

**A STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATION
OF
THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
1861-1903**

THESIS
SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN HISTORY
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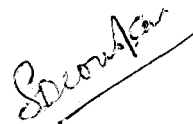
Under the Supervision of
SMT. SARITA DEOSKAR
Professor
M.L.B., Girls College, Bhopal (M. P.)

BY
RUCHIRA DEY
(Smt. Ruchira Ghosh)

Smt. Sarita Deoskar
Professor of History

M.L.B., Girls College
BHOPAL, M.P.

Certified that Km. Ruchira Dey, a bonafide research scholar of Barkatullah University, Bhopal, has completed her thesis entitled "A Study of the Administration of Central Provinces (1861 - 1903)", under my supervision, and that, the thesis fulfils all the requirements laid down by the University in its Ordinance relating to the degree of Ph.D.



(Smt. Sarita Deoskar)

CONTENTS

	Supervisor's Certificate	
	Preface	i - iii
	Introduction : Objects & Methodology	iv - vi
	<u>CHAPTER</u>	
I	Historical Background:	1 - 18
II	Administration on the Eve of British Take-Over.	19 - 38
III	The beginnings of British Administration.	39 - 62
IV	Administrative Divisions.	63 - 71
V	Land Revenue Administration.	72 - 110
VI	Judiciary.	111 - 133
VII	Police Administration.	134 - 177
VIII	Local Self Government.	178 - 212
IX	Education and Health.	213 - 262
X	Economic Administration : Agriculture, Forests, Mineral & Industry.	263 - 316
XI	Assessment and Conclusion.	317 - 331
	Bibliography.	332 - 336

PREFACE

The topic "A study of the Administration of the Central Provinces - 1861-1903," evoked a brief flutter because of its general nature. It was, however, conceded that specific studies like those of Judiciary, Revenue or Police may require incisive capacities particularly needed for these subjects. Moreover, sufficient matter may be difficult to obtain, for a particular branch of study. Hence, after a precise discussion, the topic got a clearance.

I myself got aware, during the course of actual work that, 'Administration' is too wide a term and many a times, while collecting facts, it was difficult to decide what to record and what to ignore. I, therefore, tender my humble apologies for the generality of the topic.

Needless to say, it has been possible to include in the study, only the main aspects, rather than all aspects, of the administration of the C.P.

For convenience of presentation, the thesis has been divided into the following chapters:-

The first three chapters, i.e. 'Historical Background', 'Administration on the Eve British take over' and 'The Beginnings of British Administration' are, in a way, an introduction to the study proper. Fourth chapter deals with the Administrative Divisions - mainly geographical. Fifth chapter deals with the land revenue administration. Sixth and Seventh chapters deal with Judicial and Police administrations respectively. Eighth chapter deals with the local self government, ninth, with education and health and the tenth, with the Economic Administration - mainly, Agriculture, Forests, Minerals and Industry. Eleventh, the last chapter, presents a detailed assessment and a conclusion in the end.

I take the opportunity to place on record my indebtedness and profound thanks -

To my esteemed supervisor, Smt. Sarita Deoskar, Prof. of History, M.L.B. Girls College, Bhopal whose unflinching and consistent guidance, at every stage, have helped immensely, to the completion of this modest work.

To Sri S.D. Guru, the then Director of M.P. Gazetteer and M.P. State Archives, who, not only initiated this effort, but was also the main source of my access to M.P. Gazetteer and State Archives, Bhopal and M.P. Record Room, Nagpur.

To Sri Satpal, Asstt. Archivist, M.P. Central Records, Old Secretariat Nagpur, who ensured, that every relevant information, available in the Nagpur Record Room, is provided to me as per the laid down conventions.

To the staff of M.P. Gazetteer Library at Bhopal, who extended all co-operation to me, for months together.

To my uncles Sri P.K. Chakraverty and Shri T.R. Das and their families, who looked after me during the long spells of my stay at Nagpur, without which my collection of original source material from Nagpur would have been almost impossible.

To the Principal and the Library Staff of Govt. Girls College, Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal, for making available all the relevant literature that their library could provide.

To my mother, Smt. Roma Dey, who had been the motive force as well as the main will power, behind the entire effort.

