CHAPTER - VIII

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS
Developmental planning, in any form or on any scale, endeavours to enhance the well-being of people and by raising their standard of living through programmes such as, providing education, technological assistance, satisfaction of basic human needs, adequate health-care facilities including provision of clear air and pollution free water and economic development. Orissa has made significant achievement in terms of social development sectors like economic growth, poverty reduction, education and literacy, health, sanitation and other socio-economic indicators. The state government is determined to bring overall development in the state and putting more emphasis on sectors like social welfare, poverty termination, better livelihoods, opportunities through various welfare schemes and programmes. Orissa is progressing with a vision, which can be turned into reality through proper use of various vital resources and by following multi-departmental approach.

In the present study, a sincere attempt is made to analyse the contribution of Shri Nabakrushna Choudhury towards the social development process of Orissa. The focus of the study is to estimate the real developments occurred during the period not only when he was at the realm of power as the chief minister and revenue minister, but also when he was not in power. His major programmes of development were both equality and solidarity oriented. His policies and programmes were chiefly related to bring welfare of common people in the society.
The first chapter of the present study is an ‘Introductory chapter’, in which an attempt has been made to incorporate the problem of the research work, the methodology and the objective of the study, hypothesis and review of literature.

Under the influence of Gandhian thoughts, the conception of welfare state, to fulfill the public expectation and to give a fillip to the manifestos of all major political parties of India and the state, the decentralisation of administrative power in favour of the village communities became imperative. In 1948 the Orissa Gram Panchayats Act introduced local self government in the village communities of the province. Section 21 and 22 of the Act vested in the Grama Panchayat, an elected and representative body of villages, the power of supervising primary and adult education, the maternity and child welfare centres and sanitation in the villages. It was the beginning of transformation process from earlier police state to welfare state. In 1949 appeared the Report of Land Revenue and Land Tenure Committee recommending the abolition of all intermediary interests in land between the raiyat and the state. It recommended proposed a scheme of deprovincialisation of land revenue and division of Orissa into revenue administration units to be called Anchals. It called for abolition of district boards, local boards and union boards, and their replacement by Anchal Sasan. Each Anchal Sasan was to have an Anchal Sabha comprising members elected by the Gram Panchayat of the area. Following the recommendation of the Land Revenue and Land Tenure Committee the Orissa legislative assembly passed two important legislations. First, the Orissa Estates Abolition Act 1952. By abolishing the age old Zamindari system in the state, the Act cleared the way for the introduction of a uniform tenancy and such land reform.
measures as would facilitate redistribution of land for the benefit of small peasant-proprietors and mass of landless agricultural labourers. Second, the Orissa Anchal Sasan Act 1955 provided for a system of Anchal Sasan. But due to the report of Balwantrai Mehta study team, which recommended a common pattern of democratic decentralisation for whole India, the proposed Anchal Sasan system was not implemented.

The second chapter is the ‘Conceptual Analysis’, where the researcher tries to figure out various concepts related to social development. Broadly it is sub-divided into development, administrative development, economic development, political development, rural development and social development and its impact of society.

The third chapter deals with the, ‘Brief Biographical Study of Nabakrushna Choudhury’, where sincere efforts are made to cover each and every aspect of his life starting from his birth to death.

The fourth chapter is about ‘Orissa at the time of Shri Nabakrushna Choudhury’, where scenarios of Orissa from different angles are highlighted including problems, while Sri Nabakrushna Choudhury was in power and out of power.

The fifth chapter is related to ‘Nabakrushna Choudhury and his ideologies’, where the basic ideologies of Nabakrushna Choudhury based upon which, his whole life and work moved are described.

The sixth chapter is all about ‘Social Development Programmes’ implemented by Sri Nabakrushna Choudhury while in power. Major developmental activities taken

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up by Sri Nabakrushna Choudhury or proposed to start during his chief ministership are pointed out briefly in this chapter.

The seventh chapter is about ‘Social Development Programmes’ while he was not in power. In this chapter, it has been pointed out developmental activities initiated by Nabakrushna Choudhury when he was not in power, but worked as a common man towards the development of society as a whole.

In this chapter of ‘Concluding Observations’, an estimation is made of the services and work of Sri Nabakrushna Choudhury. Few recommendations also pointed out for bringing social development in Orissa.

IT IS REVEALED FROM THE STUDY THAT

- The Orissa Grama Panchayats Act of 1948 introduced local self-government in the village communities. Different sections of the Act entrusted the Grama Panchayat, an elected and representative body of villages, the power of supervising primary and adult education, the maternity and child welfare centres and sanitation in the villages. It was the beginning of transformation process from earlier police state to welfare state. Subsequently, the Orissa Anchal Sasan Act of 1955 provided a system of Anchal Sasan. It helped in the realisation of grass-root democracy in the rural villages in a real sense.

- The integration of princely states with the old province of Orissa opened a new chapter in the political history of Odia speaking people. There was varying degree of economic development, standard of administration, education and exposure to popular democracy between the tribal districts and coastal districts.
and its people. Thus, the problem of promoting education, health and economy in Orissa after 1949 naturally assumed greater magnitude than before. Introduction of different rural development and welfare schemes provided a space for common men to dream for a higher standard of living in newly independent India. In a democratic form of government system, common people started to visualise many welfare to be done in quick time. But in reality, there was a collision between rising expectations of people and actual to their hopes.

