6,138
1954-55	34,170
1955-56	27,032
1956-57	57,445
1957-58	43,532
1958-59	32,147
1959-60	32,732
1960-61	35,278
1961-62	36,893

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SPECIAL CESS.

In the year 1960 it was decided by the Government to impose Education Cess for implementing the schemes of free and compulsory education. This cess in rural areas is also realised through the revenue agencies. In the Municipal area the cess is being realised by the Municipality. Coal cess which may also be included in special cess is realised on the despatch of coal.

The demand of the special cess from 1952-53 on wards is shown in the table below:-

Year.	Colliery cess (in rupees).	Education cess (in rupees).
1952-53	4,78,565	....
1953-54	19,32,792	....
1954-55	17,80,260	....
1955-56	14,18,431	....
1956-57	14,81,299	....
1957-58	11,64,956	....
1958-59	16,84,584	....
1959-60	18,60,922	22,876.46
1960-61	18,61,226	25,248.43
1961-62	19,08,406	26,790.78

BENEFICIAL MEASURES.

The Bihar Waste Land Reclamation, Cultivation and improvement

Act, 1946(Bihar Act XVI of 1946).

This Act was enacted to provide for the reclamation, cultivation and improvement of waste land and unproductive lands in the province of Bihar. The area reclaimed so far with waste Land Reclamation Loan is 1,654.70 acres and 578.40 acres converted in to paddy fields with the help of subsidy granted to the tenants. The amount spent over there was Rs. 1,42,146 and Rs. 48,980 respectively.

Bihar privileged persons Homestead Tenancy Act.

There is no dearth of homestead land in this district and so far there has been no case under the Act in this district. There was no dispute between land-lords and tenants regarding possession over bahal land. To provide a summary and cheap procedure for deciding the disputes over bakast lands between land-lord and tenants, the Bihar Bakast Disputes Act, 1947 was enacted. This gave relief of a considerable extent to both the parties.

Rent Reduction operations.

In the thirties of this century there was a slump in prices and it became difficult for most of the tenants to pay rents specially because of enhancement made by the land-

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lords. To give relief to the tenants, Rent Reduction Operations were conducted in Dhanbad between 1939-40 and substantial relief accorded to the tenants from this operations. The total number of cases for reduction of rent u/s 33(A) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act was 4,013. The total amount of reduction made was Rs. 69,558-15-5^{1/2}. A number of Gazetted officers with large staff had been employed on this operation. The relief to the tenants was not inconsiderable.

Bihar private irrigation Works Act 1922 was amended in 1939. According to this amendment the collector under the Act was empowered to get the irrigational schemes which had been neglected by the land-lords concerned repaired and to realise the cost of such repairs from them.

The total number of schemes taken up and completed from 1947-48 to 1958-59 is given below:-

Year.	No.of M.I. schemes taken up.	No.of M.I. schemes completed.	No.of schemes dropped.
1947-48	49	16	--
1948-49	232	151	36
1949-50	294	326	--
1950-51	519	415	44
1951-52	397	228	153
1952-53	21	--	137
1953-54	70	9	--
1954-55	143	26	158
1955-56	131	94	12
1956-57	40	55	1
1957-58	32	27	4
1958-59	--	8	28
Total	-- 1,928	1,355	573

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With the abolition of zamindari the responsibility for the efficient management of the irrigation works has developed on the state Government. The Government have been spending large amount over the construction and maintenance of irrigation channels, tanks, bandhs, etc. Other works of improvement of hats, bazars, providing drinking water facility, etc., are also financed out of revenue funds. Such of the charitable institutions maintained by the land-lords as have specific properties assigned for their maintenance are also being maintained by Government.

Bihar Money-Lenders Act, 1938 was passed and brought in operation to safeguard the raiyats from the professional borrowers and money-lenders who advanced to the labour money on very high interest. The number of valid licence on 31st March 1962 was 1,363 only. The rate of interest is now fixed. The provisions have been discussed elsewhere.

Bihar Panchayats Raj Act was also introduced in 1948 and the poor people were saved from being dragged to court unnecessarily by the well-to-do- people and petty quarrels are settled or decided locally. The provisions have been discussed elsewhere.

LAND REFORMS.

