



The Story of Kotia Village Clusters

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The story of Kotia Gram Panchayat has always been a part of the history of Odisha. Prior to 1st April 1936 the villages of Kotia Panchayat were a part of Jeypore Estate. To create a separate province on linguistic basis the Government of India issued an order namely (CONSTITUTION OF ORISSA) ORDER, 1936, which was published in The Gazette of India, on 19th March 1936, vide no. F. 20/35 G(B). It was clearly mentioned in the FIRST SCHEDULE, Part-I, Sl. No. 2(iv) that the areas of new Province of Odisha, shall comprise of “the following areas in the Vizagapatam district, that is to say, the Jeypore (Impartible) Estate and so much of the Pottangi Taluk as is not included in that estate.” In the year 1942, in the joint survey of Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh seven villages of Kotia Gram Panchayat namely Turia, Barabandha, Talakanti, Gumelpadara, Mathalamba, Suliamari, and Katraguda under Patangi Block were recorded as the revenue villages and revenue was collected accordingly by the Government of Odisha. In Kotia Gram Panchayat there are total 28 revenue villages. At the time of survey 21 villages were mistakenly not surveyed. At the time of creation of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1955 the above 21 number of villages were also not surveyed by Andhra Pradesh Govt. Both the States did not carry out survey at that time resulting in perineal

dispute over the 21 villages. But as per the above notification of the Government of India, it is clear that these villages belong to Odisha. Like other villages of Odisha the Government of Odisha is carrying out all types of developmental work and rendering all welfare services.

In the so called disputed areas the Government of Odisha have constructed Primary Health Centre in 1968-69, Revenue Inspector Office in 1963-64, Police Outpost in 1968, Grama Panchayat Office, village agricultural centre, office of agricultural overseer, branch post office, boarding school, 380 bedded hostel, weekly market structures, parks and medicinal garden, Grama Panchayat stockyard, livestock aid centre, water supply scheme, Anganwadi centre and quarters for different government officials. Government of Odisha have implemented different developmental schemes like MGNREGA scheme, distribution of BPL cards to 831 families, job cards to 1811 families etc. which were seen at the time of visit to the area by leaders of Utkal Sammilani and representatives of state government like Pattangi Block Chairman Mrs. Bimala Pangi, ABDO Pattangi Block Braja Mohan Puhana, Kotia Sarapancha Smt. Kanchana Tadingi and others such as revenue supervisor, revenue inspector, APIO, CDPO, panchayat health worker, animal health worker and Anganabadi



worker etc. It was also felt that despite the above facilities the Government and the people at large are facing the problem emanating from the boundary and man made situations. For example the post of Tahasildar is vacant since long, the Kotia Police Out Post had been sifted to Pattangi since 2004 due to the Maoist problem. Out of total 36 nos of revenue villages and hamlets our state provides electricity only to seven villages, in the local Odia medium school for 443 students there are only 4 teachers, it was found that many educated girls are waiting for the siksha sahayak post but find no employment, there exists problems in transportation and connectivity to the block headquarters. Apart from these minor problems some technical problems are also apparent. Andhra Pradesh Government is giving an assistance of Rs. 80,000.00 for construction of Indira Awas in the villages in the same villages our state is giving only Rs. 45,000.00. These types of disparity in assistance generates a sense of alienation.

For such type of commissions or omissions Andhra Pradesh Government taking advantages and motivating people of that area. In 1955 at the time of separation of Andhra Pradesh from the Madras Presidency, they were not interested for these villages. In the year 1962-63 when Andhra Pradesh Government knew that the hilly area inside the Kotia Panchayat is full of mineral resources like gold, platinum, manganese, bauxite, graphite and limestone etc. for this reason only the Government of Andhra Pradesh wanted to exercise the rights over the Kotia Gram Punja and hence the dispute. About the dispute in 1964 the then Pattangi BDO Mr. B.N. Mahapatra and Tahasildar Mr. S.S. Nishanta informed to the Government of Odisha resulting the Government of Odisha depute police to the area. To counter the Government of Odisha move Andhra Pradesh Government deputed their police force to the area.

To protest the illegal movement of AP Govt. Odisha filed a case vide No. 10/1968 on dated 01/12/1968 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In this case Government of Odisha demanded the right, title and possession over the 21 villages of Kotia Gram Panchayat and restrained the Andhra Pradesh Government to interfere in the possession of these villages. In the year 1988 Hon'ble Supreme Court imposed a temporary stay till the disposal of the case. Later Hon'ble Supreme Court appointed the District Judge, Koraput as Commissioner to record evidence on the disputed territory on behalf of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. In the year 2000 the Commissioner cum District Judge, Koraput Shri Mukunda Mishra submitted the evidence of both the parties before Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, on 30/03/2006 the Supreme Court passed an order that, according to the Article 131 of The Constitution of India the disputes belongs to the State boundaries are not within the jurisdiction of Supreme Court. Therefore Supreme Court could not decide this case and at the same time said that the dispute can only be resolved by the Parliament. On the same date Hon'ble Supreme Court passed a permanent injunction on the disputed area. Even after such an order the Andhra Pradesh Government is recently carrying out constructions of a 15 KM road from Naredabalsa village to Kotia village via Dhulipadara village. They have already completed 8 kilometers road out of the 15 kilometers from Naredabalsa village to Uparasembi village. Andhra Pradesh Government had installed a sign board on the road side in Telugu language. Utkal Sammilani members removed the board at the time of visit. A P Government constructing an anganawadi centre in Uparasembi village. In addition a Primary school in the Ganjeipadara village is being constructed. Andhra Pradesh Government supply electricity to nearly 15 villages and hamlets. In the Kotia



Grama Panchayat AP govt. have nominated three persons as the sarapanch and made three grama panchayat namely Talanga Dei Padara, Phagunaseneri and Phatusineri as a part of Salur Mandal in Vijayanagaram district.

During the visit on dt. 09.03.2013 the Utkal Sammilani Team discussed with the local people, leaders, press, government officials and also with retired officials and concluded i) emphasize on greater connectivity and prepare a road map for construction of 79 kilometers of road, from (a) Kanduli-Kotia- Phatusineri - 39 kilometers, (b) Naredibalsa – Dhulipadara – Kotia – Kurudipadara - 20 kilometers and (c) Taupadara – Deomali – Suliamari - 20 kilometers and two bridges near Madakara and between Suliamari and Katragada. ii) To integrate the villages economically and culturally two numbers of daily Bus service should be started in

the route namely Kotia – Pattangi – Koraput in morning and evening. iii) Our state should provide electricity to all the revenue villages and hamletes. iv) post of teachers in the govt. schools should be filled up immediately and if possible the local educated girls and boys should be given chance as Sikhya Sahayak. v) the local MP and MLA should provide funds for developmental work from their LAD fund. vi) In the Border districts of our state Odia Collector, Odia SP and should be posted. vii) our Cultural department should organise a function namly ‘KOTTIA MAHOSCHHABA’ in Kotia every year.

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