

Administra-
tion of the
temple under
the Mara-
thas

By the treaty concluded between Nawab Alivardi Khan of Bengal and Raghuji Bhonsla of Nagpur in 1751 A. D. the province of Cuttack i. e., Orissa as far as the river Suvarnarekha was ceded to the Marathas over which they became *de facto* ruler.⁶⁷ The Marathas kept the management of the Jagannath temple in their own hands and being Hindus encouraged the worship of Jagannath. They got the ceremonies and festivals properly conducted, and made good the deficit between the receipt and the expenditure of the temple. The day to day affairs of the temple were managed by the Parichas appointed by the Maratha government. "There were three Purichas, viz., Sewajee Pandit, Jugurnath Raj Goro and Amna Pandit, whose sole duty it was to take care of the interior management of the temple, and any complaints against them were made to Ekadee Pundit at Cuttack, who decided upon them finally".⁶⁹ The authority of the Rajas of Khurda 'was very limited in the temple during the time of the Maratha government who had assumed almost the entire control'. The Marathas were defraying the expenses of the temple from the tax they collected from the pilgrims. Besides, they also set apart some lands for the worship of Jagannath in the Parganas of Rahang, Sirai, Chabiskud and Lembai which they received from the Raja of Khurda in lieu of payment for military services. This endowment yielding a revenue of Rs. 27,000 was known as Satais Hazari Mahal.⁷⁰ But the discipline and the administration of the temple seem to have much deteriorated during the Maratha rule.

The temple
during the
British rule

With the British occupation of Orissa in 1803 the management of the Jagannath temple was taken over by the East India Company. The Marquis of Wellesley in his despatches to Lt. Col. Campbell, the Commander of the Southern forces, had particularly stressed the need for respecting the great sanctity attached to the temple of Jagannath at Puri. Before the British army marched into Orissa Wellesley had instructed that "no part of the property, treasure, or valuable articles of any kind, contained in the Pagoda of Jaggernaut, or in any religious edifice, or possessed by any of the priests or Bramhins. or persons of any description attached to the temples or religious institutions is to be considered as prize to any army".⁷¹ For the first few years the East India Company managed the day to

67. R. D. Banerjee, Op. Cit., Vol. II, pp. 110—115.

68. Jagannath Temple Correspondence, Part, I, Vol. II, p.2.

69. Jagannath Temple Correspondence, Part I, Vol. II, p. 141, Letter from James Hunter, Collector of Tax, Puri, to Magistrate, Cuttack, dated 21st July, 1807.

70. Krupasindhu Mishra, Utkala Itihasa, p. 328; L. S. S. O' Malley, Puri, District Gazetteer, p. 234.

71. J. K. H. R. S., VI. I, No. 4, p. 378.