The zamindari system with a permanent settlement was a source of strained relation between the land-lords and tenants. The margin of profit secured for the ex-land-lords enabled them to enjoy a life of ease and they could overlook the interest of the tenantry with impunity. It may very well be said that the permanent settlement brought to sort of benevolent despotism by the land-lords whose interests were well protected by the law and the tenants a comparatively much poorer proletariat. Land-lords were made the immediate masters of the tenants by statutory law and the Government could come to their rescues more indirectly. There were only a few zamindar who maintained their irrigation system in an efficient state or spent over the improvement of thir zamindars. The bhoulidars or those who paid rent in kind by giving a share of the crops were mostly not granted any rent receipts and the normal attempt was to take out as much as possible from them. In the matter of settlement and mutation also the land-lords were completely at their mercy and were frequently ejected. The land-lord were careful to see that no tendency rights were created in them. The government were alive to the oppression of the tenantry and took a series of step by successive legislation and finally by the abolition of the zamindari system by the Bihar land Reforms Act, 1950. The survey and settlement operations of 1896-1903 for the first time made reliable record of the rights of the tenants and decided many of the long standing anomalies. This was a land mark in the stablisation of the tenants' interest on the land.

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With the spread of education and the political movements the tenants became more alive to their condition.

In 1922-23 kisan Sabhas were organized which ventilated the grievances of the tenants and their exploitation at the hands of their land-lord. The grievances were highlighted and a bitter climate was created. In subsequent years the rent reduction proceedings were taken up on a sufficiently large scale for the benefit of the tenantry. The explosiveness of the situation was mellowed by these measures.

Prior to year 1934 the recognition of any transfer of rayati lands was at the sweet will of the land – lords. Exorbitant salamis used to be charged from the transferee by the land- lords for according recognition to the purchasers and for mutation of their names. Even after the payment of salami the purchaser had to execute a deed of surrender in respect of the purchased land and then to take a fresh settlement of the same from the land-lord at an enhanced rent. Salami could be as high as 25 per cent of the consideration money. The raiyat had also no right to manufacture bricks or tiles or to erect any building without the consent of the land-lord. This consent was purchased only by a handsome salami. To help the tenants amendments to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (2) of 1908 were enacted in regard to sale or gift without transfer fee and for succeeding period a fee of Rs. 2 per cent over the consideration money was fixed as landlord's fees. The raiyats were given full rights in their lands and with the enforcement of the provisions they could use their lands for all legitimate purposes and dispose of the same at their will without the consent of the land-lord of the provisions they could use their lands for all legitimate purposes and dispose of the same at their will without the consent of the land-lord. The land-lord's fee was reduced to a nominal amount which had to be deposited at the time of the registration of the deed of transfer. The provisions of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Amendment "Act, 1947 brought further relief to the tenantry by conferring upon them the right over all the trees on their holdings. They could now plant trees or bamboos and cut and appropriate the same. They could also appropriate the flowers and fruits and other products in trees and bamboos. Besides, insertion of section 21(a) in the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act by the aforesaid amendment also entitled the raiyats to the trees over it (Section 40-B). Any realisation of Tahrir (illegal execution) by the; land-lords or their agent was made penal. The provisions were also made for the payment of rent by postal money-order so that Amlas (subordinate employees) and the land-lords may not avoid the acceptance thereof. In case of refusal the rent could be deposited in the Government treasury.

The Old Tenancy laws did not provide any safeguard for the non-occupancy raiyats. By the amendment of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act in 1938 non-occupancy raiyats were granted some statutory rights u/s 42 of the Act.

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The ownership of the cultivable lands was hitherto limited to a small percentage of the population. There was no equitable distribution of land with the result that the major bulk of the population had to be dependent on agricultural labour and on such scanty areas of land as fell to their share. While the larger cultivators were incapable of obtaining the maximum yield by intensive cultivation on their lands, the others did not have sufficient lands to utilize their potential man power. The result in both the cases was an unbalanced and uneconomic farming. The disparity in distribution of lands was a serious handicap in all agricultural developments. For all this the Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land Act was passed in the year 1961.

