TRIPURA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

TRIPURĀ

By

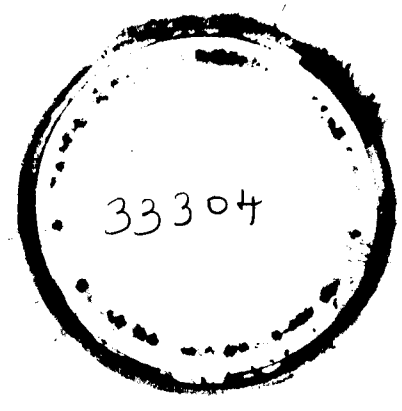
K. D. MENON, I.A.S.

State Editor

1975

(C) GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

PRICE : RS. [illegible] IN INDIA
$ [illegible] ABROAD



Published by Shri S. Banerjee, Officer-in-Charge, Educational Publications, Department of Education, Government of Tripura, Agartala-799001 and printed at N. K. Gossain & Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., Calcutta-700067.

PREFACE

A great pleasure indeed to see through the press the first District Gazetteers of Tripura. Unlike other States, Tripura had no such District Gazetteers as were published during the British regime. Certain information on the State was, however, available in the Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah under W. W. Hunter's sixth volume of 'A Statistical Account of Bengal' published in 1876, in a short chapter on Tipperah in volume XIII of the Imperial Gazetteer of Bengal published in 1908, and in the History chapter of Eastern Bengal District Gazetteers: Tippera by J. W. Webster, published in 1910. The present District Gazetteers of Tripura could thus be called a new attempt in all respects, published under the scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Government of India and financed jointly by the Union and the State Governments.

2. Since there was no Gazetteers Unit when the scheme was taken up by the Education Directorate in 1959-60, it took a long time to complete the first draft. An Advisory Committee was constituted with the then Chief Commissioner as Chairman and Dr. G. N. Chatterji, Director & Secretary, Education, as the State Editor. Had it not been for the spontaneous response of educationists and scholars, it would have been difficult to complete the task.

3. Dr. Jagadish Banerjee, Dy. Director of Education (then Principal, B. T. College, Kakraban) drafted chapters I & III excluding Flora and Fauna portions which were prepared by Dr. D. B. Deb (then Sr. Lecturer, Botany, M.B.B. College) and Dr. P. V. Nair, Dy. Director of Education, (then Sr. Lecturer, Zoology, M.B.B. College) respectively. Chapters VI to VIII were drafted by Dr. J. B. Ganguly, Reader in Economics, M.B.B. College, (then Sr. Lecturer, Economics). All these drafts were subsequently revised by them as recommended by the Editor, Gazetteers, Government of India. Drafting of chapters X to XIX rested with Shri S. Banerjee, Officer-in-Charge, Educational Publications, who joined the Department in 1964. He had also to attend to History chapter afresh on the recommendations of experts in the subject. All the drafts revised by him were submitted to the Editor, Gazetteers, Government of India in 1966 and received back in 1968 with suggestions for further improvement.

4. Dr. G. N. Chatterji relinquished charge of his office in May, 1972. The work of revision continued during the tenureship of Shri I. K. Roy who succeeded him as Director of Education and Secretary. Shri Roy relinquished his charge of office in 1973, when the revision was just completed and the undersigned took over the charge of the Department as Secretary. The drafts were then subjected to meticulous scrutiny of Shri Jyotish Chandra Dutta, Assistant Publication Officer.

5. Topographical map could not be enclosed due to certain difficulties inherent in boundary disputes with the erstwhile East Pakistan Government. Diagrametrical sketches in sufficient numbers, prepared by Shri Amulya Choudhury, Sr. Artist-in-charge, are provided. A key to diacritical marks used in the text, sparingly, is given at the back of the contents page.

6. I must acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to all those who played their part in seeing the Gazetteer through the press at length. I am also equally grateful to the Departments of the State Government and branches of the District Administration, the Deputy Director General of Observatories, Poona, the National Library, Director of Indian Museum, Superintendent of Archaeology, Eastern Circle who rendered valuable help to us. I would also like to acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Gazetteers, Ministry of Education, for helpful suggestions for improvement of the draft and to Dr. R. C. Mazumdar, the noted historian and Shri Dwijendra Chandra Dutta of Agartala who offered substantial help to my officers by offering valuable advice and providing rare books, notes etc. as and when required by them.

The present volume contains information and data covering the period upto 1964-65 and since the so-long one-district territory was administratively divided into three districts following Tripura's attainment of Statehood in 1971, it has been decided to prepare and publish three District Gazetteers and also a supplement to the first volume covering the period prior to 1971 during the 5th Five Year Plan period.

In fine, I crave the indulgence of the readers for the unavoidable delay in getting the volume printed due to so many odds that stood in our way. And I submit that we have done our best and believe that its success should be left to the judgement of the readers.

K. D. Menon
State Editor

CONTENTS

		Pages
Chapter I	General: Introductory	1
Chapter II	History	62
Chapter III	People	129
Chapter IV	Agriculture and Irrigation	159
Chapter V	Industries	186
Chapter VI	Banking, Trade and Commerce ..	206
Chapter VII	Communication	218
Chapter VIII	Miscellaneous Occupation	225
Chapter IX	Economic Trends	230
Chapter X	General Administration	244
Chapter XI	Revenue Administration	249
Chapter XII	Law and Order and Justice	270
Chapter XIII	Other Departments	289
Chapter XIV	Local Self-Government	298
Chapter XV	Education & Culture	312
Chapter XVI	Medical & Public Health	347
Chapter XVII	Other Social Services	368
Chapter XVIII	Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organisations	374
Chapter XIX	Places of Interest	383
Appendices	.. ..	405
Bibliography	.. ..	446
Glossary	.. ..	459
Index	.. ..	463
Art Plates	.. ..	477

Key : ā=আ। आ; õ=ওঁ। ओँ; ã=আঁ। आँ; ṁ=ং। ं; ṅ=ঙ; ch=চ। च; chh=ছ। छ; t=ত। त; ṭ=ট। ट; ṯh=ঠ। ठ; ḍ=ড়। ड़; ḍh=ঢ়। ढ़; S=স, শ। स, श; Sh=ষ। ष।

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

INTRODUCTORY

Origin of the name of the District

The origin of the name 'Tripurā' cannot be conclusively traced back to any recorded source of history. According to Captain Lewin, the 'origin of the name of Tipperah is doubtful'.[1] Attempts in this regard do get invariably lost in the mist of legends and traditions. What may at least, be stated is only a variety of opinions.

A common belief is that the name Tripurā has originated from 'Tripurasundari' — the presiding deity of the land. But this is not correct. The country had been known as Tripurā even before the installation of the deity which took place at the time of Mahārājā Dhanyamāṇikya in the first half of the sixteenth century. What is more probable is that the deity took the name of the land. Apart from this traditional view there is another opinion which states that Tripurā has been coined from two Tripuri words — *tui* and *prā*. In Tripuri *tui* means *water* and *prā* means near. It is believed that originally the land was known as *Tuipra*, meaning a land adjoining the waters. It is a fact that in days of yore the boundaries of Tripurā extended upto the Bay of Bengal when its rulers held sway from the Garo Hills to Arakan. It might be that the name appropriately derived its origin from its nearness to water. This *Tuipra* has subsequently been corrupted into *Tiprā* and from *Tiprā* to Tripurā. It is relevant to note that even to-day the hill people pronounce the word as *Tiprā* and not Tripurā. Of all the views on the origin of the name Tripurā, the last one offered by Kailash Chandra Singha appears to be quite probable and appropriate.[2]

Location and general boundaries

Lying approximately between 22°56′ and 24°32′ North latitudes

1 Lewin; Capt. T.H.; Hill Tracts of Chittagong and the Dwellers Therein, 1869, Calcutta, p. 79.
2 Singha; Kailash Chandra; Rājmālā; Comilla, 1896; Pp. 2-3.

and between 91°0′ and 92°20′ East longitudes, Tripurā is bounded on the north, west, south and south-east by the international boundary of Bangladesh erstwhile East Pakistan districts of Sylhet, Comilla (Tipperā), Noākhāli, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts respectively. In the east, it has a common boundary with Cāchār and Mizo districts of Assam and Mizoram (India). The geographical continuity with the Indian mainland is maintained only in the north-east where the district has a common boundary with the Karimganj sub-division of the Cāchār district in Assam. The western boundary of the district adjoining the Bangladesh district of Tipperā (now Comilla) had been fixed in 1854. The eastern boundary of the district separating the Lushai Hills and the Chittagong Hill Tracts is formed by the river Langai between the Haichek and Jampai Ranges to its source in the Betling Sib peak. The line then runs in an irregular fashion upto the Dolajari, and then along the Sardeng Range and the river Fenny till the latter enters into the Noākhāli district of Bangladesh. This eastern boundary was fixed as a provisional 'inner line' in the early seventies of the last century for strategic reasons when the Lushais were increasingly showing their raiding propensities. It was nevertheless acknowledged that the princely state of Tripurā had bonafide control over the entire Lushai Hills upto the river Dhaleswari, thirteen miles east of the present boundary. But when the Lushai disturbances were over, the British Indian Government unilaterally fixed the boundary along the Langai river, the present boundary, without the slightest reference to the Tripurā *Durbar*. Since the times of Birchandramāṇikya (1862-96) repeated representations were made to the then Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam and also the Government of India for restitution of territory; but the matter was finally closed in July, 1923, when the Government of India stated that they 'see no sufficient reason for reconsidering the previous orders' and that 'they are unable to accede to the *Durbar's* request.'[1] Tripurā was thus deprived of a considerable portion of territory that rightfully belonged to her.

The present area of Tripurā is 10,066 square kilometres.[2] The population according to 1961 census figures is 11,42,005. The population in Tripurā has been increasing since the days of independence as a result of the massive influx of the displaced persons from Bangladesh. As Tripurā is more and more opening up because of better communications and closer integration with the rest of India, people from other parts of the country too are coming for trade and job and adding to

1 Tripurā State Memorandum for the Indian State Enquiry Committee, (Financial) No. 2, 1932 Appendix-IX Exhibit CI

2 The figure has been furnished by the State Survey Department. According to Census of India, 1961, Vol. I Pf. II-A, p. 72, the area of Tripura is 10,661 Sq. Km

the total population of the district. It is believed that Tripurā's population has further increased from what is available in 1961 census figures as a result of continuous influx of displaced people from Bangladesh, particularly since the communal disturbances in 1963. The population of Tripura at the close of the year 1965 is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 15,00,000.

Origin of the district as an administrative unit

The history of Tripurā as an administrative unit dates back to the days of the Rājās when the territory was a native state. Although a native state, Tripurā enjoyed a special status among the princely states because there was no treaty obligations between the Tripura *Durbar* and the British Indian Government.[1] It is significant to note that although Tripurā was conquered by force of arms in 1761,—no Political Agent was appointed in the state till 1871—a gap of 110 years, and this formality was necessitated not as a matter of routine but as an unpleasant consequence of predatory raids by violent Kukis who used the Rājā's dominion as their sanctuary.[2] In the nineteenth century nothing was done by the British Indian Government to assess the hills or effect their administrative integration with the rest of the British district of Tipperā. This passive policy eventually led to a situation when it was no longer possible for the British Company to reject the prescriptive rights of the Rājā over the hills of Tripurā. The position was finally settled in a letter of the Deputy Governor of Bengal dated December 27, 1838 in which it was accepted that 'the Rājā has an independent hill territory ……'[3] Thus the independent status of Tripurā was recognised, though this independence was qualified by the British as being subject to the recognition of the British as the paramount power by each successive ruler. Tripurā became an independent administrative unit under the Mahārāja even during the British rule.

During the closing stage of the rule of Mahārājā Birbikramkishoremāṇikya (1923-47), the last ruler of Tripurā, India's struggle for independence reached a decisive phase. The Mahārājā had expressed the intention of casting the lot of his kingdom with the Indian Union, a decision that had the backing of the broad masses of people, irrespective of caste and communities.[4] The State formally acceded to

1 Aitchison, C. U. A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sands, Vol. I, p. 72.
2 Hunter, W. W. Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah, Vol. VI, 1876, p. 470.
3 Mackenzie, Alexander. History of the Relations of the Government with Hill Tribes of the North East Frontiers of Bengal, 1884, Appendix-D, p. 4-14.
4 Proclamation made by the Regent Mahārānī Kanchan Prava Debi, dated Nov. 11, 1947.

the Indian Union and the Instrument of Accession was signed by the Regent Mahārāni on August 13, 1947.

The Regent's rule continued for more than two years when, as a part of an All-India policy of States' integration, Tripura too merged with the Indian Union. The Agreement of Merger was signed by the Regent Mahārāni on September 9, 1949, while administration was actually taken over by the Government of India on October 15, 1949. Following the reorganisation of States, Tripura which was a Part C State without Legislature, became a Union Territory with effect from the November 1, 1956. In view of her size and population, Tripurā is now a single district territory. The popular ministry in Tripurā was inaugurated on July 1, 1963 and since then the district has been under a Government elected on the basis of universal adult franchise.

Topography

In British political parlance Tripura was known as "Hill Tipperāh" and as the name suggests, the district is hilly. The surface is undulating and made uneven by low hills. There are six principal hill ranges increasing in height as one moves from west to east.

There are long river valleys extending over a vast area in different sub-divisions formed mostly of deep alluvial deposits of rich fertility, excellently suited to the cultivation of paddy, jute, oil seeds, pulses, fruits and vegetables. The hills are more or less covered with bamboo, while the baseland abounds with rich vegetation, cane-brakes and swamps. From the summit of the ranges one has a striking view of the surroundings — a heaving monotony of evergreen landscape. In spring here and there appear yellow vacant spots from where the bamboos have been burnt away for the *Jhoom* or rising columns of smoke may be seen from tribal hamlets over the jungles.

On the north-western and southern boundaries of the district lies narrow strip of low land that is very fertile and thickly-populated. This portion of the district does not differ in any material respect from the adjoining areas of Sylhet, Comillā, Noākhāli, Chittagong in respect of soil, agriculture and population. Along the western border some areas to the north and south from the headquarter towns may be described as broken ground consisting of hillocks alternating with swamps.

Forests form a predominant part of Tripurā. The open and reserve forests cover about three-fourth of the total area of the district. The

forests are distributed all over the tract in blocks of varying sizes mixed with furrowed fields. The bulk of the forests in the hills is almost an unending stretch of dense bamboos, while in the remaining areas, trees are distributed very wide apart, midway space being filled by thatch, bamboo or groups of secondary coppice shoots and scrub jungle, consisting of dense mass of climbers. Broadly speaking, the forests may be classified into bamboos, *Sal* forests, *Garjan* forests, mixed evergreen forests and evergreen savana.

The Hill System

Tripurā has no mountain proper, but some of the peaks in the eastern ranges of hills reach a height of more than two thousand feet. There are six principal hill ranges running from north to south parallel to one another. These ranges increase in height towards the south from the plains of Sylhet and towards the north from the Chittagong district in Bangladesh. The hills are made of narrow ridges, sometimes so narrow at the top as to make even walking difficult, 'thinner along the edges of the ridges and spurs, but close and tangled, and often impenetrable in the ravines and valleys'.

The principal hill ranges from the east are — the Jampai, Sākhān Tlāng, Langtarai, Āthāra Murā, Bar Murā — all running in a northernly direction and almost perallel to one another till they disappear in the plains of Sylhet. In between the ranges the northern portion of the valleys for the most part is flat, swampy and covered with vegetation, while to the south they are of a wild and broken character crossed with innumerable ravines and low intricate ridges.

There are numerous peaks on the main hill ranges standing out prominently above the general level, while the smaller ranges resemble in form a railway embankment on a large scale, the ridges being long and even. The principal hill ranges with their highest peaks are — *Deota Murā Range*: *Deota Murā*; *Āthāra Murā Range*: *Jāri Murā*; *Langtarai Range*: *'Feing Pui'*; *Sākhān Tlāng*: *Sākhān*; *Jampai Range*: *Betling Sib*. This highest point in the district has been shown as 'Soepheul' in the old maps.

The home of wild elephants, hills of Tripurā are covered with dense bamboos and forest timber where man was the beast of burden till developmental works were undertaken to build roads and open the hitherto inaccessible regions for modern means of communication.

The hills form a watershed from which the drainage pours down west into the Meghnā (in Bangladesh) by the rivers Khowai, Jurī,

Manu, Dolāi, Hāorā, Langāi and Gumti, and south-east into the Bay of Bengal by the rivers Fenny and Muhari. Each valley contains a river to which smaller hill streams or *charas* join carrying water from the hill sides.

Tripurā is a land-locked district having no access to the coastal waters.

THE RIVER SYSTEM

The principal rivers in the district are the Gumti, Hāorā, Khowai, Manu, Deo, Dolāi and Fenny.

The Gumti which is the principal river is formed by the confluence of two rivulets — the Rāimā and Sarmā. The former rises in the Langtarai Range, while the latter in the Āthāra Murā Range, and the two unite to form the Gumti just above a succession of rapids known as the Dambur (Dambari of old map) falls near the south-eastern boundary of the district. The rapids then flow for a distance and ending in one grand impressive cascade springs into a large round pool from which the stream makes its murmuring way through a narrow passage of rocky walls. The river then flows in a westerly direction almost through the centre of the district before finally leaving the western border near the village of Bibi Bazar* in the Bangladesh, district of Comillā. Its principal tributaries are the Kāśhigāng, the Pitrāganj and the Mailekchara — all on the northern bank. The water is strikingly transparent and people assemble here for a holy dip on the occasion of the *Paus Sankranti*, the last day of the ninth month of the Bengali year. The Manu rises from the Kahoisib peak of the Sākhān Tlāng Range and initially makes its course through the various narrow gorges with escarpments of naked rock. Coming nearer the level land it becomes a broad sluggish stream following a meandering course and having a sandy bed and banks covered with high grass, hedges of wild plantations and small palms. The river flows in the northerly direction till it by-passes Kailāsahar and reaches the plains of Sylhet when it turns northwest. The Deo rises in the Jampai hills, twelve miles south of the Betling Sīb peak and flows a northerly course. It then turns west, cuts through the Sākhān Tlāng and joins the Manu river. The Dolāi takes its rise from the Dolājāri peak, runs north in a meandering course inside the district. Only the first portion of its course is through the territory of Tripurā. Then it enters into the plains of Sylhet and falls into the Manu near the village of Kudamhātā. The Hāoṛā takes its rise from the Bar Murā hills and flowing through narrow beds of rock comes down the plains. It then

* Locally it is pronounced as Bibir Bazar.

moves in the westerly direction and guided by the side of both old Agartalā and Agartalā leaves the western border of the district near Gangāsāgar to empty itself into the Titās at Bānganj in Bangladesh. Normally it is a sluggish stream, but in the rainy season, during heavy downpour, it takes to dangerous appearance and in Agartalā's long memory of floods this river of sorrow has left a stamp of dark nightmare.

A school of opinion holds that the names Gumti and Manu are incontrovertible evidence of early colonisation in Tripurā by small group of Aryans. The ancient capital of Ayodhyā stood on the banks of the Saraju of which a branch was the Gumti. Manu, whose commandments regulated our social life for centuries, was an Aryan and it is significant that one of the principal rivers of Tripurā bears the same name. It is also interesting that this river flows near Kailāsahar (corrupted from *Kailasa-Har*?) and Ūṇakoti, the famous pilgrim's spot, is only six miles from Kailāsahar. Another significant point is that the principal hill ranges which stretch across Tripurā and which, in fact, have given the district its hilly name have an ancient name. In the Puranic literature these hills are known as Raghunandan Parvat. From the name of the hills and rivers it is suggested that Kirata (prehistoric Tripura) was not entirely a land of the non-Aryans. It is supposed that in those early times Aryan settlements must have been established in this part of the country. There are also other names which suggest a link with Sanskrit language such as Hṛshyamuk, Ūṇakoti, Tirthamūkh, Trilochana etc.

As far as is known, none of the rivers of the district has undergone any sudden and abrupt change. The appearance on the banks is different in localities. In the hills the banks are generally steep walls of craggy rock covered with fern and other plants, while in the low lands they are abrupt but not very high. The beds of the rivers are usually sandy in the hills and clayey in the plains. Except in close vicinity of habitations on the river banks, cultivation is almost scarce on the banks which are generally covered with jungles. There are no canals or artificial water courses in the district. Swamps and marshes are numerous in the low-lying areas.

Properly speaking, their is no regular inland water traffic in the district nor any water-side town fed primarily by river industry.

Nowhere in Tripurā the rivers and streams are harnessed yet to generate power. The localities where such possibilities exist are very far away from the inhabited part of the district. Recently the Dambur

Hydel Project has been undertaken to generate electricity from the rapids of the Dambur falls and preliminary work on the project is being started.

GEOLOGY

Geological structure of Tripura is conveniently described under the three groups, namely, (i) Gumti Group, (ii) Agartalā Group and (iii) Alluvium. Gumti Group is divided into I-A. Lower Gumti Group and I-B. Upper Gumti Group, each of which comprises of several strata.

I-A. Lower Gumti Group

(i) *Ompi calcarious sandstone:* This is composed mainly of quartz in a calcarious matrix and frequently contains chloritised biotite with white mica. This is hard massive and olive coloured. It is the oldest rock of newer tertiary series, occupying the base of the Deotā Murā sandstone. This calcarious sandstone forms apex of the anticline, against which the Gojāliā shales and the Deotā Murā sandstone lie on either side. The basal calcarious sandstone occupies the bed of major streams. Good exposures are seen in situ in Gogracharā, Phangcharā, Silcharā, Moracharā, Kācharicharā, Chhidangcharā, Balāicharā and others. In Taibaicharā calcarious rocks and calcarious nodules are found. Sindhukumārparā and Chāndrāiparā are on the lower elevation on opposite sides of the Langtarāi anticline and are composed of grey tough calcarious sandstone. In Bar Murā and Athāra Murā this rock is exposed at places below the micaceous sandstone with conglomerate in between.

(ii) *Deotā Murā Sandstone:* This group consists of grey micaceous or yellow hard fine grained sandstone and hard laminated bluish slaty shale, fine grained and often highly jointed and less compact grey shale showing spheroidal withering and thin bands of limestones. Rocks of this group are widespread. Axes of Unakoti, Sākhān and Jampai Ranges and slopes of hillock north west of Pechārthal and north of Deo river in the east, higher elevation of Athāra Murā and Bar Murā in the west and slopes of Langtarāi Range in the south are composed of rocks of this type. Lithologically these rocks resemble the rocks of Upper Bhuban stage of Surma series, existent in Lumding-Halflong-Badarpur hill section. Exposures of limestone bands are seen in Pratyekroycharā and Marācharā, branch of Āndhārcharā. Exposure of coarse grained conglomerate containing calcarious rocks are found in the branch of Chhidangcharā, north of Nāgachandrapur. This conglomerate is the basal bed of this group.

(iii-a) *Dharmanagar carbonaceous sandstone and shale:* Rocks of this group are composed of massive comparatively harder bluish or grey sandstone and fine grained bluish or grey shale with this stringers of coal and carbonaceous sandstone. Higher elevations of Dharmanagar, summit of Langtarāi and lower slopes of other ranges are composed of this rock. Exposures of this rock are visible as carbonaceous sandstone in Haflongcharā, Deo river, hillocks east of Pānisāgar, north of Pabiācharā and in the south west of Sindukumārparā. Coal seam is exposed at Pratyekroycharā and Marācharā, north of Balāicharā village, while sandy clay with soft carbonaceous shale is seen exposed at the junction of Andharcharā Deo river.

