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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT

IN

BIHAR AND ORISSA

DURING THE YEAR

1934-35

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BOARD OF REVENUE, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

No. 25-13/3.

FROM

RAI BAHADUR B. SARKAR,
SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
BIHAR AND ORISSA, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Patna, the 25th July 1935.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit the accompanying report received from the Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bihar and Orissa, on the administration of the Salt Department in the province during the year 1934-35.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

B. SARKAR,

Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Bihar and Orissa.

[MAXIMUM LIMIT—10 PAGES.]

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FROM

RAI BAHADUR BRAJANANDAN SINGH,
OFFG. COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE AND SALT,
BIHAR AND ORISSA,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Dated Patna, the 18th June 1935.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Salt Department under my control in the province of Bihar and Orissa during the year 1934-35. My function as Commissioner of Salt is at present confined to preventive operations in the three saliferous districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri only.

CHAPTER I.—PRELIMINARY.

2. *Charge of the department and inspection by Commissioner.*—Mr. N. F. Peck, C.B.E., I.C.S., was in charge of the department from the beginning of the year to the 19th March 1935 and I remained in charge during the rest of the year. He visited the three saliferous districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri and discussed with the local officers questions relating to the abuse of the concession for the free manufacture of salt.

3. *Salt Law.*—The Indian Salt Act XII of 1882 continued to be the Salt Law.

4. *Rate of duty.*—The rate of duty on foreign salt was Re. 1-11-6 per maund including the additional import duty of Re. 0-2-0 and a surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund. The rate of duty on Indian salt remained at Re. 1-9-0 per maund including the surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund which was assessed on both Indian and foreign salt.

5. *Administrative changes.*—No administrative change of any importance was introduced during the year. The prohibitory orders of the Government of India against prosecuting people collecting or making salt in areas adjoining the villages in which they reside, for their domestic consumption or for retail sale under certain specified restrictions as defined in the Standing Order of the 21st July 1931, issued by the local Government, remained in force during this year.

CHAPTER II.—PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

6. *Number of cases.*—The number of cases reported and detected and of persons sent up for offences against the Salt Act (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were dealt with in 1934-35 are shown in Appendix C. In view of the concession granted for the free manufacture and sale of salt there was no prosecution for offences under section 9 of the Salt Act except in one case in the district of Balasore reported by the Police.

In the district of Cuttack it is reported that the concession was taken advantage of by the classes for whom it was expressly granted but no organised attempt was noticed in this district to manufacture salt for purposes of trade in contravention of the Standing Order of Government. The preventive force however detected 152 cases in which large

quantities of salt manufactured in Astrang in the district of Puri were transported to this district. The salt seized was confiscated and destroyed under orders of the Commissioner of the Orissa Division except a small quantity which is awaiting orders. The conveyances used for the transport were also confiscated and sold by auction.

No systematic violation of the concession was reported in the district of Balasore although there were said to have been cases from time to time of attempt by poor individuals to smuggle the non-duty paid salt in small quantities from the saline areas to the non-saline areas with the object of making a little extra gain as in the previous year. Such cases were dealt with by seizure and confiscation under the orders of proper authorities and there was no case of repetition of the offence by the same individual to call for more stringent measures. There were cases of attempted export of salt in large quantities to the Feudatory States, particularly Mayurbhanj, in which 6 carts with 12 bullocks and one boat, together with the contraband salt were seized and confiscated. In one case of large seizure of contraband salt in two carts, two accused were prosecuted as an exemplary measure. One of them was convicted and the other was acquitted. In all these cases outsiders purchased salt from the small manufacturers in the hats lying in the saline area or its border and there was no case of manufacture by any individual in large quantities.

The abuse of the concession was most rife in the district of Puri especially in Gop and Kakatpur police-stations, known as Astrang area. Salt is manufactured in this area by solar evaporation. On account of the facilities for manufacture and transport, the contraband salt found its way into the inland markets of Cuttack and as far as the town of Puri. It was found that as many as 217 factories worked in the Astrang area in the middle of April 1934 with an estimated production of 1,42,000 maunds of salt. Vigorous measures were taken to confiscate salt when taken outside the saline area and some landlords and lessees of hats were served with notices threatening prosecution under section 14 of the Salt Act for allowing the manufacturers to dispose of their salt in an illegal way. As much as 3,751 maunds 35 seers were seized from 182 persons together with 21 bullock carts and 4 boats against 64 maunds 2 seers from 4 persons in the previous year. This produced a deterrent effect. The number of factories found to be working in the middle of April 1935 fell down to 68 only. It however appears from the recent report of the Collector of Puri that the people have again taken to manufacture on a large scale and the number of factories at work has risen to 151 in May 1935.

