

S. No. 12
Dy. Ni 1042 dt 2/6/47

To

The Sub-Committee

Excluded and partially excluded areas
NEW DELHI.
INDIA.

Sirs,

Chhotanagpur and Santhalpargana have always been a separate unit, Geographically, Historically, Culturally and linguistically distinct. It has always been known as the aboriginal or Backword tracts. Here the majority of population is of Adibasis. We do not accept the number of percentage of Adibasis, according to census taken in 1941. Census figures are unreliable and not accurate. Not less than 75 percent in Chhotanagpur & Santhalpargana are aborigines. The census figure of Manbhum shows only 33.4 p. c. of Adibasis in 1941. Whereas Mr. S. K. Majumdar has indicated that 61 p. c. of the district of Manbhum are Adibasis? Sirs, Is it not thinkable that where the other 27.6 p. c. of Adibasis gone to? Likewise the census of 1941 shows the figure of Adibasis only 44.2 percent in Chhotanagpur. But we claim it to be 75 p. c.

This is a largest compact aboriginal area, and is always neglected by every Government and the Governor also has failed to do his duty. Our Chhotanagpur is the richest Land in the world according to its size and the geography agrees to it. Though being the master of such a rich land we adibasis are the poorest of the rest. In every spheres of civilization we are lagged behind. Now, we don't like to remain under the administration of Dikus (non-adibasis) any more.

So, we all adibasis cry in thousand tongues for the separation of "JHARKHAND." (Chhotanagpur & Santhalpargana.) This is the Only one means of salvation for we neglected poor adibasis and this demand is unique. We adibasis are waiting for our Salvation, which is (Separation of Chhotanagpur & Santhalpargana from Bihar. and we will have it even at the cost of Blood.

"JHARKHAND AZAD."

We have the honour to be
Sirs,

Mr. D. K. Nag. (President.)

Mr. W. N. Nag. (Secretary.)
Adibasi Unnati Sabha
Manbhum.

Dated 24/6/..... 1947.

Nagnagar

Dhanbad.

62

*c/o
com
Majhi 11/6*

Office of the Adibasi Sabha,
Porahat Pargana, Thana Chakradhar-
pur, District Singhbhum
Dated 22-5-47.

To
The Secretary
Constituent Assembly
Council Hall, New Delhi.

Re:- Memorandum.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith memorandum on behalf of the Adibasi Sabha, Porahat Pargana, District Singhbhum (bihar) with the request that the signatories may kindly be accorded permission to have interview with the Sub-Committee members during their visits to Singhbhum and give evidence in support of their claims as set forth in the memorandum.

This memorandum is addressed to all the Hon'ble Members of the Sub-Committee to the Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas, Constituent Assembly, New Delhi.

Extra copies of this memorandum are sent to His Excellency the Viceroy of India, Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President Constituent Assembly, Hon'ble Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President, Interim Government, India, Acharya Kriplani, President All India Congress Committee, Mr. M.A. Jinnah, President All India Muslim League, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, General Secretary, All India Muslim League, Dr. Pattashi Seetharamaya, member Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar, member Constituent Assembly, His Excellency the Governor of Bihar, Commissioner, Chota Nagpur Division, Ranchi, Deputy Commissioner, Singhbhum, S.P. Singhbhum, President Jharkhand Separation League, General Secretary All India Mahasabha, Ranchi, President Adibasi Sabha, District Singhbhum for their information and future guidance.

Encl:- Three

Majhi 22/5
President, Adibasi Sabha,
Porahat Pargana, Thana Chakradharpur, P.O. Chakradharpur,
District Singhbhum
B.I.H.A.R.



**MEMORANDUM ON BEHALF OF THE ADIBASI SABHA, PORAHAT PARGANA,
DISTRICT SINGHBHUM (BIHAR) TO THE EXCLUDED AND PARTIALLY EXCLUDED
AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, NEW DELHI.**

.....***.....