(iii-b) *Gajāliā shales* — At the base of the Hṛshyamuk sandstone beds of rather hard thinly laminated well-bedded shales occur. These are sandy shales containing a large percentage of sand. This is typically developed in the Gajāliā Range, particularly in Duchari stream descending the western flank. The Duchari stream cuts a gorge about a quarter of a mile from Brajamohon Tiprābāri through a hill formed of fairly soft laminated shales with bands of hard argillaceous limestone containing about 40 percent carbonate lime which occur as concretions similar in composition and manner of occurrence to those found in the Hṛshyamuk sandstone.

In the Duchari gorge, the walls are composed of sandy shales mainly with bands of hard argillaceous limestone about 120 ft. in height. Stalactitic masses from 1 ft. to 4 ft. in length derived from concretionary limestone contained in the shales are seen hanging on the right wall.

The Gajāliā shales occur in the Fenny valley, at the base of the Tulāmurā Range, about 200 ft. in thickness. It also occurs between Udaipur and Mahārāni, in the escarpment of hills, and appears to come directly under the Gumti sandstone. Below Laban stream in the Gumti valley the shale deposits are much distributed, and have assumed a slaty character. These deposits have bands of argillaceous limestone, about 4″ thick and occur at varying distance.

Lignitic Coal — Pocket of lignitic coal occur in the Gojāliā shales. These lignitic coal deposits are not extensive anywhere, and occur more sparingly than similar lignitic coal in the sandstone formation in Hṛshyamuk.

Photomati Clay — This clay occurs as a subordinate band in the Gojalia sandy shales. The clay situ is ash coloured, soft and unctuous

and without any distinct bedding. The colour of the clay changes in exposure and it also becomes hard and tenacious. The deposit is exposed for a distance of 300 ft. or so in the right bank of the Gumti river at Photomati village. Similar formations are found in the Fenny valley.

(iv) *Fossil-wood bearing strata* — The group consists of yellow loose coarse ferruginous sandstone with fossil wood, white and grey shales, sandy shales, irregular bands and pockets of mottled clay at places. Fresh surfaces of broken sandstones are blue in colour which changes gradually to green, yellow and light brown colours. The shales are dirty white to light grey in colour. Pieces of fossil-wood sometimes partially silicified and lignite are common in this group. These rocks are restricted to the lower elevation of the northern area.

Peat and woody materials in sandy clay are found in Lālcharā, Chandrapur and other villages. Ferruginous sandstone and compact sandy shale are exposed in Bāgbāsā. Fossil-wood occur in Belung Dungcharā, Bāgbāsā, Hālām, Kālāgang, Pabiācharā and other localities.

In the north fossil-wood are traced in ferruginous sandstones where as in the southern area they are generally associated with sandy clay and loose sandstone.

The lower reaches on both sides of the valley, west of Langtarāi anticline, are mostly composed of yellow loose, coarse ferruginous sandstone carrying fossil-wood, white and grey shale, sandy shales and mottled clay.

The synclinal valleys traversed by the Juri river in Dharmanagar sub-division has a thick mantle of recent and sub-recent materials.

I-B. *Upper Gumti Group*

(i) *Hṛshyamuk sandstone* — The Hṛshyamuk sandstone forms the base of the upper Gumti rocks. At the base of the Gumti sandstone, occurs a massive iron-grey sandstone, soft and friable, without any distinct bedding. It is seen abundantly developed in the Gojalia Range in the Hṛshyamuk area. Exposures of 100-150 ft. high are seen in places along the Memoy stream. It is mainly composed of large round grains of quartz in an argillaceous silicious matrix.

This sandstone is provided with an outer layer or crust, 1″—1″.5 in.

thick. The crust is calcarious and is derived from the concretionary limestone occurring in the form of nodules and as lenticular tabular masses and lies parallel to the bedding of the sandstone. Some times the limestone lies in 4-5 parallel layers, separated from one another at varying distance from 10-15 ft. The tabular limestone is sometimes seen sticking out in the water-falls which empty themselves into the stream below, while the soft Hṛshyamuk sandstone is seen worn out.

The concretionary limestone in the Hṛshyamuk sandstone is very dark, very hard, tenacious and impure. It is distributed rather sparingly in the sandstone. Deep pot holes, measuring upto about 10-12 ft. in diameter, are seen curved in the sandstones originally due to the limestone balls being let loose by weathering of the soft sandstone round the nodular limestone, and its subsequent rotation in the cavity by water action.

Blocks of limestone are resting in a scooped hollow in the sandstone in the Duchari stream which flows down the western flank of the Gajāliā Range, north of Memoy stream.

The calcareous crust is probably derived from the concretionary limestone by the action of water charged with carbonic acid. Beds of sandy shales occur associated with the Hṛshyamuk sandstone. which are similar to those found in the Gumti sandstone.

Lignitic coal — In the Hṛshyamuk sandstone in the Fenny valley lignitic coal is found near Sonārāmpārā, in the Tinochori stream, where sandstone forms its bed. The lignitic coal does not occur as a regular bed or seam but is found in pockets embedded superficially in the sandstone, and in a horizontal position. Some pieces of the coal are black, shining, hard and compact and possess the character of bituminous coal.

(ii) *Gumti Sandstone* — A soft yellow and grey sandstone occurs, overlying the Hṛshyamuk sandstone. This rock is seen along nearly three-fourth of the entire length of the Gumti river in situ and exposed at the banks. This sandstone is composed of large round grains of quartz in an argillaceous ferruginous matrix. The colour of the sandstone depends mainly on the amount of the ferruginous matter taking part in the composition.

Typical exposures of this sandstone are seen in the Fenny valley where sections of the sandstone are seen in the escarpments of hills which run down the river. At Burdo near Chotakheil on the left

bank of Fenny river this sandstone rock is almost 120 ft. thick lying below the Bisālgarh clay. The upper part of the Gumti sandstone is seen in places to occur in thin beds or seams measuring from 1 inch to 5 inches in thickness. Exposure measuring 40-100 ft. thick are seen at Boirāgîtillā about 3 miles east of Sonāmurā, at Kālāpāni, 7 miles east of Sonāmurā in the escarpment of low hills facing the Gumti river, in the low hills running north and south except a few breaks at Kākrāban (sandy shales). This sandstone comes in again above Udaipur, a little beyond Mahārāṇî, and runs as far as Mālabhāsa. There is a break in the deposit, between Mālabhāsā and Changong. Above Changong the sandstone appears again and continues as far as below Labancharā.

Below Sonāmurā, beds of soft yellow and grey sandstone, much decomposed, occur with subordinate bands of the Gumti river. Above Sonāmurā, the sandstone becomes more and more prominent, going up the river. The subordinate bands of clay, occurring less and less till at Jām Jaree, sections of yellow sandstone are visible in escarpments measuring upto almost 50 ft. in height and they appear to become harder and more massive in structure. In Biloniā sub-division the Gumti sandstone, occupies about 3/4th of the entire area, covered by the Muhari valley and it stretches from Biloniā (above) to Manugāng. Good exposures are seen along the Muhari river, a little above Biloniā. A section of this sandstone with subordinate bands of dark clay is seen occurring at the base of Bisālgarh clays.

Above Goram stream, the sandstone is frequently seen massive and without any distinct bedding as far as near Lungtong. Above Lungtong and as far as Kamalāfruebāri, the sandstone is ill-developed, except just in one or two places, and appears to be overlapped by Bisālgarh clay.

Silicified Fossil-Wood — Silicified fossil-wood is found in the upper portion of the Gumti sandstone. It appears to be exogeno.

Distribution and manner of occurrence of the silicified wood especially in connection with the Amarpur deposit probably proves without any doubt that the silicified fossil wood were originally transported, as logs of wood, by flowing water and embedded mainly in the upper layers of the Gumti sandstone to which they are contemporaneous and subsequently silicified in situ.

In the Bisālgarh area fragments of silicified fossil wood occur scattered about in loose sand, the sandy strata occurs below the Bisālgarh clay.

Eshurah conglomerate — About half way between Eshurah and Natunbazar a band of coarse conglomerate about 15 ft. thick is exposed for a distance of about 150 ft. The pebbles consist mainly of clay and soft sandstone.

The conglomerate band appears to occur nearly at the base of the Gumti sandstones. Other exposures of conglomerate, ill-developed and more or less in patches, are seen in places in the Gumti valley occurring both in the upper and lower Gumti group.

(iii) *Bisalgarh clays* — The Bisālgarh clays form the highest number of the upper Gumti series and are found covering the hills in the western part of Tripura. They are developed abundantly in the low ranges of hills with flat tops and gently-sloping sides.

West of a line drawn from Old Agartalā through Jamu peak, Udaipur to Biloniā, are mainly composed of red and yellow clays. The colour of the clays chiefly depends on the amount of ferruginous matter taking part in the composition which varies. They are mixed with various proportions of silica in the form of round grains of quartz and in places, they are found to be sandy while in other they tend to be an *ochre*, chiefly red, yellow and orange.

Red and yellow clays, similar in composition and structure to the Bisālgarh clays, also occur below the ferruginous standstone at Charilam but not to such a large extent. A grey clay with a large percentage of sand is found extensively developed, below the Charilām sandstone. Sections of this grey arenaceous clay are well seen on the flanks of the hills crossed on the way to Charilām from Bisālgarh. The Charilām sandstone occurs as a subordinate band among the Bisālgarh clays. Similar clays and sandstones are found extensively in the Biloniā area, particularly in Lungtung village and Balinārāyandighi, along the Muhari river and others.

Champā Murā Kaolin clay — In Champāmurā to the north east of Agartalā, there occurs a distinct bed or seam of Kaolin clay. This lies below the Bisālgarh clays. Above the seam of Kaolin clay, there is a thin plate of ferruginous sandstone, similar to the Charilām sandstone which seems to lie horizontally and about 5 inches thickness. Below the Kaolin seam, loose sand is met with. Presence of Kaolin among comparatively younger rocks is difficult to explain. Probably it was deposited as such, together with the clays among which it occurs and was obtained from the decomposition of rocks, such as jheissose and granitic rock lying to the north in Assam.

Carbonaceous clay — Seams of black carbonaceous clay, occur associated with the Bisālgarh clays and only as subordinate bands, situated below the Bisālgarh clays and above soft yellow sandstone. This clay in situ is rather soft but hardens on exposure and in typical seam full of small pieces of soft black shiny and woody fibres.

This is seen exposed, near Nārāyanbāri above Lāmācharā, on the right bank of the Gumti, at Sonāmurā, on the left bank of the Gumti, about two miles above Amarpur, between Atubāri and Jolāibāri in the Muhari valley where it does not seem to contain any vegetable remains as other deposits in the Gumti valley. Carbonaceous deposits in the Gumti valley occur where river becomes suddenly shallow, in consequence of the rise of the bed and where flow is rapid.

II AGARTALĀ GROUP

Laterite and ferruginous concretions — Laterite and ferruginous concretions are found in many places capping the rocks of different groups. These are well-developed in the western part of the territory, particularly near about Agartalā.

Laterite is rather extensively developed in the Sadar sub-division in Bisālgarh area and other places and is usually found in patches here and there on the top of the low-lying hills and their flanks which are composed of red and yellow ferruginous clays and ferruginous sandstone to a subordinate extent. In Biloniā area huge blocks of laterite are found scattered in some of the streams.

Tripura laterite is not an original product but derived most probably from the mass of red and yellow ferruginous clays and ferruginous sandstones, by atmospheric agencies specially by the difference in temperature or in monsoon conditions which prevail in Tripurā.

High hills to the east which usually rise above 700 ft. seem to be free from lateritic deposits. One of the reasons of this absence may be that the high hills are mainly composed of sandy shales and massive soft sandstones which do not contribute to the formation of laterite.

The superficial character of laterite deposit is perhaps well-proved by the fact that the low hills in the western area are fairly well-wooded. Trees and shrubs flourish rather luxuriantly, on the tops and flanks; but this is not the case in a purely lateritic country which is usually barren.

Tripura laterite is associated with ferruginous concretions occurring on the top of the Bisālgarh clays. These are developed extensively in the ranges of hills on the south-east of Bisālgarh. These concretions occur in a loose brown argillaceous matrix that contains a proportion of sand and iron. The concretions and the loose matrix occur as layer or beds.

III ALLUVIUM

All the recent deposits are included under this head. This is found all over the territory and covers in surface the largest area. This is divided into the following sub-heads : (i) Sand and gravels ; (ii) Silt ; (iii) Deposits in swamp and marshes.

(i) *Gravel* — This occurs in the upper reaches of the rivers and streams and is confined to the actual beds of the rivers.

Sands — The recent sand deposits are not extensive. They are mainly confined to the existing valleys of rivers and chiefly occur in their lower reaches, particularly of the Gumti and Fenny.

(ii) *Silt* — The silts from the overflow of the hill rivers is mainly composed of homogeneous clay, somewhat sandy. Associated with the alluvium, black and crumbly deposits occur in places as mere pockets along the banks of rivers.

(iii) *Bog and marsh deposits* — The deposits in boggy and marshy areas are mainly composed of black carbonaceous clay, usually sandy and mixed with ferruginous matter. The carbonaceous component is chiefly derived from the dense mass of vegetation that flourish in these tracts. The ferruginous and sandy components are derived from the surrounding hills, which are composed mainly of reddish coloured ferruginous clays and to a less extent of ferruginous concretions and laterite. The marshy deposits usually rest on sandy strata of post-Pliocene Age.

Peaty deposits are only local and occur as mere pockets. They are black, very loose and friable in which vegetable structure is clearly visible.

Age and correlation of rocks

Alluvial deposits are of recent origin. The laterite is most probably of Pleistocene Age. The red and yellow clays are ferruginous sand-

stones which occur at the base of the laterite are probably of Pliocene Age.

The Gumti sandstone with silicified fossil-wood corresponds to the fossil-wood group of Burma and like the latter is of Pliocene Age. The Hṛshyamuk sandstone which underlies the Gumti sandstone and of similar fluviatile origin, as indicated by the coarse character of the sandstone with pockets of lignitic coal perhaps cannot be later than Pliocene in age.

The Blisālgarh sub-division of the upper Gumti group, consisting mainly of red and yellow clays with the subordinate Charilām sandstone bears striking lithological similarity with the beds comprising the Upper Manchar series in Sind.

No evidence of a break in time between the *Upper Gumti Group* and the *Lower Gumti Group* has yet been noticed. The lithological similarity between the rocks composing the Pegu group which mainly consists of sandy shales and the sandstones towards the base indicates that the rocks comprising the lower Gumti Group in Tripura are probably of *Miocene epoch.*

Das (l.c.) correlated the Unakoti — Jampai Group with the Borali (Upper Eocene) Chattian (Oligocene) series, the Bar Murā — Deota Murā Group with the Surma-Chattian (Oligocene)-*Burdigali* (*Miocene*) series and the fossil-wood Group with the Tipam Bardigalian-Vindobanian (Miocene) series.

Sen (l.c.) correlated the Tripurā structure with that of Assam and considered that Bokabil is present as the central core on most structures, while the more resistant Tipam sandstone acts as the rim rock with the softer Dupi Tilā members occupying the flanks.

Origin of Tripura rocks

The general character of the rocks in the lower portion of the *Upper Gumti Group* clearly indicates that they were deposited under rather shallow water conditions and probably of fluviatile origin. The floor on which these were deposited were depressed considerably during the time Bisālgarh clays were laid down.

The character of the rocks which compose the *Lower Gumti Group* point to deep and tranquil water conditions under which they were deposited. In all probability the lower Gumti rocks like their representative the Gaj group in Sind and the Pegu group in Burma are of marine origin.

Occurrence of older rocks among the newer Tertiaries in Tripura

In the Hṛshyamuk area, in the beds of the numerous streams which descend the western flank of the Gajāliā Range pebbles of older rocks such as quartzite and gneiss are met with.

Quartzite is found abundantly in the bed of Duchori stream scattered among rocks of newer Tertiary Age. This is of three notable varieties: (a) Unrolled fragments (usually) of hard compact greyish white quartzite, (b) Pebbles-hard and compact and (c) Brown quartzite with large sand grains not so hard and compact as the two former varieties.

Gneiss — The pebbles of gneiss contain besides quartz hornblemende, white mica, and felsper. These pebbles are found rather abundantly in the bed of the Duchori stream.

Hṛshyamuk conglomerate — Large angular blocks of conglomerate are found in the beds of several streams which descend the western flank of the Gumti range. In the Duchori and Gorrea streams, these conglomerates are met with in their upper reaches and are found in big masses measuring upto about 5 ft. in diametre all over the beds of the streams. The conglomerate is compact. The pebbles are of varying sizes and embedded in a fine compact calcareous matrix. They are composed of all manners of rocks among which clay, soft sandstones, limestone, specks of mica and grains of quartz are seen disseminated through the matrix.

Probably the quartzite and gneiss pebbles have been derived from the conglomerate. They have been generally separated from the matrix of the conglomerate, during transport of the masses owing to their size and hard resisting nature.

Mineral wealth

Kaolin — At Champāmurā, about 3½ miles south-east of Agartalā, a deposit of Kaolin clay is exposed at the bottom of the tillas, in a dried up gully. The clay in situ appears to be a continuous seam exposed for a distance of about 75 ft. or so, in a horse-shoe shape fashion. The seam appears to be horizontal. Its physical properties and chemical composition go to show that it is suitable for China wares.

Another exposure of Kaolin clay lies about 1½ miles due east of the Champamurā deposit. The deposit is exposed as a seam for a distance of 12 ft. or so. In situ the clay is dirty white.

The seam appears to have a gentle dip eastward and strikes north and south approximately. Kaolin is slightly mixed with quartz grains but appears to be free from other mechanical impurities.

About 4 miles to the south-east of Kakrāban there is another deposit of Kaolin. The clay is plastic and white in colour. Chemically and morphologically it is almost similar to the Champamurā Kaolin.

Iron ores — Lateritic iron ores occur rather abundantly all over the western area of the territory from north to south. These iron ores are generally found in patches here and there on the top of the low tilās and also occur along their flanks. In the Agartalā area they are found to occur more or less superficially and of limited extent. In the Bisālgarh area, laterite is met within a rather large quantity specially in the range of hills running north-east to south-west, about 2 miles south-east of Bisālgarh, and extends to the ranges of hills from Charilām to Udaipur. In the Biloniā sub-division, laterite is found scattered in the low hills, at Bindapatillā, and in the stream. The laterite of Agartalā is poor in iron ores. Stringers and pockets of rich iron ores occur in places where ore is not extensive.

Exposures of workable laterite are found near Bāgpāshā, Silbāri, Pabiācharā and Sidhukumārpārā.

Coal — Lignitic coal occurs near Bogachatal in the Sabrum sub-division in the Tinochorie stream, embedded in the massive sandstone. The coal deposit here is only superficial and occurs for a distance of a furlong or so. This coal gives little heat and contains a large quantity of shaley matter which is left behind as ash. The quantity is too limited to be workable in a commercial scale. Just above Kaptolee village in the Fenny valley, about 4 miles from Bogachatal, lignitic coal in the form of trunks of trees occur embedded in the shaley sandstone. The coal does not occur as a seam but merely as a pocket and is too limited to be worked out. A coal seam 2 ft. thick occurs for a distance of 6 furlongs of Pratyekraicharā east of Ujān Thangang, in Dharmanagar sub-division.

Peaty deposits — Deposits black and crumbly which are somewhat peaty in composition and structure are found scattered all over Tripura in the boggy and marshy tracts and also in some rivers as

pockets and appear to be local. The deposits are merely recent vegetable accumulations, in which woody structure is clearly visible.

Limestone — Limestone is found in all the sub-divisions excepting Sonāmurā. It occurs only as concretions in the form of nodules and lenticular tabular masses. As concretions in the form of nodules, the masses vary in size from a small pebble to large boulders, measuring several feet in diameter. The tabular masses measure from 1″ to 6″ in thickness and these usually run parallel to the bedding of the rocks, in which they occur. The deposit in Udaipur and Sabrum sub-divisions is poor in quality and small in quantity. Limestone occuring in Hṛshyamuk area is perhaps richer in quality and the quantity is greater than any other such deposit. This is seen exposed in many streams which descend the western flank of the Gojāliā range. The limestone occurs as concretions in form of boulders which vary in size upto about 10 ft. in diameter and also as lenticular tabular masses measuring 2″-6″ in thickness. These concretions occur usually in the Gojāliā shales.

Bindapatilla ochres — Hard darkish looking nodules of the size of a duck's egg, are found embedded in a seam of dark and grey clay in the valley below the Bindapatilla hill, in the Biloniā sub-division. These nodules when broken and ground give a dark reddish brown to a chocolate mass which makes an admissible paint.

Building stones — The sandstone found in the Gumti valley in the Deotā Murā gorge, is a yellowish grey rather soft and easy to work out, but gradually hardens on exposure. This sandstone somewhat resembles the famous Porebunder sandstone which is so extensively employed in Bombay as a building stone. Limestone in the form of lenticular tabular masses are excellently suited as building stones.

Road metal — The concretionary limestone found in the river valleys and the ferruginous concretions which occur in Sadar and Biloniā sub-divisions are suited for road metalling. In several streams descending the western flank of the Gojāliā range quartzite is found. Hṛshyamuk quartzite possesses all the essential qualities of a first class road metal. Grey tough calcareous sandstones can be suitably employed as a road metal. Good exposures of these sandstones are found in situ in the Gogracharā (23.35′ 30″ : 91.57′ 30″).

Sand for glass manufacture — Sand suitable for manufacturing glass, occur extensively in Tripurā. A stretch of good quartz sand occurs on the right bank of the Gumti river opposite to the Udaipur town.

Quartz sand is also met with at Champā Murā, about 5 ft. below the surface of the ground. If the sand is washed with some chemicals before smelting, manufacture of high class glass may also be possible. (Das, 1.c).

Petroleum — The Tripurā rocks are similar to the Burmese starta, in which petroleum has been found in abundance. Petroleum has also been found to the north of the territory in Assam. This is perhaps a strong evidence that the petroleum-belt passes through Tripurā.

FLORA

The rulers of the State at early times patronised the introduction and cultivation of economically important plants into the country such as Cotton varieties, Opium Poppy, Rhea, Mulberry, Aloes, Sugar Cane, Castor, Jute, Potato, Ginger, Arhar, Mustard, Rubber, Tea, Tomato, Sweet Potato, Mushari, Khesari and Boro paddy. Thus plant life serves a dominant role in the history of the State.

Phytogeographical Divisions of the Territory

Phytogeographically the territory may be divided mainly into two regions covered by (i) evergreen and (ii) moist deciduous forests, whereas the swamp vegetation, riverain forests, bamboo brakes, cane brakes, Garjan forest, grassland etc. are all seral and edaphic forests scattered all over the territory wherever favourable situation occurs.

(i) Evergreen forest covers major portion of the territory including Dharmanagar sub-division, Kailasahar sub-division, Jampai ranges bordering the Mizo District, portions of Bilonia and Sabrum sub-divisions, Kamalpur sub-division, a portion of Sadar sub-division including Teliamura. But it has been very seriously affected by biotic influence depleting the forest to a very large extent. It now exists only in patches in the stiff uncultivable slopes and rocky and steady river banks which are not favourable for *jhoom* or plough cultivation. In eastern part of the territory such patches have been selected for betle leaf cultivation locally called *'Pan' jhoom*. Evergreen forest of Tripura is intermediate in characteristics and its geographical position is between 'Cachar evergreen forest' and 'Chittagong evergreen forest'.[1]

Champion considers semi-evergreen forest as a type distinct from the evergreen one. Semi-evergreen is a degenerated type of evergreen

[1] Champion, H. G. A Preliminary Survey of the Forest Type in India and Burma, Indian For. Rec. N. S. 1(1): Pp. 1-286.

forest occurring in more exposed aspects and indiscriminately disturbed areas. It is not considered here as a distinct climate type.

