

BOKARO DISTRICT: “HISTORY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND ITS INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES”

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ABSTRACT

Bokaro district is one of the most industrialized zones in India. It is one of the twenty-four districts of Jharkhand state. Jharkhand is very rich in mineral resources and Bokaro district stands out to be one of the most resourceful, among all the districts. The process of industrialization started with the advent of the British in East India in search of coal. Several minerals such as coal, limestone and quartz were found and thus the process of setting up industries began, looking at availability of resources in the state.

Presently, Bokaro has about 1600 industrial units out of which 1496 are registered. Due to presence of large no of PSU enterprises and private sector industries in Bokaro district, there has been tremendous scope of vendorization and ancillarization of steel industry, cement, general engineering, chemical, ceramic, machine tools, electrical & electronics machineries, refractories etc.

Although development took place everywhere in the district by setting up of large industries, gigantic power houses and majestic mines yet there is huge scope of improvement in terms of infrastructure, technical education and social upliftment. Bokaro, as an industrial hub, is yet to see its golden era.

Bokaro District: An Introduction

Bokaro district is one of the most industrialized district in the state of Jharkhand and it can be only compared with the Ranchi district (State Capital), Dhanbad district (The coal capital of the State) and with the East Singhbhum district having the city of Jamshedpur (the industrial capital of the state).

Bokaro district was made on 1st April, 1991 by carving out six blocks from erstwhile Giridih district and two blocks from Dhanbad district having a total area of 2860.83 sq.km and a total population of 20,61,918 (Census of India, 2011), lying between 23°24'17" and 23°59'12" North latitudes and between 85°35'00" and 86°29'15" East longitudes. Its maximum east-west length along the Damodar Valley is 102 km. and maximum width across Petarbar-Tenu Dam-cum-Kathara-Bokaro is 58 km. Bokaro district is situated on National Highway 23 and 125 km away

from state's capital, Ranchi. The rivers like Damodar, Garga, Bokaro, Jamunia and Isri flow through the district (Jayswal 2004, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bokaro_district).

History of Industrialization in Bokaro District

History of industrialization in Bokaro region dates much before the independence of the country when the region fell under the districts of Giridih and Dhanbad. Actually, the discovery of huge coal reserves in the region during the early decades of last century attracted the British and they started coal mining in the region (http://archive.jharkhand.gov.in/new_dep_ts/mines/geo/Profile.pdf). As the production of coal in the district increased along with the increase in the power requirement of the collieries and

the people of the region, several Thermal and Hydel Power Plants were established year by year. Several coal-washeries were also setup in the district to supply washed coking-coal to the steel plants of the state and the country as well. In the year 1958, Indian Explosives Ltd. (I.E.L.) was established in Gomia Block and since then it has got international recognition. Likewise, a number of refractories including Bharat Refractories were also established in Bhandaridih near Phusro in Bermo block in 1972 (Jayswal 2004).

But real industrialization of the district geared up only after 1965, when Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) came into existence. It was during the period of the 2nd Five Year Plan(1956-1961) in which the industrialization of the country was focused so that poverty of the nation could be eradicated through employment generation and by the proper use of natural resources of the country. While the D.P.R. of Bokaro Steel Plant had already been prepared in 1959, the plant was established in the year 1965 and its first blast furnace was commissioned on 2nd October, 1972 (Jayswal 2004, <http://dcmsme.gov.in/dips/DIPS%20Bokaro.pdf>).

After the establishment of B.S.P, Bokaro Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) was setup where 47 ancillary industries 138 small scale industries cropped up, gradually and steadily. Recently, a big Bottling Plant has been setup at Balidih (near Bokaro Steel City) in which coal-bed methane gas of Talgaria area produced by Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) will be used. A detergent making company, an ancillary of Hindustan Lever Ltd. has also been setup at Bahadurpur. A number of soft coke industries, coal bricket and slurry bricket industries are now running in the district. A cement factory is also established by Jaypee Group in Balidih Industrial Area.