The humble memorial on behalf of the Adibasi Sabha, Porahat Pargana, District Singhbhumi (Bihar) most respectfully sheweth:-

1. That your memorialists most respectfully claim that Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas (in Bihar) be forthwith constituted into a separate PROVINCE OF JHARKHAND on the following grounds:-

(a) That racially, linguistically and culturally Adibasis (Tribal people) of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas are quite a separate and distinct race from the Biharis or the Bihar Hindus.

(b) That adibasis of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas have nothing in common with the Biharis or the Bihar Hindus to justify these tracts being permanently tagged with Bihar.

(c) That for the preservation of their languages, culture and civilisation for their due progress and all round development, in short for their very survival on earth Adibasis must have a separate homeland-a separate province.

(d) That financially Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas can be a self supporting administrative unit as these areas are the richest in mineral wealth in the whole of India and according to some in the whole world. Iron and coal the two most important metals indispensable for the industrial progress of a country are found in abundance in the districts of Singhbhumi and Manbhumi in Chota Nagpur. Besides such other metals as copper, zinc, manganese, gold, china clay, limestone, soapstone, asbestos, mica and a lot of other useful metals are also plentifully available in Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas. In short there is inexhaustible under-ground wealth in Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas and no province of India existing or prospective can stand in comparison with these areas in mineral wealth. Moreover these areas are richest in forest products also. There is enough scope for agricultural development too. These natural resources when developed will immensely add to Government revenue.

(e) That if independence is the birth right of India and all sections of Indian people are to enjoy the freedom Adibasis of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas must have a separate province to equally enjoy the same long lost freedom.

(f) That Adibasis are the earliest settlers of India they are the only true children of the soil and as such in a free India Adibasis have the first and foremost claim to enjoy freedom and to enjoy the same Adibasis of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas must have a separate province.

(g) That the claim of the Adibasis ~~xxx~~ of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas is in every respect much more stronger than the demand of West Bengal, East Punjab and of the other proposed provinces of India.

(h) That the Indian National Congress in its Karachi Session (1931) has already recognised the principle of reorganisation of provinces on racially, linguistically and cultural basis.

(i) That geographically Chota Nagpur Plateau i.e. Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas form a natural division by itself quite separate and distinct from Bihar and South Bihar.

(j) That the creation of the provinces of Orissa, Sind and Frontier also justifies the creation and constitution of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas into a separate province:-

| | <u>Area</u> | | <u>Population</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Orissa ... | 13,706 ... | | 53,06,142 |
| Sind ... | 46,378 ... | | 38,87,070. |
| Frontier ... | 13,518 ... | | 24,25,076 |
| Chota Nagpur Plateau | 66,624 ... | | 1,44,51,044 |

N.B:- The census figure of 1941 shows a total population of 97,50,796 of the Chota Nagpur Division and Santal Parganas out of which ~~xxx~~ Adibasis form 44,51,109 i.e. Adibasis form 45 p.c. of the total population of Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas but the census figure of 1941 are misleading and unreliable as overwhelming majority of enumerators and supervisors during the census operation were non-adibasis i.e. Hindus a much larger percentage of Adibasis has been recorded otherwise** and Adibasis challenge the authenticity of the above figure and claim the Adibasis in Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas form over 75 p.c. of the total population of these areas.

** the census figure of Manbhum for 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941 will clearly show beyond any shadow of doubt that the Adibasi population of Manbhum in which it was predominantly in the earliest days in the districts has been gradually decreasing, and Adibasis who once formed a majority population in the district have now become minority. This shows that Adibasis have been recorded otherwise similar to the case in other districts of the province.

(k) That if the Muslim League demand of a Soveriegn Independent Pakistan State is to be conceded the Adibasis' rightful demand not of a Soveriegn Independent Jharkhand but of an autonomous PROVINCE OF JHARKHAND within Indian Union must for justice sake be forthwith conceded.

2. That for the unification and consolidation of the tribal people (adibasis) your memorialists claim that such adjoining districts of West Bengal, C.P. or Orissa or such Sub-Divisions or Thana areas thereof or of neighbouring tracts as are predominantly inhabited by Adibasis and which can be conveniently added must be included in the proposed PROVINCE OF JHARKHAND.

3. (a) That your memorialists claim that in the proposed province of Jharkhand, Adibasis must have representation in the provincial Assembly on population basis.