(2) Moist deciduous forest is divided into two categories, characterised by the presence or absence of *Sal*. These are (a) moist deciduous *Sal* forest and (b) Moist deciduous mixed forest. (a) Moist deciduous *Sal* forest occurs in southern region of the western low hills extending to the border of Bangladesh. It is found locally in Bilonia, Udaipur, Sonamura and Sadar sub-divisions.

(b) Moist deciduous mixed forest differs mainly from the preceding one in the absence of *Sal*. It covers large areas in the Sadar, Amarpur, Sonamura, Udaipur sub-divisions and in places where the evergreen forest has been depleted.

Characteristic Features of the Flora

(a) *Composition of the flora* — The flora comprises of about 1600 taxa distributed over 193 families and about 874 genera of higher plants representing different groups as follows :—

Name of the group :	*No. of families*	*No. of genera*	*No. of species*
Pteridophyta	18	41	80 + 2 varieties.
Gymnosperms	6	8	13 +
Dicotyledones	139	648	1164 + 25 (varieties)
Monocotyledones	30	177	320 + 1 (sub sp.) + 1 (variety)
Tctal	193	874	1577 + 1 + 28

(b) *Dominant families* — Dominant families in order of abundance of species are named below indicating the number of genera and species in each.

Family	*No. of genera*	*No. of species (+ No. of varieties)*
1. Papilionaceae	44	94
2. Gramineae	49	81 + 2
3. Rubiaceae	38	78 + 2
4. Euphorbiaceae	35	69 + 1
5. Compositae	41	56
6. Cyperaceae	10	39
7. Acanthaceae	23	34 + 1
8. Moraceae	4	34
9. Orchidaceae	20	34
10. Labiatae	22	32
11. Verbanaceae	13	30 + 3
12. Solanaceae	11	27
13. Caesalpiniaceae	10	26
14. Scropphulariaceae	8	25
15. Mimosaceae	13	25
16. Malvaceae	10	25
17. Araceae	15	25

(c) *Rare and interesting plants* — With respect to availability in India, occurrence of the following plants in Tripura is interesting and deserves special mention :

(1) *Argyreia argentea* Choisy, (2) *Begonia Surculigera* Kurz, (3) *Casearia Kurzii* C.B. Clarke, (4) *Cassia timoriensis* DC., (5) *Connarus paniculatus* Roxb., (6) *Conyza angustifolia* Roxb., (7) *Crypterenia glabra* BI., (8) *Dendrobium podagraria* Hook.f. (9) *Dichrocephala hamiltoniana* Hook. f., (10) *Erycibe peguensis* (C.B. Clarke) Prain, (11) *Hedyotis connata* Hook f. (12) *Kopsia fruticosa* A.D., (13) *Linostoma decundrum* Wall. (14) *Phaseolus fuscus* Wall., (15) *Pogostemon hispidus* Prain, (16) *Polygala chinensis* L.rar. *hispidia* Hook f. (17) *Psidium guineense* Sw., (18) *Psophcarbus tetragonolobus* DC., (19) *Pterocymbium inctorium* (Blanco) Merr., (20) *Pterospermum semisagi Hatum* Buch-Ham.ex. Roxb. (21) *Rivea hypocrateriformi* Choisy, (22) *Sabia lanceolata* Colebr., (23) *Salacia Viminea* Vahl, (24) *Sarcosperma arboreum* (Buch-Ham) Benth., (25) *Sterculia versicolor.* Wall., (26) *Torenia mucronata* Benth., (27) *Torenia polygonoides* Benth., and (28) *Xantolis tomentosa* (Roxb.) Rafin.

DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY IN TRIPURA

For long the forest had no value in Tripura. With the development of the neighbouring districts of Sylhet, Tipperah and Noakhali by the British Government, the forest produce of this State created a market in those districts and thus the importance of the forest was increasingly felt.

Rules were framed in 1887, for the first time, for preservation and improvement of even trees in reserved forests but no area was declared as reserved. A comprehensive set of rules was drawn up in 1913 for organisation of the Forest Department. The State was divided into several forest mahals or sub-divisions. Thirtytwo trees (species) were declared as reserved and were classified into seven classes according to their relative importance. An Officer was appointed for Forest Reserves and Afforestations, who was later designated in 1939 as the Conservator of Forests. Upto 1945, approximately 78.10 hectares (93 acres) were planted with 'Gamair' (*Gmelina arborea* L.), 'Sal' (*Shorea robusta* Gaertn.), 'Jarul' (*Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L) Pers.), 'Sonal' (*Cassia fistula* L.) etc.

No remarkable change took place in the policy and administration of the Forest Department even after the integration of the State with the Indian Union in October 1949, till the implementation of the First and the Second Five Year Plans, when scientific forestry was attempted to.

During the First Five Year Plan, work was started on several aspects of forest development. Till then there was no working plan for the State. In 1954, an officer was appointed for the purpose. Under the Second Five Year Plan work was continued on the First Plan scheme. Afforestation followed by demarcation of forest boundaries, together claimed about half the plan outlay.

During the First Plan period 589 hectares were brought under afforestation and during the next Five Year Plan another 1,454.01 hectares were planted. Besides, 1,764.8 Km. of reserve forest was demarcated. During the Third Plan period 7,636.93 hectares were planted under different afforestation schemes. Under soil conserva-

tion scheme 3,211.91 hectares were planted. In addition roadside plantation was done along 341.93 Km. of road.[1]

Forestry contributed in the past not much to the income of the State but its potentialities are large. The production from forests, which is low enough for the country as a whole, is even worse in Tripura. Excepting a small quantity of soft wood exported to Assam, the remaining forest produce is utilised locally. Bamboo that covers vast area of the State, contributes the least in money value as a forest produce. Major areas of the forest have been subjected to *jhooming* at one time or the other by setting fire to the vegetation on the land selected for *jhooming*. Once a forest is subjected to *jhoom* cultivation its climax forest is gone for ever. The effect of *jhooming* combined with fire is visible along the catchment areas where soil erosion and silting of the river bed are the inevitable result. Vast expanses of bamboo forest occupying very large areas are also the result of persistent *jhooming*.

Types of Vegetation

The forests of Tripura may be conveniently classified as follows:

A. Climatic types: 1. *Evergreen forest* and 2. *Moist deciduous forest* — (a) *Sal* forest and (b) *Moist deciduous mixed forest.*

B. seral types: 3. *Swamp vegetation* and 4. *Riverain forest.*

C. Subsidiary edaphic types: 5. *Bamboo forest,* 6. *Cane brakes,* 7. *Garjan forest,* 8. *Savannah* and 9. *Grassland.*

Characteristic of different types of forest are indicated below :—

1. *Evergreen forest:* Evergreen forests are characterised by the large number of species none of which is very abundant. Most of the species of the top canopy are evergreen with tall clear boles while others may be deciduous or semi-deciduous without interfering with the evergreen nature of the forest as a whole. Plank buttresses are frequent. Leaves are thick and glossy. Caulitlory is fairly common. The middle and lower canopies are dense evergreen and varied. Bamboos are frequent. Small palms are common. Epiphytes are not very numerous. Aroids, ferns, mosses and orchids are the principal epiphytes.

[1] Tripura On The March, 26th January 1968, Publicity Department, Govt. of Tripura, p. 33.

Climbers are conspicuous. The undergrowth is often a tangle of canes. Ground vegetation is very rich comprising of large number of herbaceous species. Near water, cane grows in small communities.

Dipterocarpus turbinatus, Artocarpus chaplasha, Amoora wallichii, Aphanamixis polystachya, Syzygium grande, Tetrameles mudiflora, Schima wallichii, Castanopsis indica etc. are common in the top canopy. In the more exposed drier regions and in areas where the forest has been subjected to *jhooming,* deciduous or semi-deciduous plants *Bombax Ceiba, Terminalia bellirica, T. myriocarpa, Albizia* procara, *Lagerstroemia speciosa, L. perviflora, Ilex godajam* etc. are also common.

Dysoxylum binectariferum, Michelia champaca, Mesua ferrea, Cinnamomum obtusifolium, Aquilaria agallocha, Gynocardia odorata, Sterculia sp., *Elaeocarpus* sp., *Myristica* sp., *Stereospermum personatum, Vitex peduncularis* etc. form the second storey. *Alseodaphne owdenii, Syzygium cymosum, S. cerasoides, Palaquium polyanthum, Chukrasia tabularis, canarium* sp., and bamboos are also found in this storey in places.

Shrubby layer comprises of *Meliosma simplicifolia, Maesa ramentacea, Micromelum pubescens, Clausena excavasta Wallichia densiflora Mart.,* tree ferns, *rubiaceous* and *acanthaceous.*

Aroids, small palms, Curculigo orchioides, Phrynium sp., Amaryllidaceae, Scitamineae, Commelinaceae, Rubiaceae etc. form the ground layer.

Dense masses of evergreen climbers like *Entada phaseoloides, Beaumontia grandiflora, Chonemorpha* sp., *Acacia* sp., *Tetracera scandens, Raphidophora* sp., *Scindapsus* sp. *Vitis* Sp., etc. are very common.

2. *Moist deciduous forest:* The forest included under this type fall into two categories, characterised by the presence or absence of *Sal.*

(a) *Sal forest:* Local variations occur in floristic composition and abundance of different species.

Shorea robusta is the ecologically characteristic and economically important species that dominates over more than 60 per cent of the top canopy. *Dipterocarpus turbinatus, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Gmelina arborea, Careya arborea* etc. also form the top canopy.

Schima wallichii, Terminalia bellirica, T. chebula, Stereospermum personatum, Vitex peduncularis, V. pubescens, Pterospermum semi-sagittatum, P. acerifolium, Dillenia pentagyna, D. scabrella, syzygium cerasoides, Garuga pinnata, Albizia chinensis, A. procera, Lannea coromandelica, Chukrasia tabularis, Toona ciliata, Sapium baccatum, Oroxylum indicum, Protium serratum, Engelhardia spocata etc. form the next canopy.

Emblica officinalis, Mallotus philippensis, Aporosa roxburghiii, Maesa ramentacea, Cordia fragrantissima, Semecarpus anacardium, Streblus asper, Bridelia retusa, Antidesma bunius, Macaranga denticulata, Bauhinia purpurea, B. Variegata, Dysoxylum binectariferum, callicarpa arborea, Litsaea polyantha, Melicsma simplicifolia, Microcos paniculata, Syzygium sp., *Premna bengalensis, Fagara budrangii, Dalbergia stipulacea, D. thomsonii, Millettia* sp., *Dendrocalamus strictus Bambusa arundinacea* (in damp sites), *Oxytenanthera nigrociliata* etc. also occur in the second storey.

Butea parviflora, Dalhousiea bracteata, Aspidocarya unifera, Buettneria pilosa, Stephania hernandifolia, Combretum rosburghii, Pueraria phaseoloides, Mucuna bracteata, M.pruita, Smilax sp., *Dioscorea* sp., *Vitis* sp., are some of the climbers. Sp. *Melastoma, Osbeckia, Clerodendrum, Desmodium, Moghania* etc. form the shrubby layer.

Ground cover is formed of a large number of *Gramineae Cyperaceae, Commelinaceae, Zingiberaceae, Dioscoreaceae* and a host of others.

Due to local factors and biotic influences in certain localities particularly in Sonamura, the *Sal* forest has been reduced to a secondary savannah, where much of the area has been brought under paddy cultivation by felling of the trees. Trees are not normal in size and cracked in form. Most of the plants appear to have come up from stumps. The forests are separated into northern and southern parts by about 6-6.5 Km of paddy land. The quality of wood appears to be slightly inferior to that of the other part. This is probably due to difference in soil which is lateritic in the southern portion.

(b) *Moist deciduous mixed forest* — Moist deciduous mixed forest covers a large area of the forest. This differs mainly from the preceding one in the absence of *Sal.* Dominants are mainly deciduous but lower storeys are largely evergreen. Top canopy is not dense.

Schima wallichii, Dillenia pentagyna, Terminalia bellirica, Garuga pinnata, Lannea coromandelica, Stereospermum personatum, Pterospermum acerifolium, P. semi-sagittatum, Lagerstroemia parviflora, Chukrasia tabularis, Bombax ceiba, Vitex peduncularis, Cassia fistula, Hymenodictyom excelsum, Mitragyna parvifolia, Nauclea sessilifolia, Duabanga grandiflora, Gmelina arborea, Albizia procera, Elaeocarpus sp., *Sterculia villosa, Engelhardia spicata, Gardenia resinifera, Erythrina indica, Sapium baccatum, Syzygium grande, S. cerasoides, Eugenia praecox, Alseodaphne owdenii* etc. constitute the top canopy.

The second storey is made up of the smaller trees of the top storey together with many others. Most of the climbers and undergrowth found in the evergreen forest occur here also.

3. *Swamp Vegetation:* Swamps locally called 'Lungā' occupy a very large area scattered over the territory. It comprises mostly of herbaceous species, smaller number of woody shrubs and a few scattered trees like *Barringtonia acutangula, Legerstroemia parviflora.*

At the edges, rooted in the mud of floating or submerged in water are found, *Ludwigia octovalvis sub sp. sessiliflora, L. prostrata, Ludwigia clavelliana, Eryale ferox, Nymphoides cristatum, Trapa bispinosa, Ottelia alismoides, Potamogeton* sp., *Pistia stratoites, Salvia cucullata, Lemna* sp., *Wolfia* sp., *Spirodela* sp., *Vallisneria spiralis, Hydrilla verticillata, Sagittaria haestifolia, Utricularia* sp., *Eriocaulon* sp., *Polycarpon indicum, Rotala indica, Smithia sensitiva, Limnophil conferta, L. sessilifolia, Leersia hexandra, Monochoria* sp., and *Polygonum* sp.

4. *Riverain forest* — On the bank of rivers in places small patches of forests exist. In most cases these are very badly damaged by biotic influences. The riverain forests are generally of semi-evergreen or moist deciduous type, and have the same characteristic as those already described.

5. *Bamboo brakes* — Bamboo brakes differing widely in character and aspect cover very large area in Tripura as in Burma and Chittagong. Continuous bamboo forests are interrupted by scattered evergreen trees or deciduous secondary stands. Sheltered hollows and other favourable sites are dominated by bamboo.

It has been estimated that 752 sq. miles of area are covered with 'Muli' (*Melocanna bambusoides* Trin.), in the valleys of Deo-Manu major rivers. Of the large number of bamboo occurring here only 11 species have so far been identified. Those are named below with local names in the parenthesis :—(1) *Bambusa balcooa* Roxb. ('Barak'),

(2) *B. nutans* Wall, ex Munro ('Kali'), (3) *B. pallida* Munro ('Makal'), (4) *B. polymorpha* Munro, (5) *B. teres* Ham, ex Wall. ('Parua'), (6) *B. tulda* Roxb. ('Mirtinga'), (7) *Dendrocalamas hamiltonii* Nees & Arn ex Munro ('Pecha'), (8) *D. longispathus* Karz ('Rupai'), (9) *Melocanna bambusoides* Trin. ('Muli'), (10) *Oxytenanthera nigrociliata* Munro ('Kalyai') and (11) *Neobouzeaua dullooa* A. Camus ('Dalu').

6. *Cane brakes* — An impenetrable thorny thicket is situated in patches in the evergreen, semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests in contact with tall trees standing over it. The stem may be more or less erect or trailing.

It occurs in wet hollows extending outwards to various distances, tending to be conspicuous with heavier and well distributed rainfall where the soil is permanently wet and usually fine clay and very rich in humus. Cane brakes in this territory have been destroyed to a large extent during the Second World War which created suddenly a huge demand at a very high rate. Common canes are: *Calamus floribundus* Griff., *C. guruba* Buch.-Ham., *C. leptospadix* Griff. and *Zalacca* baccarii Hook.f.

7. *Garjan forest* — The area occupied by the *Garjan* forest at present is small. But there was indications of its covering far larger areas all over the territory. This is found near Khowai, Champaknagar, Betāgā-Ludhua, Muhari, Trishnā, Tulatalikona, Chailengtā, Deo, Juri, Ujān Māchmārā, Ūnakoti, Dāmcharā, Dharmanagar, Sonamurā and Jalāyā.

The plant is found in groups and strips in scattered blocks. It also occurs in *Sal* forest. It forms a closed canopy while growing in groups. Commonly it occurs on ferruginous, red soiled elevated tillas.

Similar *Garjan* forest in Chittagong hills is considered to have originated through human influences on the climax evergreen or semi-evergreen type. The persistence of old *Garjan* and their continued regeneration on intensively affected village lands is most striking and it is evident that they are hardier than their associates.

8. *Savannah* — This is caused by fresh deposits of silts or destruction of the forest. In high land — *Syzygiumx cerasoides, Garuga pinnata, Lannea coromandelica, Emblica officinalis, Glochidion multiloculare, Leea crispa, Cyperus* sp., *Chrysopogon aciculatus, Curcuma zedoaria* etc are common. In low land *Erianthus procerus, Saccharum*

spontaneum, Ophiurus megaphyllus, *Pharagmites Kar. Ka, Anthistiria gigantea, Alpinia allughas, A. malaccensis, Calamus* sp., *Hydychium* sp., etc. are common.

In the monsoon *Dioscoreaceae, Smilaceae, Menispermaceae, Convolvylaceae* and *Vitaceae* grow rapidly around evergreen and deciduous trees or shrubs or some times they trail on the ground or over the harbaceous undergrowth.

9. *Grass land* — A large area of the territory is covered with vast expanses of grasses. The vegetation is held here in a condition of equilibrium by biotic influences.

The grazing ground is dominated by the following species: *Imperata cylindrica, Paspalum scrobiculatum, Cynodom dactylon, Chrysopogon aciculatus, Sporobolus diander, Bothriochloa intermedia Centotheca lappacea, Oplismenus compositus, Sacciolepis interrupta, Cyperus* sp., and *Fimbristylis* sp.

Of the dicotyledonous plants occurring in the grass land, the following are common: *Desmodium heterophyllum, D. triflorum, Centella asiatica, Leucas ciliata, Oldenlandia diffusa, Rungia parviflora, Euphorbia thymifolia, Ox-alis corniculata, Sida acuta, Urena lobata, Mimosa pudica, Solanum* sp. and *Polygonum* sp. etc.

Timber yielding trees — About 280 species of trees are found in the territory. Of these only 64 trees are of recognised commercial importance. Those are named below:

Albizia lebbek (1.) Benth., *A. lucida* (Roxb.) Benth., *A. procera* (Roxb.) Benth., *Artocarpus chaplasha* Roxb., *Careya arborea* Roxn., *Chukrasia tabularis* Juss., *Cinnamomum obtusifolium* Nees, *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* Gaertn., f. *Duabanga gradiflora* (Roxb.) Wall., *Eugenia praecox* Roxb., *Gmelina arborea* L. *Lagerstroemia parviflora* Roxb., *L. speciosa* (L.) pers., *Mesua ferrea* L., *Michelia champaca* L., *Palaquium polyanthum* Benth., *Podocarpus neriifolia* D. Don, *Schima wallichii Choisy, Shorea robusta Gaertn., Sloanea dasycarpa* (Benth.) Hemsl., *Stereospermum personatum* (Hassk.) Chatterjee, *Talauma phellocarpa* King, *Magnolia pterocarpa* Roxb., *Terminalia chebula* Retz., *T. myriocarpa* Hemsl. ex Muell-Arg., *Toona ciliata* Roxb. and *Vitex peduncularis* Wall. *Aegle marmelos* Corr., *Bridelia retusa* Spreng., *Cassia fistula* L., *Cordia fragrantissima* Kurz, *Dillenia pentagyna* Roxb. *Markamia stipulata* (Wall.) Seem., *Alseadaphne owdenii* Parker, *Bischofia javanica* Bl., *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* Wight *Amoora Wallichii*

King, *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lamk., *Dillenia indica* L., *Garuga pinnata* Roxb., *Hymendictyon excelsum* Wall., *Lannea coromandelica* (Houtt) Merr., *Dysoxlon binectariferum* Hook. f., *Bombax ceiba* L., *Barringtonia acutangula* Gaertn., *Syzygium cumini skeels, Tetrameles nudiflora* R. Br., *Alstonia scholaris* Br. *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Rxb.) Miq., *Kydia calycina* Roxb. *Mangifera indica* L., *Pterospermum acerifolium* Willd., *Pt. lanceaefolium* Roxb., *Sapium baccatum* Roxb., *Spondias pinnata* (L.f.) Kurz, *Sterculia villosa* Roxb., *Bauhinia purpurea* L. *Callicarpa arborea* Roxb., *Engelhardia spicata* Bl. and *Fagara budranga* Roxb.

Trees which are not of recognised commercial importance but may be used for different purposes are: *Holigarna caustica* (Dennst.) Oken., *Manifera sylyatica* Roxb., *Semecarpus anacardium* L.f., *Orixylum indicum* Vent., *Protium serratum* Engl *Cassia nodosa* Buch.-Ham., *C. renigera* Wall., *C. siamea* Lam., *Delonix regia* Raf., *Tamarindus indica* Linn., *Crataeva religiosa* Forst. *Anogeissus acuminata* Wall., *Terminalis tomentosa* W. & A., T. *citrina* Roxb., *Dillenia scabrella* Roxb.,*Ehretia acuminata* R. Br., *Elaeocarpus floribundus* Bl., *E. obtusus* Bl., E. *robustus* Roxb., *Actephila excelsa* (Dalz.) Pax. & Hoffm., *Antidesma bunius* Spreng., A. *diandrum* Roth., *A. ghesambilla* Gaertn., *Aporosa oblonga* Muell-Arg., *A. roxburghii* Bail. *Baccaurea sapida* Muell., Arg., *Bridelia pubescens* Kurz, *B. tomentosa* Bl. *Cleidia jayanicum* Bl., *Croton roxburghii* Bal., *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., *Securinega virosa* (Roxb. et Willd.) Pax. & Hoff., *Glochidion arborescens* Bl., *G. assamicum* Hook., f., *G. heyneanum Wight., G. multiloculare* Muell-Arg., *G. zevlanicum* Juss., *Homonia riparia* L., *Macaranga denticulata* Muell-Arg., *G. Mallotus albus* Muell-Arg., *Allotus philippensis* L., *M. roxburghianus* Muell-Arg., *Ostodes paniculata, Sapium baccatum* Roxb. *Castanopsis armata* Spach., *Hydonocarpus kurzii* (King) Warb., *Gynocardia odorata* Br., *Flacourtia jangomas* (lour.) Raeush., F. *indica* (Burm. f.) Merr. *Xylosma longifolium* Clos., *Magnolia pterocarpa* Roxb. *Zanthophyllum flavescens* Roxb., *Crypternia glabra* Bl., *Cassearia tomentosa* Wall., *Eurya acuminata* Dc., *Syzygium cerasoides* (Roxb.) Chatterjee et Kanjilal F., S. *fruticosum* (Roxb.) DC., *S. grande* (Wt.) Walp., *S. polypetalum* (Wt.) Merr. & Perry., *S. samarangense* (Bl.) Merr. & Perry., *Symplocos racemosa* Roxb., *jayanica* Bl., *Ailanthus grandis* Prain., *Olax acuminata* Wall., *Ilex godajam* Coleb., *Memecylon cerasiflorme* Kurz., *M. umbellatum Zizyphus rugosus* Lamk., *Z. mauritiana* Lamk., *Aesculus assamica* Griff., *Litchi chinensis Sonner., Saphindus mukorossi* Gaertn., *Turpinia pomifera DC., Grewia serrata* DC., *Microcos paniculata* L., *Pterospernum semi-sagitatum* Ham. *Pterygota alata* (Roxb.) R. Br., *Sterculia indica* Merr., *S. versicolor* Wall., *Erythrina aroborescens* Roxb., *E. variegata L. var. orientalis* (L.) Merr., *E. lithosperma* Miq., *E. fusca* Lour., *Parkis javanica* Merr., *Pithecellobium angulatum* Benth., *Samanea saman* (Jacq.) Merr. *Debregeasia longifolia* Wedd., *Streblus asper* Lour., *Oreonide integrifolia* Miq., *Ficus benghalensis* L., *F. benjamina* L., *F. glomerata* Roxb., *F. hispida* Linn. f., *lacor* Buch.-Ham-. *F. drupacea* Thunb., *F. obtusifilia* Roxb., *F. religiosa* L., *Chisocheton* paniculatus Hiern., Walsura robusta Roxb., Ligustrum *robustum* Bl., *Acronychia pedunculata* (L.) Miq., *Citrus aurantium* L., *C. maxima* (Burm.) Merr., *Gardenia resinifera* Roth., *Meyna spinosa* Robyns., *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Roxb.) Korth., *M. rotundifolia* O. Ktze., *Nauclea sessilifolia* Roxb. *Xeromphis spinosa* (Thunb.) Keay, *Tricalysia singlaris.* K. Schum., *Wendlandia grandis* Cowan, *W. tinctoria* DC., *wallichii* W. & A., *Callicarpa macrophylla* Vahl and *Vitex pubescens* Vahl.