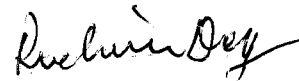
To my father, Sri. S.K. Dey, who assisted in the co-ordination work.

To my sister, Mayura Dey, who did a lot of rewriting work of the manuscripts.

To my husband, Sri Tapas Ghosh, who faced immense austerities, shared responsibilities at the domestic front and put up with great inconveniences during the spells when I visited Nagpur Record Room. His tolerance has rendered my task far less formidable, than it would be otherwise.

To all those who have helped in the actual typing, proof-reading and other related activities, directly or indirectly, have simply remained my well-wishers and lent me a moral support.

I am aware of the magnitude of venture, with my modest abilities and the limited scope afforded by the thesis. The mistakes, omissions and lapses in the work may please, therefore, be attributed, only to me.



Ruchira Dey

(Smt. Ruchira Ghosh)

INTRODUCTION : OBJECT & METHODOLOGY

An apology for such a general topic has to be tendered, at the outset. The period of survey is sufficiently long and attempts to examine some salient aspects of the administration of C.P.

Some of the aspects of the administration are, undoubtedly, closely related, interwoven and interdependent and, therefore, tend to defy segregation, yet, for convenience of study and also that of presentation, it had to be divided into suitable chapters.

The object of this work is not to launch a treatise on the subject. Instead, it embodies the results of the writer's study of primary and original sources. Preconceived notions and time-honoured opinions have not been allowed to influence the interpretations. It has been remembered all through that, the 'essence of history is accuracy'. At times, therefore, the narratives might have become lengthy and cold, in the interest of accuracy and truth. The main aim of study has been to discover as much of truth as is possible, under the present state of our knowledge. Towards this end, as far as possible, second-hand authority has rarely been given preference over the contemporary writers.

Although a separate chapter has been written for assessment, the latter shall be found within the respective chapter as well.

METHODOLOGY

Having made sure of the topic of Thesis, the synopsis was prepared in a manner that would keep the enquiry worthwhile and also within bounds.

'The Gazetteer of Central Provinces' written by Charles Grant, proposed the basic framework of the study.

The gazetteers of different districts (the relevant ones) provided sufficient matter related to those districts. These gazetteers were available from State Gazetteer Library, located in the Old Secretariat, Bhopal.

Annual Administrative Reports, were available from the State Gazetteer Library as well as the Library of M.P. Secretariat. An yearwise account of administration of various departments was available in these reports. These accounts needed a conversion into departmentwise account, in a chronological order.

But, above all, the most original source material pertaining to the topic of research was collected from the Central Record Room of M.P. State Archives, at Nagpur. Permission to consult these records, preserved in the Central Records Room at Nagpur, was obtained from the Director of M.P. State Archives, Bhopal. The entry into the Records Room was permitted for the period specified, for limited hours each day.

The Central Record Room has maintained a classified catalogue of files regarding departmentwise Bundle Correspondance. Relevant file numbers had to be very alertly, chosen out of the catalogue maintained there, and then, requisitioned for consultation and record. These were in the form of printed as well as hand written documents pertaining to departments as also cases in particular. The relevant matter, in view of the object of study, had to be sorted out and recorded, but, left behind in the Records Room, every day. The entire recorded material is numbered by the Archives Staff at, Nagpur and sent to Director, State Archives, Bhopal, for scrutiny and then delivery to the scholar concerned.

Besides this, some secondary and tertiary sources were also consulted, mainly in the form of books written from time to time on the administration of C.P., or a part thereof.

Some difficulties were faced in the process. Not all relevant gazetteers were easily available nor were all annual administrative reports readily traced. Central Records Room material, especially, the handwritten part, was to a considerable extent, in a state of decay. It is being maintained with deliberate efforts, and naturally, permitted for use with great caution. Some of the documents are either illegible or hazy and difficult to decipher even though magnifying glass were provided for reading such documents or letters. A close and alert scrutiny was needed for sorting out the relevant matter.

Despite these difficulties, it was felt that, visits to Central Records Room, Nagpur were, by all means, worthwhile.

I hope, in spite of the material emanating from varied sources, coherence and lucidity have been maintained throughout the presentation and it should not be unreasonable to expect the thesis to fulfil the purpose.