Another handicap which seriously jeopardised good cultivation was fragmentation of the holding. The lands were, due to successive transfers, partition, etc., reduced to very small holdings. Often a raiyat's holding lay scattered over different areas of the village and difficulties in supervision frequently rendered it difficult to plough them all on any economic basis. For the consolidation of the holdings, Bihar Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation Act was passed in the year 1956 (Act 22 of 1956).

The changes in agrarian law to ameliorate the condition of tenants may be reiterated as follows:-

- (1) Under section 21-A of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (inserted by the amendment Act of 1947) the raiyats got full rights over trees standing on their holdings from before or planted by them on such holdings.
- (2) The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was amended and a new section 23-A was inserted under which registration fee payable to the landlords was fixed and no discretion was left to the landlords to demand a higher fee for mutation of the name of a purchaser.
- (3) Section 46 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was amended to include backward classes in respect of whom restriction on transfer of land was imposed with a view to guard against alienation of holdings to persons other than the members of scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and backward classes.
- (4) Under section 49 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act transfer for the purpose of charitable, religious, or educational purposes or for any other purposes for which the State Government may by general or special order declare to be a public purpose or for the purposes of manufacture of irrigation or as the building ground for any such purpose was permitted with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner. This has facilitated industrialization of the area. The land can be made available by transfer for the industrial purposes, of course, with the permission of the Deputy Commissioner.

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- (5) A new section 61 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was inserted according to which a raiyat has the right to get his produce rent converted into Cash Rent.
- (6) Similarly section 63 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was inserted which is a penal section and any land-lord realizing any excess rent either in cash or kind other than the rent of the holding is liable to criminal prosecution.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

Ad-Interim payment- Because the ex-land-lords had not filed complete and authentic papers, delay was being made in payment of compensation and therefore Government decided to pay ad interim compensation in form of interest till final compensation is paid to them. Under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act ad interim payment is to be made to the ex-intermediaries. The expenditure over ad interim payments year to year is as follows:-

Serial no.	Year				Expenditure (in rupees).
1.	1956-57	..	..	..	61,999.69
2.	1957-58	..	..	..	2,13,999.81
3.	1958-59	..	..	..	1,67,865.63
4.	1959-60	..	..	..	2,88,983.00
5.	1960-61	..	..	..	1,70,858.00
6.	1961-62	..	..	..	1,60,945.00

In a fairly large number of cases the amount payable is too meager and it has to accumulate for several years before it can be remitted to the payees by money-order. There are also cases in which the liability exceeds the asset and such cases ad interim payments are not being made. Fixation of rent on the lands saved to them under sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act is near completion and calculation of their assets afresh has been started.

PAYMENT OF 100 PERCENT AND 50 PER CENT COMPENSATION.

The total number of intermediaries including co-shares who have filed returns is 10,595. The actual no. of ex-intermediaries whose estates have vested is still not known because all the ex-intermediaries have not filed returns. The exact number can be available only after completion of Khewat-Bujharat. Khewat –Bujharat is also nearly

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complete and paper work is in progress. As soon as combined Khewat and Khatian of each village is ready the actual number of ex-intermediaries will be ascertained. So far final compensation has been paid Rs 26,800 to 54 ex-intermediaries. Draft compensation assessment rolls have been published in respect of 1,627 ex-intermediaries and they are expected to be paid compensation very shortly (March, 1963). Besides the fact that the zamindars have not filed complete and authentic papers, this district has got its own problem in finalizing payment of compensation. The district having mainly coal bearing area, there are 144 mining interests and also 557 forest villages. For final assessment of compensation in respect of the ex-intermediaries who hold above interests also the Collector has to depend on the District Mining Officer, Forest Settlement Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer.

Keeping in view the further delay in payment of final compensation Government decided to pay 50 percent compensation to the intermediaries on the approximate amount of compensation. Accordingly Section 32A has been inserted in the Bihar Land Reforms Act. Under this section Compensation Officers are empowered to make payment of 50 percent of the approximate amount of compensation, if they are satisfied that delay is likely to occur in payment of compensation, if they are satisfied that delay is likely to occur in payment of compensation under section 32 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act. So far 50 percent compensation has been paid Rs. 16,84,150 to 4,885 ex-intermediaries. Compensation work is being given top priority and it is expected that in all simple cases in which no complications are involved payment of compensation will be made under section 32 and in other cases 50 per cent of approximate compensation will be paid under section 32-A shortly.