(b) That experience has proved that general electorate or general electorate with reservation of seats is vitally harmful to the best interest of the Adibasis and your memorialists therefore most emphatically claim separate electorate in the Provincial Assembly of Jharkhand.

4. That as Adibasis' legitimate claims in higher administration of the province have been totally neglected and willfully disregarded your memorialists most emphatically claim ~~xxx~~ adequate representation in the Provincial Cabinet of Jharkhand on population basis.

5. That as Adibasis' legitimate claims in the higher administration of India have been till now altogether callously neglected and disregarded your memorialists claim that adibasis of India must have adequate representation in the Central Legislature as well as in the Central Cabinet of Indian Union on population basis.

6. That in the past, through the interference of non-adibasis it has been seen that Adibasis have not been properly represented in the local bodies, your memorialists most emphatically claim that in the proposed Province of Jharkhand Adibasis must have representation in all local bodies on population basis.

7. That your memorialists claim that for the speedy uplift and progress of the adibasis sufficient funds out of the Provincial as well as of the Central Revenue must be provided annually for the preservation and development of Adibasi languages, culture and civilisation.

8. That agriculture is the only occupation of the Adibasis your memorialists claim that there should be statutory safeguards of Adibasis' rights and the land of the Adibasis must be inalienable and in no account should pass to the hands of the non-adibasis.

9. That as adibasis are unrepresented or are meagrely represented your memorialists most emphatically claim that adibasis must be adequately represented in all branches of the Provincial (Jharkhand) as well as in the Central Government services.

10. That your memorialists are strongly of opinion that election to the proposed Province of Jharkhand Assembly as well as the Local Bodies must be on the basis of adult franchise.

Dated Chakradharpur
(Porhat Pargana,
District Singhbhum)
The 12th May 1947

We beg to remain
Sir,
Your humble memorialists,
Address.

Serial No. Name

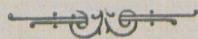
- | <u>Serial No.</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Address.</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Majhi Majhi | vill. Potka, P.C. Chakradharpur |
| 2. | Lakshman Majhi | vill. Potka |
| 3. | Chakradharpur village | Chakradharpur |
| 4. | Naiki Munda Kuni Village | Naikasai |
| 5. | Munnarai Sama S village | Golee Ram |
| 6. | Udepi Majhi | vill. Potka |
| 7. | Lakshman Malyandi | vill. Majhi |
| 8. | Rautu Rai Jamunda | Vill. Argunde |
| 9. | Sukdeo Majhi | Chesmu vill. Potka |
| 10. | Kanjarkie Jamunda | Jamunda |
| 11. | Barkera Baljai | Village peta pety |
| 12. | Majhi Majhi | Vill. Potka |
| 13. | Chakradharpur | Chakradharpur |
| 14. | Sagar Majhi | Village - potka |
| 15. | Supai Majhi | Village - potka |
| 16. | Nivedan Jamunda | Vill. Aliguda |
| 17. | Ramdhari Jamunda | Vill. Bainka |

18. Ghanashyam Samadha Village Kiliqutu
 19. गोकारण मुस्तकी नाम
 20. Mangu Ram Samad village Boradars
 21. किलराम कोटी दल 'पालभी
 22. बाटु होरे लोन साई
 23. नारगती देवी
 24. R. C. Samad village Library.
 25. कोमला देवी देवी
 26. Ramu Samad Golakar
 27. अमरांशुर लालकुपड़ी
 28. Moika Bankara. Bajra Sahi
 29. येली दौड़ि साई
 30. Champai Bankara Village Filopoda
 31. Kandpal Korai village Yilabada

 32. उल्ली दौड़ि गोल. दौलीटा।
 33. Supia Bankara Village Arghango
 34. Chandra Mohan Sundi. Village Narsanda
 35. Chandra Mohan Purty Village Jakkhar
 36. Shivasankar soy — Lopso.
 37. Ram Lall Samad. village Sarjomhat
 38. Kanthegel ~~माफ्फी~~ Vellzerkando

MEMORANDUM
ON BEHALF OF
The Consumers' Association
KOLHAN & PORAHAT, Singhbhum
(Bihar)

To The Advisory Sub-committee Excluded & Partially Excluded
 Areas, Constituent Assembly, India.



