

## APPENDIX – I

### BRIEF HISTORY OF FORMATION & SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF NORTH-EASTERN STATES

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#### **Introduction**

The term “status” itself is dynamic in nature and can be explained from both absolute and relative angles. Absolute angle reveals whether this “status” is improved or not subject to two different time periods. Society is sum total of different individuals or communities. As time goes on, it is quite obvious that any individual will start to compare his or her status with the average status of the society. The same is true for any community also. All these are judgments of status from relative angles. Effectiveness of development policy can be reflected from the both angles of status judgment. In this connection it is realized gradually, that development policy can not consider only so called pure economic parameters like income, consumption etc.

The entire north-east region occupies 7.9 percent area of the total geographical area of India. Decadal growth rate of population of this region is 22.16 percent (1991-2001) against all India figure 21.34 percent. Overall literacy rate is 68.77 percent against all India status 65.38 percent.

#### **Brief History of North-Eastern States**

Arunachal Pradesh, the land of rising sun which was earlier called North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) is the largest state of entire north-east India with total area 83,743 sq. km., total population 10.91 lakh (2001 census) and population density 13 per sq. km. (lowest in India). This state is flanked by the international

boundaries Myanmar (East), Tibet (North East), Assam (South) and Bhutan (West). Assam was taken under the control of British in 1838. That time this state was restless due to violent activities of the tribals like Adis, Mishmi etc. After India's Independence in 1947, the urgent need of taking steps against the backwardness of Frontier was realised. In 1971, NEFA was given the status of Union territory and named as Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh became a state of India on February 20, 1987.

The "Ahoms" occupied the present Assam in the 13<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Mongoloid and Caucasoid, both groups of people have taken place into the ethnic history of Assam (Das 1967). This state carries largest number of population among all northeastern states (266.38 lakh, 2001 census) having total geographical area 78,438 sq. km.

Manipur the land of gems became formally part of India in 1949 and achieved statehood in 1972. This state covers total geographical area 22,327 sq. km. with total population 23.89 lakh (census 2001). Myanmar, Moren have helped a lot in the growth process of Manipur through border trade. These two regions exist in the border area of Manipur.

Meghalaya means the abode of the cloud and it's the third largest state of the north east (22,429 sq.km.) with fourth largest population force as per census report 2001(23.06 lakh). The history of Meghalaya is basically constructed by two communities Garo and Khasi and their colourful activities. Since 1947 there was a constant pressure on independent Indian Government for the autonomous hill districts. Initially these districts were taken under VIth schedule of the constitution. But the demand for a separate hill state became real phenomena when Meghalaya got the status of an Indian state in 1970.

The word "Mizo" means the men of the cold high region. Owing to the different adverse situations Mizo people had historical movement through north-west of China, Tibet-Burma border (seventh century AD), Tiau river (1700 AD) and Selsih (1740 AD), a big village of present Mizoram. This state was

considered a Union Territory since 21<sup>st</sup> January 1972 and achieved the status of statehood since 1987. Geographically Mizoram covers a total area of 21,087 sq. km. with total population 8.91 lakh. Myanmar and Bangladesh are two international boundaries which exist in the East, South and West directions of Mizoram.

The term "Nagaland" is originated from the Tibeto-Burman source "Nok" which implies "people". Nagaland attained it's statehood on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1963. Before that Naga Hill District Tribal Council came into existence on 1945. This council had shown an increasing demand to the Independent Indian Government for a separate autonomous hill state. The pressure was irresistible and consequently in 1957 Naga Hill Tuensang Area was formed. But this was not enough to bring the Naga people under control and finally, in front of unquenchable rising violent activities of Naga people, Indian Government was compelled to declare Nagaland as the sixteenth state of India. Presently this state carries a total population force 19.89 lakh (2001 census) within a total area 16579 sq.km. Nagaland is located among Assam (west and north corner), Arunachal Pradesh (east and north corner), Myanmar (east corner) and Manipur (south corner).