In recent years (since 2001 to 2012), the Steel giants like Arcelor-Mittal showed

their interests in setting up green field steel plant with a capacity of 12 million tons in the area around the Bokaro Steel City. They took 2500 acres of land at Peterbar-Kashmar just 20 km. from Bokaro Steel City near N.H.-23. Even Anil Ambani's Reliance Infrastructure have plans for Greenfield Steel Projects with a capacity of 12 million tons to be erected in Bokaro (on NH-23), near Damodar Bridge. Government of India has announced another new steel plant for Bokaro as part of joint venture with POSCO and SAIL that will use FINEX technology with capacity of 1.5 million tons in the peripheries of Bokaro Steel plant to be set up in an area of 500 acres. Bhushan steel has also acquired land for its steel plant with expected capacity of 3 million tons. DVC and SAIL has decided to establish a joint venture each having 50% shares to extend the power generation capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant from 500 MW to 1000 MW. ONGC has started exploring Coal bed methane gas in Parbhatpur (12 K.M. from Bokaro) for commercial use.

The Jharkhand Government has planned to setup its second SEZ after Jamshedpur, in BIADA in 500 acres of land. It has suggested availability of land in Balidih industrial area, where most of the ancillary units of Bokaro Steel Plant are situated.

With the industrialization gaining pace in the State, the Steel City of Bokaro is all set to figure in the commercial flight map soon. The Air Deccan, a private airline company, has initiated the process to launch its flights between Bokaro and Kolkata.

Industrial resources of Bokaro District

Some geographers don't consider industries as resource. Industries are users of the resources. The industries transform the raw materials for different utilization. Mankind has established a civilization where industrial production constitutes the items of his need. As a matter of fact, industries are considered here as resources of region determining

the economic status of that particular region, its people or country, as a whole (Jayswal 2004).

Table: Some major industrial establishments of Bokaro District:

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR OF COMMENCEMENT	CAPACITY
1.Bokaro Steel Ltd.	Bokaro Steel City	1972-First blast furnace started	4.5 Million tons liquid steel
2.Indian Explosive Ltd.	Gomia	1958	Capacity not publicized due to security reasons.
3.Bokaro Thermal Power Plant(Unit A & B)	Kathara (Gomia Block)	1960	175 MW
4.Chandrapura Thermal Power Plant(6 units)*	Chandrapura (Bermo Block)	1964-1979	750 MW
5.Tenughat Thermal Power Plant(2 units)	Lalpania (Gomia Block)	1971	420 MW
6.Kargali Coal Washery	Near Phusro (Bermo Block)	1958	5000 tons/day
7.Dugda Coal Washery (2 units)	Dugda (Bermo Block)	1962-1965	1530 tons/day
8.Kathara Coal Washery	Kathara (Gomia Block)	1967	8000 tons/day
9.Swang Coal Washery	Swang (Gomia Block)	1966	1300 tons/day
10.Bharat Refractories	Bhandaridih (near Phusro, Bermo Block)	1972	

*2 new units are being installed with total capacity of 500 MW.

Impacts of Industries and Industrialization

Industrialization always brings both boon and bane along with it. No doubt, rapid industrialization of the district has reduced the burden on agriculture with respect to employment. Industrialization has enhanced the per capita income as well as improved the standard of living of the people of the district. Urbanization followed industrialization, as a result of which only half of the district's

population now lives in the rural areas.

Infrastructure boomed up with new railway lines, roads, educational institutes, shopping complexes, hospitals and several other basic facilities.

While the development could be seen everywhere, the ever increasing industries played foul with environment and surrounding of the district. The levels of the pollutants in the air and water bodies have increased at an alarming rate. Despite huge efforts by the

district administration, Bokaro ails with the problem of chronic pollution. The lifeline of the district, Damodar River, needs immediate attention (Jayswal 2004).

These problems require immediate and effective solutions which shall tone down the harms done by industries and make way for sustainable development.

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