BHOODAN.

Bhoodan Movement was launched by Sri Acharya Binava Bhave, a disciple of Gandhiji for the distribution of land equitable as far as possible. The removal of the disparity is sought to be done by peaceful and voluntary methods. Persons possessing lands are requested by the workers to donate lands and the lands received in donation are settled with landless persons. To facilitate the work of Bhoodan, the Government have passed the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954 which provides for the donation and settlement of lands in connection with the movement. A statutory committee known as the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Committee has been constituted under section 3 of the Act to administer all lands received in donation. Donations received are confirmed by the Revenue Officers. Pecuniary help in form of subsidy and loan are given to settlers of

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the Bhoodan land for purchase of agricultural implements, etc., to help them in cultivation, The achievements made in connection with Bhoodan are given below:-

1. No. of Danpatras(documents for gifts) field	880
2. Total area of land donated	7,625 acres
3. (a) No. of Danpatras confirmed ..	705
(b) No. rejected	13
(c) Pending	162
4. No. of Bhoodan Tenants with whom settled	1,177
5. Total areas settled ..	1,872

LAND CEILING.

The Bihar Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) Act, 1961 (Bihar Act XII of 1962) has been enacted to provide fixation of ceiling, restriction on subletting and resumption by certain raiyats, personal cultivation of land and acquisition of surplus land by the State in the State of Bihar, and the matters connected therewith. The Act having been assented to by the President on the 8th March, 1962, came into force on the 18th April, 1962 and extends to the whole of Bihar. It was published for general information with the Law Department notification no. LGI-068/59-Leg.-661, dated the 18th April, 1962 corresponding to 28th Chaitra 1884 (BS).

Section 5 of the Act mentions that it shall not be lawful for any person to hold, except otherwise provided in this Act, land in excess of the ceiling area. The total land of any person in whole of the State shall be taken together for determination of the total area for the fixation of the ceiling (evident from sections 6, 9, 11 and 15).

'Person' occurring in the forgoing paragraph includes any company, institution trust association or body of individuals whether incorporated or not [Section 2(g) Expl. (ii)].

The Ceiling area as mentioned above differs according to the nature or class of land. The definition of class of land has been given in section 4 of the Act. There are five classes of land as follows:-

Class I—20 acres (land irrigated by flow irrigation).

Class II—30 acres (land irrigated by lift irrigation work).

Class III—40 acres (orchard or land used for horticultural purposes).

Class IV—50 acres (Diara land).

Class V—60 acres (hilly, sandy, surplus, homestead land or othe land none of which yield paddy, rabi or cash crops).

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

Under the explanation (ii) of section 5(3) one acre of Class I land shall be deemed to be equivalent to 1.50 acres of Class II, 2 acres of Class III, 2.50 acres of Class IV and 3 acres of Class V.

'Land' means land which is used or capable of being used for agriculture or horticulture and includes land which is an orchard, kharhur, or pasture or the homestead of a land-holder (Section 2-F).

It is clear that the Act imposes restriction on possession of land in excess of the ceiling area fixed under the Act irrespective of the fact whether the land is used for agricultural or non-agricultural purposes. It equally applies to coal mining industry as is applicable to other industries. However, under section 29 (b) (vii) exemptions to possess land in excess of the ceiling area can be accorded if the land is required for non-agricultural and industrial purposes. The powers to accord such exemptions however solely lie with Government.

Under section 5(d) of the Act persons holding land in excess of the ceiling area were given option to transfer, by way of gift, any land held by them to their sons, daughters, etc., within 6 months from the date on which the Act came into force, i.e., from 19th April, 1962 to 18th October, 1962. This provision has subsequently been extended till 18th April 1963 by an Amendment Act (Bihar Act XVIII) of 1962. Accordingly persons having lands in excess of the ceiling area can avail of this opportunity till the period expires without any hazard to them.

Section 16 (1) of the Act imposes restriction on acquiring land in the case of the transferee's holding land in excess of the ceiling area from before together with the land so to be acquired. The transferees, therefore, have to file a declaration before the Sub-Registrar of the local land registration office. As per provision of the aforesaid section, the registration can be refused in case the transferee possesses land in excess of the ceiling area.