We the undersigned Members of Consumers' Association, Kolhan and Porahat, on behalf of the Adibasis beg to submit the following representation for the constitution of a separate Province of "Jharkhand" out of the Chota Nagpur Division and Santal Parganas together with the adjoining suitable dominant adibasi tracts.

Since time immemorial Chota Nagpur and Santal Parganas have been treated as a separate administrative unit. This pre-dominantly Adibasi area is essentially distinct from Bihar proper Ethnologically, Geographically, Historically, Geologically Linguistically, Culturally and economically and in fact in every material respect. The unnatural and improper combination of the inhabitants of these comparatively less advanced but minerally very rich aboriginal highlands with the advanced People of the plains of Bihar proper with different culture, language, history, race, customs, habits and land-tenure, etc., system had proved and has been proving detrimental to the welfare and progress of these Abidasi tracts.

The statements made by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of Bihar, in the Bihar Legislative Council on 8th February 1939, on the resolution for the constitution of Chota Nagpur and the Santal Pariganas into a separate Governor's province that "the areas included in Chota Nagpur Division have been an integral part of the province of Bihar from the earliest period of the Mughul Rule in India" appears to have been based upon misconception of facts and figures. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister on that occasion quoted the observations of the Governor Lord Sinha of Mr. L. S. S. O's Malley, the author of Palamnu District Gazetteer, of Sir Maurice Hallett, the author of the Ranchi District Gazetteer, of Mr. Lister, Hazaribagh District Gazetteer, of Mr. Coupland, the author of Manbhun District Gazetteer. The extracts he quoted within the Council Chamber clearly show that Chota Nagpur, in the period under review, had a separate entity and was never fully conquered and annexed to Subah of Bihar. Why had this area a different name and existence if Chota Nagpur was in the Subah of Bihar and was its integral part? It is a fact that Chota Nagpur for all practical purposes remained independent and self-governed, though nominally it acknowledged the supremacy of the Subedar at Patna directly and indirectly of the Mughal Emperor by paying tribute occasionally. Dr. R. D. Bannerji in his book "The History of Orissa" rightly emphasises this aspect of the aborigines in India and says that "these aboriginal tribes have been seldom conquered by the earlier kings of the country who were often pleased to accept a nominal submission from their chiefs."

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Even prior to the establishment of Moghul Rule in India, in the opinion of the late Rai Bahadur S. C. Roy, M.A., B.L., the greatest anthropologist of Bihar and author of the book "Mundas and their Country," all throughout the long centuries of Hindu Rule in India, Jharkhand appears to have remained unmolested, though the foreign conqueror on rare occasion might have succeeded in exercising overlordship over it."

On 12th August 1765: Shah Alam II the Mughul Emperor, without kingdom and capital, gave the Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the East India Company. The occupation of Chota Nagpur by the Muhammadans and British was, however, nominal. Mr. L. S. S. O's Malley in Singhbhum, Saraikele, Kharsawan Gazetteer observes "The Hos also appear to have been left alone by the Muhammadans by whom the whole of this country was included in the vast unexplored tract, called Jharkhand, or the forest land, which extended from Rohtasgarh to the frontier of Orissa". This isolation of Chota Nagpur from Bihar became all the more clear by the fact that in 1780 a district under name of Ramgarh Hill Tract was formed including the present district of Hazaribagh and Palamu, parts of Gaya, Manbhum and Monghyr. Down to 1831 this vast area was administered as an "Ordinary Regulation District" under a Judge-Magistrate Collector of Ramgarh who had his headquarters alternatively at Chatra in Hazaribagh and Sherghati in Gaya. Later on whole of Chota Nagpur including the Singhbhum and Manbhum district was formed into a separate administrative unit under a new Officer called the Agent to the Governor-General with headquarters at Ranchi and with his principal assistants at different district headquarters. In 1854 these districts were formed into "Non-Regulation-Division" under a Commissioner in control of the Lt. Governor of Bengal. These facts clearly testify that Chota Nagpur had no administrative relationship at all with Bihar proper, in the first 100 years of British rule. As latest the Royal proclamation on December 12, 1912 announced from Delhi that a new Lt. Governorship in Council was to be formed to administer the area Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur, thus we find Chota Nagpur being separately mentioned along with Bihar and Orissa. The Simon Commission's report emphatically says that "the primitive tribes" in this back-ward area "amount to 58% of the population of the plateau and they nurse a resentment against the Hindu immigrants who, as they consider, have robbed them of their ancestral lands". And so "the five districts of Chota Nagpur together with the districts known as Santal Paraganas and Sambalpur (now in Orissa) are partially excluded from reform". It was further declared that "the administration of these areas, as of other back-ward areas, will rest with the Government of India who will act through the Governor". Thus the new province of Jharkhand is the natural, historical and logical sequence or culmination of the past development.