Medicinal Plants

Plants which are recognised as medicinal plants according to Indian Pharmaceutical Codex and are found in the territory in appreciable quantity are listed below:—

Abroma angusta L., *Abrus precatorius* L., *Acalypha indica* L., *Achyranthes aspera* L., *Acorus calamus* L., *Adhatoda vasica* Nees, *Adiantum philippense* L., *Aegle marmelos* Corr., *Agave americana* L., *Alangium salvifolium* Wang., *Albizia lebbeck* Benth., *Aloe barbadensis* Mill., *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br., *Amaranthus spinosus* L., *Rotala rotundifolia* Kochne, *Amorphophallus campanulatus* Bl., *Anacardium occidentale* L., *Ananas comosus* (Linn.) Merr., *Andrographis paniculata* Nees, *Anisomeles ovata* R. Br. *Annona squamosa* L., *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Roxb.) Miq., *Areca cathecu* L., *Argemone maxicana* L., *Argyreia speciosa* Sw., *Aristolochia tagala* Chem., *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lamk., *Asclepias curassavica* L., *Asparagus racemosus* Willd., *Averrhoa carambola* L., *Bacopa monnieri* Penn. *Baliospermum montanum* Muell-Arg., *Barringtonia acutangula* Gaertn., *Basella rubra* L., *Bauhinia variegata* L., *Benincasa hispida* (Thunb.) Cogn., *Blumea lacera* DC., *Boerhavia difusa* L., *Borassus flabellifer* L., *Brassica juncea* Hk. f., *Bridelia retusa Spreng., Bryonopsis laciniosa* L., *Bryophyllum pinnatum* Kurz., *Caesalpinia cristata* L., *Calotropsis gigantea* R. Br., *Canavalia ensiformis* DC., *Canna indica* L., *Capsicum frutescens* L., *C. minimum* Roxb., *Cardiospermum halicacabum* Benth., *Cassia alata* L., *C. fistual, C. occidentalis* L., *C. sophera* L., *C. tora* L., *Celastrus paniculatus* Willd., *Centella asiatica* L., *Chenopodium album* L., *Cicer arietinum* L., *Cissampelos pareira* L., *Citrullus colocynthis* Sch., *Citrus medica* L., *C. aurantium* L., *Clerodendrum*

sarratum Spreng., *Slitoria ternatea L., Coccinia indica* W. & A., *Cocculus hirsutus* Diels., *Cocos nucifera* Linn., *Coix lacrymajobi* Linn., *Corchorus capsularis* L., *Coriandrum sativum* L., *Costus speciosus* Sm., *Crateva nurvala* Hm., *Crinum asiaticum* L., *Croton oblongifolus* Roxb., *Cucumis melo* L., *C. sativus* L., *Cucurbita pepo* L., *Cuminum cyminum* L., *Curculigo ordhioides* Gaertn., *Curcuma amada* Roxb., *C. aromatica* Salisb., *C. domestica* Vahl., *C. zedoaria.*, Rox., *Cynodon dactylon* Pers., *Cyperus rotundus* L., *Daemia extensa* L., *Datura metel* L., *Daucus carota* L., *Desmodium gangeticum* DC., *Diospyros peregrina* Gurke *Dolichos biflorus Drynaria quercifolia* Bery., *Eclipta erecta* L., *Embelia ribes* Burm., *E. tsjeriamcottam* A. DC. *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., *Entada phaseoloides., Euphorbia hirta* L., *Evolvulus alsinoides* L., *Eupatorium triplinerve* Vahl., *Feronia elephantum* Corr., *Ficus benghalensis* L., F. *glomerate* Roxb., *F. religiosa* L., *Flacourtia ramontchi* L. Herit., *Foeniculum vulgare* Gaertn., *Garcinia indica* Choisy, *Gmelina arborea* Roxb. *Gossypium harbeceum* Linn., *Memidesmus indicus* R., Br. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L., H. *subdariffa* L., *Hiptage benghalensis Kurz., Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall., *Hymenodictyon excelsum* Wall., *Ichnocarpus frutescens* R. Br., *Ipomoea aquatica* Forsk., *I. nil* Roth., *Ixora coccinea* L., *jasminium sambac* Ait., *Jatropha curcus* L., *Justicia gendarussa* Burm., *Lagenaria vulgaris* Ser., *Lagerstroemia speciosa* Pers., *Lathyrus sativus* L., *Lawsonia alba* Lam., *Len sesculenta* Moen., *Linum usitatissimum* L., *Luffa acutangula* var., *amara Clarke, Mallotus philippensis* Muell., *Mangifers indica* L., *Melia azadirachta* L., *Melilotus parviflora* Desv., *Melothria maderaspatana* Cogn., *Mesua ferrea* L., *Michelia champaca* L., *Mimosa pudica* L., *Mimusops elengi* L., *Mirabillis jalapa* L., *Memordica charantia* L., *M. dioica* Roxb., *Moringa oleifera Lamk., Morus indica* L., *Mucuna prurita Hook., Mussaenda frondosa* L., *Knema angustifolia* (Roxb.) Warb., *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn., *Nerium odorum* Soland., *Nicotiana tabacum* L., *Nyctanthes arbortristis* L., *Nymphaea nanchali, Ocimum basilicum* L., *O. gratissimum* L., *Oldenlandia corymbosa* L., *Oroxylum indicum* Vent., *Oxalis corniculata* L., *Oxystelma esculentum* R. Br., *Pandanus odoratissimus* L., *Pavetta indica* L., *Peucedanum graveolens* Benth., *Phaseolus mungo* L., *P. radiatus* L., *P. trilobus* Ait., *Phoenix syvestris* Roxb. *Phyllanthus niruri* L., *Piper betle* L., *nigrum* L., *Plumbago india* L., *P. zeylanica* L., *Plumeria rubra* L., var. *acutifolia Bailey, Pogostemon parviflorus* Benth., *Polygala chinensis* L., *Polanisia icosandra* W. & A., *Pongamia pinnata Pierre., Psidium guaiava* L., *Punica granatum* L., *Quisqualis indica* L., *Xermphis spinosa* (Thunb.) Keay, *Raphanus sativus* L., *Rauvofia serpentina* Benth., *Ricinus communis* L., *Saccgarum officinarum* L., *Saraca indica* L., *Schleichera oleosa* Merr., *Securinega virosa* Pax., & Hoff., *Semecarpus anacardium* L., *Sesamum indicum* L., *Sesbania sesban* (L.) Merr., *S. grandiflora* Pers., *Side acuta* L., *S. cordifolia* L., *Solanum indicum* L., *S. melongena* L., *S. nigrum* L., *S. xanthocarpus* Schr. & Wendl., *Spondias pinnata* (L. f.) Kurz, *Spilanthes acmella* Murr., *Symplocos racemosa* Roxb., *Syzygium cumini* Skeel., *S. jambos* (L.) Alston., *Tagetes erecta* L., *Tamarindus indica* L., *Tactona grandis* L., *Terminalia arjuna* W. & A., *T. bellirica* Roxb., T. *chebula* Retz, *Thevetia nerifolia* Juss., *Tinospora cordifolia* Miers., *Todalia aculeata* Pers., *Toona ciliata* Roems, *Trapa bispinosa* Roxb., *Trewia nudiflora* L., *Thladiantha bracteata* (Lamk.) *Vcigt., Tridax procumbens* L., *Tylophora asthmatica* W. & A., *Valeriana wallichi* DC., *Vanda roxburghii* R. Br., *Vachellia fernasiana* (L.) W. & A., *Vernonia anthelmintica* Wall. V. *cenerca* Cess., *Vetiveria ziznoides* Stapf., *Vitex neugundo* L., *V. peduncularis* Wall., *Zingiber officinale* Rosc., *Ziziphus mauritiana,* Lamk.

Game Laws for Preservation of Wild Life

The Rules to regulate hunting, shooting, fishing, etc., within the Reserve and Protected Forests in Tripura were enacted in the year 1955.

The Rules are as follows:—

1. No person shall, within the reserved and protected forests in Tripura,—

(a) poison any river or other water;

(b) kill fish by any explosive;

(c) dam or bale water, or

(d) catch fish.

2. Nothing in these rules shall apply to fishing in tidal waters.

3. The close seasons prescribed in schedule I to these rules shall be observed within all reserved and protected forests.

4.(I) For the purpose of these rules forests shall be divided into two classes, namely:—

Class A.— Forests in which all hunting, shooting, trapping or fishing is prohibited in order to prevent the extinction of any species, or to form a sanctuary for game, or for any other purpose; provided that the

Divisional Forest Officer may, with the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner, order the killing or capture of any specified animals or birds found to be increasing to an undue extent or endangering the preservation of any other species of animal, bird or fish, or for any other reason.

Class B.— Forests in which hunting, shooting, trapping or fishing is permissible only by such persons as are privileged under rule 8, or under a permit issued in accordance with these rules.

(2) The forest areas described in schedule II to these rules shall be deemed to belong to Class A.

(3) All forests not included in the areas specified in Schedule II to these rules shall belong to class B, but the Chief Commissioner, on the proposal of the Divisional Forest Officer may declare any forest to be included in Class A.

5. No person shall hunt, shoot, trap or fish in any reserved or protected forest unless he has applied for and obtained the necessary permit in this behalf on such terms and conditions and for such period as may be specified in the permit.

6. In the case of forests under Class B, the necessary permit may be granted by the Divisional Forest Officer in Form A appended to these rules on payment of the fee according to the following scale:—

To non-residents of Tripura — Rs. 50/-
Residents of Tripura — Rs. 30/-

Provided that every holder of a permit shall also pay for a forest guard to accompany him and his camp during the time he is within any reserved or protected forest specified in his permit, if the Divisional Forest Officer appoints a forest guard to accompany him.

7. Permits under Rule 6 shall not ordinarily be granted except to approved sportsmen for the exclusive purpose of hunting and killing wild animals, birds, reptiles and fish subject to such restrictions as may be mentioned in the permit. These permits shall be (a) non-transferable, (b) available for the period specified therein, not exceeding twelve months, (c) Applicable to a portion or the whole of any forest or forests in any one forest division, (d) capable of extension to any part of the reserved or protected forest outside the area specified on the permit, for any time within the period covered by the

permit by an endorsement in this behalf made thereon by the officer authorised to grant a permit under rule 6 and having authority over the area to which the permit is extended:

Provided that wounded game may be followed into another portion of a forest than that to which the permit applies.

8. The following are exempted from taking out permits under rule 6 but shall be bound by rules 1, 3, 4, 11 and 12 and by any order issued under rule 13:—

(i) Chief Commissioner, Tripura.
(ii) Advisers to the Chief Commissioner.
(iii) Secretaries to the Government of Tripura.
(iv) Divisional Forest Officer.
(v) Sub-divisional Forest Officers.
(vi) Such guests of honour as may from time to time be accorded the privilege by the Chief Commissioner.

9. No person who applies for a permit shall employ any one to search for game in a reserved or protected forest prior to the date of his permit.

10. At the time a permit in Form A appended to these rules is taken out, a declaration shall be made by the permit-holder as to the animals, other than carnivorous animals which he desires to hunt.

11. The holder of a permit shall not employ beaters armed with fire-arms or bows and arrows unless he has previously obtained the special permission in writing of the Divisional Forest Officer.

12. (1) The shooting of birds or animals, other than carnivora, by any of the following methods is prohibited:—

(a) By shooting from motor vehicles or aircraft.
(b) By making use of any artificial lights or flares.
(c) By trapping by means of nets, pitfalls, enclosures, gins, traps, snares or set guns and missiles containing explosives or poisons; or by using poisons or poisoned weapons.
(d) By lying in wait near water-holes or salt-licks.
(e) By driving animals in snow.

Provided that the provisions of this rule shall not apply to the shooting of pig, jungle fowl and hare from a motor vehicle.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this rule, the shooting of tiger, leopard and bear in the forests of Tripura by any of the methods specified in sub-rule (1) is also prohibited.

Provided that lying in wait on machans, pits or enclosures with or without live or dead bait and the use of artificial light when on foot or when so lying in wait shall be permissible in the case of shooting of any of the said animals in the said forests.

Explanation — A bear shall be deemed to be a carnivorous animal for the purpose of this rule.

13. The Divisional Forest Officer may, with the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner, by notification in the State Gazette,

(a) direct that any block or blocks shall be closed to hunting, shooting or fishing for any specified period;

(b) specify the animals, birds or fish, the shooting or capture of which is prohibited totally or during any specified period;

(c) fix the maximum number of permits to be granted in any forest in any year; and fix the maximum numbers of any animals or brids of any kind that may be killed or captured in any reserved or protected forest;

(d) prohibit the killing or capture of animals, birds and fish which are immature;

(e) fix the scale of fees payable for special permits to enter and shoot, hunt or capture animals, birds or fish within the specified forest area otherwise closed; and every permit-holder or person exempted from taking out a permit under rule 8 shall be bound by such orders.

14. When an application for a permit under rule 6 is refused, an appeal shall lie to the Secretary to the Government of Tripura, Forest Department and the order passed in appeal shall be appealable to the Chief Commissioner and the orders of the Chief Commissioner passed in such appeal shall be final.

15. A permit in Form B may be issued free of charge by the Divisional Forest Officer authorising the holder to hunt, shoot or trap any specified carnivorous or other animals considered dangerous to life. The permit shall be (a) non-transferable, (b) available for the period specified

therein, not exceeding three months, and (c) subject to any special order not repugnant to these rules in general.

16. Every person to whom a permit has been granted under these rules and who is found hunting, shooting, trapping, fishing or going armed in any forest to which these rules apply shall on the demand of any Magistrate, Forest Officer or Police Officer having jurisdiction in the locality produce his permit for inspection.

17. (1) Any permit granted under these rules may be cancelled at any time by the authority which granted it, if circumstances render it advisable to stop hunting, shooting, trapping or fishing in any forest or part of a forest for which it has been granted a proportionate return of the fee paid by the permit-holder being made to him.

(2) An appeal against an order of a Divisional Forest Officer cancelling a permit shall lie to the Chief Commissioner.

(3) On the expiry of a permit issued under rule 15, the permit-holder shall submit to the Divisional Forest Officer who issued the permit an account of the particulars of all game bagged by him under the authority of the permit.

(4) If any person to whom a permit has been granted under these rules commits a breach of any provision of the Forest Law, or of any of these rules, the permit may be cancelled in lieu of, or in addition to any other punishment to which such person may be liable under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under any other law for the time being in force.

18. Every person to whom a permit has been granted under rule 6 shall, on the expiry of the permit, return it to the Divisional Forest Officer after filling in the particulars of all game shot or bagged by him in the form attached thereto.

FAUNA

The forests and hill ranges of Tripura are in close continuity with the Chittagong Hill tracts and the hills of southern Assam. It is, therefore, natural to expect that the fauna of Tripura will bear a close resemblance to that of these adjoining areas. Since the plains of the western border of this territory are continuous with the plains of Bangladesh, one may also expect to find here many animals like the cranes, darters, etc. commonly seen in the plains of Bangladesh. Tripura, therefore, has a

fauna which is a mixture of those of southern Assam and of Bangladesh. One distressing fact about the fauna of the area is the dwindling numbers of many of its members like the so-called 'Bison', the wild Buffalo and the *Sambar* Deer. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Besides the growing townships, increase in population and the consequent unavoidable deforestation that cause disturbance to wild life, a number of patches of forest areas are unscrupulously burnt every year by the local tribals for *jhooming* (shifting cultivation). As a result of this, wild life in these areas are being constantly driven out of their usual haunts, forcing them to take refuge and seek food in new and limited areas of unburnt hills. This makes the interspecific and intraspecific struggle acute, leading to the extinction of some of the less adapted ones. To this is added the food habits of the local tribals who can eat any animal they can safely lay their hands upon. Strangely, though it may seem, it is reported that even some of the poisonous snakes may find a place in their vast variety of menu. Under such conditions, it is no wonder that the wild denizens of the forests of Tripura find it an insecure and a rather uncomfortable abode. It is, however, encouraging that the Government have taken steps to dissuade the tribals from *Jhooming* and to prevent the public from wanton destruction of their valuable wild life.

Mammals

Primates

This group of highly evolved mammals includes the apes, monkeys and the lemurs. Amongst the innumerable varieties of monkeys found in India, only a few are met with in Tripura. They are : (1) The Hoolock Monkey (*Hylobates hoolock*)-B.* *Ulluk*. They have been observed in the forests of Chailangta and Langtarai hill ranges in the north and in the forests of Udaipur sub-division in the south. They are brownish black with their face being almost always black. They are arboreal and live on fruits, leaves, shoots, spiders etc. Several of them can be heard crying together in unison. (2) The Bengal Monkey (*Mecacus rhesus*)-B. *Bandor, Banor*. They are found in comparatively small numbers particularly in the northern sub-division. These monkeys are grey or brown in colour with the buttocks naked around the callosities. (3) The stump-tailed Monkey (M. *arctoides*) are seen in the forests near Udaipur, Jalāfā, Biloniā, Pechārthal and Māchmārā. It is a species looking somewhat like the rhesus monkey but, has a short, stumpy tail which is separately clad with hair. They seem to be much more numerous here than the Bengal Monkey and at times cause

* B=Bengali (Most of these are local Bengali names).

considerable damage to paddy crops. They are often found in flocks, generally on the ground searching food which consists of insects, spiders, fruits and seeds. (4) Barbe's Leaf-Monkey (*Semnopithecus barbei*) is a less common monkey found here. (5) Phayre's Leaf-Monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*)-B. *Jambhoovan* — are monkeys commonly seen in flocks of about 10 to 15 in the bamboo forests of almost all northern and southern sub-divisions of Tripura. They are dark ash brown in colour above, the darkness becoming almost black on the head and extremities. One of the most prominent characters in their colouration is the presence of white eyelids and a broad white area above the eyes; the area above the mouth and lips flesh-coloured; and the rest of the head being almost black. From amongst the lemurs, only the Slow Loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*)-B. *Lojjaboti Banor* — is seen in this territory. They have been noticed in the forests of Amarpur, Kamalpur and Kailasahar. They are nocturnal, slow moving, arboreal creatures, living on fruits, shoot of trees, insects etc.

Carnivora

The civet cat, cat, tiger, leopard, wild dog, jackal, otter, bear and other such flesh-eating mammals comprise this group. Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) — B. *Bagh* — used to be a common carnivore in the jungles of Tripura. But, during the past few years their number had dwindled down. Nevertheless, even now we may find the so-called 'Royal Bengal' Tigers occasionally. Medium-sized tigers are frequently seen in the hills and valleys of Bar Murā, Athāra Murā Kalajhari hill ranges. The smaller ones are a nuisance to cattle and poultry in the jungles adjoining the hill ranges, particularly to the east of Agartala, Lembucharā, all the hill ranges to the north, the Garji forest area, Kākrāban and the forests of Biloniā and Sabrum in the south. No authentic statistic is available regarding the mortality of domestic animals and man from wild life. However, a perusal of the State Veterinary Department's outpatient register has shown that the maximum number of attacks on domestic animals has been from tigers. Cases of tigers turning man-eaters have been comparatively rare in recent years. Another carnivore commonly seen in the area is the Leopard Cat (*Panthera pardus*)—B. *Cheeta Bagh*. From amongst the smaller species of the cat family are seen the jungle cats (*Felis chaus*)-B. *Ban Beral*. These are commonly seen in the jungles throughout Tripura. They seem to prefer the grassy plains to the tree tops unlike the Leopard Cats. The Leopard Cats (F. *bengalensis*)—B. *Mechi Bagh*—are also common as the jungle cats. The civet family including the true civets and the mongooses are represented by four forms: (1) the small Indian civet (*Viverricula Indiea*)—B. *Khatas*, (2) the large Indian

civet (*Viverrazibetha*)—B. *Bagdos,* (3) the Palm civet (*Paradoxurus niger*)—B. *Bhodar,* often called the Toddy Cats, and (4) the common Indian Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsii*)—B. *Neyul.* The last mentioned species is a dead enemy of snakes and it, therefore, keeps a check on the snake population of the area. It is also an excellent rat killer. The the snake population of the area. It is also an excellent rat killer.

The Dog family is represented by the wild dogs, wolves, jackals and faxes. It is said that the Indian Wolf (*Canis pallipes*)—B. *Nekra Bagh*—though uncommon, is found in Tripura. The Indian Wild Dog (*Cyon dukhunensis*)—B. *Ram Kutta, Jweli Kutta*—grey in colour, stouter than the jackals and shorter than the wolves, are also found in Tripura. They are considered to be very ferocious and they live on deer, wild pigs, rabbits and the like. The Indian Fox (*Canis bengalensis*)-B. *Khank Seeal*—is a small greyish animal with a black tip to its tail. Much more numerous and seen throughout the territory are the Jackals (C. *Aureus*I-B. *Seeal.* A small animal allied to both the cat and the dog families is the common Otter (*Lutra lutra*)—B. *Ud, Pani Kutha.* They are nocturnal in habit and live chiefly on fishes, crabs and amphibians.

The Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*)—B. *Bhalluk*—being a forest dweller, is restricted to the thick forest areas, chiefly, of the Jampai and Athāra Murā hill ranges. Their body is heavily built and is covered by long black fur. They live on fruits, white ants, honey, honey bees and a few other insects. During winter months when the orange orchards of the Jampai hills remain crowded with ripe fruits, these bears are frequent visitors to the place trying to feast on the ripe fruits and it is a job for the villagers to keep them away from the area.

Insectivora

Shrews which belong to this group are rather ubiquitous animals and are represented by the Grey Musk Shrew (*Crocidura caerulea*)—B. *Chucho.* Its colour is grey; head long and pointed, eyes small, tail long and fur short. It is nocturnal in habit.

Chiroptera

These are the bats and the flying foxes. The common flying fox of India called *Pteropus medius*—B. *Badur*—is seen here also. These remain hanging from the branches of trees during daytime and fly off in the evening in search of food which consists entirely of fruits. Besides this, there are also other species of smaller bats occuring in the area.