The provisions of the Act have not been implemented virtually though these have come into force due to the fact that the rules have not been received as yet. The rules have been drafted and published for general information but have not been passed by the Legislature as yet.

In the meantime, detailed information regarding persons holding lands in excess of the ceiling area, the area covered under tree plantation, lac breeding centres, religious trust, etc., are being collected.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDING.

On experimental basis, in one of the blocks of the district, namely, Topchanchi, the work of consolidation of holdings has been started in pursuance of Government orders in Revenue Department notification no. A/TC-106/58-I.III6-RT, dated 11th

DHANBAD.

August, 1958 that came into effect from 15th August, 1958. In the first opening stage of the scheme however the work could not proceed due to political opposition and thus remained suspended till February, 1959.

The first phase of Consolidation work, i.e., Survey of land was started in February, 1959 which was an up-till task as the persons in opposition had to be convinced about the benefit of the consolidation work.

The block consists of 121 villages with an area of 76 sq. miles, in acreage it is 48,300 acres with 1,16,213 plots according to last survey.

In the initial stage of consolidation work, i.e., in 1959-60 the work in main was confined to Kistwar, Khanapuri and attestation only in two villages on experimental basis consolidation work was taken up.

The detailed progress under various stages of consolidation scheme is given below:-

Serial No.	Stages .	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63 upto Feb.1963	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kistwar Khanapuri	12	29	40	15	96
2.	Attestation ..	12	14	35	26	87
3.	Draft Publication u/s Chotanagpur Tenancy Act	7	9	23	43	82
4.	Preparation of register of u/s I.C.H. Act.	6	9	24	36	75
5.	Draft publication u/s 10, C.H. Act.	6	9	24	31	70
6.	Preparation Draft ,u/s 12	4	9	18	25	56
7.	Draft publication, u/s 12	4	9	18	13	44
8.	Confirmation of consolidation scheme u/s. 13(4).	2	7	18	7	34
9.	Delivery of possession, u/s 14C.H.Act.	2	5	10	17	34

**LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.
CO-OPERATIVE FARMING .**

The district of Dhanbad is hilly tract and it has got no adequate irrigational facilities. It is undergoing industrialization very fast and over a major portion of the area mining operation is being done. The people are backward. In the circumstances the formation of successful running of co-operative farming is a difficult task in this district. Still after considerable efforts, the following co-operative farming societies have been formed and are functioning.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Radhanagar | Baghmara Anchal. |
| 2. Bamandrika | Chas Anchal. |
| 3. Modiidh | Chandankiary |
| 4. Kotaldih | Topchanchi Anchal. |

The practical work of these societies is not much chiefly for want of adequate irrigational facilities and backwardness of the people.

SETTLEMENT OF LAND WITH THE LANDLESS.

The question of settlement of land with landless labourers of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes was under the serious consideration of Government. Up-till December 1962 lands have been settled with the classes as given below:-

Name of caste	Total area settled.	Total no. of persons with whom settled.
Scheduled castes.. ..	3,176.07 acres	1,792
Scheduled tribes	1,840.99 acres	855
Backward classes	247.66 acres	135

MATERIAL CONDITION.

Broadly the district can be divided into 2 parts on the basis of livelihood pattern. One part, viz., Jharia, Jorapokhar, Kenduadih, Jogta, Katras, Baghmara, Chirkunda and part of Dhanbad, Baliapur and Chandankiary police-stations depend largely on earnings from collieries and other industries. The inhabitants of Gobindpur* Tundi and Topchanchi. Chas and the greater part of Chandankiary are more dependant on agriculture.

The type of industries that give employment to the labourers of the district is mainly coal mining. There are also other industries like Sindri Superphosphate Factory, Fertilisers Factory, Cement Factory, Refractories, etc., that afford employment to quite a substantial percentage of the population. Dhanbad is a single crop area. Thus for most part of the year the cultivators and the agricultural labourers go to the industries and collieries for work.

Although there is a separate chapter on Economic Trends, the material condition as determined by the occupations of the people may be reiterated in this chapter as well.

