

148, Mahatma Ghandi Road
BOMBAY 1

2638

My Dear Galbraith,

In response to your kind encouragement, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a little note I have given to Shepard Stone. Anything you can do to help in this direction will be much appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you in the States in December,

Yours Sincerely,

Minoo Masani

Professor John Kenneth GALBRAITH
207 Littauer Center
Harvard University
CAMBRIDGE 38

(Mass.)

U. S. A.

May 13, 1968

Shepard STONE

Mr. R.N. SINGH DEO is the Chief Minister of the State of Orissa in India. The Orissa Government is a coalition led by the Swantatra Party with a group of Congress Party dissidents as junior partners. It is generally rated to be one of the few State Governments which is stable and provides good and efficient administration. The policy of the Orissa Government is naturally of a liberal persuasion.

A former ruling prince (his title was His Highness the Maharajah of Patna), Mr. SINGH DEO is held in high personal esteem by reason of his maturity, wisdom and integrity and the simple life he leads. The relations between the Orissa Government and the Union Government are, notwithstanding the difference in political colour, quite amicable.

Orissa is one of the poorest and most backward states in the Indian Union. It desperately needs capital for investment in industry and various services. The policy of the Orissa Government is to welcome capital into the State, whether from India or abroad. It is felt that a visit by Mr. SINGH DEO to the United States would be helpful, both from the economic and political point of view. He would be prepared to undertake ^{such} a visit commencing in the beginning of December of this year. It is desirable that the primary invitation should not be an official one but from a non-official institution, preferably a University.

The recent visit to the United States of the Chief Minister of Madras, which was a success, provides a useful precedent. In that case, the invitation came from the Chubb Foundation at Yale University to give some talks and meet the Faculty and students. This invitation was followed up by the offer of a leadership grant by the United States Government which would permit ^{of} a more extensive and extended visit.

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Bombay's my Beat

... by ORION

MR. RAJENDRA NARAYAN SINGH DEO, the first among India's princely families to become the Chief Minister of a State, has many dreams for the greater glory of Orissa.

Kalinga, as Orissa is more poetically called, might have a magnificent 16-mile highway from Konarak to Puri.

Mr. Singh Deo refers to this ambitious direct road link between the "Black Pagoda" and the fabled Temple of Jagannath as a "marine drive."

And if the project gets implemented, it will indeed be a rival to Bombay's splendid Marine Drive. The sea on one side is the only common factor between the two thoroughfares for the marine drive of the Bay of Bengal will run through wooded villages unlike Bombay's, which has nearly a mile of multi-storeyed blocks on its landward side.

The Orissa Chief Minister, who was in the city last week, believes that the "Black Pagoda," the name English sailors gave to the breathtakingly beautiful Temple of the Sun at Konarak, and the soaring many-spired temple of Jagannath in Puri, can attract impressive numbers of foreign tourists.

According to Mr. Singh Deo, the shortage of hotel accommodation is mainly responsible for keeping down the number of tourists to Orissa, which in old Bhubaneswar has a city of a thousand temples, standing or fallen, which too are perfect examples of Hindu sculpture and architecture.

The proposed Orissa marine drive will at a particular stretch



R. N. Singh Deo

also have the pretty Chilka Lake beside it.

In the Konarak-Puri-Bhubaneswar-Cuttack region plans are afoot to set up facilities for tourists like seaside cottages, a swimming pool and bungalows.

Mr. Singh Deo is proud of his State's new capital of Bhubaneswar. Asked if it is complete, the Chief Minister smilingly quips, "New capitals like New Delhi and Chandigarh always remain incomplete."

However, there is a difference, he points out, between the new capital of Orissa and that of Chandigarh and the projected Gujarat capital. The difference is that Bhubaneswar is being built entirely from the resources of the State, whereas the other two State capitals had or will have some financial allocation from outside the State.

Mr. Singh Deo, who dresses simply, often wearing only a

Orissa became much larger after the 1956 reorganisation of States. Many Oriya-speaking people live outside the State's borders. However, at present the border agitation is inactive.

Mr. Singh Deo mentions how from four to six lakhs Oriya people live in Calcutta and other industrial cities in Eastern India.

The Dandakaranya project, now well under way, is proving less of a headache than before.

This Central project is now being implemented more smoothly because, according to Mr. Singh Deo, the refugee settlers sent from Calcutta are now being properly "screened."

Of the reclaimed land in Dandakaranya, more an impenetrable tropical jungle, seventy-five per cent is reserved for East Pakistan refugees and the rest for local Adivasis.

Fortnight in jail

Fortunately for Orissa, its administration by the Swatantra-Jana Congress coalition under the leadership of this unassuming princely politician has been among the ablest in the country.

The second son of the ruler of the former principality of Serakela, now in Bihar, Mr. Singh Deo was adopted by the royal family of Patna in Orissa.

In 1933, a year after he married the daughter of the late Maharaja-dhiraja of Patiala, he was invested with full powers as the ruler of Patna. His administration was regarded as a model by all.

After the merger of Patna with Orissa, he entered the political field as a leader of the Ganatantra Parishad, now merged with the Swatantra Party.

Mr. Singh Deo participated in the linguistic movement in 1956, when he was imprisoned for about a fortnight. His numerous admirers delight to point out how he did not care for special facilities in jail and managed to live on the meagre daily allowance of Rs. 1.25.

In his younger days, Mr. Singh Deo was an active sportsman, playing an impressive range of games like polo, tennis, football, cricket, and badminton. He has little time in his present position for any sports except, as he jocularly remarks, "to hand over cups and pin on medals to winners in sports tournaments."



R. N. Singh Deo

From Our Correspondent

BHUBANESWAR: Orissa's Coalition Government led by Mr R. N. Singh Deo, the Swatantra leader, currently engaged in the task of piloting the affairs of the State under a difficult financial situation obtaining in the State, has made steady progress in its efforts to tide over the crisis.

The difficult financial position — a legacy it had from the previous government — became acute when the State failed to obtain Central aid as much as it needed leading to curtailment of some of its development projects.

Aid Turned Down

Mr Deo had stated in his budget speech that the State would have to adjust some of its development projects to the available resources within the State because of the failure of the Centre to raise Orissa's allotment.

He faced the issue boldly and embarked on a dual programme of cutting down expenditure. His Government, however, made it clear that it would be better not to have prohibition rather than having it in a way which only allowed corruption and other unlawful methods. The lifting of prohibition would bring in additional revenue to the State exchequer enabling the State to pull through the difficult days at present. Other measures included strict economisation issued to all Government departments said they

Despite Centre's Refusal To Help Out...

Singh Deo Pulls Orissa Out Of Financial Crisis

were now free to place fresh orders for the purchase of plant and machinery, vehicles

and stores which were restricted till March 31. It is, however, to be noted

here that while adjusting his development schemes to available resources, Singh Deo

took particular care to see that essential projects were not affected in any way.