Rodentia

This fairly large order includes the gnawing mammals like the squirrels, rats, mice and the porcupine. In general, most of them are destructive to garden crops. From amongst the larger varieties of squirrels are seen here two species: (1) the Large Indian Squirrel (*Sciurus indicus*)—with a pale band across the vertex in front of the ears; and (2) the large Malay Squirrel (S. *bicolor*)—B. *Kat Beral,* whose upper parts are black and the lower parts buff-coloured. The latter species seems to be more numerous here than the former. Both the species are arboreal and are found only in thick jungles. The medium-sized squirrels are represented by the hoary-bellied Himalayan Squirrel (S. *locroides*). From amongst the rats are seen certain stoutly built large Bamboo Rats (Rhysomys sq.). The Indian Porcupine *Hystrix indica*—B. *Sojaru,* its body covered with long and erectile spines, is also seen in Tripura, although in small number.

Lagomorpha

Rabbits and hares, though gnawing animals like the members of the preceeding order, have been recently separated into this group. The Hare (*Lepus ruficaudatus*)—B. *Khargosh,* is seen common in the jungles throughout Tripura.

Ungulata

To this great order of hoofed mammals belongs animals of great value to man like the elephant, deer, horses and the cattle. This order has been recently split up into three separate orders: (1) *Perissodactyla* or the odd-toed ungulates like the horses and the rhinoceros, (2) *Artiodactyla* or the even-toed ungulates like the deer and the cattle, and (3) *Proboscidia* which includes the elephants.

The Indian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)—B. *Hathi,* seen in rather large numbers in the forests of Tripura are, by far, the most valuable wild life of this territory. They are seen in herds in the forests of Kalajhari hill range, Abhaya, Anandapur hill range, Raima Sarma valley (especially Gondacharā), catchment area of Deo river (especially, Ananda Bazar, Nabinhampārā), Langtarāi (especially Jamircharā and Dhumacharā) and the catchment area of the Manu river (i.e. Lalcharā, Chhāmanu, Rajdharcharā, Māldharcharā). There are frequent reports of depredations by wild elephants in the tribal villages, particularly in the harvesting season. Taking proper precaution against the attack of these wild animals, particularly the 'rogue' elephants, tribals in the

elephant infested areas live in houses built on tree tops. Sometimes such houses are utilised only as a temporary refuge when attacked by the wild elephants. Even as late as in 1952, wild elephants used to maraud the M. B. B. College campus at Agartala creating havoc, killing people and damaging property. One of the biggest elephants so far known to have been killed in India has been from the forests of Bilonia in the year 1957 by Capt. Jaipal, the then Officer Commanding of the Tripura Signal Sec. NCC. The elephant catching operations which were being carried out directly by the Forest Department of the State during the Maharaja's regime, are now being done by private parties from the neighbouring State of Assam, as per terms and conditions laid down by the Forest Department from time to time.

Rhinoceroses are not seen in Tripura now, although there are reports that they were there in large numbers during the first decade of the present century.

Amongst the even-toed ungulates, the family *Bovidae* (hollow-horned ruminants) is represented by the Indian 'Bison' (Bos frontalis)—. *Gabai, Mithun.* They are seen in the Kashari reserve forests, and between Abhaya and Garji in the southern part of Tripura. But there is no doubt that their number even here is highly limited. The local tribals are fond of their flesh. On examination of a skull of this specimen, it was found that unlike in the true Gayals, the tip of their horns are slightly incurved approaching a condition similar to that of the Gaur (*Bos gaurus*)—B. *Gaur.* It is possible that the latter species also exists in the area, but even then their number must be very few. The Wild Buffalo (B. *bubalis*)—B. *Bonmohish*—with a rather flattened and much elongated horns are reported to be present in the forests south of Dambur in areas adjoining the Chittagong hill tracts. But, it is almost certain that this too, if present, must be in a stage of near extinction in this territory. Unless very strict protective measures are enforced, these animals are likely to face total extinction in near future.

Some of the members of the Deer family are in no better plight than their relatives just mentioned. The Sambar Deer (*Cervus=Russa unicolor*)—B. *Kaleswar*—is one such example. They are large-sized animals with antlers having very short pedicles. Their colour is dark brown or grey. There are indications that they were once found in large numbers in this area. A species of deer which is very common throughout Tripura is the Barking Deer (*Muntjacus=Cervulus muntjac*) —B. *Khata Harin.* They are small-sized animals with a reddish brown colour. Their antlers are on rather long pedicles. They keep to the jungles but occasionally come out of the forests for grazing, particularly at the time when the forests are burnt for *jhooming.*

The Wild Boar (*Sus cristatus*)—B. *Sukar, Suar,* are found in large numbers in the southern sub-divisions of Tripura in areas adjoining the plains of Bangladesh. They form a favourite food of the tribals.

Pholidota

This order is represented by the Indian Pamgolin (*Manis pentadactyla*)—B. *Bonrui.* In Bengali language *Bonrui* means 'rohu fish of the forest', a name it has received due to the presence of scales on its body. The scales in this are formed by the fusion of hairs. These animals suckle their young as most mammals do and therefore, the popular belief that it is a fish is erroneous. Their tongue is very long, glutinous and capable of protrusion. They feed on ants and termites. They have a habit of rolling into a ball when alarmed. They are found in the forests throughout Tripura, but are said to be killed and eaten by the local tribals.

BIRDS

Passers

These are the perching birds which comprise one of the largest groups of living birds. Belonging to this group is the most familiar and ubiquitous bird, the common Crow. Tripura being a territory with recently developed townships, the common House Crow (*Corvus splendens*)—B. *Kak,* is only seldom seen here. The species that is most commonly seen here is the jet-black Jungle Crow (C. *Macrorhynchus*) —B. *Dora Kak.* As in the rest of India some of the most commonly seen and uniformly distributed passerine birds of this territory are listed below:—(1) The Red vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus cafer*)—B. *Bulbul,* (2) The Red-whiskered Bulbul (P. *jocosus*)—B. *Pahari bulbul,* (3) King Crow (*Dicrurus adsimilis*)—B. *Pechya,* (4) Common House Mynah (*Acredotheris tristis*)—B. *Shalik,* (5) The Pied Mynah (*Sturnus contra*)—B. *Ghowilka,* (6) House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)—B. *Chorai,* (7) Indian Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*)—B. *Taroka,* (8) Common Babbler (*Turdoides caudatus*)—B. *Chilchil, Dumri.*

Belonging to the family *Dicruridae* (Drongos) is yet another King Crow—like bird, the Racket-tailed Drongo (Dissemurus paradiseus)—B. *Bhringaraj.* It is less common than the King Crows and being forest species is found to show a special preference to bamboo jungles. It is glossy black bird with a plumed crest. Its outertail feathers are drawn out into rackets on the end of the wire-like shafts. Another bird which is medium-sized and rather dirty looking with pale yellow

eyes, is the Babbling Thrush (*Cerateropus canorus*)—B. *Satbhai.* They are very noisy chatterers and are usually found close to the ground or among bushes. A grass-green bird of the size of a bulbul or slightly bigger is the Jerdon's Chlorpsis (*Chloropsis jerdoni*)—B. *Botkol.* This bird is found throughout Tripura. The green *Bulbul* (C. aurifrons) a bird similar in appearance to Jerdon's Chloropsis excepting for its bright golden forehead, purple and black chin and throat, and slender bill, has been observed in the northern sub-divisions of Dharmanagar and Kailāsahar. The *Shama* (*Copsychus malabaricus*)—B. *Shama,* is one of the 'song birds' of this territory. It is of the size of a *bulbul* with a relatively longer tail and chestnut underparts. Another song bird of the territory is the Magpie Robin (*C. Saularis*)—B. *Doyel, Doikol,* which keeps nearer human habitations. The Warblers which are very small birds are represented by the Indian Wren-Warbler (*Prinia subflava*), the Streaked Fantail Warbler (Cisticola juncidis), and the Tailor bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*)—B. *Tun-tuni.* The last mentioned bird is a very interesting one, green in colour with a pointed tail and rufous crown. The bird sews two or more leaves together with a piece of grass for making its nest. It is thrilling sight to watch them making their nest.

Besides the common *Mynah* and the Pied *Mynah* already mentioned, the family *Saturnidae* is also represented by (1) the Jungle *Mynah* (Acredotheres fuscus)—B. *Choital Shalik,* which although similar in appearance to the common Mynah can be distinguished from it by its bushy upstanding tuft of feathers on the forehead and the absence of bare bright yellow skin around the eyes, and (2) the Hill Mynah or the Grackle (Gracula religiosa)—B. *Moina,* which is slightly bigger than the common House Mynah, with a glossy black colour and with well-grown, yellow, cheek lappets. The latter species has a capacity to imitate human voice, and is therefore, often captured by the local people for sale in the local market. From amongst the orioles, the Blackheaded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*)—B. *Haldi Pakhi,* appears to be more common here than the Golden Oriole (O. *Oriolus*)—B. *Haldi Pakhi.* The former species is of the size of a Mynah and they may be found even near human habitations. Its general colour is brilliant golden yellow except the head, throat and upper breast which are jet black. Another bird quite commonly seen in Tripura is the Baya Weaver Bird (*Ploceus philippinus*)—B. *Babui, Babu, Pyari.* It is a crop-raiding bird, found in flocks. It is of the size of a sparrow with its upper parts streaked heavily with dark brown and the breast yellow. It is often noticed going in and coming out of its retort-like, grass made, nests hanging in colonies (even 25 to 30 nests in some cases) from the branches of trees.

Out of the common migratory passerine birds of this territory is the common Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)—B. *Baliya,* of the size of a sparrow or slightly bigger. Its colour is glossy steel blue above with chestnut underparts, forehead and throat. Hundreds of them can be seen resting on telegraph wire in the northern sub-divisions of Tripura in autumn and early winter. Their mass migration into Tripura from the north and the northwest can be observed in the months of October/November or sommetimes even a little earlier. A migratory batch may consist of nearly 700 to 800 birds. It is likely that these birds belong to the N. E. Siberian race *tytleri* which is already known to visit East Bengal, Assam and Burma in winter.

The Wagtails which are commonly seen in this area consist of three species: (1) The White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)—B. *Bhating.* This is by far the most common amongst the three. One can hardly miss these birds while travelling by the Assam-Agartala Road in the Bar Murā and Athāra Murā ghat sections. (2) The Yellow-headed Wagtail (M. *citreola*)—B. *Bhanting.* (3) The Grey Wagtail (M.*capsica*). They are all small birds of the size of a sparrow, slim and long-tailed. They are also swift flyers. When they come to rest on the ground, they keep their tail oscillating vertically for sometime.

The Munias are a group of very small but beautiful birds. They are represented here by the Spotted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*)—B. *Munia,* the Red Munia (*Estrilda amandava*)—B. *Munia, Lal Munia,* and the White-backed Munia (*Lonchura striata*)—B. *Munia.*

A group of small birds of considerable importance to man are the Sunbirds and the Flowerpeckers. The Sunbirds seen locally are the Purple Sunbird (*Cinnyris astatica*)—B. *Tun-tuni,* the Purple-rumped Sunbird (C. *zeylonica*)—B. *Tun-tuni, Manchoongi,* and the Indian Yellow-backed Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*)—B. *Tun-tuni.* These birds are mainly responsible for fertilizing the flower of some of the plants both beneficial and harmful to man. *Loranthus,* a parasitic plant infesting mango trees and other valuable forest trees, is propagated by these birds. The Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) —B. *Tun-tuni,* a male specimen of which was caught from the forests of Salema and sent to Agartala for identification, has a crimson crown and forehead, and a crimson splashed rump. The upper and under tail coverts are also crimson-tipped. This bird is reported to be responsible for propagating *Loranthus* in that part of this territory.

A brilliantly coloured bird (males have deep scarlet and black colouration) of the size of a *bulbul* is seen in the forests of Tripura.

(*Pericrocotus flammeus*)

Coraciiformes : S. ORD : PICI

This sub-group comprises the woodpeckers which are, in fact, seen throughout India. Species of woodpeckers (B. *Kattukda*) commonly seen in Tripura are the Golden-backed Woodpecker (*Brachypternus bengalensis*), the Yellow-fronted Wood-pecker (*Dendrocopos mahrattensis*), and the Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropterus brachyurus*).

S. ord : Ceracii

The Rollers, 'Bee-eaters' Kingfishers, Hornbills and Hoopees come under this sub-group. The Rollers are represented by the Indian Roller or the Blue Jay (*Coracias bengalensis*)—B. *Neelkantha.* Its popular name is on account of its conspicuous blue plumage. Another set of small birds commonly seen perching on telegraph wires, garden fencing, twigs of trees etc. and making nests in the form of tunnels dug in the side of earth-cutting, borrow-pit or river embankment, are the common Green Bee-eaters (*Merops orientalis*)—B. *Tukkalanji.* They can easily be identified by their long, slender body, their long beak, elongated central tail feathers and green plumage. Of the Kingfishers, the more commonly seen ones are the White-breasted Kingfishers (*Halycon smyrensis*)—B. *Machrangi,* and the common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)—B. *Machrangi.* Also seen at random are the Black-capped Kingfishers (*Halycon pileata*) and the Brown-headed Stork-billed Kingfishers (*Pelargopsis capensis*).

Hornbills are seen in comparatively large numbers in the forests of Tripura. The species that is common here is the large-pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros malabaricus*)—B. *Dhanesh, Dhanesh Pākhi.* They are large-sized birds measuring about $3\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 feet in length. Their outer tail feathers are white-tipped black, and the sides of their casque are convex. They possess a white abdomen and, yellow casque and bill. They generally confine themselves to large trees where they may be found in parties. They are caught by the tribals and other local people for sale.

The Indian Hoopee (*Upupa epops*) found throughout the area, though in small numbers, is a fawn-coloured bird with black and white zebra markings on back, wings and tail. It has a prominent crest and a long, slender, slightly curved beak.

S. Ord Cuculi

This sub-group is represented by the common Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropternus*)—B. *Bou-Kotha-Kao.* It has received this

local name from its call which sounds somewhat like that. In Bengali language 'Bou-Katha-Kao', means, 'My Lady, Speak out';. Its call is frequently heard in the months from March to July. Three other birds of this sub-group seen throughout this territory are : (1) the Pied-crested Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*)-B. *Cuckoo,* (2) the Crow-Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*)-B. *Hanri chāchā Irakuli,* and (3) the Common Koel (*Eudynamis honorata*)-B. *Koel, S. ord : Pasittaci.*

This sub-group includes the Parakeets. Both the Blossom-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula cyanocephala*)-B. *Teeya* and the Indian Red-breasted Parakeet (P. *fasciatus*)-B. *Teeya* have been observed in the jungles of Bilonia and Sabrum in the south. Besides these, it is reported that the Large Burmese Parakeet (P. *eupatria indoburmanica*) -B. *Tota,* and the Eastern Rose-ringed Parakeet (P. *Krameri borealis*) -B.*Tota* are also seen in Tripura.

Striges

This sub-group of the same major order includes the *Owls* (B. *Pecha*), which are nocturnal birds. Some of the common owls present here are : (1) the Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*)-B. *Pecha,* (2) the Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa Bubo zeylenensis*)-B. *Buthum,* (3) the Scops Owl (*Scops giri*)B. Pecha, and (4) the Spotted, Owlet, (*Athena brama*)-B. *Pecha.* The call of the Scops Owl is a peculiar metallic *phew-phew* which can often be heard in the nights during the months from March to July.

Accipitres

These are the birds of prey and the order includes the Osprey, the Vultures, Eagles, Kites etc. From amongst the Vultures are seen the White-backed Vulture or the Bengal Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)-B. *Sakun,* and the Kites are represented by the common Indian Kite (*Mylyus migrans*)-B. *Cheel.*

Columbae

The Doves and Pigeons come under this group. The Indian Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)-B. *Ghugu* is a bird that one most commonly comes across throughout Tripura. A rather rare variety of Dove found in the jungles of this area is the Emerald or Bronze-winged Dove (*Chalcophaps indiea*)-B. *Raj Ghugu.*

Gallinae

These include the main game birds like the peafowl, jungle fowl, pheasants, partridges etc. The Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*)-B.

Ban murug-, found widely distributed in the jungles of this area is suspected to be the Burmese variety, *G. gallus robinsoni* or at least very much similar to that on account of the resemblance it shows in its colour pattern with the latter.

Grallae

This order includes the cranes, Jacanas, Curlew and the Papwing.

They are represented in this area by the Water Cocks (*Gallicrex cinerea*) — the Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*)-B. *Saras,* the Bronze-winged Jacana (*Metopidius indicus*)-B. *Dahuk,* and the Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)-B. *Dal-Kukra, Chitra-billi, Jal manjor Bhepi.* The Jacanas live exclusively in the beels, swamps and other water-logged areas with vegetation. They have disproportionately long toes and claws and are found walking on weeds and plants on the surface of water. The Curlews and Lapwings are represented here by the Stone Curlew (*Burhinus oedicnemus*), and the Red-wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus indicus*)-B. *Tituri,* respectively.

Herodiones

Ibeses, Spoonbills, Storks. Herons etc. comprise this group. The following birds represent this group here:—

(1) The White-necked Stork (*Ciconia epsicopus*)-B. *Shamukche-;*

(2) the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)-B. *Dolbok, Gobok-;*

(3) The Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)B. *Awk, Kowadauk-;*

(4) The Chestnut Bittern (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*)-B. *Nolbok;*

(5) The Little Green Bittern (*Butorides stristus*)-B. *Kanibok-.*

Anseres

From amongst this group are seen the migratory birds like the Shovellers (*Anas clypeats*)-B. *Panta mukhi,* which are birds slightly smaller than the domestic ducks; the Common Teal (A. *crecca*)-B. *Naroil, Tulsiabigri-,* and the Cotton Teal (*Nettapus coromandelianus*)-B. *Balihash-.*

Pygopodes

The Indian Little Grebe or Dabchik (Podiceps ruficollis capensis).

Pandubi, Bigrihash — represents this group in Tripura. They are migratory and are found to frequent ponds, jheels, and larger tanks in parties.

Stegonopodes

The order includes the Pelicans, Cormorants and the Darters. Many of the birds of this group commonly seen in the adjoining plains of Bangladesh are also seen here. One of the birds, the Darter (*anhinga* rufa)-B. *Pancowri, Pandubi,* is commonly seen in the Rudra-sagar beel of the Sonamura sub-division. It is a cormorant-like waterbird more or less of the size of a kite. Its colour is on the whole black but, with silvery streaks on the back and with a velvety brown head and neck. Its chin and throat are whitish; its neck slender and snake-like; and bill long, pointed and dagger-like. It is in the habit of perching on stumps of trees with their wings outspread. They feed on fish, crabs, frogs etc.

The forests fringing the Rudrasagar beel seem to be the nesting ground of a variety of birds.

REPTILES

The reptilian fauna of Tripura appears to be rich because of the large number and varieties of snakes often seen throughout this territory. But, so far no comprehensive and scientific survey has been done on the reptiles of this area. Hence, in this account only the most commonly seen reptiles of the area will be mentioned. In classification of reptiles, snakes and lizards are grouped under *Scuamata,* the tortoise under *Chelonia* and the crocodiles under *Crocodolia.*

Chelonia

A small herbivorous squatic tortoise found here is *Morenia petersi*-B. *Kachab.*

Another type of tortoise inhabiting the ponds and jheels adjacent to the rivers is *Lissemys punctata*-B. *Kachuga.* These tortoises feed upon both animal and vegetable matter. The meat from these tortoises are taken by the poorer section of the local people. A specimen of *Hardella thurgi* with its shell measuring about 400 mm in length and 250 mm in breadth was once caught from the Rudrasagar *beel.* Their shell is dark brown above, yellow below tith a dark patch occupying the greater part of each shield. There is a curved orange

yellow band on the top of the snout, another below the nostrils and a third behind the eye. They are vegetable feeders. Their flesh is considered to be delicious.

Squamata

The lizards so far known to be present in Tripura come under four main families, viz., the *Gecko-nidae*, Agamidae, Veranidae and the *Scincidae*. The Geckos are the most familiar of these for, the Well Lizard (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*)-B *Tik Tiki, a* member of this group, is common in every house, stalked timber, bricks etc. A less common geckonid lizard found in the tree trunks and even in the dark corners of the rafters of houses is the Gecko (*Gekko gecko*)-B. *Tokka*. Some of the species of this lizard found in the jungles of this territory are most probably the race *azahari*. They are fairly large in size growing to nearly a foot in length. They have a somewhat narrow, long snout and possess numerous red spots on the body. Their tubercles are more or less flat. There is wrong belief amongst the local people that this lizard is highly poisonous. The agamoid lizards are represented by the most common Garden Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*)-B. *Girgiti;* the *Scincidae* is represented by *Mabuya carinata*-B. *Agila*, which has a smooth glistening skin unlike the Garden Lizard; and the *Varanidae* by the Monitor Lizard (*Varanus monitor*)-B. *Gossap*.

From amongst the non-poisonous snakes are seen the following genera :

(1) Belonging to the family *Typhlopidae* are a group of small, worm-like, degenerate snakes about 6 to 7 inches long, called the Worm Snakes (*Typhlops* sp.)-B. *Athalkuchya*. They are blackish brown in colour and their head is not distinct from the neck. They are burrowing in habit and feed on small invertebrates like insects and worms. (2) Python (*Python molurus*)-B. *Moyal:* These huge sized snakes belong to the family *Boidae* and are common in the jungles of Tripura. They are sluggish and reach a length of nearly 10-12 feet.

(3) A smaller snake belonging to the same family is *Eryx* sp.
(4) Family Uropeltidae is represented by the genus *Uropeltis*-B. *Dumukhi saap*. It is a burrowing snake with a short and blunt tail which ends obtusely giving the appearance of another head.

Family *Colubridae* is represented by (5) the Rat Snake (*Ptyas*)-B.

Dhamna — with two species of it occurring in the area; (6) the Wolf Snake (*Lycodon* sp.), (7) the Water Snakes (Natrix-Tropidonotus)-B. Metuli-, which are very common near water-logged areas; and (8) the slightly poisonous Green Whip Snake (*Dryophis* sp.)-B. *Laodoga saap-*. The Green Whip Snake, while hanging from the branches of trees and bushes, camouflaged by its green colour, is said to dart and strike at the human face, particularly glistening surfaces like the eye, with considerable accuracy.

From amongst the poisonous snakes are seen the following genera:
(1) The Cobra (Naja sp.)-B. *Kharis:* This highly poisonous snake comes under the family *Elapidae*. It grows to about 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length. It has two black patches on the ventral side of the neck. These snakes possess a well-formed hood. Another member belonging to the same family is: (2) the Krait (*Bungarus*)-B. *Shakhamuti, Keotis*. It is an active snake, bluish black above and with narrow transverse white cross bars which is the characteristic pattern of the species *coeruleus*. When bitten by this snake, the victim shows symptoms of neurotoxic poisoning. Deaths from snake bites have been comparatively lesser in recent years.

AMPHIBIA

Amphibia comprises vertebrate animals like the frogs which are adopted to live both on land and in water. Tailed amphibians are not found in the major part of India. But, one tailed amphibian, *Tylototriton verrucosus* which is a Himalayan species is reported to be present in Darjeeling, Yunan and Assam. However, so far no tailed amphibian has been recorded or reported from Tripura. Amongst the tail-less amphibians are seen the toads and frogs. Species of frogs most commonly met with in ponds, ditches, marshes and canals throughout the area are: (1) *Rana Cyanophlyctis*-B. Bang, which is small frog measuring about 2″ to $2\frac{1}{2}$″ in length and with fully webbed toes; and (2) a less common frog, much bigger than in size and with toes having shorter webs. The latter species is *R. tigrina*-B. *Bang*. It measures nearly 6″ in length. Its flesh, particularly that of the legs, is considered to be a delicacy in some of the foreign countries.