Culturally Chota Nagpur and Santal Paraganas is quite different from Bihar. It is primarily a land of Aboriginal who are the real and original inhabitants of India. The learned Dr. Radha Kumud Mukherjee the Professor of Indian History, Lucknow University aptly observed in his book "Hindu Civilisation" that the "vast region comprising the Santal Paraganas and Chota Nagpur together with parts of the C.P., Orissa and Madras, is the seat of a Separate Primitive Munda or Kolarian civilisation continuing through ages in its special features." Further Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad the Food Member, interim Government of India and the President of the Constituent Assembly, India, has very aptly remarked "That portion of Bihar where this great assemblage is meeting today has its own peculiarities. In beauty it is matchless. Its history too is wonderful. These parts are inhabited very largely by those who are regarded as the original inhabitants of India. Their Civilisation differs in many respects from the civilisation of other people. The discovery of old articles shows that this civilisation is very old. The Adibasis belong to a different stock from Aryans and people of the same stock are spread towards the south-east of India in the many islands to a great distance. Their ancient culture is preserved in these parts to a considerable extent, perhaps more than elsewhere" while speaking as the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Ramgarh Session of the Congress.

Regarding the local Self Government the Adibasis have had the indigenous and the most democratic kinds of Governments under Panchayats, Purhas, Mankis and Parganaits quite distinct from other races of Bihar. The leading Anthropologist of India, late

Rai Bahadur S. C. Roy in his article "The Aborigines of Chota Nagpur" have written that the Adibasis "have for ages possessed an effective form of village Self-Government with village headman, and their assistants, and councils of village elders discharging judicial and executive functions and a village Militia of unmarried youngmen. They advanced further in Local Self Government and developed a wider organization as Parhas or Pira which are federations of villages with their federal executive and judicial council known as Parha Panchayats. They even went further and organised wider confederations or Inter Parha League which contained germs of a State

Regarding the census figures we beg leave to submit that the figures of 1941 census are vitiated by interested Hindu Organization for obvious political reasons. The census was not taken correctly so the figures are unreliable and misleading as many aborigines were wrongly enumerated as Hindus as it is evident from late Rai Bahadur S. C. Roy's book "Oraon Religion and Customs" in which he says "within the last few years efforts appears to have been made by more than one Hindu Organisation to bring the Oraons into the official Hindu fold by giving them Suddhi or Ceremonial Purification Some propaganda work also appears to have been carried on by Arya Samaj to convert the Oraons." This practice was also followed more or less in all the districts of Chotanagpur and Santal Paraganas. As the result of which, the population of Manbhumi Aboriginals fell from 61% (vide Mr. S. N. Majumdar's, the then Deputy Commissioner of Manbhumi, the present Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bihar, recommendation to the Provincial Government in the year 1935) to 33.4% in census 1941. So the census figures are inaccurate and misleading as already stated above the Simon Commission report testifies "the primitive tribes amounts to 58% of the population of the plateau" We claim that atleast 80% of the population of Chotanagpur & Santal Paraganas is Adibasi. This area is called the predominant Adibasi Area with overwhelmingly large and big compact aboriginal area in India. We give the evidence of his Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett "as regards the balance they are mostly aborigines but they have risen in the social scale and they have become Hinduised. They are as far as my experience goes, less intelligent and have less ability but they nearly all of them are aborigines It is apparent that they were taken as Hindus on the version of certain people of Hindu religion, but they have not abandoned entirely their aboriginal religion by saying that there is a large number of animists who have become Hinduised it means that they are classed as Hindus and not as aborigines. That takes away about 30% of the population. Then there is 10% of Hindus who come in from outside and whose interests, as History shows, are more or less againsts the interests of aboriginal tribes."