The word Sikkim has come from its original form known as Sikkhim (Sukhim or new house). By the geographical status of this state, on the west Singalia and Chola range separate Sikkim from Nepal. Chola range again gives Sikkim its own geographical identity from Tibet on the east. River Dik-chu forms the boundary between Sikkim and Bhutan in the east. The political history of Sikkim was first controlled by Tibetan guardianship. Thereafter this state came into contact with the British rulers and British protectorateship and in 1975 Sikkim was merged with India.

## Socio-economic Profile of Northeastern States

### Arunachal Pradesh

Population growth is one of the most important socio-economic indicators. Decadal growth of population for Arunachal Pradesh was 36.87 percent during 1981-91 and 26.21 percent during 1991-2001. The corresponding figures for all India are 23.85% and 21.34% respectively. So, despite of having a falling trend, population growth rate in this state is much higher than the National average. However the growth rate of population is biased in favour of rural area as evident from Table no. 2.1. It can be seen that during 1981-91 urban population growth rate is positive and high whereas during 1991-2001 the same is negative. In the next chapters we will observe that the variations in the rural-urban population growth rates have a great significance in connection with the structural retrogression or progression. In 2001 sex ratio (females per thousand male) is 901, which is far below than all India average (933). The novelties in the history of northeastern states can not exist without the very existence and activities of tribal people in these states. Table 2 gives an account of the names and places of the tribals of different Northeastern states.

**Appendix Table 1-Growth Rate of Urban Population**

	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	India
1981-91	175%	39.89%	34.21%	37.5%	166.67%	75%	-20%	82.6%	36.46%
1991-2001	-45.46%	36.14%	11.77%	36.37%	37.5%	66.67%	50%	28.58%	31.13%

Source: Calculated from corresponding Census Reports.

**Appendix Table 2 Names and Living Places of Major Tribes in Northeastern States**

States	Tribe names	Places (District)
Arunachal Pradesh	Monpa, Sherdukpen, Aka, Nishi, Apatani, Tagin, Hillmiri, Adi, Mishmis, Tangsa, Nocte,	Kameng, Sunbansiri, Siang, Lohit, Tirap.

	Wancho.	
Assam	Karbi, Anglong, Dimasa, Boro, Borocacharis, Rabhas, Lalungs, Sonowal Cacharis, Chutiyas, Garos	Anglongslope, North Cachar, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh
Manipur	Puram, Tangkhul, Sanamahi, Paite, Baite, Mao-Maram	
Meghalaya	Garos, Khasi, Hajong, Rabha, Koch, Boro, Dalu	Garos Hills east & west, Goalpara, Kamrup
Mizoram	Lushai, Ralte, Hmar, Paite, Pawl, Chakmas	
Nagaland	Angami, Zeliang, Rangma, Kuki, Chakhesang, Pocharris, Lothas, Sema, Ao Changs, Sangtams, Konyaks.	Kohima, Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung, Tuensang, Mon.
Tripura	Tripura, Jamatia, Garo, Riang, Noatia, Lushai, Halam, Mag, Chakma	

Source- Vidyarthi. L.P; Art and Culture of Northeast India

Jhum economy or shifting cultivation takes place in the north-eastern economy owing to the ecological adjustment. Main steps taken under shifting cultivation are jungle Cutting, Burning, Sowing, Weeding and Harvesting. In Arunachal Pradesh different tribal groups are engaged in shifting cultivation viz. Aka, Adi, Mismi, Wancho etc. As per Arunachal Pradesh Government website percentage of cultivable land under Agriculture/ horticulture of total geographical area is 7.60%.