*Also spelt as Govindpur (P.C.E.C)

DHANBAD.

According to the 1951 Census the division of population in the sub-district of Dhanbad was as follows:-

(a) Cultivators	..	..	3,24,794
(b) Labourers	..	..	23,708
(c) Artists	..	..	11,681
(d) Other persons ..	..	..	5,46,129

Dhanbad is the only district unit where non-agricultural population outnumbered the agricultural population. Roughly during 1951 Census 52 per cent of the total population derived their livelihood from the non-agricultural occupations but there are wide variations from one part of the district to another. The central zone consisting of Jharia, Kenduadih, Dhanbad, Jorapokhar, Jogta, Sindre, and Katras police-stations non-agricultural occupations account for 82.1 per cent of the population whereas in the remaining police-stations of Gobindpur, Bakiapur, Topchanchi, Baghmaram Tundi and Nirsa the livelihood is from agricultural pursuits. It has to be mentioned that in Nirsa police-station after 1951 Census a large population was displaced due to the construction of the Panchet Dam and Maithon Dam which also included large areas of first class paddy lands thus forcing the people to join non agricultural pursuits. The percentage of people deriving livelihood from agricultural pursuits in these police-stations has gone down.

During the 1951 Census the police-stations of Chas, Chandankiary were not included in this district. The percentage of population depending on agricultural pursuits in these two thanas is about the same as Gobindpur and Topchanchi police-stations. Revenue Thana Tundi was as it still is a purely agricultural tract while about 98.2 per cent of the population of Jharia police-station was profitably employed on non-agricultural occupations. The position continues to be the same even today.

During the 1951 Census self-supporting persons, i.e., those who were in receipt of some income either in cash or in kind which was sufficient at least for their own maintenance numbered 3.02 per cent excluding Chas and Chandankiary and constituted roughly 41.3 per cent of the population of the then sub-district; 2.5 per cent of the population were classified as earning dependants and the remaining 56.2 per cent as non-earning dependants. With the addition of Chas and Chandankiary police-station to the newly constituted district of likely to go down a little because in Chas and Chandankiary police-stations the number of dependants is likely to be large. It is, however, difficult to give the exact percentage of these persons without the census figures.

The total area of the district including Chas and Chandankiary is 7,11,040 acres. Out of this 1,01,797 acres are unculturable waste. The total area under cultivation tenancies shown in the last survey was 4,23,927.61. the per capita land on the basis of

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

the present population works at 0.36 acres. If we add the total area of culturable waste which is 1,37,315.78 acres even then the per capita lands will be 0.51 acre.

The larger proportion of the land in the district are tanr (unfertile up lands) lands. Over and above this, quite a large area of first and second class of land have gone under the water of Maithon and Panchet reservoirs. Similarly a fairly large area has been acquired for the industries of the collieries. In certain area lands have been rendered unfit for cultivation due to subsidence on account of extraction of underground coal or are declared danger zone because of fires, etc.

It will be seen that the available land is not at all sufficient for supporting even its agricultural population. The condition of the people who depend entirely on agriculture can by no means be said to be good. The district has to import large quantity of foodgrains from outside besides the foodgrains that come through normal trade channels.

The possibilities of further development of agriculture in the district does not appear to be very bright. Even during the last Survey and Settlement Operations it was felt that the extension of rice land cultivation in the district had practically reached its limit. Besides this wages are so high that it has ceased to be an economical proposition to convert further up lands into Dhani III lands. Crop in such land is liable to failure, except in very favourable years. Reclamation of waste lands for cultivation is a very costly affair and may be quite uneconomic in the long run. In the colliery area specially further extension of rice lands is almost stopped. Uplands cultivation is so unproductive as to yield very little profit even when the land is cultivated for 3 or 4 years. Lack of irrigation facilities is a great handicap.

As has been indicated earlier labour in the collieries and industries that have developed is a source of income of the people in the district. The industries and collieries have been supporting labourers of the district and from outside. It is easy now for a man to earn about Rs. 3 or more by manual labour per day. It is, therefore, natural that the district has not developed much of agriculture and the accent should be on more well-planned industrialisation. It is therein that the economic uplift of the indigenous population lies. The villagers travel even 20 miles by buses to go the industries where they work.