To urge that Chotanagpur and S. P. will be a deficit province inspite of the richest mineral deposits like Iron, Coal, Mica, Manganese, Copper, Dolomite, Bauxite, Lead, Cement etc., and the richest forest products like timbers, lac, cocoons etc. is pure myth and mere fabrication. The resources and potentialities of this mineral rich plateau are very great which require a different system of administration altogether from Bihar. The area has immense possibilities for its industrialization and nationalization of the existing big concerns, in light of which to apprehend that Chotanagpur and Santal Paraganas will be a deficit province is nothing but to take a pessimistic view of it.

The area and population also justify the constitution of a separate Governor's Province on a compact administrative unit. We are giving below the areas and populations of comparatively smaller tracts which have already been constituted into separate provinces.

| | Area | Population (According to 1941 Census) |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. Sind Province | 48, 136 sq. miles | - 4,535,008 |
| 2. Assam ,, | 45, 951 , , | - 10,204,783 |
| 3. N.W.F. ,, | 14, 263 , , | - 3,039,067 |
| 4. Orissa ,, | 32, 198 , , | - 8,728,544 |
| 5. Delhi ,, | | - 917,959 |
| 6. Coorg | | - 169,726 |
| 7. Ajmer & Merwara | | - 583,693 |
| 8. Baluchistan | | - 501,631 |

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| Area | Population (According to 1941 Census) |
|---|--|
| 9. Jharkhand — Over 66,000 | „ „ - over 12,000,000 |
| Chotanagpur & S.P. alone } — 32,592 | „ „ - 9,750,846 |

The fundamental rights and the legitimate claims of Chotanagpur and Santal Paraganas have always been neglected and ignored by every Government in respect of Education, Irrigation, Commerce, appointment in Government, Semi-Govt. and private concerns, Representation in Legislatures and Cabinets both Provincial and Central, in all the previous constitutional arrangements and reforms and various other spheres.

This area has been a land of illiteracy. The education facilities provided are hardly be called sufficient. What to say of higher education, the primary and secondary education are very meagre. The Government whether foreign or Congress have not encouraged to develop the Adibasi languages, Customs, traditions, cultures etc,

The things which are purify of adibasi origin The Bihar Congress Government is deliberately destroying the Adibasi Civilization, language and Culture etc. In Santal Paraganas Paraganait system was abolished and they are forced to adopt the Devanagri script in writing. There was no Govt. College in this vast area till last year, though there was an incessant demand for the same. There are more than 27 Colleges in Bihar proper whereas in Chotanagpur and Santal Paraganas we have one Missionary Degree College and two proposed Degree Colleges, one Govt. and the other Missionary. The Adibasi students at present have to go over some 300 miles for their higher education at the cost of many personal disadvantages like the lodging, fooding and messing and even in getting seats both in the Colleges and hostels. In fact this vast area with majority of backward population requires mechanical and industrial institutions, and a vast number of schools both primary and seccondary, as well as colleges in Arts, Science, Forests, Mining Engineering, Medical, Agriculture etc. alongwith research institutions for all round development. The water supply arrangements are very meagre. Irrigation arrangements are practically nil. There are no facilities and encouragements in trade and commerce. Preference in appointments to various branches of administration in Government, Semi-Government and private concerns are only in pen and paper. Adibasis do not want mere proclamation of empty words and pronouncements of sound phrases. They want that those paper concession should actually be translated into action. Adibasis are not given proper representation in legislatures and cabinets both in Central and Provincial Governments. Adibasis have been disgracefully treated and neglected in all the previous constitutional arrangements and reforms. Even Cabinet Mission has shabbily treated and ignored their legitimate rights. All the other minority communities in India like Sikhs, Parsees, Indian Chirstians, Anglo Indians numbering less than Adibasi population got their due shares in the administration of the country but what to say of due representation, they were not even recognised as a minority community of India. Adibasis have got no faith and Confidence in any future Government of the country in which they have got no real hand and power to shape their destiny within the Indian Union.