During 2004-05 per capita income at constant prices (93-94) of this state was Rs. 10266, much lower than the national average Rs.12416 (NEDFi Data bank January 2006).Arunachal Pradesh has experienced 4.4% growth rate of State Domestic Product in the Ninth Five year planning period against all India figure 5.3% (Yojjana, December 2005). Overall poverty estimates has declined

from 51.93% to 33.47%, but the rural-urban poverty gap is drastically rising from 15.75 to 32.57 in the time span 1973-2000 (India Development Report 2004-05). The main reason behind this fact is that the rural people are mainly dependent on agricultural sector of which the contribution in total GSDP is continuously falling over the period. As per census report 1991, this sector has provided 67% of total employment, where as the growth rates of agricultural sector is decreasing sharply from 8.85%(1980-90) to 2.19%(1990-2000). Manufacturing sector has been proved unable to create sufficient employment opportunities, as the growth rate of this sector during 1980—1990 is 15% and in the next decade (1990-2000) this growth rate has become negative (-4.18%). Low industrial base is a common feature of all north-eastern states. As on March 2002 credit-deposit ratio for Arunachal Pradesh was only 15.8. This figure for all India was 58.4 and for the entire north-eastern region was 27.2. In the absence of large scale industry, small scale enterprises have been flourished and as on March 2001, total number of registered SSI units is 4750 against employment level 20660. Besides, traditional industries, which are independent of any structural change, have got a great importance in the life of tribe people for their bread and butter. The tribe people named Adi, Mishmi, Apatani etc. are habituated in spinning, weaving and textile.

In terms of HDI value, the rank of Arunachal Pradesh was 14(0.242) in 1981 and that in 1991 was 29(0.328). Urban HDI value is higher than the rural HDI value in both the reference periods for this state. According to census report 2001 percentage of literacy in this state was 54.7 %( All India 65.4) and the same was 25.5 (All India 43.6) in 1981. Infant mortality rate following the estimation of census 2001 is 41(All India 71) in rural area and 11 (All India 42) in urban area. Based on economic infrastructure (agriculture, banking, electricity, transport and communication) and social infrastructure (education and health), TCA Anant, K.L. Krishna and Uma Dutta Roychowdhury(1999) have made index of social and

economic infrastructure. The value of this index for Arunachal Pradesh was 69.71% against 178.68 for Kerala, 187.57 for Punjab and 200.57 for Goa.

### **Assam**

Assam has experienced decadal population growth value 24.2% during 1981-91 and that during 1991-2001 was 18.8%. Over the same periods all India figures were 21.35% and 23.9% respectively. But as visible from the Table 1, the growth of population is not much biased in favour of urban area. Urban population growth rate from 1991 to 2001 was 36.14% against 39.89% from 1981 to 1991. Sex ratio in 2001 was 932 which is almost the same as the national average (933). Ethnic composition in Assamese society incorporates large varieties of tribe people in different corners of this state (Table 2). Among the tribes Garo, Khasi, Mikir, Miri, Dafla etc. communities are habituated in shifting cultivation or jhum economy. Out of total geographical area 7843800 hectares, total gross cropped area is 398900 hectares (1995-96 Census).

Corresponding to constant price level (1993-94 prices), per capita income of Assam in 2004-05 is Rs 6721 against national average Rs 12416. This state has registered only 2.1% growth rate of State Domestic Product, much lower than all India figure 5.3% during the Ninth planning period. The lion shares of SDP are generated by primary sector (42.49%) and Tertiary sector (46.28%), estimated in 2001-02, where as most of the workers are engaged in agricultural and allied activities (53%, 2001 census). Considering the declining trend of agriculture sector, this should seriously hamper the economic status of rural people, who mostly are dependent on agrarian economy. Rural and Urban poverty ratios were 52.67 and 36.92 respectively in 1973-74. These ratios in 1999-2000 were 40.04 for rural area and 7.47 for urban area. So, over the period 1973-2000 rural-urban poverty gap has increased from 15.75 to 32.57. Credit –deposit ratio over the ten years (1992-2002) has declined from 50.3 to 31.7. This is simply the reflection of low industrial profile in Assam. It is worth mentioning that during the same period all India Credit-deposit ratio is almost stagnant i.e 57.7(1992) and

58.4(2002). Small scale industries have become second best option in Assam like any other northeastern state. As on march 2002 there are 188110 workers in 45193 SSI units. Among the traditional industry cocoon raising is very much famous which is used for Assam silk.

