

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS  
of  
Aboriginal Rehabilitation  
in Adilabad District

by  
CHRISTOPH VON FÜRER-HAIMENDORF, Ph.D.,  
*Adviser to H.E.H. the Nizam's Government  
for Tribes and Backward Classes.*

Government Central Press  
Hyderabad-Deccan  
1946

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS  
of  
Aboriginal Rehabilitation  
in Adilabad District

by  
CHRISTOPH VON FÜRER-HAIMENDORF, Ph.D.,  
*Adviser to H.E.H. the Nizam's Government  
for Tribes and Backward Classes.*

Government Central Press  
Hyderabad-Deccan  
1946

## APPENDIX.

*Extract from the tour notes of the Hon'ble Revenue and  
Police Member (W. V. Grigson, Esqr., C.S.I., I.C.S.)  
Adilabad District.*

---

1st-4th Feb. 1946/30th Isf.—3rd Farwardi 1355 F.

3. I inspected the aboriginal school at Keslapur and was delighted to see the excellent progress made in imparting literacy to Gond boys and adults. They are becoming literate in Gondi, Urdu and Marathi. The spontaneous, easy singing of tribal songs was a refreshing contrast to the dreary nasalisation of Marathi or Hindi songs in the average school in the Central Provinces aboriginal areas. Actual experience of the Marlavai Education Scheme convinces me of the soundness of the general recommendations in respect of aboriginal education in my Central Provinces report, though the results could not have been achieved without the presence of workers of the calibre and public spirit of the Haimendorfs to get things going. The most practical feature of the scheme is the selection and training of tribesmen to work as teachers in tribal areas, thus overcoming the chronic reluctance of men from the plains and towns to teach in aboriginal villages. I am in very substantial agreement with the further measures for tribal rehabilitation outlined in Baron Haimendorf's last (September 1945, Aban 1354 F.) report on the rehabilitation of aboriginals in Adilabad District. I hope that this will be now printed as soon as possible (with my 1353 note on the policy to be adopted in the tribal areas of the districts as an appendix to it) for submission to the Executive Council as a formal *guzarish*. Obviously the time has come to put all this work on a permanent and expanding basis. The first class work that has been done by Mr. Jogalkar, the Superintendent of the Marlavai Training School, must be recognised, at least by giving him permanent employment. We should also as soon as possible get all the tribal teachers and workers employed on a permanent basis.

*The policy to be adopted in the Tribal Areas of the  
Adilabad District.*

The special *laoni* case was discussed at Keslapur. The note prepared by Mr. Moazam Husain, Special Officer, dated 14th Isfandar '53 F. in consultation with Baron C. von Fürer-Haimendorf can now be taken as the basis of a notification for special *laoni*. The boundaries of the areas to be notified are stated clearly in para 3 of the note. With the exception of Nirmal, Sirpur, and Chinnur Taluqs, roughly speaking the rest of the area now to be notified is all the central plateau from the west of Boath and Kinwat Taluqs to the hills just west of a line from Rajura through Asifabad to a point about half way between Mancherial and Lakshetipet, excluding the actual Godavari plain, though the eastern boundary at two points projects to the east of this line, and though a substantial enclave of non-aboriginal villages between Boath and Ichora (on the Nirmal-Asifabad road) is excluded from the tribal area. This notification will thus leave large areas in which ordinary *laoni* is available to non-aboriginals in Boath, Kinwat, Adilabad, Rajura, Sirpur, Chinnur, Lakshetipet and Nirmal Taluqs. Outside the areas where special *laoni* is thus reserved for aboriginals, special *laoni* should be allowed to all those castes and tribes and communities who have been allowed special *laoni* in Nalgonda and other Districts.

In the taluqs of Nirmal, Sirpur and Chinnur the tribal areas have not been defined. We have, however, from the census list a clear indication of villages where the tribal population is 40 per cent. of the whole. The notification might also, therefore, restrict special *laoni* to the aboriginals in those villages where the population of aboriginals (excluding Banjaras, Mathuras, Andhs and Kolis) is 40 per cent. of the total. The lists given by the Statistical Department will need checking up against the village returns so as to exclude members of these tribes from the tribal population.