Another frog that is found in the area is the so-called Tree Frog (*Rhacophorus*). The tips of its fingers and toes are expanded into pads with the help of which the animal can cling to even vertical surfaces. The most commonly seen toad of the area is *Bufo malanostic-tus*-B. *Kuno Bang*.

FISHES

Tripura has no major rivers worth the name. This has considerably reduced the scope for river fisheries in this territory. All rivers of Tripura drain into the river Meghna in Bangladesh and hence, many of the fresh water fishes found in the tributaries and adjoining water-logged areas of that major river may also be found in this area. With the exception of a few, rather deep (more than 12′), perennial rock pools at the source of the river Gumti, in the dry season (November to April) even all the bigger rivers of this territory get reduced to a few small, shallow water pools connected by long stretches of shallow and feebly flowing streams. During the rainy season, and particularly in the months of June, July and August, however, these rivers swell enormously and inundate the adjoining low-lying areas. Fishes from the major rivers of Bangladesh migrate into these rivers at that time, but their number seems to be highly limited. Although at this time certain cartilagenous rays and large-sized cat fishes are caught from these rivers, migratory fishes like *Hilsa* are only very seldom seen. In addition to these rivers, there also exists considerable stretches of stagnant fresh water and marshy areas covered with water hyacinth and other aquatic vegetation. These water-logged areas if properly surveyed and exploited can possibly give a good crop of fishes every year. The fishery department of the State has already started some work in this direction.

In a preliminary survey of the fish fauna of this territory, collection of fishes from all the important rivers and their tributaries throughout the territory was made. In addition, collections were also made from *jheels* like Rudrasagar, Amarsagar and Phatiksagar, and also from a large number of smaller ponds, streams, ditches, *nullahs,* and other water-logged areas of the territory. As a result of this survey, nearly 70 species of fishes belonging to 21 different families have been identified so far. Most of these specimens are preserved in the Zoology Museum of the local Government College.

Some of these species of fishes are listed in the following account.

The fresh water bony fishes identified up-to-date from the waters of Tripura fall under the Seven orders: (i) Isospondyli; (ii) Ostariophysi; (iii) Synetognathi; (iv) Percomorphi; (v) Plectofnathi; (vi) Opisthomi; and (vii) Symbranchii.

Isospondyli

This order includes the herring type of fishes (fam. *Clupeidae*) and the Feather-backs (fam. *Notopteridae*). The former group of fishes can be identified by their general colour which is metallic silvery; and their abdominal edge which is sharp, wedge-shaped and serrated. The so-called Indian Shad (*Hilsa ilisha*)-B. *Ilish* — belongs to this family. It is a migratory fish and is known to ascend river Ganges for spawning. They are highly delicious and preferred to other fishes by the local people. Although these fishes are caught in plenty from the rivers Padma and Meghna in Bangladesh, it is unlikely that they will find the rivers of Tripura suitable for migration.

The most outstanding pecularity of the fishes belonging to the group *Notopteridae,* is the way in which their long anal fin units with the small caudal fin making the tail and taper to a point. The two species of this, *Notopterus chitala*-B. *Chital-*, and *N. notopterus*-B. *Pholui-*, are found in Tripura. The back of the former species is more humped and dark. Besides, it has also a series of transverse silvery bars on each side of its dorsal ridge and about 7 to 8 round, black or grey irregularly arranged spots near the base of its tail. They also attain a large size than the latter species, and are usually found in the bigger rivers and the *jheels.* The latter species, however, is found even in smaller ponds and are also cultured by local people in private ponds and tanks.

Cytariophysi

This includes a large number and variety of fishes, like the carps, catfishes, and the loaches. The carp family *Cyprinidae* has its three sub-families represented here. They are — (i) *Abramidinae,* (ii) *Rasborinae,* and (iii) *Cyprininae.* The sub-family *Abramidinae* includes two species: (1) *Cxygaster bacaila*-B. *Chela, Katari* and (2) *Chela laubuca*-B. *Chapkhowri.* Their body is somewhat laterally compressed; abdomen has a cutting edge behind the pectorals and the dorsal profile is straighter than the ventral. They are bright silvery in colour and are comparatively small fishes attaining not more than 6″ in length. They are found in almost all rivers of Tripura. The second family *Rasborinae* is represented by the following species some of which are found in large numbers in the rivers of the area: (1) *Barilius barila;* (2) *B. barna*-B. *Bhola, Chol-;* (3) *B. tileo-;* (4) *Danio oeouipinnatus*-B. *Chebli-;* (5) *D. dangila*-B. *Nipati-;* (6) *Esomus danricus*-B. *Darkila, Darkina-;* and (7) *Rasbora daniconius*-B. *Darkina.* Many of these except *Barilius* are *comparatively* small fishes. The sub-family *Cyprininae* includes the carps. The major carps are cultured by almost every landlord of the locality who possesses a tank or pond of his own. The body of the carps is covered generally by

silvery or leaden scales. Their abdomen is rounded. This group is represented by the following species: (1) *Catla catla*-B. *Catal-;* (2) *Labeo rohita*-B. *Rui-;* (3) *L. calabasu*-B. *Kalbaush-;* (4) *L. gonius*-B. *Ghania;* (5) *L. bata*-B. *Bhagna, Bhagnabata-,* not commonly seen and perhaps the identification requires further confirmation; (6) *Cirrhina mrigala*-B. *Mrigal-;* (7) *Puntius sarana*-B. *Sharputi* (8) *P. ticto*-B. *Titputi;* (9) *P. sophore*-B. *Puti;* (10) *P. chola-titius*-B. *Puti-;* (11) *Puntius* spi.-B. *Mahseer* — found in the pools at the source of river Gumti — the species is yet to be ascertained; and (12) *Rohetee cotio.*

Gilaganya

Family *Cyprinodontidae* is represented here by a comparatively small fish *Aplocheilus panchax*-B. *Kanpona, Trichokka.* It is a larvicidal fish found in all water-logged areas and minor irrigation canals, ponds etc. throughout the territory of Tripura.

Family *Homalopteridae* comprises the loaches. They have rudimentary scales embedded in the skin, and they generally show brown or leaden yellow whiskers. *Botia dario*-B. *Bethrungi*-and *Lepidocephalichthys guntea*-B. *Goutham* — are the two species of loaches so far identified from the collections of this area. The former of the two species has beautiful yellow and vertical stripes on the body and tail which make them attractive aquarium fishes.

The sub-order *Siluroidea* comprises the catfishes. Those catfishes so far identified from the water of Tripura, come under the families, (i) *Siluridae,* (ii) *Schilbidae,* (iii) *Bagridae,* (iv) *Sisoridae,* (v) *Saccobranchidae,* (vi) *Claridae, and* (vii) *Chacidae.* These fishes have no scales; their dorsal fin is single-rayed; their whiskers are generally longer than their head; and in some an adipose fin may be present.

Family *Siluridae* is represented by three species, (1) *Ompok bimaculatus*-B. *Dhali Pabda,* a silvery white fish attaining nearly a foot in length and caught in considerable numbers from the bigger rivers like the Gumti; (2) *O. Pabda*-B. *Kali Pabda,* a fish smaller than the former and found in large numbers in the rivers, *jheels,* and larger tanks; and (3) *Wallago attu*-B. *Boal,* a fish attaining nearly $4\frac{1}{2}'$ in length and commonly found in rivers and the larger ponds and *jheels* which at some time or other get water from the rivers.

Family *Schilbidae* is represented by 5 species: (1) *Eutropiichthys vacha*-B. *Bacha-;* (2) *E. murius*-B. *Muribacha;* (3) *Clupisoma garua*-B. *Garua Garua-,* (4) *Pseudotropius atherenoides,* only rarely seen; and

(5) *Silonia silondia*-B. *Shilong, Silon,* a big-sized catfish caught from the larger rivers like the Gumti only during the rainy season.

Family *Bagridae* is represented by 8 species out of which the large-sized *Rita-rita*-B. *Rete-* are caught from the rivers mainly in the rainy season. They are also rare here. The remaining five species are: (1) *Mystus vittatus*-B. *Tengra* found throughout the territory in rivers and the water-logged areas in connection with them; (2) *M. Bleekeri*-B. *Gulasha-;* (3) *M. seenghala*-B. *Aeer;* (4) *M. tengra*-B. *Tengra;* (5) *M. aor-;* (6) *M. cavasius*-B. *Kavasi tengra;* and (7) *Batasio batasio*-B. *Bojori.*

Family *Sisoridae* includes a large-sized food fish, Gagarius bagarius-B. Baghar. It is comparatively rare in Tripura. It usually attains a size of nearly 7′ but, the specimens so far caught in Tripura have been much smaller. Besides this fish, two species of a similar but small-sized fish *Erethestis*-B. *Kutkutya* — are also seen in Tripura.

Family *Saccobranchidae* is represented by a single species *Heteropneustes fossili*-B. *Singh, Singhi* — seen throughout the water-logged areas of the territory.

Family *Chacidae* again is represented by a single species; *Chaca chaca*-B. *Kutkutya* — an ugly-looking fish whose body is somewhat flattened dorso-ventrally.

Synetognathi

This order with its family *Xenentodontidae* is represented in our area by a single species *Xenentodon cancila*-B. *Kakya.* It is unmistakable because of its elongated body and the beak formed by the lengthening of both its jaws. It is found in pools, tanks, *jheels* and streams of the area.

Percomorphi

These are fishes with two perch-like dorsal fins, which constitute their most outstanding character. Both their head and body are covered with scales.

Family *Centropomidae* of this group is represented here by the two common species, *Ambassis ranga*-B. *Chanda,* and *A. Cama*-B. *Chanda* found in almost every pond, pool, *jheel* etc.

Family *Nandidae* is represented by *Nandus nandus*-B. *Nanda, Meni*-which is a somewhat delicious food fish attaining a size of nearly 7″; and *Badis badis*-B. *Naptha,* a much smaller fish (not more than 3″) with a dirty red general colour and dark transverse bands on the body.

Family *Anabantidae* has three representatives: (1) the much-liked food fish, found throughout the territory, *Anabas testudineus*-B. *Koi-;* and two species of colourful Indian Gouramis (2) *Colisa fasciata*-B. *Colisa-* and (3) *C. chuna* B. *Boisa.* The species *fasciata* attains a bigger size than the latter. Both can well be used as aquarium fishes.

Family *Channidae* comprises the Murrels. This family is represented by a single genus *Chanda-Ophicephalus.* These fishes have accessory respiratory organs with the help of which they can take in oxygen from the atmosphere and thus live outside water or in oxygen-deficient water for a considerable time. Their head resembles that of a snake. There are at least five species of this seen in the area. They are: (1) *C. Punctatus*-B. *Lata, Lati Takki;* (2) *C. gachua*-B. *Cheng-;* (3) *C. striatus*-B. *Shoal-;* (4) *C. Marulius*-B. *Gojar; and* (5) *C. smphibius*-B. *Upol.*

Family *Gobiidae* has a single representative in our area and that is *Glossogobius giuris*-B. *Balya, Bele.*

Plectognathi

This order is represented by the family *Tetrodontidae* with its species *Tetrodon cutcutia*-B. *Photka* — which is commonly seen in the rivers, *jheels,* and other water-logged areas throughout the plains of this territory.

Opisthomi

These include the so-called 'Spiny *Eels*' belonging to the family *Mastacembalidae.* They have an *eel*-shaped body with a long, pointed snout. Their dorsal fin is made up of isolated spines which may, however, remain concealed under the skin in some cases. Three species of this group have so far been recorded from Tripura waters. They are:

(1)*Mastacembalus armatus*-B. *Chitra Bam;* (2) *M. pancalus*-B. *Pankal, Bam;* and (3) *Rhynchobdella aculeata*-B. *Bam-.* The first of these three species attains a bigger size than the other two.

Symbranchii

These are the Mud eels and the family *Amphipnoidae* of this order is represented by a single species *Amphipnous cuchia*-B. *Kuchya.* They are snake-like fishes with a rudimentary dorsal fin. These fishes attain a length of even 3′. They are quite common in the marshy areas and ponds of this territory. Though not favoured as food by the local people, these fishes are liked by the tribals.

CLIMATE

Observatories

There are two meteorological observatories in the territory, one at Agartala and the other at Kailasahar. As the data for Kailasahar are meagre, temperature and other data for Agartala alone are included. These data may be taken as generally representative of the conditions in the territory as a whole. In addition to these there are rain-gauge stations in the sub-divisions.

Seasons

The climate of this territory is characterised by moderate temperatures and a highly humid atmosphere. The country is broken up by a number of hill ranges seldom exceeding 600 m (2000 ft.) in height, with marshy valleys in between. December to February is the cold season which is followed by the summer season from March to May. June to September is the south-west monsoon season. October and November constitute the post-monsoon season.

Temperature

The cold weather starts by about the end of November when both day and night temperatures decrease steadily. January is the coldest month when the mean daily maximum temperature is 25.5° C (77.9° F) and the mean daily minimum is 10.4° C (50.7° F). From about the beginning of March temperature rises fairly rapidly. While the night temperature continues to rise till July and August, day temperature is the highest in April. The south-west monsoon arrives over the territory by about the last week of May when the day temperature drops by three to four degree centigrade. After the withdrawal of south-west monsoon in the first week of October, temperature gradually decreases.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Agartala was 42.2° C (107.96° F) on May 1, 1960 and the lowest minimum was 3.9° C (39.02° F) on January 2, 1955.*

Humidity

Humidity is generally high throughout the year. In the summer season the relative humidities are between 50 and 75 per cent while in the south-west monsoon season they are over 85 per cent. The following table denotes the highest and lowest temperatures and relative humidity recorded in the territory.

* Source: Climatological summaries, Directorate General of Observatories (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona 5, 1968.

TABLE — I.
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity (Agartala.)

Month	Mean Daily maximum temperature	Mean Daily minimum temperature	Highest Maximum ever recorded:				Lowest Minimum ever recorded			Relative Humidity	
										08.30 hrs.*	17.30 hrs.
	°C	°C	°C		Date	:	°C		Date	%	%
January	25.5	10.4	29.9	1958	January	29	3.9	1955	January 2	81	62
February	28.3	13.7	33.9	1953	February	19	6.1	1956	February 19	71	49
March	33.0	18.8	38.9	1958	March	28	10.0	1957	March 1	69	49
April	35.0	22.8	40.0	1956	April	17	16.1	1955	April 6	71	59
May	32.9	24.3	37.4	1957	May	1	16.1	1955	May 2	79	76
June	31.4	24.6	36.3	1958	June	6	21.1	1955	June 6	85	85
July	31.3	24.8	34.8	1958	July	15	22.2	1958	July 28	87	84
August	31.4	24.8	36.4	1957	August	21	22.8	1955	August 16	85	85
September	31.8	24.5	35.0	1954	September	21	21.7	1956	September 25	87	85
October	31.1	22.2	35.0	1955	October	12	14.9	1957	October 31	80	82
November	28.9	16.0	32.8	1955	November	6	10.6	1953	November 17	78	76
December	26.8	11.9	29.6	1953	December	6	7.2	1955	December 26	74	69
Annual	30.6	19.9								79	72

* Hours: I.S.T.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall are available for nine stations. While records for Agartala extend to 64 years, the data for other stations are available for about 20 years only. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the territory as whole are given below:

The average annual rainfall in the territory is 2100.7 mm (82.70"). The rainfall generally increases from the south-west to the north-west. About 63 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in the south-west monsoon season. The rainfall in the summer months March to May mostly in the form of thunder-showers amounts to about a quarter of the annual total. There is some rain in the post-monsoon months also. The year to year variation in the rainfall is not large. In the fifty year period from 1901 the highest rainfall which amounted to 135 per cent of the normal occurred in 1915, while in 1903 the year with the lowest rainfall it was 64 per cent of the normal. In the same fifty year period the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal in five years. Considering the district as a whole no two consecutive years had rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal. But at some individual stations there have been one or two occasions when the rainfall in two consecutive years was less than 80 per cent of the normal. It will be seen from the following table that in 27 years out of 50 the rainfall was between 1800 and 2300 mm (78.87" and 90.55").

TABLE — III

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District (Data 1901-1950)

Range in mm.	No. of years	Range in mm.	No. of years
1301-1400	1	2101-2200	3
1401-1500	0	2201-2300	5
1501-1600	0	2301-2400	5
1601-1700	4	2401-2500	5
1701-1800	4	2501-2600	2
1801-1900	7	2601-2700	0
1901-2000	6	2701-2800	1
2001-2100	6	2801-2900	1

On an average the district has 99 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm-10 cents or more) in a year. This number varies from 85 at Sonamura to 121 at Dharmanagar.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours which occurred at any Station in the territory was 456.2 mm (17.96") at Bilonia on 1947 August 5.

Cloudiness

Skies are heavily clouded in the south-west in monsoon season. In the post-monsoon months clouding is moderate. In the winter season clear or lightly clouded skies prevail. Clouding increases in the summer months.

Winds

Winds are generally light except in the latter half of summer and the monsoon months when they are moderate. In the summer and to a lesser extent in the post-monsoon months, strong winds blow for short periods in association with thunder-storms. In the south-west monsoon season winds are southernly to south-easternly. They gradually back to a northernly direction in the post-monsoon and early winter season. Thereafter the southernlies begin and these become predominant in the summer. The following table shows the mean monthly wind speed.

TABLE — IV

Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr
(Agartala)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annl
4.0	5.1	6.6	11.0	13.1	10.1	9.7	8.3	6.3	4.3	3.4	3.0	7.1

Special weather phenomena

In the post-monsoon months of October and November some of the cyclonic storms and depressions from the Bay of Bengal move into Bangladesh and affect this territory, causing high winds and widespread rain. Thunder-storms occur frequently in the summer months and some of them are very violent. Even during the south-

west monsoon season the rain showers are associated with thunder. Thunder-storms also occur on a few days in October. During the period from the latter half of November to the beginning of March fog is seen on some days particularly in the valleys. The following table gives the frequency and special weather phenomena for Agartala.

TABLE — V

Special weather phenomena (Agartala)*

Mean No. of days with	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annl
Thunder	0.7	1.1	5.5	10.3	12.8	12.8	6.8	10.5	14.8	6.8	0.7	0.2	83.0
Hail	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9
Dust-Storm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Squall	0.2	0.3	1.2	2.7	1.7	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	6.8
Fog	2.7	2.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.8	4.0	11.7

* Source: Deputy Director General of Observatories, (Climatology Geophysics).

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Pre-History & Proto-History

"The physiographical aspect of Eastern India is dominated by the basins of the Ganges in Bihar, the Brahmaputra in Assam and their joint deltaic formation in Bengal .....".

The Bengal Delta, described as one of the seven natural divisions in which Eastern India is generally divided, is again divided into five main parts by the present river system. Of these parts, South-East Bengal is one, extending east of the river Meghna. "Here the rivers rise from the eastern Tertiary Hills of Tripura and Chittagong and flow in a west or south-west direction. There are three important river valleys in this region, which cut through the Tertiary ranges. The Surma valley, incorporating the district of Sylhet, separates the Tipperah Hills from a fringe of the Tertiary rocks bordering the southern edge of the Shillong Plateau. The Gomti river, rising in the Tipperah Hills, encircles the lateritic deposit of the Lalmai-Mainamati Hill on three sides. This deposit is made up of slightly micaceous, yellow coloured sandstone and ferruginous concretions which, when decomposed, colour the top of the Hill brick-red. The sandstone is not very compact and appears to be in horizontal beds. There are, also, horizontal intercalcations of clay, only a few inches thick and occasional bands of argillaceous nodules. The most striking feature here is the abundant occurance of fossil wood."[1]

"No fossil remains of Pleistocene Man has so far been found in Eastern India, nor indeed in the sub-continent of India and Pakistan.... However the presence of Pleistocene Man in India is from the chipped stone tools left behind by him and discovered in many localities. Though various types of palaeolithic implements have been found here, yet their exact relationship and the environment background under which they were manufactured, are questions that remain to be answered." Though old alluvium could be traced in the red

[1] Dani, A. H. Pre-History and Proto-History of Eastern India; (Calcutta, 1960), Pp. 9-10.

lateric soil of the Lālmāi Mainamati Range in Comilla (old Tipperah) district of Bangladesh, adjoining the plains of Hill Tripura, and near Sitakundu in Chittagong district, 'nothing has so far been discovered about the early man in this region'.

Incidentally mention may be made of neolithic materials found in Assam. The Assam materials can be classed into two groups: "Group-I including indigenous tool types almost restricted to the various zones of Assam, and group-II including common types, wholly foreign, identical with some of the types of Yunnan and Burma. Apparently, there is no chronological distinction between these two Assamese groups. On the other hand, evidence has been quoted... that stone tools, to a certain extent, continued to be used by the hill people as late as the beginning of the last century."

On the occurence of fossil tools in this region Dr. Dani observed: "Very recently a single specimen of a late achaulean hand-axe was discovered in the Mainamati range, now preserved in the Dacca Museum. It is made of fossil wood and shows remarkable workmanship all over the body. The tool may be compared with the fossil wood material from Burma. In the hilly parts some neolithic tools have been found." "A piece of fossil wood, pointed, elongated, one side flat, truncated butt, beautifully polished" is also reported to have been picked from Sitakundu in Chittagong. More specimens are reported to have been collected by Robert Dyson from Chittagong hill area and four are reported to have been preserved in the British Museum. According to Dr. Dani, these tools belong to the same complex.

It is interesting to add that some neolithic fossil tools such as scrapers or hoe made of chert and grinder made of silicised fossil wood have been found at Nandannagar, Agartala while digging a tank in addition to quite a good number of fossil wood boulders of different shape and size found in Sonamura region. The scrapers appear to have been beautifully polished. These are now preserved in Agartala Museum. More specimens are reported to have been collected by the Archaeological Survey of India, Eastern Region. All these tools might belong to the same culture complex.

"The earliest inhabitants of north-eastern India, were very probably of the Austric stock. They were the pre-Dravidian aborigines who are now represented by the Monkhmer Khasis and Syntengs of Assam." These Austric people were supplanted by the Dravidians who belonged to the Calcolithic Age. Then came the Indo-Mongoloids who "be-

longed to the Tibeto-Burman family of the Indo-Chinese group and their representatives of the present day are the *Kāchāris, Koches,* Rābhās, Meches, Mikirs, Lālungs, Gāros, Nāgās, Kukis and Chutiās. Of these, the tribes speaking the Bodo (Boro) language seems to have occupied the plains of Assam for a very long time. These Bodo people were no doubt the *Kiratas* and *Mlechhas* spoken of in the Mahabharata."[1]

The Bodos "who spread over the whole of Brahmaputra valley and North Bengal as well as East Bengal forming a solid bloc in North-eastern India, were the most important Indo-Mongoloid people in Eastern India, and they formed one of the main bases of the present-day population of these tracts... From Nowgong district in Assam their area of occupation extended to Cāchār district (particularly in the North Cachar Hills) and into Sylhet, and from Cāchār and Sylhet they extended further to the South, to Tripura State, where there is still a Bodo speaking bloc in the shape of the Tipra tribe which founded the State and from Tripura they spread into Comilla and possibly also Noākhāli districts; and thus they occupied the mouths of the Ganges by the Eastern Sea."[2]

Earliest epigraphic reference to the area

The earliest epigraphic evidence found in the district of Tipperah contains a grant of land made by Mahārājādhirāja Vainygupta who ruled "about four years before the earliest known date (191 G.E.) of king Bhānugupta i.e. A. D. 510-11 and about a quarter of a century before the rise of Yaśodharman whose dominions are said to have included the valley of the Lauhitya or the Brahmaputra river.[3] Another copper-plate grant of Lokanātha was discovered in the district of Tipperah sometime ago. The plate has been referred to the middle of the 7th century A.D.[4] Another copper-plate grant has recently been discovered in Kailān, a village under police station Chāndinā in the Sadar sub-division of Tipperah. "This copper-plate of the feudatory king Śridharanarāta, who calls himself *Samatataesvara* (the ruler of Samatata), was issued from a place named Devaparvata."[5] It appears that Jivadhāranarāta was a contemporary of Lokanātha but their relationship is not clear.[6]

1 Ibid, Pp. 13-14.
2 Chatterjee, S. K.; *Kirata-Jano-Kṛiti,* J.O.A.S.B. Letters, Vol. XVI, 1950, No. 2, Pp. 172-178.
3 Basak, R. G.; History of the North-Eastern Frontier (Calcutta, 1917), p. 225.
4 Ibid, p. 249.
5 Ibid, p. 249.
6 Majumder, R. C.; *Bangla Desher Itihasa: Prachin Yuga;* (Calcutta, 1373 B.S.) p. 35.