- Orissa still lives in villages and without rural development, overall development cannot be achieved. To bring development in rural life, Shri Nabakrushna Choudhury tried his level best through administrative policies and at his personal level. Under the influence of Gandhian thought, he tried to set local institutions with decentralisation of administrative power in favour of village communities. Introduction of local self-government through Orissa Gram Panchayat Act of 1948, Estate Abolisation Act of 1952 for the abolition of age-old zamindari system, Orissa Anchal Sasan Act of 1955 for a system of Anchal Sasan were some of the landmark policies made during his tenure of chief ministership or heading different departments. Introduction of community development projects aiming at providing a higher standard of living for rural population was one of the admirable steps of Shri Nabakrushna Choudhury. His steps towards rural food security, basic education, sanitation, tackling evils pertaining to social issues, etc., created a wave of vibration in the rural life of Orissa.

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Sri Nabakrushna Choudhury’s commendable action in the area of land reforms had greater impact in the context of development in Orissa. Dreaming for a welfare state, through the land revenue and land tenure committee, he tried to eliminate all intermediary interest in land between the state and the raiyats. He advocated that, district boards, local boards and union boards, need to be abolished and Anchal Sasan to be institutionalised in Orissa revenue system. Enforcement of Orissa Estates Abolition Act of 1952, the age old zamindari system in the state did come to an end. The Act cleared the way for the introduction of a uniform tenancy. Redistribution of land for the benefit of small peasant-proprietors and mass of landless agricultural labourers helped the underprivileged cultivators and accelerated the agricultural growth in Orissa.

Local institutions constitute the strength of free nations. It may call the cradle of democracy. They are primary schools for the future parliamentarians and national leaders. Development of both the material and human resources of rural areas were realized through local institutions. Local problems and demand were responded by the local institutions in best ways. These local bodies started to serve in its own way towards common people’s expectations. They brought awakening in the people of the locality and arouse their active interest in problems which concern them vitally. Moreover, citizens feel actively associated with the administrative machinery of the state. Considerable development of local leadership and self governing were realized to a great extent through the local institutions.
Nabakrushna Choudhury has endeavoured a lot which has gone long way in bringing social development in Orissa

1. He had given special attention to deprived regions, marginalized classes including scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and women to substantially reduce regional, social and gender disparities.

2. As Orissa had a high incidence of poverty, he made special efforts to reduce poverty at a faster pace.

3. He had given attention to raise the literacy levels and educational standards of the people in Orissa. Gandhian concept ‘Moulika Shikshya’ (Basic Education) had a great impact on him for which he started educational institutions like Baji Rout Chhatrabasa and Utkal Nabajeevan Mandal etc.

4. As he realized the importance of technical education in the sphere of development, he had made special efforts towards establishing universities like, Burla Engineering College at Sambalpur, Veterinary and Agricultural College at Bhubaneswar which became famous as Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology. He also took initiative to establish the Department of Geology of Utkal University with government and private partnership.

5. He realized that unemployment was another problem that required serious attention. Self-entrepreneurship and vocational and technical trainings can be proved more effective in this regard.

6. In Orissa, many women are suffering from discrimination, illiteracy, poverty, obscurantism and exploitation. Nabakrushna Choudhury had given special
attention towards real empowerment of women means to create an environment of better opportunities, security, justice and participation.

7 He had being instrumental towards the industrialization of the state, without which the development of the state would not be possible. During his tenure, Dumduma Hydro Project, Hirakud Multiproject Dam, a large scale Steel Plant at Rourkela, Cement Factory at Rajagangapur etc were established and also when he relinquished the post of chief minister, initiation for the establishment of Paper Industry at Choudwar, Pheromanganese Industries at Joda (Keonjhar) and Rayagada (Koraput) had already been taken.

8 He had given utmost importance towards the development and welfare of ‘Bhag Chasis’ (Share Cultivators), who were invariably exploited by the zamindars of that time. Nabakrushna Choudhury’s efforts towards the abolition of age old zamindary system and in bringing many land reform laws was notable in this sphere.

9 He realized the importance of the transport system and thus was instrumental for the nationalization of road transport system or services by creating a new transport company for south Orissa, which was one of the developmental steps taken by him.

10 His concern for the welfare of the people made Anchal Sasan reality, which was the precursor to the community development programme lunched in Orissa, on the Gandhi Jayanti Day of 1952, which constituted the most comprehensive framework of rural development. The basic aims of the
community development were to increase agricultural output, to tackle the problems of unemployment in rural areas, to improve rural communications, to foster primary education, public health and recreation in the villages and to promote handicrafts and small-scale industries in the rural areas.

11. He was also instrumental for the establishment of “Grain Golas” and Dairy Farms on co-operative basis. These were established for giving loan at reasonable interest. Due to these grain golas, the farmers were able to get fair price for their product.

12. He had also given special importance towards making the administration people friendly by introducing ‘Odia’, the language of the common mass as the official language.

13. He was the strong supporter of the Bhoodan movement and had done a lot with Vinobaji for the success of the movement in Orissa, as its aim was the all round progress of the people and the objective of the land donation campaign was to make available all the land in the world to the whole mankind, as well as it provides a peaceful solution of the basic problems of the Indian society, through the voluntary action involving the masses.

Nabakrushna Choudhury is no more today, but his ideas and thoughts are still echoing and helping the policy makers to formulate policies for the well being of under privileged-marginalized group of Orissa. His heartfelt effort for making Orissa as a progressive state with social development approach has brought considerable changes in socio-economic sphere and the process is going on in great pace.