Of the total quantity of salt confiscated 575 maunds were destroyed under orders of the Commissioner of the Orissa Division and orders have been issued by the Board of Revenue for selling the remaining 3,176 maunds to the owners at a price not less than the prescribed duty of Re. 1-9-0 per maund.

7. *Seizure of salt earth.*—Four thousand one hundred and eighty maunds and nineteen seers of contraband salt were seized during the year under report in Cuttack, Balasore and Puri for the violation of the terms of concession against 361 maunds and 25 seers seized in the preceding year.

8. *Result of cases.*—Only one case was instituted in the district of Balasore involving 2 persons against the same number in the previous year. Of the two persons sent up for trial one was convicted and the other was acquitted.

9. *Fines and rewards.*—The amount of fine imposed in the case sent up for trial in Balasore was Rs. 50 out of which Rs. 3 only was realized. No amount was distributed as reward in the year under report. Neither any fine was realized nor was any reward distributed in the preceding year.

10. *Deputation of Head-Constables to accompany patrol parties.*—Two Police Head-Constables (now called Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police) were deputed in the district of Balasore to assist the Salt officers in house searches under section 18 of the Indian Salt Act. Their services were retained from 1st April 1934 to 30th June 1934 and from 5th December 1934 to 31st March 1935. In the district of Puri one Head-Constable had to be deputed from time to time whenever occasion arose to witness searches.

CHAPTER III.—PRICES OF SALT.

11. *Retail and wholesale prices.*—Appendix A compares for each district headquarters station the average wholesale prices per maund in 1934-35 with those for the preceding two years. The average for all districts was Rs. 2-14-10 per maund in 1934-35 against Rs. 3 per maund in 1933-34 and Rs. 3-1-2 per maund in 1932-33.

Appendix B shows the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa at the close of each quarter of the year 1934-35.

CHAPTER IV.—RECEIPTS.

12. The receipts of the Salt Department have been shown in Appendix D. There was no realization during the year on account of duty on salt and the receipts amounting to Rs. 716-1-0 represent some miscellaneous income including sale proceeds of confiscated articles and old unserviceable boats as well as sale proceeds of old stores and materials.

CHAPTER V.—MISCELLANEOUS.

13. *Assaults.*—There was no case of assault on the Salt staff during the year.

14. *Trade in Saltpetre.*—One hundred and five Salt-petre factories were licensed in Bihar during the year under report. They were under the control of the Commissioner of the Northern India Salt Revenue.

15. *Future organization of the Salt preventive work.*—It has been decided by the Government of India that the existing arrangements for the conduct of Salt preventive work in Orissa should continue.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,
BRAJANANDAN SINGH,

Offg. Commissioner of Excise and Salt,

Bihar and Orissa.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the average wholesale prices per maund of salt in the bazars of the headquarters of the districts of the province of Bihar and Orissa.

Divisions and districts.				Average for twelve months.		
				1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.
1				2	3	4
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Patna	...	Patna	...	3 3 11	3 4 5	3 4 6
		Gaya	...	3 3 2	3 4 7	2 15 4
		Shahabad	...	3 4 2	3 2 8	3 0 0
		Average	...	3 3 9	3 3 11	3 1 3
Tirhut	...	Saran	...	3 2 6	3 0 3	2 13 1
		Champaran	...	3 4 9	3 2 3	2 15 3
		Muzaffarpur	...	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0
		Darbhanga	...	3 5 3	3 4 8	3 5 5
		Average	...	3 5 7	3 4 3	3 2 11
Bhagalpur	...	Monghyr	...	3 9 8	3 12 0	3 8 6
		Bhagalpur	...	3 1 5	2 11 0	2 10 5
		Purnea	...	3 1 10	3 2 9	3 3 0
		Santal Parganas	...	2 12 6	2 13 3	2 12 9
		Average	...	3 2 4	3 1 9	3 0 8
Orissa	...	Cuttack	...	2 11 4	2 8 0	2 8 0
		Balasore	...	3 0 6	2 14 5	2 13 3
		Angul	...	2 11 0	2 14 5	2 10 3
		Puri	...	2 6 3	2 6 9	2 5 9
		Sambalpur...	...	3 1 3	3 1 2	3 0 4
		Average	...	2 12 5	2 12 2	2 10 8
Chota Nagpur	...	Hazaribagh	...	3 3 5	2 15 8	2 14 9
		Ranchi	...	3 0 11	2 13 7	2 15 4
		Palamau	...	2 15 5	2 12 5	2 13 0
		Manbhum	...	2 12 1	2 9 10	2 9 8
		Singhbhum	...	2 15 1	2 12 7	2 12 4
		Average	...	2 15 9	2 12 10	2 13 0
Average of all districts				3 1 2	3 0 0	2 14 10