Archaeological finds

The archaeology of Tripura is, as such, hardly touched; the sites and mounds from where images and other antiquities have been found, have neither been thoroughly surveyed nor explored; yet the colossal stone images, figurines, inscribed seals and terracottas etc. so far found are of immense historical value.

The inscribed image of Sarvaṇi (Durgā), and the image of Surya unearthed together from Deulbadi, situated about fourteen miles south of Comillā, are, perhaps the oldest images so far found in Tipperah which 'formerly termed the country which is now divided into the State of Tripura in India and the Comilla District in Banglādesh' (the former Tipperah District of Chittagong Division of East Bengal).

Both the images belong to the 7th century A.D. when the Khadga dynasty was ruling in this region.[1] As the images belong to the period of transition from the Gupta to the period of fully developed Bengal school of sculpture', in the words of S. K. Saraswati, "We find in the stiff and erect Sarvani a likely antecedent of the conventional Pala image."[2]

Among other old images, mention may be made of the unique two-handed image of Durgā found at Dakṣhin Mohanpur, the mutilated image of Revanta (son of the Sun) and another unique specimen of Heruka found at Baḍkāmatā in Comilla and an image of Hevajra (both Buddhist deities) found in Dharmanagar sub-division of Tripura, probably of the 11th century.

Mention may also be made of the image preserved in the royal palace at Agartala. The image appears to be a Buddhist male deity. "The emblems that are extant in the hands are (i) Vajrahumkara-mudra (possibly carrying the *vajra* and *ghanta*) and (ii) the sword held in the topmost right hand. The emblems held in other hands are either mutilated or not distinct..... As the image under discussion stands in the *pratyaliḍa* attitude and is rather terrible in aspect (of the curly beards), it may tentatively be identified to be a representation of the god Vajrahumkara, though it does not correspond with the *sadhana* of that god in all the details."[3]

The extensive mounds at a village Bagābāsa in Udaipur sub-division where large-sized bricks, some having stamped impressions, and traces

1 Mazumder, R. C.; History of Ancient Bengal, p. 549.
2 Ibid. p. 627.
3 Bhattacharyay, A. K. Director, Indian Museum; an unpublished note on the sketch of the deity.

of regular walls, are found and the mounds at Pilāk-pāther in Biloniā sub-division where a number of colossal stone images are found, some almost covered by shrubs and embedded, have not yet been explored.

A colossal image of Avalokitesvara and inscribed seals recovered from Pilāk-pāther have been shifted to the Agartala Museum along with some other images, terracottas etc. Still more images, some of which are remains of Bodhisattva and Buddha and at least one of Ganeśa, are still lying there. From the extant of images found at Pilāk-pāther, it may be observed that Buddhist monastic establishments might have existed in this area since a very old period, either in the form of *vihara* or monastery. Colossal image of Avalokitesvara reminds us of the Mahājāna-Sthavira school to which the monks of this area belonged at least 'before they accepted pure Sthaviravāda or Theravāda doctrines under the influence of connections with Arākān and Ceylon."[1] Besides the image of Buddha, stone images of Ganesa and Narasingha have also been found at Pilāk-pāther. But the discovery of some terracotta plaques viz., figures of *kinnara* and charging boar deserves special mention as they are stylistically related to the terracottas found during the Maināmati excavation in Comilla. All these antiquities lend a hoariness to the place which, no doubt, witnessed multi-religious activities of different sects under the rule of different overlords.

Quite a good number of stone sculptures, now mostly defaced or damaged, are found at Unakoti, a vertical rock cliff extending over about half-a-mile in Kailāsahar sub-division. The distance of the Unakoti hill from the sub-divisional headquarters of Kailāsahar is about seven miles. The cliff of the hill contains a series of colossal sculptures, both human and animal figures, carved on a horizontal plane from one end to the other. The sculptures, in general, appear to depict mythological anecdotes in bold relief.

The most conspicuous rock-cut figure is the colossal Śiva head. It is "carved out of a flat square block of stone, the third eye is shown in the middle of the forehead and the mouth is a long narrow slit with vertical lines representing the teeth. The ears are carved on the side in lower planes than the central plane of the face..... The moustache is turned upwards ending in a loop..... In the rock above the head, the figure of Durgā standing on her lion can be distinguished to the right and another female figure to the right."[2]

[1] Bechert, Dr. Heinz; Contemporary Buddhism in Bengal and Tripura, *Educational Miscellany*, Agartala, Tripura, vol. IV, December 1967-March 1968, No. 3 & 4.

[2] Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report, 1921-22), 1924, Calcutta, p. 85.

On the left bank of the stream, there is one image, probably of Vishṇu, " as a lozenge-shaped jewel ornaments the breast of the figure, the face being lost." The image of Śiva, holding a conch-shell in the right hand and the rosary in the left, though seldom found elsewhere, is very common at Unakoti.

Referring to a group of Ganeśa figures carved on the perpendicular face of the rock, a little down the valley, the Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India, 1921-22, states that "the group consists of a seated Ganeśa (height 22 feet) to the extreme left and to his right two standing elephant-headed figures with an image of Vishṇu at the proper right end. Iconographically, the two central figures are unique. They are undoubtedly connected with the cult of Ganeśa, but they differ widely from the usual image of that god. They are standing erect, whereas Ganeśa is usually seated with his legs apart; they have attenuated waists, while Ganeśa has only one task and two or four hands; the objects held as emblems are the *sankha, chakra, akshamala, damru* etc... and they have conches on their ears, a feature not noticed elsewhere."[1]

Among other images, the *mukha lingas* found at Unakoti are of great iconographic interest. Two of the four *chaturmukha lingas* "testify to the skill of the sculpture in delineating the contemplating form of Śiva." Among other *mukha lingas*, mention may be made of one *trimukha* and one *ekamukha linga* found at Unakoti.

About the period of these stone images and carvings, the Archaeological Report observes: "The older collection at the hill-top, which has been badly weathered, contains images of Vishṇu, Hara-Gouri, Hari-Hara, Narasingha, Ganeśa and Hanumāna, which could scarcely be placed earlier than about the 11-12th century..... On the whole, judging from the extant remains at Unakoti, it may be concluded with some certainty that the site has been sacred to the worship of Siva at least from the 8-9th centuries, if not some centuries earlier."

That Unakoti was initially a Śaiva pilgrimage is evident from the discovery of Śiva images in different form at Unakoti and its neighbourhood but the discovery of many other images and rock-cut sculptures also indicates that other religious sects like Sāktas, Tāntrics, Bajrayanis and Nātha Yogis etc. did not lag behind in the art of rock carving at Unakoti. The religious activities of these sects seem to have extended over a long period and 'known to the earlier dynasts of

[1] Ibid., p. 85.

Eastern India.' The importance of Unakoti, therefore, lies on the extant of images popularised by different religious sects of Bengal.

Mention of the rock-cut figures of Deotamurā hill, situated in between Udaipur and Amarpur sub-divisions of Tripura may also be made in this context. Deotāmurā contains a panel of rock-cut images, though crude in conception like those at Unakoti, but not so antique. The figures are so worn out that it is very difficult to identify the images. The editor of SriRājamālā described one image as Mahisasura-Mardini.

Temples of Tripura

The temples of Tripura, mostly erected at Udaipur, which had been the capital of the rulers of Tripura till first half of the eighteenth century at least, 'though not very ornate, reveal to us a forgotten chapter of Indian architectural development.' The importance of the temples of Tripura, as has been explained by Adris Banerji, lies not merely on the diffusion of different *Chala* type but on the "contribution of a new style of temple architecture unrivalled in India: a happy and affectionate combination of Brahminical and Buddhist idioms of expressions in religious architecture."[1] Unlike *Chura* or *Ratnas* over *Chala* and *Chār-Chālas*, found in the temples of Assam, Behar, Orissa and West Bengal, votive *Stupas* were used over hut-shaped type of roofs in the temples of Tripura. An idea about the structural pattern of the temples may be had from the following passage:

"All these temples were erected within a walled compound on a slightly raised stylo-bate, access to which was obtained by a *torana* of the *misra* variety. These were built of well-burnt bricks and shale stones or in rare instances fine-grained sandstone. The *toranas* shared with the main structure identical finials. Sometimes steps were provided for reaching the top of the *jagati* or stylo-bate. All the temples consist of a *mandapa* with *Char-Chala* roofs and the very *mastaka* (finial) with the bola interlocked. Then an *antarala* giving access to the *garbhagriha* or the sanctum. The outer walls of the sanctum are of bricks, at four corners of which are four tapering buttresses, circular in shape and crowned by a *kalasa* or jar, from the top of which springs the carved cornice, imitating the eves of a thatched roof or *Char-Chala* hut."[2]

The earliest dated temple in extant is the Tripurasundari temple built in Śaka 1423 (1501-02 A.D.) by Mahārāja Dhanyamāṇikya at

1 Banerji, Adris; Temples of Tripura, Varanasi, 1968, p. 6.
2 Ibid, p. 10.

Udaipur. An arch-like big slab of inscribed stone, being the only relic of a temple built by Mahārāja Vijayamāṇikya in Saka 1470, has been found in Mahārānī, a village situated at a distance of about six miles from Udaipur. The slab of stone contains three sets of inscriptions, each having the same date inscribed on it. According to these inscriptions, the temple was built at Laksmipur, probably named after the queen Lakshmi and dedicated to Vishnu by the royal couple.[1]

Among the temples in extant excluding Tripurasundari temple mention may be made of the two temples erected by Kalyāṇamāṇikya, one in Śaka 1572 and the other in Saka 1573 respectively. The former known as Chaturdasa-devata temple was originally erected for Gopīnātha, as is evident from the dedicatory inscription found on its doorway.[2] The latter, still known as Mahādeva-bari, was erected in Śaka 1573 over the ruins of an earlier one built by Dhanyamāṇikya.[3] The third temple in this group is situated to the immediate west of Chaturdasadevata temple and is known as Lakshmi-nārāyaṇa temple. The temple of Kāli at Kasbā is another example of the old temples of Tripura. The construction of the temple was started by Kalyāṇamāṇikya but it was completed thirty years after his demise in 1662 A.D. Though the temple is called Kāli temple, the presiding deity of the temple is Mahisāsuramardini.

A group of three temples, adjacent to each other, are found in East Rādhākishorepore at some distance from Mahādevabāri. Of these, the one to the north was built by Guṇavati, the consort of Govindamāṇikya in Śaka 1590 (1668-69 A.D.). "The other two have no dated inscriptions now, but on stylistic grounds appear to be contemporary."

To the south of Guṇavati group of temples, another group of temples is found. The temple in the extreme south is named Durgā temple. The other temple has no name now. "To their west is a small pavilion with a rectangular chamber in the centre surrounded by an arched verandah on all sides, and on the second storey there is only a pavilion with the bamboo-hut-type of roof. This is locally known as *Luk-palani* (hide and seek) or *Jhulan* temple."

Another group of temples is found between Guṇavati group and

1 Sarkar, Dr. D. C., Two Inscriptions from the Tripura State, The Indian Historical Quarterly, Vol. XIII, No. 2, Calcutta, June, 1957, Pp. 99-106.
2 *Silalipi-Sangraha*, compiled by Chandradaya Vidyabinod, 2nd edition, 1968, Education Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, p. 13.
3 Ibid., p. 11.

Jhulan group of temples. "This group consists of three temples to south and the palace to the north, all standing on the left or west bank of the river Gumti. The palace is in complete ruins, but the multifoil Shāhjāhani arches which fit in with the date of Nakshattra Rāi (Chhatramāṇikya), to whose reign these buildings are ascribed, show a little elaboration over the two groups of temples referred to above."[1]

The palace of Govindamāṇikya, on the right bank of the Gumti, now in complete ruins, reminds one of the seventeenth century palace architecture. To the west of this palace, stands the famous Bhuvanesvari temple on the right bank of the Gumti. The temple was built by Govindamāṇikya.

Ancient period

According to the *Rajamala,* the verse chronicle of the ruling dynasty of Tripura, the Rājās of Tripura descended from Yayāti, the sixth descendant of the lunar dynasty, who is stated to have ruled over India from the capital city of Pratisthana situated at the confluence of the Ganga and the Jamuna, somewhere near modern Allahabad.

One of his descendants is narrated to have come over to Assam and established his kingdom at Tribeg on the bank of the river Kapili in the present Nowagong district of Assam. He ruled there for many years. The period of the rulers from Daitya to Yujārphā, the 72nd king, according to the *Rajamala,* may be called the *Puranic* or mythical period of the history of Tripura.

After Daitya's death, Tripura became the Rājā. He is reported to have come into contact with the *Kiratas* or the aborigines and given up the Vedic way of living. He is further stated to have been killed by the God Siva for his irreligious practices and atrocities. Trilochana, the son of his widow, Hirābati, born by the blessings of Siva, re-organised his kingdom and married the daughter of the neighbouring Rājā of Hirimba or Cāchār. Trilochana's eldest son who was adopted by the Rājā of Cāchār eventually inherited the kingdom of Cāchār.

After Trilochana's death, Dakṣhin, one among his eleven sons, became the Rājā of Tribeg. But Trilochana's eldest son, the Rājā of Cāchār lost no time to claim his father's kingdom on legal ground.

[1] Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology, 1952, Education Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, p. 7.

Consequently a war broke out between the brothers on this issue. Dakshin, the Rājā of Tribeg, being defeated, had to bid a retreat with his brothers and followers to the south. He is reported to have established a kingdom on the bank of the river Barāk with headquarters at Kholongmā, in the North Cāchār Hills. The place is at present known as Khoroṇgmā where ruins of old forts and moats are still found.

After several generations, the then Rājā Pratīta had picked up a quarrel with the Rājā of Cāchār, which ended in a bloody war and Pratita had, consequently, to leave Kholongmā, and proceed to further south. During his reign, the Barāk was the boundary between Cāchār and Tripura. From there, he is said to have proceeded to Dharmanagar on the bank of the Juri and built headquarters there. Jujārphā, the fifth or sixth descendant of Pratita, is reported to have occupied a place named Biśhalgarh. There was a parganah named Bishalgarh, under Kasba thana in Chaklā Roshnābād now in Bangladesh. The ancient period of the history of Tripura may be stated to have started from this period. Rājā Ratnamāṇikya, reported to be the 25th descendant of Jujārphā, belonged to the latter half of the fifteenth century, as is evident from the date of one of his coins minted in 1464 A.D.[1]

According to the *Rajamala, Jujārphā* who annexed Rāngāmāti from the Likā Rājā, being encouraged by the initial victory decided to conquer Bengal. On the basis of Ratnamāṇikya's date, Jujārphā's reign could be fixed roughly during the first half of the eighth century, by allowing on average 25 years to each reign. But the antiquities unearthed during the excavations at Mainamati in Bangladesh, indicate that from about the middle of the 7th to the middle of the 8th century Samataṭa was ruled by two Buddhist dynasties, namely, the Khaḍgas and the Devas. The seat of the government of the Khaḍgas was *Jayakarmānta-Vāsāka* which has been identified with the large village of Baḍkāmtā, about twelve miles west of Comilla, while the Devas "seem to have established their rule in Samataṭa with the centre round Mainamati hills.[2]

One of the copper-plates found during the excavations at Mainamati 'contains two royal grants and the genealogy of the

[1] Sen, Kaliprasanna, ed. *Sri Rajamala;* Vol. II (Agartala, 1927), Pp. 192-196. He read the date as 1286 Saka but recently date has been read as 1386 Saka by some scholars.

[2] Mainamati; A Preliminary Report on the Recent Archaeological Excavations in East Pakistan by Dr. F. A. Khan, Deptt. of Archaeology, Govt. of Pakistan, 1964, p. 2.

Devas, a new dynasty of Buddhist rulers not known to history.' The Deva kings mentioned in the second grant bear imperial titles such as *Paramasugata, Parama Bhattaraka* (paramount sovereign), *Paramesvara* (*Lord-paramount*) *and Maha-raja-dhiraja,* which tend to prove that they were not only independent but perhaps also paramount rulers.[1] They appear to have been contemporaries of the early Pālas, the then powerful rulers of North Bengal. Mention may also be made of two other copper-plate inscriptions of Sylhet. One of the two is of *Sāmanta* Maruṇdanāth discovered in the village of Kālāpur within Śrimaṇgal *thana* of Maulavi Bazar sub-division of Sylhet district and the other of *Sāmanta* Lokanāth, discovered somewhere in the district of Tripura. 'Both the copper-plates have seals containing almost the same embelm (i.e. *Gajalakṣhmi*) with a slight variation."[2] In the Kālāpur copper-plate, the name of *Sāmanta* Śrīnāth has been mentioned as the ancestor of *Sāmanta* Maruṇdanātha. The name of Śrīnātha is also mentioned as the ancestor of Lokanāth in his Tipperah copper-plate. So it may be presumed that both Lokanātha and Maruṇdanāth sprang from the same Nātha family of rulers, though no actual relationship between them can be traced yet. According to some historians, Lokanāth was probably a feudatory chief ruling during the middle of the seventh century A.D. under the Gupta (Later Guptas) Emperor Ādityasena of Magadha.[3] In Kālāpur copper-plate the name of *Sāmanta* Maruṇdanāth is qualified by the word *Bhattaraka* and not by *Parama Bhattaraka* (paramount sovereign) or *Paramesvara* (Lord-paramount). These epithets clearly indicate that the king Maruṇdanāth was a feudatory chief (*Sāmanta*) like Lokanāth under some paramount power.[4] About the Kālāpur copper-plate of Maruṇdanāth, discovered in Chautali *pargana* within Śrimangal *thana* area, it is observed that this "hilly area was certainly an *atavi* or forest region and is contiguous north of the State of Tripura and the district of Comilla (erstwhile Tipperah). It is very likely that the kingdom of the *Sāmantas* of this family included this area and some portions of present Comilla District (Tipperah District) and also some portions of Tripura State (Hill Tipperah)."[5]

In view of the existence of these powerful rulers of Samataṭa it is very difficult to give any credence to the Rajamala story of Jujārphā's victory over the rulers of Bengal. We can not also be sure about the exact location of the kingdom of Tripura during this period.

1 Majumder, R. C. op. cit, p. 57.
2 Gupta, Kamalakanta; Copper-plates of Sylhet, Vol.-I, Sylhet (E. Pakistan), 1967, p. 74.
3 Basak R. G. op. cit. p. 245.
4 Gupta, K. K., op. cit, p. 76.
5 Ibid, p. 80.

The *Rajamala* then states that Cheongphā alias Chetungphā, the great grandfather of Ratnamāṇikya, had skirmishes with the army of the Sultan of Gauṛ after his plunderings of Meherkul in the district of Comilla. Cheongphā could have flourished in or about the latter half of the fourteenth century if Ratnamāṇikya is considered to be his 4th descendant, as claimed by the *Rajamala.* The discovery of a copper-plate grant of Raṇavankamalla Śri Harikāladeva proves that the kingdom of Pattikera existed till at least 1220 A.D.[1] According to one opinion Raṇavankamalla ascended the throne in 1204 A.D. and ruled over Pattikera at least for 17 years.[2] Besides, from probable identification of localities mentioned in two copper-plate grants of Dāmodaradeva, it has been assumed that "Dāmodaradeva's kingdom roughly comprised of the territory corresponding to modern districts of Tripura, Noākhāli and Chittagong."[3] Dāmodaradeva ruled till at least 1243 A.D. In Chittagong copper-plate grant of Saka 1165 (1243 A.D.) Dāmodaradeva has been described as the victor of Tripura: "Amvāja śrimusaṇa piśunapremabhu kairabaṇag chuḍaratṇag tripura-jayanang kelikāronisāyā."

Though the date of the copper-plate of Daśarathadeva could not be read, from other considerations it has been assumed that he also belonged to the Deva family.[4] Then again mention may be made of two copper-plates, one each of Govindakeśava and Iśānadeva found at Bhāterā. Opinions differ regarding the correct reading of the date of the first plate. Some historians are of opinion that on paleographical grounds the plates can hardly be regarded as earlier than the 13th century A.D. and may even be somewhat later."[5] One, however, opined that he belonged to the middle of the eleventh century.[6]

That Rājā Govindakeśava was a powerful independent ruler of Shrihaṭṭa, there is no doubt, and the identification of many places mentioned in his grant "prove that Govindakeśava's rule extended also over the southern part of the district of Sylhet, south of the river of Kuśiyārā, portions of Cāchār district (including Karimganj sub-division) and possibly portions of Tripura also."[6] The copper-plate of Biradharadeva, recording grant of land in Samataṭa *Mandala* to the venerable God *Sri Vasudeva,* has also been found. "On paleographical considerations, this plate could be assigned to a date between

1 Majumder, R. C. ed. History of Bengal.
2 Ibid, p. 114.
3 Ibid, p. 254.
4 Ibid, p. 255.
5 Ibid, p. 256.
6 Gupta, K. K. op. cit, p. 194.

12th and 13th centuries A.D.[1] Though our present knowledge does not help us much to identify all these chiefs, it may be said that the existence of at least three ruling families in the 13th centurry A.D. with name-endings *Deva,* two of whom are definitely said to belong to the Deva family, is, however, not without significance. It is probable that they (at least three ruling dynasties) were all important feudatory chiefs and attained to high position after the collapse of Sena power.[2]

It has already been mentioned that Govindakeśava's rule is reported to have extended over the southern part of the district of Sylhet. So after the fall of Govindakeśava and consequent Muslim occupation of the kingdom of Gauṛ (North Sylhet), it might not be altogether impossible for Chetungphā, the Rājā of Tripura, to occupy some portions of South Sylhet.[3] But that too could have been achieved by the Rājā of Tripura only after the fall of Govindakeśava and perhaps not before the middle of the 14th century.

According to another opinion the ruler of Gauṛ, whom Chetungphā is reported to have defeated, was a muslim ruler. Sultan Giasuddin Youez Shāh of Bengal (1213-27 A.D.) invaded East Bengal and Kāmarūpa but he had to withdraw his army on being informed that Nasiruddin Mahamud had attacked Lakhṇauti in the meantime. Some suggested that this withdrawal of Muslim army might have been described as their defeat in Tripura.[4] But Chetungphā could not have flourished in the early decades of thirteenth century as it has already been seen. Tughral Khān (1268-81 A.D.), the *de facto* ruler of Bengal, invaded East Bengal and had built a fort "The *Qila-i-Tughral*" in the neighbourhood of Sonārgāon. He is reported to have occupied some tract of land in East Bengal. According to popular tradition Ratnaphā sought assistance of Tughral. But the coins of Ratnamāṇikya prove beyond doubt that he sought assistance of a later Sultan.