This, however, does not go quite far enough. The point is that in this tribal area of Adilabad we have also to refuse ordinary *laoni* to non-aboriginals, while we should also include the village *kotwals* as persons to whom *inam* land may be given on special *laoni*.

The tribes to be notified for the tribal areas will be Gond (including Raj-Gond), Koya (including Racha-Koya), Pardhan, Thoti, Kolam, Naikpod and Ojha. Banjara, Andh and Koli may safely be omitted; Banjara are in some areas regular exploiters of aboriginals and Andh and Koli are recent, de-tribalised immigrants.

Apart from prohibiting ordinary *laoni* in favour of non-aboriginals in the tribal area, it is necessary also to prevent the alienation of aboriginal land to non-aboriginals. [Recent enquiries made by me in Yeotmal and Chanda Districts, both bordering on the Adilabad District, show the enormous extent to which aboriginals have been expropriated from their lands in those areas and we must check the process in Adilabad before it gathers momentum there.]

#### *Forest Question.*

The outstanding questions have hitherto been regarded as the Daboli Block in the Nirmal Forest Division, and the Tilani Block in the Asifabad Forest Division, in Utnur and Asifabad Taluqs respectively. Baron C. von Fürer-Haimendorf, the Taluqdar Sahib, Adilabad and the Special Officer have pointed out that if my previous suggestion of entirely dropping the reservation of Daboli and Tilani were to be accepted, the Gonds and Kolams of the Satmala Block and the Manikgarh Block would feel that this was unjust discrimination. Moreover, there are in both the Daboli and the Tilani Blocks areas of good forest where cultivation could not conceivably be allowed. The whole question then resolves itself into one of detailed discrimination between land which should be retained as forest and land which should be handed over to the village for allowing the villagers concerned sufficient *nistar* and other requirements (of the Central Provinces ryotwari *minhai* forests). A pressing further problem everywhere in the district is how to push back the forest boundaries which are too close to the *abadi*. Then there is the question of meeting the local demand for land now included in notified or proposed reserved forests. The Taluqdar Sahib, Adilabad, says that there are taluq registers showing the areas which have been asked for. Many of these are included in deserted villages, which are now shown as within the reserves. There has been no correlation between these applications and the stock maps of the Forest Department. When the Nirmal Division working plan was made, Utnur Taluq was excluded and no stock

maps of Utnur Taluq forests have yet been prepared or at least received in the D.F.O.'s Office, the D.F.O. says, however, that Mr. Bhogle, then Probationary Assistant Conservator, was deputed here last year for preparing a working plan for Utnur Taluq, but no copy of his report is available. The Asifabad Forest Division Working Plan is under revision. It should now be possible to decide, therefore, definitely whether any area for which cultivation applications have been received is definitely needed as a part of a forest reserve, and so to earmark as available for special *laoni* not only *kharij-i-khata* lands outside the reserves, but also lands now included within the forests which never will be of any use as forest and can be earmarked for aboriginal colonisation. When the Forest Department says that any land applied for should be refused because of its forest value, there should be a joint inspection by the D.F.O. and the Taluqdar or Special Officer.

The first task, therefore, of the Special Officer (Mr. Moazam Husain, H.C.S.) will be to take in hand the classification of lands within the Utnur Taluq and the Tilani Block. In such areas we should appoint no *watandar patwari* or *patel* under the existing rules, but should let the leader of the colony be the *patel* and allow qualified *watandari* rights to be earned by efficiency once a village has become permanent, on lines similar to Central Provinces rules for granting *watandari* rights to the *patel*-founders of the new ryotwari villages. No notice need be taken of nominal existing *watan* rights where these have long ceased to have any value because a village after its inclusion in a reserve has been deserted.