Assam has occupied 14<sup>th</sup> position with respect to HDI value (0.386) in 2001, which is an improvement over the previous HDI status in 1991(value 0.348, rank. 26). However there are clear differences in the achievements in HDI between rural and urban area. Percentage of literacy rate is 64.3% (2001), not much different from all India figure 65.45%. Infant mortality rate was 78 against the national average of 71. In 1998-99, 3.6% children under 3 years were suffering from the problem of underweight, much lower than the all India proportion of 47%. As described before the value of the index of social and economic infrastructure is 77.72(1999) much lower than the values achieved by Kerala (178.68), Punjab (187.57) and Goa(200.57).

### **Manipur**

There is a remarkable variation in the rural urban population growth trend in Manipur. During 1981-91 the growth rate of urban population was 34.21%, where as it was only 11.77% for the period 1991-2001. Combined growth rate of population in the last decade (1991-2001) was 30% much higher than the national rate 21.3%. Sex ratio in 2001 was highest in Manipur among the northeastern states (978). This is also much higher than the all India status (933). The ethnic groups accustomed in jhum or shifting cultivation in Manipur are Kuki, Mao, Kabui, Kacha Naga etc. According to latest estimation, area of the total gross cropped field is 192000 hectatres out of total geographical area of 2232700 hectares.

Per capita income in 2004-05 at 1993-94 price level was Rs. 8015 for Manipur, much lower than National average of Rs. 12416. In the recent past contribution of manufacturing sector has shown an increasing trend although, there is no clear evidence of boom of heavy industries. During 2001-02, 68.26%

of total SDP is generated through non-agricultural sector whereas maximum employment opportunities are created in village based agriculture sector. That is why extent of rural poverty in terms of head count ratio is not improved significantly over the period 1973-2000. This is falling from 52.67 to 40.04 for rural area and from 36.92 to 7.47 for urban area. It may be noted that rural-urban poverty gap is widened. We may observe a drastic fall of credit-deposit ratio from 67.4 to 26.4 in the time span 1992-2002, which is clearly an indicator of disappointing performance of industrial sector. Small scale industries like handloom textiles, wood furniture, repair services etc. have taken major roles in the economy of Manipur. In 2001, total numbers of SSI units were 5779 against employment level of 30280.

Based on HDI calculation in 1991 Manipur held 9<sup>th</sup> position (value 0.536) in India, which is a deterioration compared to the previous status in 1981 (value 0.461, rank 4). Presently (census 2001), literacy rate in this state is 68.9%, higher than the all India status (65.4%). Besides, infant mortality rate in 2001 is 25, much satisfactory performance compared to all India level 71. During 1998-99, 27.5% children under 3 years were suffering from the problem of underweight. This is also much lower than the national achievement of 47%. Despite all these facts, Manipur has maintained the same tradition of northeastern states of having low value of the index of social and economic infrastructure, which is only 75.39(1999).

### **Meghalaya**

In this state growth trend of population has not witnessed much variation between rural and urban area during 1981-2001 (Table 1). Decadal growth rates of population are 29.9% (1991-2001) and 32.9% (1981-1991). Both figures are higher than the corresponding growth rates of entire India, which was 21.3% and 23.9% respectively. Sex ratio in Meghalaya has been characterized by a rising trend since 1961(937) and the estimated values of this parameter in the

successive census years are 942 (1971), 954(1981) 955(1991) and 975(2001). As per 1999-00 census total geographical area of this state is 2242900 hectares of which total gross cropped area is 262830 hectares. Agricultural process includes shifting cultivation or jhum which are very common among the tribes Khasi, Garo, Jaintia etc.

