

BATANAGAR

The Batanagar foundation stone was placed on October 28, 1934. "In this our work, help us God. Sanctioned by Jan A. Bata, the head of the Bata organization."¹

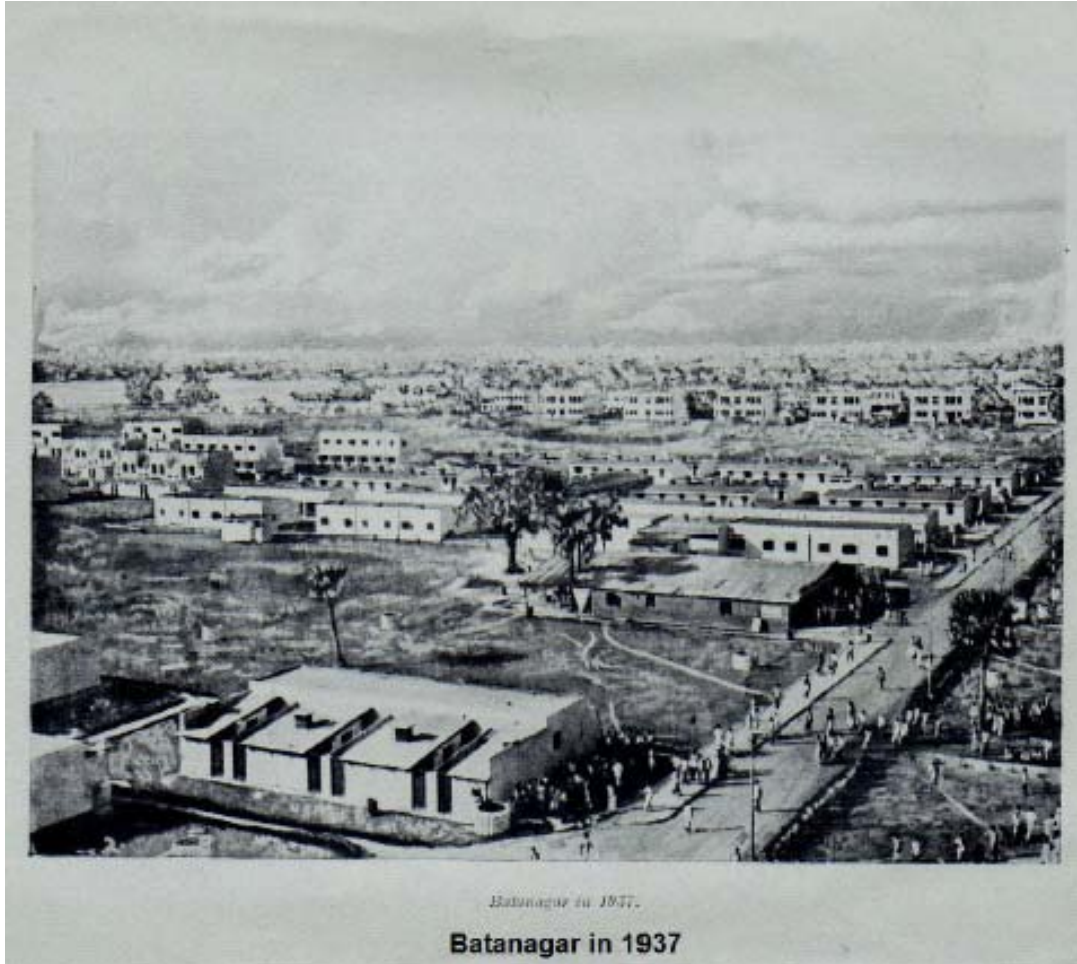


Za Obchodem Kolem Sveta, J.A.Bata 1937

These plans detailed drawings, together with photographs of the place were presented to Mr. J.A.Bata in Zlin for final approval. Mr. Bata looked at them, studied the photographs thoroughly, then called a conference of his architects. Finally, by a powerful stroke of his pen he changed the carefully drawn plans altogether. He drew straight lines right across the holes and pits and the sluice canal. This, he said, was to be the main factory courtyard, on both sides which the factory buildings were to be built. Each building must have plenty of space all around for gardens, for proper ventilation; everywhere there must be plenty of room regardless of the space it would absorb. Then,

¹ The First Decade of Batanagar by Jan Baros 1945

on the centre of the land there must be a Social Recreation and Education Centre – easily accessible from the living colonies of both sides. The colonies must be just like those in Zlin – each house with a small garden of its own – all the roads streamlined, pavements, sports grounds, and space for children to play. “If there are pits on your way, said he, “fill them up.” Finally, Mr. Bata returned all the plans entirely changed, with the words: “And now, right through the worst to make the best.”²



Za Obchodem Kolem Sveta, J.A.Bata 1937

² The First Decade of Batanagar by Jan Baros 1945



Indie pracující. Nahoře: Prodejna Bata Chowringhe, Calcuta. Dole: V popředí ulice rodinné čtvrti indických spolupracovníků, v pozadí budovy dílen.