Another problem for the Taluqdar and the Special Officer will be to secure land for *podu* cultivation for Kolams and Naikpods; the areas where this will be necessary are the Rali, Tilani, Dhanora and Manikgarh forests of the Asifabad Forest Division and the Satmala and Kawal State Forests in the Nirmal Division. The areas involved are small and the population for which provision has to be made only a few hundred families. The annual requirements per family may be taken as  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres and no plot should be allowed to be cultivated for more than two successive years. Hill slopes with light forests are preferred and these require 10 years' rest between the fellings. This means that for each family  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres will be required, with a small reserve for new families. We should, therefore, take on the average 10 acres per family divided into  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres plots, each to be cultivated once in 10 years for 2 years at a

time as our basis. The distribution of the land should be left to the people themselves, provided that it is restricted to the delimited area and the rotation rules are followed. If the population increases under this regularisation of what is now an illegality, then any further land can only be provided by taungya cultivation. The position can be reviewed at yearly intervals and in the meantime all possible efforts should be made by means of special Forest Co-operative Societies and otherwise to provide the Kolams and Naikpods with decent plough-lands and the means of cultivating them.

#### *Forest Villages.*

The Special Officer and the special forest staff will also have to take into account the need of land for forest villages. One effect of any large distribution of land on special *laoni* for the foundation of new villages on lands at present within the reserves or proposed reserves will be greatly to reduce the labour available for forest work. There are now only three forest villages in the District, all in Nirmal Division. Provision has been made in the new Forest Bill for power to regulate forest villages by rules. There is an enormous area in Srichelma, Utnur and Ajharwajhar State Forests without revenue or forest villages. In deciding, therefore, whether the deserted villages are better suited for excision for cultivation or for retention within the reserve it should be remembered that the need of forest villages as well as the forest capacities of land are criteria for retention within the reserves. The standard of living of the local Gond is comparatively high and if he is to be persuaded to work in a forest village it will be essential for the forest village rules to secure that he gets a full daily wage for his labour.

#### *Settlement.*

The Utnur Survey-Settlement is now due. A major problem is the position of tribal cultivators of lands held by non-aboriginal pattadars. These will be affected by the coming enactment of the Tenancy Bill. It will then be necessary to consider how the work of determining tribal tenants' rights under the Bill will fit in with the settlement of Utnur and the re-settlement of other parts of the District. Almost certainly in this district we shall have to depart from the usual Hyderabad practice of having the settlement conducted by parties controlled from Hyderabad by the Settlement Commissioner and instead shall have to have someone in the District with

the powers of a Settlement Officer, either the Taluqdar or the Special Officer or both. To facilitate this work, and also the whole process of setting in order the tribal areas of Adilabad in particular and also other parts of the State it is now necessary to get promulgated a Tribal Areas Regulation on the lines that the Taluqdar of any District containing a tribal area should be the Agent to the Government with any special officers appointed for the areas normally working under him as Special Assistant Agent; it may sometimes be necessary to have a special Agent with full Agency powers. Normally every Second Taluqdar whose Division includes all or part of a tribal area should be an Assistant Agent. As moreover this Regulation should be a permanent feature of the Constitution and will deal with certain things outside the legal purview of the new legislature, it is probably desirable to get it promulgated as an *A'in* rather than as a *Dastur-ul-Amal* or an Act of the Legislature. It should include special rule-making powers and above all a provision whereby no ordinary law of the State shall apply in a tribal area unless special notification to that effect is issued and that in so applying such a law the Government may vary it as it thinks necessary to suit the special circumstances of all or any tribal areas.

#### *Co-operative Organisation.*

I should like the Co-operative Department to experiment with the foundation of at least one village on a collective farming basis, fostering it with generous assistance from either the Rural Welfare Trust or the budget allotment for aboriginal tribes.

For the 1354 F. budget a small Co-operative staff might be provided of, say, two Organizers for dealing with Collective Farming, formation of Purchase and Sales Societies and Co-operative Forest Societies. I have said two, although in the scheme tentatively worked out by R.C.S., the Taluqdar Sahib of Adilabad and Baron C. von Fürer-Haimendorf one only was mentioned, because there should be some relief so that each can have a recess for part of the year and because communications are difficult and it is necessary to try more than one area at a time.

W. V. GRIGSON,  
REVENUE MEMBER,  
1-5-'53 F.