Per capita income in 2004-05 at constant price (1993-94) of Meghalaya was Rs 11278 against all India level of Rs 12416. Estimation on 2001-02 suggests more than 65% of State Domestic Product is coming from the non-agricultural sector, whereas more than 50% workers are absorbed in agriculture based sector. This fact is an indicator of the rural-urban disparity in economic status. Moreover, the contribution of manufacturing sector has never been significant, as for example, this was only 2% in total SDP during 2001-02. Low profile of industrial base and low profile of credit deposit ratio are two sides of the same coin. This ratio is only 18.3 at the end of financial year 2002 for Meghalaya and 58.4 for all India. This state is considered as second best in northeast region in terms of industrial base after Assam. To a large extent this achievement is due to the presence of 4599 SSI units generating employment of 26702 persons as on March 2003. Under the traditional activities major products are Garo clothes called "dakmandas", which is made by Garo women and basically a shawl. Khasi tribe people utilise pineapple fibers to make textiles. As the employment trend has worsened the economic status of rural people compared to urban people, rural-urban poverty gap measured by head count ratio has increased from 15.75(1973) to 32.57(2000).

In 1991 Meghalaya attended 24<sup>th</sup> rank (value 0.365) among the all states of India, but much improvement is observed in case of urban Meghalaya over the period 1981-91, as its rank has changed from 21 to 10 corresponding to the HDI values 0.442 and 0.624. Literacy rate and infant mortality as per census 2001 are 63.3% and 52% respectively. On the other hand index of social and economic

infrastructure (1999) is 75.39, much lower than the index values achieved by some of the advanced states of India mentioned before.

## **Mizoram**

In Mizoram urban population growth rate has declined drastically from 166.67% (1981-91) to 37.5% (1991-2001). It is quite possible that a fraction of the urban people preferred to be rural people during the time period 1991-2001. In general decadal growth rate of population from 1991 to 2001 of Mizoram was 29.9% as against all India growth 21.3%. Mizoram is having 938 female per 1000 male as per Census report 2001. Mizo, Kuki, Lakher, etc. tribe communities are habituated in shifting cultivation. Over the period 1993-2002 this state experienced 5% growth of GSDP per annum at constant price (1993-94), which is 6.01% for all India.

Of the total state domestic product 76.22% is generated through the non-agricultural activities, while around 60% workers are involved in agriculture based activities. This has become causal to aggravate economic inequality between rural and urban people. On the criterion of head count ratio the gap between rural-urban poverty has increased from 15.75 to 32.57 during 1973-2000. Manufacturing sector has never been a source of employment generation as its usual growth trend was always discouraging. This sector has registered a negative exponential growth rate (-12.61%) in the last decade (1993-2000) contributing only 1.22% of total NSDP (1999-2000). So is the trend of credit – deposit ratio. At the end of March 2002 this ratio is only 26.4 against all India figure 58.4. Though, it has not maintained much distance from the figure of entire northeastern region 27.2. Altogether 4668 small scale industries have been established as on 2000-01 creating employment level of 23460 persons. Most units belong to handloom textiles, handicraft, fruit processing and steel fabrication.

Mizoram holds the highest position in terms of HDI value (0.548) estimated on 1991 in northeastern region and 7<sup>th</sup> position among all the Indian states. Its literacy rate (88.5%) and infant mortality (23) rate, both are highest among the northeastern states and much higher than the corresponding national status of 65.4% and 71 in 2001. Only 27.7% children below 3 years are carrying underweight against national percentage 47.0. Index of social and economic infrastructure is having a “low profile” in comparison with some other developed states. The value of this index for Mizoram is 82.13 in 1999 and the same for Kerala is 178.68, 187.57 for Punjab and 200.57 for Goa.