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa at the close of each quarter.

District.	Name of mart.	Retail prices of salt per rupee.			
		On 30th June 1934.	On 30th September 1934.	On 31st December 1934.	On 31st March 1935.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.
Patna ...	Sadr ...	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8
	Bihar ...	10 0	10 0	10 0	11 0
Gaya ...	Sadr ...	12 0	14 8	14 8	14 8
	Aurangabad ...	13 8	14 8	14 0	14 8
Shahabad ...	Sadr ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
	Buxar ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Saran ...	Sadr ...	14 0	13 0	14 0	14 0
	Siwan ...	14 4	14 0	14 8	14 0
Champaran ...	Sadr ...	14 0	13 0	13 8	13 8
	Bettiah ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Muzaffarpur...	Sadr ...	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0
	Hajipur ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
	Sitamarhi ...	10 8	13 0	13 0	12 0
Darbhanga ...	Sadr ...	12 0	11 4	12 0	11 0
	Madhubani ...	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Monghyr ...	Sadr ...	12 0	12 0	10 0	10 0
	Janui ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Bhagalpur ...	Sadr ...	14 0	15 0	15 0	13 0
	Supaul ...	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Purnea ...	Sadr ...	13 0	12 0	13 0	12 0
	Kishanganj ...	13 4	12 0	12 0	13 0
Santal Parganas	Sadr ...	13 0	13 0	14 0	13 0
	Deoghar ...	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Cuttack ...	Sadr ...	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0
	Jajpur ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Balasore ...	Sadr ...	13 0	14 0	14 7	14 0
	Bhadrak ...	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0
Angul ...	Sadr ...	11 0	13 10	13 10	13 10
	Phulbani ...	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Puri ...	Sadr ...	15 12	15 12	15 12	15 12
	Khurda ...	16 0	17 0	16 10	17 0
Sambalpur ...	Sadr ...	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
	Bargarh ...	10 2	10 2	10 2	10 2
Hazaribagh ...	Sadr ...	13 8	13 8	13 8	13 0
	Giridih ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Ranchi ...	Sadr ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Palamanu ...	Daltonganj ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Manbhum ...	Sadr (Purulia) ...	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4
Singhbhum ...	Chaibassa ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
		13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing the number of cases and persons reported for offences against the Salt Law (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were disposed of during the year 1934-35.

District.	Undetected cases scrapings and unsuccessful house searches.				Detected cases.													Amount of fines and forfeitures realized.	Amount disbursed to informers and apprehenders.
	Pending on the 31st March 1934.	Reported during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending on the 31st March 1934.	Reported during the year.	Total.	Total released after warning.	Sent for trial.	Total disposed of.	Pending on the 31st March 1935.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons acquitted.	Total fines imposed.	Amount of fines and forfeitures realized.	Amount disbursed to informers and apprehenders.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
					Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.			
Cuttack ...																			
Balasore ...															Rs.	Rs.			
Puri ...							1	2	1	2			1	2	50	3			
Total for 1934-35 ...							1	2	1	2			1	2					
Total for 1933-34 ...							1	1	1	1			1	1	50	3			

APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the receipts of the Salt Department.

					1933-34.	1934-35.
1					2	3
					Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
III.—SALT.						
MISCELLANEOUS—						
Overtime fees	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	429 4 0	678 15 0
Saleproceeds of old stores and materials	...	...	...	...	182 9 0	37 2 0
				Total	611 13 0	716 1 0

