

TO: M.R. MASANI, MP

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This brief statement is intended to provide you with a brief summary of my academic background and my research interests in Orissa. Any assistance which you may provide for my research problems will be very greatly appreciated.

I am a candidate for a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. My specializations are as follows:

South Asian Political Systems

Public Administration

Comparative Analysis

Socio-Economic Change in Developing Countries.

I am currently in India to conduct research for a doctoral thesis: The Impact of Capital Intensive Investment on District Administration. I expect to be in India at least until April 1969. In my thesis I hope to analyze the social, economic and organizational changes brought about by the introduction of a capital intensive industry, in this case a public sector steel industry, into an hitherto primarily rural district: Sundargarh, Orissa.

For this study, certain specific categories of information are particularly relevant. First, I will seek indices of social and economic change in the district. These would include data on education, literacy, language, geographical origins, employment and religion of inhabitants of the district since 1951. Some of this data will have to be collected at the district level, but some has already been collected at the state level. Regular census data is, of course, very useful, but for data since 1961 I would expect to find that a state office of statistics might be very helpful.

Second, I am interested in development projects in the district. Presumably, I will be able to get some of this information at the district level, but some data may have been usefully collected by the Orissa planning organization, by the state community development organization and by other ministries and departments within ministries. To the extent possible, I would like to have access to public reports and documents, both at the state and district level, which can provide information on the allocation of development projects.

Third, I am interested in the personnel and structure of district administration in Sundargarh since 1951. I would like to have data on all the members of the district administration during this period. This would include information on training and social background. Further, I am interested in having information on the numbers of people employed at different levels of district administration, their functions and the relationships between different levels of district administration. I would expect to find records at the district and state levels which could provide this data.

Fourth, I would like to have an opportunity to discuss with administrators of state planning some of the aspects of the formulation of plans and their implementation as it relates to recommendations coming from the district level.

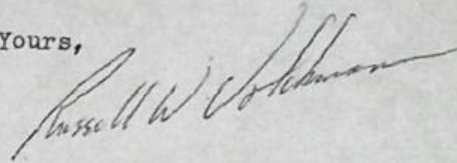
Fifth, I would appreciate receiving maximum cooperation from members of the district administration, including the Collector, Block Development Officers, and Town Administrators. I wish to interview each of these officers.

Sixth, I would like to have access to all election materials for the district. If possible, I would like to have this data broken down by polling booth. I recognize that this is difficult to obtain. I would like election data for local elections, state elections and Lok Sabha elections. Much of this information for state and Lok Sabha elections should be readily available from Government of India publications, but it may not be broken down as precisely as I would like.

Finally, and this area of my interest is still largely undeveloped and shall remain so until I gain some familiarity with the district, I would like to interview officers of all significant voluntary organizations in the district. I would hope that district administrators and prominent citizens in the district will be of considerable assistance here.

Thus, my needs are great. I recognize that much of what I seek I will have to seek for myself. To the extent that I can receive assistance and cooperation in this project I will be very grateful.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Russell W. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.