### **Nagaland**

There is truly explosive population growth in the decade 1991-2001(64%) in Nagaland which is highest in India. Both rural and urban areas have augmented their own population force comparable with state population growth trend (Table 1). As per the estimate of 2001 census there are 909 women for 1000 men, which is an improvement over the previous estimates which was 886(1991) and 863(1981). Currently 17.26% land of total geographical area is utilized for agricultural purpose. Around 76% of this agricultural land comes under jhum or shifting cultivation. In Nagaland Sema, Konayak, Rengma, Tangkhul tribes are highly associated with the shifting cultivation

Under ninth planning period Nagaland experienced a very meagre growth of State Domestic Product which was as 2.6% against the national average of 5.3%. Over the period 1993-2003, sectoral composition at constant price (1993-94) in SDP has shown an unusual trend. The share of secondary sector has declined from 12.24% to 10.75%, while the share of tertiary sector is also falling from 61.91% to 51.56%. Besides, the contribution of primary sector has increased from 25.85% to 37.40%. Low profile of manufacturing sector is reflected by the insignificant trend of credit-deposit ratio. This ratio has decreased from 41.51 to 16.84 during 1994-2004. Per capita income of Nagaland (Rs 11674) in 2001-02 albeit, is higher than the national average (Rs 10754).

This has become possible due to a considerable improvement in the work participation rate. During the time period 1981-2001 this rate has been increased from 0.13 to 0.42. Rural –urban poverty gap (by the head count ratio) has increased from 15.75(1973) to 32.57(2000). As the economy is characterised by the absence of heavy industry, small scale units have got a great importance. Almost 1119 SSI units are established absorbing 3990 total number of workers. These are mostly of handloom textiles, handicraft, fruit processing, metal products etc. Naga people are also famous in traditional activities like making shawls, wood carving, basketry by cane and bamboo, pottery, black smithy, musical instruments made by wood and bamboo etc.

Overall development status has improved as the rank of Nagaland in terms of HDI value is uplifted from 20 (1981, value 0.328) to 11 (1991, value 0.486). Over the same time range infant mortality rate has decreased from 68 to 51. 24.1% (all India 47%) of the children under 3 years are having lack of sufficient nutrition (1998-99). Census 2001 reveals that 67.1% of Naga people are literate against national percentage of 65.4%. Index of social and economic infrastructure for Nagaland is 76.14(1999) that is much below compared to the index value achieved by some of the developed states mentioned before.

### **Sikkim**

Sikkim has registered 33% decadal growth rate of population during 1991-2001 that is much higher than the all India growth rate of 21.3%. This growth rate is a further increase over the previous decade (1981-91-28.5%). On the contrary, during 1971-81 this state experienced an unbelievable high population growth rate (50.2%). It was the result of merger with India (1975) and large scale immigration. Proportion of urban population suddenly decreased from 16.15% to 9.1% in Sikkim during 1981-91. This again increased to 11.1% in 2001. It is to be remembered that in 2001, 27.8% people in India lived in urban area. So, a

significant proportion of urban people were converted into rural people. We shall make an attempt to provide an interpretation of this event later on.

Sex ratio in Sikkim is lowest among the northeastern states in 2001(875). This is a marginal degradation from its status in 1991 census (878). Number of women per 1000 men has increased from 835 to 878 during 1981-91.

There was an 8.3% growth of State Domestic Product during the 9<sup>th</sup> five year plan period that is much better than the GDP growth of 5.3% for India. Consequently, per capita income at constant price (1993-94) of Sikkim in 2001-02(Rs 10415) maintained a balance with that of all India level (Rs 10754). Even in some periods such as (2002-03), (2004-05) etc, as per the report of NEDFi databank January 2006, per capita income in Sikkim was greater than that of all India level. In fact in per capita income sense Sikkim has shown much better performance compared to all other northeastern states. But the impression becomes exactly opposite when we observe that 36.55% population live below poverty line (1999-2000) against the national rate of 26.15%. Also, the rural-urban poverty gap measured by head count ratio has increased from 15.75 to 32.57 during 1973-2000. In general work participation rate over the period 1981-2001 was stagnant at 0.48, although satisfactory compared to national average. The employment growth is biased in favour of marginal workers not main workers. Great dependency on agriculture sector whose share in total GSDP is continuously falling has impoverished the rural people of Sikkim. It could be found that 70% rural main workers played role as agricultural labourers and cultivators in 2001, where as, in 2001-02 only 22.88% of SDP is generated from primary sector. The trend of secondary sector and its share has shown a stagnancy giving around 20% in total SDP during 1980-2000 at current prices. By the same time gap the contribution of manufacturing sector was always very meagre and was reduced from 6.07% to 4.4%. Supporting this fact the trend of Credit-deposit ratio was highly depressing. In 1982, 1992, and 2002 this ratio was 16.2 and 23.9 and 16 respectively where as all India figure for the same was