The gradual relaxation of the tenancy law regarding the alienation of occupancy holding will have an effect of deprivation of the lands of the abroginals in no time. The law on the subject is rigid enough on obvious reasons namely to prevent passing of lands of the simple minded and ignorant adibasis to the hands of outsiders DIKUS and we view with greatest alarm the probable effect in relaxation of the tenancy laws. The Adibasis strongly condemn the move of the Bihar Government to amend the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act. In the name of justice and welfare to the Abibasis the then Bihar Government in 1939 amended some of the vital sections of Chotanagpur Tenancy Act which resulted in depriving many aborigines from their lands, so the amended sections of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act should be restored back to the original form. The lands should be inalienable.

Further, we beg leave to submit that the Adibasis favour the adult franchise and the delimitation of constituencies. Statutory funds for all round adibasi developments should be

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earmarked. The most democratic and indigenous forms of governments of the Adibasis under Panchayats, Parhas, Mankis & Parganaits should be recognised and preserved.

It will not be out of place and occasion to stress that the Bihar Regiment consisting of 66% of Adibasis, 16% of Jats, and 16% of Muslims be forthwith named "the Adibasi Regiments,"

In conclusion, we must emphatically stress that to create a separate autonomous Jharkhand Province within the Indian Union is just and genuine demand of the Adibasis the original inhabitants including other permanent residents irrespective of caste, creed and nationality of Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas. More over our claims and demands are in keeping with the Karaahi Minority Resolution 1981 and the present national policy of India to redistribute the provinces according to the linguistic and cultural basis. Our demand for the creation of separate autonomous province has been based on the very principle which prompted the people of Bihar, Orissa, and Sind in the past, and the people of Andhra, Mahakosala, Carnatac, Bengal and the Punjab etc. at present. Further, we beg to submit that in the light of the present political events and the developments in the country and to take the place of honour in the national life of free India, Our demand for a separate homeland within Indian Union becomes historic and national necessity for the salvation of the Adibasis from total annihilation and to preserve their national, religious, linguistic and the cultural entity.

As such we are sure and confident this time that our humble memorial would not be a cry in the wilderness, as it has had been in the past under the Bihar Government, and that this will receive a due and deserving attention so as to enable us enjoy the fruits of our esteemed constitution in the light of what has been setforth here as the constitutional panacea of our present lot.

Your Most humble
Memorialists

1. Purna Chandra Birua
2. Subnath Deogam
3. Diuri Tiwari
4. Dhankumar Munda
5. Madhusudan Hessa
6. Sona Ram Jerai

MEMORANDUM OF THE CATHOLIC SABHA RANCHI TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PARTIALLY EXCLUDED AREAS

This Memorial which, we, members of the Catholic Sabha of Chotanagpur, have the honour to lay before you represents what is our considered opinion on the question of Partially Excluded areas as far as Chotanagpur and the Santal Parganas are concerned.

Though the main object of the Catholic Sabha is the religious and moral welfare of the Catholics, it has the right to express its opinion in matters concerning their social and economic well-being. And as the Catholic Sabha is entirely composed of aborigines, the welfare of the whole aboriginal community of Chotanagpur is a matter of deep concern to them. It is in the name of the Catholic laity and in the interests of the whole aboriginal community that this memorial is submitted.

The Catholic Sabha is and remains a non-political association which eschews party politics. It is open to all Catholic laymen and women of Chotanagpur, whatever be their political allegiance, and, in fact, it contains members of different political parties which are not deemed to be contrary to Catholic principles. It does not speak in the name of any of these political parties. It speaks in the name of the vast majority of Catholic laymen and women who, on their own initiative, wish to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the visit of the Sub-Committee on Partially Excluded areas to express their views on the subject of the welfare of the aborigines of Chotanagpur.

