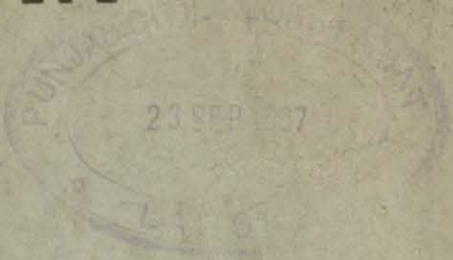


B.A. No 453 of 1937

G10B(U)

REPORT



ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT

IN

ORISSA

G10B(U)

DURING THE YEAR

1936-1937

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PRESS OFFICER, GOVERNMENT PRESS
ORISSA, CUTTACK
1937

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OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER, ORISSA.

FROM

J. R. DAIN, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
REVENUE (EXCISE) COMMISSIONER, ORISSA,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA,
LAW AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Cuttack, the 8th July 1937.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Salt Department under my control in the province of Orissa during the year 1936-37. The control is confined to the preventive operations in the saliferous districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri only. The ex-Madras areas, which form the present districts of Ganjam and Koraput, are under the Northern India Salt Revenue Department.

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

2. *Charge of the Department and inspection.*—Mr. E. S. Hoernle, I.C.S., was in charge of the Department from the beginning of the year to the 27th May 1936, Mr. R. P. Ward, I.C.S., from the 28th May 1936 to the 1st September 1936, Mr. P. T. Mansfield, C.I.E., I.C.S., from the 2nd September 1936 to the 30th November 1936 and I remained in charge for the rest of the year except from the 26th January 1937 to the 3rd March 1937 when Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, I.C.S., was in charge of the Department. District of Puri was visited by Messrs. Hoernle, Ward and Mansfield and by me. Mr. Mansfield visited the district of Balasore also. The salt is combined with the excise administration, which again is combined with other offices in the province and these important changes in the charge of it was due to circumstances entirely beyond our control.

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

4. *Rate of duty.*—The rate of duty on foreign salt was Rs. 1-11-6 per maund till the 20th April 1936 including the additional import duty of Re. 0-2-6 and a surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund. With effect from the 21st April 1936 the additional import duty was reduced to Re. 0-1-6 per maund in letter G. no. 517-Salt-35, dated the 20th April 1936, of the Government of India in Finance Department. The reduced rate continued throughout the rest of the year under report. The rate of duty on Indian salt remained at Rs. 1-9-0 per maund including the surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund as in the previous year.

5. *Administrative changes.*—No administrative change of any importance was introduced during the year. The concession granted to people by the Government of India for collecting and making salt in areas adjoining the villages they reside in, for their domestic consumption or for retail sale under certain specified restrictions, remained in force during the year.

CHAPTER II.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

6. Appendix C shows only one case which belongs to Cuttack district. The preventive staff was kept employed in dealing with the concession mentioned above. The previous policy was continued and action was confined to seizure and confiscation of salt manufactured in violation of the concession. Such breaches of the pact though numerous were casual and not organised. The preventive force in Cuttack detected 178 cases against 132 of the previous year and seized about 91 maunds of contraband salt. This salt came from the neighbourhood of Astrang in Puri district. In Balasore district there was seizure of about 91 maunds in 154 cases against about 124 maunds in 106 cases in the previous year. In Puri district the temporary additional preventive force of two sub-inspectors, three petty officers, fifteen peons together with one assistant sub-inspector of police, which had been entertained in the previous year was retained. During the year under report there were 1,009 cases involving the seizure of 1,980 maunds of salt as against 523 cases and 798 maunds in the previous year. In Cuttack and Balasore the confiscated salt was destroyed under proper authority. In Puri some part of the salt was released on payment of duty. Articles such as boats, carts and the like seized with the salt were sold by public auction. The total figures of salt confiscated in these districts were 2,162 maunds against 1,015 maunds of the previous year and the sale-proceeds of salt and articles sold including duty were Rs. 2,287-11-9. It cannot be pretended that the situation is satisfactory. While there is no organised illicit manufacture, it is clear that the concession is being systematically abused and that the abuse is on the increase. It is some satisfaction to note that there are no instances of a repetition of the offence by the same persons and therefore some hope that in time abuses of the concession may be discouraged, but unless more strict measures are adopted the time may be long. The figures for the consumption of licit salt in the three districts are in maunds as follows:—

			This year.			Last year.
Cuttack	...	...	301,464	...	...	244,241
Balasore	...	...	330,736	...	...	269,984
Puri	...	...	188,632	...	...	169,281

The figures seem to bear some ratio to the figures of detection in each district, but it is difficult to be certain of any relation between them, particularly in view of the large increase in Cuttack, for which the only explanation offered is the activity of the preventive staff. That the preventive staff in Cuttack is keen and efficient may be admitted, but so it is in Puri district and the fluctuation there is small. There was a similar abnormal rise in 1933-34 in Cuttack district attributed to increased imports in anticipation of a rise in duty. There may be some market operations of which we have no information to account for the fluctuation this year.