67.1, 57.7 and 58.4 respectively. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector has got its own way through handicrafts, distilleries and food processing units. As on March 2002, 2900 workers are engaged in 385,551 units.

According to census 2001 literacy rate and infant mortality rate are 69.7% and 52 respectively. On the other hand 20.6% children under 3 years are suffering from malnutrition (1998-99). All these parameters have got levels satisfactory with respect to all India levels mentioned before. Human Development Index in 1981(0.342) and in 1991(0.425) have occupied same rank (18) at the national level. Though, Index of Social and Economic Infrastructure (1999) of Sikkim is highest among northeastern states (108.99).

### **Tripura**

In Tripura the speed of urbanisation in terms of population growth rate is lowered over 1991-2001 compared to 1981-91 (Table 1). Besides, Tripura has shown remarkable performance lowering burden of overall population growth rate from 34.2 % (1981-91) to 15.75(1991-2001). In 2001 census report number of female per 1000 male is 950 and this figure is almost stagnant over the period (1971-2001).

In 2004-05, 46.9% of total geographical area comes under gross cropped area. Tribe people named Jamatia, Riang, Mag and Chakma are accustomed to shifting cultivation.

Growth rate of State Domestic Product was highest in Tripura among the northeastern states (7.4%). During IX th plan period, per capita income in 2003-04 at constant price level of 1993-94 was Rs 11136 (all India average 11799), having a compound annual growth rate of 7.24% over 1993-2003. Lions share of State Domestic Product has been generated through non-agricultural sector (78.54%, 2003-04). Change in the percentage share of primary sector over 1971-91 is -32.01, whereas the same of employment share in this sector is -12.5. This is purely a case of structural retrogression and has a serious negative impact on rural people. Rural poverty by the head count ratio has decreased from

52.67(1973) to 40.04(2000), where as this has drastically declined from 36.91 to 7.47 for urban area. Structural retrogression may also be reflected from the meager contribution of manufacturing sector. In the recent past this sector generated only 3.27% of total NSDP. This figure is again reduced to 1.5% in 2003-04. Unwillingness to take entrepreneurship may cause low profile of credit-deposit ratio which in turn vindicates the dismal role of manufacturing sector. We can observe a massive fall of this ratio from 66.3 to 21.5 during 1982-2002. The economic lacuna due to absence of heavy industry is filled up by the presence of small scale industries on handicrafts, bamboo products, repairing services except capital goods. Records of 2000-01 suggest that 2884 SSI units have generated 9110 employment scopes.

To summarise, socio-economic history of northeast India is influenced by ethnic clash among the tribes under the shadow of British imperialism. Tribal people are habituated in economic activities like shifting cultivation or jhum, spinning, weaving, textile, wood carving, pottery, blacksmithy etc. Growth rate of urban population is reduced almost in all states of northeastern states. Rural-urban economic disparity is widened due to larger participation of rural people in agricultural sector whose income share in total state domestic product is continuously falling. Three facts reflect the poor performance of secondary sector. Firstly, meager income share of manufacturing sector; secondly, low credit-deposit ratio; thirdly, absence of heavy industries. Industrial world of northeast India is dominated by small scale industries of textiles, wood furniture, fruit processing, steel fabrication, metal products, distilleries, bamboo products etc.

In terms of per capita income, literacy rate, HDI values, infant mortality rate or percentage of children with malnutrition below 3 years, northeastern states have occupied respectable positions at the national level. Where as achievements on overall development measured by index of social and economic

infrastructure are really disappointing in comparison with other developed states of India.

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