The universal demand for a separate administrative unit for these areas was already submitted to the Statutory Commission of 1928. But instead of a separate administrative unit the system of Partially Excluded areas was introduced in 1935. This arrangement, however, has proved inadequate and entirely unsatisfactory for the welfare of the aborigines.

Furthermore, the definite announcement of February 20, 1947, by which the whole structure of Central and Provincial administration is to be overhauled and the deficiencies of the former administrations removed, has made it more imperative than ever that we should express our opinion in this regard.

It is our considered opinion that it is in the best interests of the aborigines and of all concerned that the Partially Excluded areas of Chotanagpur and the Santal Parganas be made into a separate Province within the Union of India.

The grounds on which our opinion is based are the following :

- I. That the aborigines have a peculiar culture of their own no one will deny, nor can any one deny that they have a right to preserve what is best in their culture. Aborigines have no wish to become absorbed into larger communities to the loss of their identity and to the detriment of their advancement as aboriginal races.
- II. Much of their peculiar land tenure has unhappily disappeared, but the aborigines are determined to retain, at all cost, whatever little of their agrarian laws still remains intact and they would consider outside interference with their land system as highly detrimental to their interests.
- III. A mere patronizing attitude on the part of Government will no longer satisfy the aborigines. The palliatives forced on the previous Governments, British and Indian, by the trend of events, will no longer suffice and, in fact, have never been effective. Had it not been for the work undertaken by the Christian Missions, the aborigines of Chotanagpur would, by now, have been reduced to the condition of serfs, they would have lost their land, would have stagnated in ignorance and would have been even more neglected than they have been by the various Governments that were supposed to further their interests. Now, however, that the aborigines are making substantial progress in the field of education, they feel they ought to have a larger share in the administration of these areas which have been so neglected in the past. With the growth of education and the greater opportunities of this democratic age, their political consciousness and their national aspirations have been awakened. It is within their right to shape their own destiny in a separate administrative unit within the framework of the Union of India.
- IV. Moreover, the Province of Bihar, in particular, and other Provinces as well, are too cumbersome for efficient administration of all their vast territory. In such conditions, the areas which are bound to be neglected are precisely those inhabited by the aboriginal populations. These areas are geographically distinct, and it is a fact that Chotanagpur has greatly suffered from this utter neglect in the past. The conditions of the aboriginal villagers are unknown to most administrators. The aborigines have been denied their due share in the administration of the country and, under the Indian Act of 1935, the special safeguards which had been introduced have proved futile, as no Governor has ever discharged his special responsibilities towards the aborigines to their satisfaction.
- V. The aborigines' demand for a separate administrative unit of their own with equal rights for all is a long-standing claim which is not due to the recent agitation for separate provinces on account of the narrow communalism which is now prevalent in India.

The conditions created by the announcement of February 20, 1947, have only made this demand more urgent and positive. The separation of Chotanagpur is essential to the survival of the aborigines and is the only means for them to secure an honourable status in Independent India. They do not wish to share the fate of aborigines in other lands who have been doomed to extinction.

Conclusion : Therefore, in view of the neglect which aborigines have experienced in the past, in view of their peculiar land tenure, customs and culture, in view of the fact that aborigines are at last emerging from the ignorance in which they had been kept so long, in view of the trend of events which have taken place of late and have raised the question of a separate province above party politics, we are of opinion that the actual Chotanagpur civil division and the Santal Parganas where aborigines form a predominant and compact section of the population, be formed into a separate province directly depending on the Central Government of India.

In this proposed new province we, aboriginal Christians, do not claim to have separate electorates.

I. BECK, President.
SAMUEL SURIN, Member (*Torpa*)
JOSEPH TOPPO (*Biru V.*)
SYLVANUS XALXO (*Barway*)
JOSEPH TIGGA (*Noatoli*).
FRANCIS KUJUR, General Secretary
JOSEPH LAKRA, Asst. Secretary
A. KERKETTA, Treasurer
Members Executive Committee, C.N.C.S.

Ranchi, the 7th May, 1947.