7. *Result of cases.*—The case shown in the return was one in which a hide curing business was being used as a cover for illicit trade in salt. The accused was convicted and the case was under appeal at the end of the year. Since the close of the year the appellate court has modified the finding and reduced the sentence. It is still uncertain whether the courts have seen the last of this case and while it may possibly remain sub-judice in any respect, it is undesirable to discuss it in a published report.

8. *Fines and rewards.*—No fine was imposed nor was any reward granted during the year under report.

9. *Deputation of head-constables to accompany patrol parties.*—As usual two police head-constables were deputed in the district of Balasore to assist the Salt officers in house searches under section 18 of the Indian Salt Act of 1882. Their services were retained from the 1st April 1936 to the 30th June 1936 and

from the 1st December 1936 to the 31st March 1937. In the district of Puri one assistant sub-inspector of police was specially deputed to assist the Salt force in house searches.

CHAPTER III.

PRICES OF SALT.

10. *Retail and wholesale prices.*—Appendix A shows the average wholesale price per maund of salt in each district headquarters station in 1936-37 as compared with those for the preceding two years. Appendix B shows the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Orissa at the close of each quarter of the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER IV.

RECEIPTS.

11. The receipts of the Salt Department have been shown in Appendix D. There was no realization during the year on account of duty on licit salt and the receipts amounting to Rs. 2,522-11-9 represent the sale-proceeds of contraband salt and other confiscated articles and miscellaneous income including the sale-proceeds of old materials and rent of buildings.

CHAPTER V.

MISCELLANEOUS.

12. *Assaults.*—There was no case of assault on the salt staff during the year.

13. *Future organisation 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.

14. The fortnightly taking of readings of the strength of brine, sanctioned in letter no. 64-Com.-R./III-B., dated the 16th April 1934 of the Government of Bihar and Orissa, continued during the year. The samples were taken from—

(a) Sendkud ...	...	...	...	Cuttack.
(b) Hukitola	...	...	...	Do.
(c) Eram	...	...	...	Balasore.
(d) Mouth of the Devi	...	...	...	Puri.
(e) Guruhai	...	...	...	Do.
(f) Sea	...	...	...	Do.
(g) Mouth of Chilka	...	...	...	Do.

These samples were examined by the Chemical Examiner for Excise, Bihar, Bankipore. Since the close of the year orders have been received from the Government of Orissa for the discontinuance of the collection and examination of samples of brine.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. DAIN,

Revenue (Excise) Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the average wholesale price per maund of salt in the bazars of the headquarters of the districts of the Province of Orissa.

Districts.	Average for twelve months.		
	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
1	2	3	4
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cuttack	2 8 0	2 10 8	2 8 0
Balasore	2 13 3	2 13 4	2 12 6
Puri	2 5 9	2 5 8	2 9 5
Sambalpur	3 0 4	2 15 10	3 6 2
Chatrapur ... ..	...	...	2 10 8
Koraput ... ..	...	...	...

APPENDIX B.

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

District.	Name of marts.	Retail prices of salt per rupee.				
		On 30th June 1936.	On 30th Septem- ber 1936.	On 31st December 1936.	On 31st March 1937.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
		Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.	Srs. Chs.	
Cuttack	{	Cuttack ...	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0
	{	Jajpur ...	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
	{	Angul ...	13 10	13 10	13 10	11 0
Balasore	{	Balasore ...	14 8	14 8	14 0	14 8
	{	Bhadrak ...	14 0	16 0	16 0	15 0
Puri ...	{	Puri ...	15 12	16 6½	14 7	15 1½
	{	Khurda ...	17 0	17 0	16 0	16 0
Sambalpur	{	Sambalpur	12 6	12 6	11 4	11 4
	{	Bargarh ...	10 2	10 2	10 8	10 8
Ganjam	{	Chatrapur	16 0	14 10¼	14 10 ¹ / ₆	14 10
	{	Phulbani	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Koraput					

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 1936-37.

District.	Undetected cases, scrapings and unsuccessful house searches.				Detected cases.				Total released after warning.	Sent for trial.	Total disposed of.	Pending on the 31st March 1937.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons acquitted.	Total fines imposed.	Amount of fines and forfeitures realised.	Amount disbursed to informers and apprehenders.
	Pending on the 31st March 1936.	Reported during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Pending on the 31st March 1936.	Reported during the year.	Total.	Total released after warning.									
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.			
															Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cuttack	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Balasore
Puri
Total for 1936-37	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Total for 1935-36	1	2	1	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	25 0 0 19 0 0

APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the receipts of the Salt Department.

—	1935-36.	1936-37.
1	2	3
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
III—SALT.		
MISCELLANEOUS—		
Overtime fees ... ..	...	...
Miscellaneous	5,015 4 0	2,516 3 9
Sale-proceeds of old stores and materials ...	7 11 0	6 8 0
Total ...	5,022 15 0	2,522 11 9