Historical Period

The historical period of the 'Māṇikya' dynasty of Tripura seems to have started from the reign of Dharmamāṇikya or his predecessor Mahāmāṇikya, instead of Ratnamāṇikya as was believed so long on the basis of wrong reading of the date of his coin dated Saka 1386.[5]

1 Mainamati, op. cit, Pp. 21-22.
2 History of Bengal, Vol. I, p. 259.
3 Gupta, K. K., op. cit, p. 5.
4 Majumder, R. C., op. cit, p. 487; Chaudhury Acchutcharan, Srihatter Itibritta Vol. II, Part-I, p. 75.
5 Chaudhury Vasanta, Ray Parimal. Ananda Bazar Patrika, June, 1970.

Since many undated coins of Ratnamāṇikya have been found, it is difficult to assume that the coin of Saka 1386 (1464 A.D.) was struck on the occasion of his coronation. He might have occupied the throne a few years earlier just after the death of Dharmamāṇikya. It may be mentioned here that two coins of Jālāl-ud-din Muḥammad Shāh (1418-1433 A.D.) found in Dacca District (Bangladesh) bear the figure of a rampant lion resembling the type found in Ratnamāṇikya's coins. Referring to the striking similarity in designs Dr. N. K. Bhattasali observed: "The design on the coins of the neighbouring Hindu State may have suggested the adoption of a similar design on his coins to the renegade Hindu king, but the dictates of the faith which he adopted soon led to its abandonment."[1] Dr. Dani, who did not agree to this opinion observed, "The adoption of this new design calls for some better explanation... can we not suppose that some portion of Tripura was conquered by Jālāl-ud-din and this type of coinage was issued in order to make it acceptable to the local people? The fact that both the coins so far discovered, were found in Dacca District, lend support to this suggestion. From the Tripura Rājamālā..... we can learn that at this time insignificant rulers like Mukutamāṇikya and Mahāmāṇikya were on the throne of Tripura. Therefore, there is a strong probability that a portion of Tripura State was conquered by Jālāl-ud-din. But soon after the losses must have been made good by Dharmāmāṇikya, the famous successor of Mahāmānikya. Hence this type of coin soon went out of vogue."[2] N. B. Roy, who also discussed about these coins, has rightly observed that "the issue of this type of coinage may not unreasonably be taken as a clear indication of the temporary hold of the Bengal Sultan over the whole State of Tipperah."[3]

The theory of temporary submission of Mahāmāṇikya to the Sultan of Bengal, though awaits further proof, does not seem to be altogether impossible. But what is more interesting to note is that the issue of this type of coinage by Jālāl-ud-din clearly indicates the prevalence of Tripura coinage at least during his time. Ratnamāṇikya, therefore, can not be the first coin issuing ruler of Tripura. But nothing more can be said about this until any coin of his predecessors is unearthed.

No coin or copper-plate of Mahāmāṇikya has so far been found. Mādhava Kandali, a prominent poet of Assam who translated the Rāmāyaṇa in Assamese, mentioned the name of one 'Varāha-

1 Bhattasali, N. K. ; as quoted by Sukhamoy Mukherjee in *Bangler Itihaser Duso Bachhar: Swadhin Sultander Amal,* 2nd edition, Calcutta, 1966, p. 162.
2 Ibid, Pp. 162-163.
3 The History and Culture of Indian People: The Delhi Sultanate, Vol. VI p. 209.

rājā Mahāmāṇikya' as his patron. It is not clear whether this Mahāmāṇikya belonged to the royal house of Assam. In this connection Kalirāma Medhi observed, "This Mahāmāṇikya was evidently the Tripura king of that name."[1] But nothing definitely can be said in the present state of our knowledge.

The Rājamālā describes Dharmamāṇikya as the son of Mahāmāṇikya and mentions a copper-plate granted by him in Saka 1380 (1458 A.D.) to the brahmins on the occasion of dedication of the newly excavated tank Dharmasāgar.[2] The chronicle further reports that Dharmamāṇikya ruled over Tripura for thirtytwo years from 1431 to 1462 A.D.[3] For want of any coin of Dharmamāṇikya the period of his reign can neither be precisely ascertained nor it could safely be said that he regained the losses made by Jālāl-ud-din.

That Ratnamāṇikya ruled over Tripura when Ruknud-din-Barbak Shāh (1455-1476 A.D.) was the Sultan of Gauṛ is evidenced by his coins. But no evidence is found regarding conferment of 'māṇikya' title by the Muslim ruler. In this connection it may be mentioned that the same title was found inscribed on a quarter-rupee coin, dated Saka 1133 (1211 A.D.) of Vijaymāṇik, the Rājā of Gauḍa, then a bordering State of Tripura.[4] Hence there is a possibility that the Tripura kings adopted this title from the Rājās of Lauḍa.

If the account of Rājamālā be taken as true, Ratnamāṇikya on his way back from Gauḍa had annexed Rāngāmāti after occupying the fort of Jamirkhān. Whether Ratna actually visited Gauḍa could not be verified from any other source. The existence of a fort in the name of a Muslim in the vicinity of Rāngāmāti suggests that the area might still have been under the occupation of the Muslims. The latest of the dated coins of Ratna so far found, being of Saka 1389, (1467-68 A.D.) does not help fixing the full period of his reign.

Recently a coin of Mukutamāṇikya dated Saka 1411 (C1489-90 A.D.) has been found in Tripura. Strangely enough the coin does not have any figure of Tripura lion as noticed in the coins of Ratnamāṇikya. Instead the coin of Mukutamāṇikya bears the figure of an Eagle-like(?) bird. This symbol adds another enigma to the types of coinage introduced by the Rajas of Tripura. It is evident that Mukutamāṇikya did not adopt the figure of lion introduced by Ratnamāṇikya. Moreover this coin proves that Mukutamāṇikya who ruled over Tripura only one year before Dhanyamāṇikya could not be the predecessor of Dharmamāṇikya as narrated by Kaliprasanna Sen. Under the circumstances nothing can be said about the first coin issuing king of Tripura unless any coin of the predecessor of Ratnamāṇikya is unearthed.

1 Medhi Kalirama; Assamese Grammar & Origin of Assamese Language; Preface.
2 Sen, K.P. *Rajamala,* Vol. II, p. 5.
3 Ibid, Vol. I, Pp. 81-82.
4 Chaudhury, Acchutcharan; *Srihatter Itibritta,* Vol. II, Part III, Ch. I p. 2.

The coin of Mukutamāṇikya only narrows down the gap between the period of Ratnamāṇikya and Dhanyamāṇikya by one year but does not help much in accounting for the interregnum. Dhanyamāṇikya, according to the Rājamālā, was enthroned by some generals who were then virtually controlling the administration. The young king was clever enough to apprehend the situation. So he made a plan to bring the army under his control by killing the top-ranking generals. Thus consolidating his power, Dhanymāṇikya invaded the adjoining areas of the plains and occupied a vast tract of plaïnsland upto Khaṇdal. The coin of Saka 1428 (1506 A.D.) describing Dhanyamāṇikya as *'Vijayindra'* was perhaps issued on the occasion of his grand victory over the Sultan of Bengal. He also occupied Chittagong for the first time in Saka 1435 (1513-14 A.D.) as is evidenced from the coin of saka 1435 describing him as *"Chatigrama Vijayi"*. But the inscription found on the door of a mosque at *Sonargāon,* dated 7-6-1513, recording the name of the builder as the *'Sher-e-Lasker* of *Tripura'* indicates that the Hussain Shāhi force had not only repulsed his attack but also occupied some tract of Tripura by 1513 A.D.[1]

Hussain Shāh had sent a strong army for the second time under Gauṛāi Mallik to repulse the attack of Dhanyamāṇikya. Gaurāi Mallik succeeded in occupying the upper portion of the river Gumti but had to retreat ultimately. Dhanyamāṇikya's forces not only annexed the areas already lost but also re-occupied Chittagong in 1514-15 A.D.

The third Hussain Shāhi expedition was led by Haitān Khān who occupied all the areas upto the bank of the river Gumti. But this time the Rājā applied the Muslim tactics of inundating the bank of the river Gumti by building dams and breaking the same in time to drown the enemies. Haitān Khān made a retreat and camped at Chhaikariā while Dhanyamāṇikya re-occupied areas to the east of Chhaikariā. The other occupied areas of Tripura remained under the occupation of Haitān Khān.

1 Sarkar, Jadunath, ed. History of Bengal, Vol. II. p. 149.

M.A. Rahim has mooted a question regarding the real name of the commander of the third expedition. Hāmid Khān, the *wazir* of Hussain Shāh, was appointed *shiqdar* of some territory in Chittagong. In the words of Mr. Rahim, "Hāmid Khān's appointment as *shiqdar* must have taken place before these Tipperah expeditions. ..... Was the name of Hāmid Khān corrupted into Haitān Khān by the Hindu chroniclers of the Rājamālā?"[1]

Much has been said about Dhanyamāṇikya's patronage of art, music and literature in the Rājamālā edited by Kaliprasanna Sen. But no such account is found in the old Rājamālā published by the Directorate of Education, Government of Tripura. The books entitled *Utkalkhanda Panchali* and *Preta-Chaturdasi*, reported to have been translated at the instance of Dhanyamāṇikya, could not be traced. But there is no doubt that Dhanyamāṇikya was very powerful among the Rājās of Tripura. In the words of Dr. Sunitikumar Chatterji, he was 'one of the greatest personalities of the Indo-Mongoloids."[2] He is reported to have built the famous Tripurasundari temple at Udaipur in Saka 1423 (1501 A.D.). Acording to the old Rājamālā the temple was inaugurated in Saka 1442 corresponding to 1520 A.D.[3] He is also credited to have built a temple at Ratnapur for the *Chaudda Devatas* or fourteen gods of the Tripuras and minted coins after visiting the shrine of the God Kramadiswara. The coin was perhaps minted at Chittagong.

According to the Rājamālā edited by Kailāschandra Singha, Dhanyamāṇikya was succeeded by his eldest son Dhawjamāṇikya who, however, died at an early age. No coin or copper-plate of Dhawjamāṇikya has yet been found. His brother Devamāṇikya ascended the throne in Saka 1442 (1520 A.D.) ousting Indra, the minor son of Dhawjamāṇikya[4]. The date of Devamāṇikya's investiture has been corroborated by his recently found coin of Saka 1442 (1520 A.D.) describing him as *'Dhurāsābasudhe'*. The coin has been preserved at the Agartala Museum. One of the coins of Devamāṇikya preserved at the Dacca Museum Coin Cabinet is dated saka 1448 (1526 A.D.). The coin described Padmabati as the consort of the Rājā.[5]

1 Rahim, M.A. *Parganah, Amil, Shiqdar, Krosi, Amin*, in Nalinikanta Bhattasali Commemoration Volume, (Dacca), Pp. 30-31.
2 Chatterji, S.K. Kirat-jana-Kriti, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XVI, No. 1, 1950, p. 497.
3 According to the *Rajamala* (ed. by K.P. Sen, Vol. II, p. 177) and *Silalipi Sangraha* (ed. by Chandradaya Vidyabinodh, 2nd edition, p. 11) the temple was built in Saka 1423 (1501 A.D.).
4 Singha, Kailashchandra, *Rajamālā*, Part II, Ch. 3, p. 52.
5 Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society, Vol. IV, Part II, 1956, Pp. 109-115.

According to Mohammed Khān who completed his verse *Moktul Hussain*, Hāmjā Khān conquered Tripura. Both of them appear to be contemporaries of Nasrat Shāh. This claim also proves that Nasrat Shāh came into clashes with Devamāṇikya, the Rājā of Tripura.[1] Two more coins of Devamāṇikya dated saka 1450 (1528 A.D.) and 1452 (1530 A.D.) respectively, depicting him as the victor of Suvarṇagrāma have been noticed. This Suvarṇagrāmā can reasonably be identified with Sonārgāon, once the eastern capital of Bengal.

According to the *Rajamala*, Devamāṇikya, a devout *Sakta*, was put to death by his guide in Tantric rites and Indramāṇikya, son of the younger queen of Dhanyamāṇikya, was enthroned by the Brahmin guide in alliance with the queen-mother. The Brahmin is reported to have ruled for one year in the name of Indramāṇikya. He was then killed by the army-chief Daityanarāyaṇa who put Vijayamāṇikya, a minor son of Devamāṇikya, on the throne. From the evidence of a coin of Vijayamāṇikya minted in Saka 1454 (1532 A.D.) it may be said that his predecessor Indramāṇikya, reported to have ruled for one year, belonged to the period 1531-32 A.D.

Though Vijayamāṇikya was enthroned the real power remained with Daityanārāyaṇa, the army-chief, for some years. Vijayamāṇikya assumed the real power after attaining the age of sixteen and putting Daityanārāyaṇa to death by one of his agents. There is no doubt that Vijayamāṇikya became a very powerful king in the middle of the sixteenth century. He raised a cavalry consisting of Pathan soldiers.

The old *Rajamala* reports that Vijayamāṇikya re-occupied Chittagong which was seized by his own Pathan soldiers who, with the help of the army of the Sultan of Bengal, occupied Chittagong. Vijayamāṇikya made counter attack and ultimately, after about a year, re-occupied it.[2]

Vijayamāṇikya is reported to have launched an expedition against East Bengal, taking advantage of the conflict between Dāud Khān and the Moghuls.[3]

He appears to have first introduced the moon and trident device at the back of the lion inscribed on the reverse of his coins. To commemorate his holy bath in the Lakshya river Vijayamāṇikya issued

1 Mukherjee, Sukhamaya, op. cit. Pp. 321-24.
2 *Rajamala;* Education Directorate, Tripura, Pp. 38-39.
3 Majumder, R.C. op. cit., p. 489.

in Saka 1482 a coin having a figure of *Ardhanarisvara* on the reverse. "Here the composite figure of *Ardhanarisvara* is made up of the half portion of the ten-handed lion-rider Durga and that of the four-handed bull-rider Siva."[1] His coins of Saka 1454, 1456, 1458, 1476, 1479 and 1482 respectively prove that he conquered Sylhet, Khasiā, Jayantiā and Chittagong and sent expeditionary forces to Soṇārgāon and proceeded upto the banks of the river Padma.[2] These coins suggest that Vijayamāṇikya had three queens, namely, Vijayā, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

Akbar, the great Moghul, assumed the reins of the government in his own hands in 1562 A.D. Hence Vijayamāṇikya appears to have been the contemporary of the Moghul Emperor Akbar. While mentioning about the Tripuris, the *Ain-i-Akbari* stated : "Adjoining it (the country called Bhati) is an extensive tract of country inhabitated by Tipperah tribes. The name of the ruler is Bijaymanik. Whosoever obtains the Chieftainship bears the title of Manik after his name and the nobles that of Narain. He has a force two hundred thousand footmen and a thousand elephant. Horses are scarce.[3] Mention of Vijayamāṇikya in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, written about the end of the sixteenth century, indicates that Vijayamāṇikya, who ascended the throne before the close of the third decade of the sixteenth century, ruled over Tripura for a considerable portion of the third quarter of the sixteenth century.

That Chittagong remained sometimes under the control of the Rājā of Tripura and sometimes under the king of Aracan is evident from the accounts of Ralph Fitch who travelled through the territory during Vijayamāṇikya's reign. In the words of Fitch, "the Mogen which be of the kingdom of Recon and Rame, be stronger than the king of Tippera ; so that Chittagong, or Porto Grando, is often times under the king of Recon.[4]

Besides Akbar, two other contemporaries of Vijayamāṇikya were king Naranārāyaṇa of Kuch Bihar (C1534-1582 A.D.) and Rājā Mukunda Deva of Orissa. Naranārāyaṇa is reported to have launched military expedition in Cāchār, Manipur, Jayantiā, Tripura, Sylhet, etc. and many of them were subdued by him.[5]

1 Gupta, P.L., India — The Land and People: Coins (Delhi, 1969), p. 130.
2 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 242.
3 *Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. II. tr. Jarret & Sarkar, A.S.B. Calcutta, 1942, p. 130.
4 Singha, K.C. quoted Ralph Fifth in *Rajamala*, p. 62.
5 Majumder, R.C. op. cit., p. 481. Banerjee, R.D., *Bāngālir Itihāsa*, Vol. II. p. 284.

According to *Darraṇg Raj Vamsavali*, compiled by Suryaharior Rājā Chilāṛāya, brother of Naranarayaṇa, invaded Tripura and subdued the Rājā of Tripura. But there being no other evidence, the account of Darraṇg Rāj Vamsavali, which itself is not free from exaggeration, can not be taken as true.

According to the old *Rajamala* Vijayamāṇikya died at the age of fortyseven and the duration of his rule was fortytwo years.[1] If it is taken to be true, then events like Vijayamāṇikya's accession and death would come to pass in 1529-30 and 1571-72 A.D. respectively. These dates require to be verified with the coins and inscription of Vijayamāṇikya. One copper-plate inscription records the grant of some villages in the plains of Tripura to a Brahmin by Puṇyabati, the wife of Daityanārāyaṇa, the army-chief and father-in-law of king Vijayamāṇikya. The grant was made by the lady in her own name.[2]

The old *Rajamala* also testifies that Puṇyabati,[3] the mother-in-law of the minor king Vijayamāṇikya, made gifts and donated land to the Brahmins. The obove-mentioned inscription indicates that the villages were donated by Puṇyabati during the early years of Vijayamāṇikya's reign when Daityanārāyaṇa, husband of Puṇyabati, was the *defacto* ruler. The names of the villages as read by Dr. D. C. Sarkar appears to be Gāngatiyārā, Cacāmer, Chāyākots, Svadutalā, Cāripādā, Bharāgāngaco and Baḍ-Kāmtā.[4] Of these the more known village Baḍ-Kāmta is near Comilla. There is no doubt that "the inscription proves the inclusion of the present Tipperah district in the dominions of the Tripura kings, which is also known from other evidences."[5] It has already been discussed that Dhanyamāṇikya occupied the plains land of Tripura and Devamāṇikya, his successor, not only retained almost all the occupied areas but also extended the boundary to some extent. The villages under reference were distinctly within the territory of the Rājās of Tripura and there was no bar in donating the villages by Puṇyabati, the mother-in-law of the minor king Vijayamāṇikya. But reading of the date of the inscription raised a problem concerning the time of king Vijayamāṇikya. Dr. Sarkar read the date as 'the 15th day of the month of *Vaisakha* in the Saka year 1410'. The day of that Saka year corresponded to 10th April, 1488 A.D. If it be so, it becomes very difficult to identify Vijayamāṇikya of the copper-plate with Vijayamāṇikya, the much-famed

1 *Rajamala*, Education Directorate, Tripura, p. 44.
2 Ibid, p. 44.
3 Ibid, p. 34.
4 Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Letters; Vol. XVII, 1951, No. 2, Pp. 73-82.
5 Ibid.

ruler of Tripura, who was, no doubt, a contemporary of the Mughal emperor Akbar and ruled over Tripura at least from 1532-33 to 1565-66 A.D. But nothing more can be said about the name of the king mentioned in the copper-plate at the present state of our knowledge.

Anantamāṇikya

After the death of Vijayamāṇikya his youngest son Anantamāṇikya ascended the throne. Two coins of Anantamāṇikya both dated Saka 1487 (1565 A.D.) have been noticed.[1] One of them bears the device of a grotesque lion and moon and trident on the reverse while the reverse of the other coin bears the figure of Vishṇu with Garuḍa at his feet. This again proves that Vijayamāṇikya's duration of reign cannot be furthered than some part of the year 1565 A.D. when Anantamāṇikya succeeded him. Consequently the claim of the *Rajamala* that Vijayamāṇikya ruled for 42 years can not be entertained. Similarity of an old image of Vishṇu with Garuḍa at his feet, now worshipped as the image of Chaṇdi at Udaipur, with that of the image inscribed on the coin of Anantamāṇikya, suggests that this image of Vishṇu was, perhaps, installed at the time of Anantamāṇikya. The coins of Anantamāṇikya bear the name Ratnabati as his queen.

Gopiprasāda, the army-chief and father-in-law of Anantamāṇikya, is reported to have put the Rājā to death and declared himself the ruler of Tripura under the name Udayamāṇikya. The coin, minted by him in Saka 1489 (C 1567 A.D.) mentions the name of his consort as Hirā[1] This coin indicates that Anantamāṇikya could rule hardly for two years. Udayamāṇikya changed the name of his capital from Rāngāmāti to Udaipur. He was, however, not born in the royal family of Tripura. According to the tradition Udayamāṇikya suffered a defeat at the hands of the Mughals who invaded and annexed Chittagong. But the date of Udayamāṇikya's coin proves beyond doubt that Bengal was still then ruled by the Karrani dynasty and Udayamāṇikya might have suffered a defeat at the hands of Sulaiman Karrāni (1565-1572) "during whose reign the Bengal Sultanate became for a time the one dominating power in north-eastern India, from the Kuch frontier to Puri in Orissa and from the Son to the Brahmaputra".

Jayamāṇikya

Udayamāṇikya is reported to have been poisoned to death by a

1 *Ananda Bazar Patrika,* Paus, 19, 1354 B.S.

woman. He was succeeded by his son Jayamāṇikya who was virtually controlled by the army-chief. A coin of Jayamāṇikya, dated Saka 1495 (C1573-74 A.D.) has been found.[1] His consort was Subhadrā Debi. Jayamāṇikya ruled for three or four years.

Amaramāṇikya

The next and perhaps the greatest ruler of Tripura, Amaramāṇikya, the brother of Vijayamāṇikya, occupied the throne in 1577 A.D. after putting Jayamāṇikya to death. Thus the old royal house of Tripura was restored to power again. On the occasion of his accession to the throne a coin was minted in the name of Amaramāṇikya and his consort Amarābatī in Saka 1499 (1577-78 A.D.)[2] This date corroborates the date mentioned in the *Rajamala.* The *Rajamala* further reports that Amaramāṇikya occupied Bhuluā (Noākhāli) in Saka 1500 (C1578-79 A.D.) and made friendly alliance with the *Bhuyas* of Bengal. He is also reported to have defeated the small feudatories of Bāklā, Sarāil, Taraf etc. and offered asylum to Iśā Khān, the *Zemindar* of Sarāil when it was overrun by the Mughal army. The coin of Amaramāṇikya minted in Saka 1503 (C1581-82 A.D.) on the occasion of his victory over Sylhet has been discovered.[3] According to some historians, Amaramāṇikya "suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the king of Arakan Meng Phalaung (Sikandar Shah, 1571-1593), who overran Tippera and even plundered his capital."[4] But others are of opinion that Amaramāṇikya defended his territory from the attack of the king of Arakan on the one side and the Subedar of Bengal on the other.[5] One coin of Rājdharmāṇikya dated Saka 1508 (C 1586-87 A.D.) has been found.[6] Hence it may be assumed that Amaramāṇikya died in the early part of the same year.

Iśākhān

According to the old *Rajamala,* it was Amaramāṇikya who conferred the title of *Masnad-i-Ala* to Isā Khān, one of the *Zemindars* of Bengal. That Iśā Khān *Masnad-i-Ala,* the ruler of Bhāti took shelter somewhere in the east of the Brahmaputra (may be in Tripura) being attacked by Rājā Mān Singh sometime after 1595 A.D. is a fact, but the episode of offering of title by Amaramāṇikya is not supported by any other evidence. Besides, "Musā Khān (?) inherited from his father (Iśā Khān) a vast territory comprising about a half of the present Dacca District, half of modern Tippera, almost the whole of Mymensingh, except

1 Brojendrakishore Dev Barman's collection at Agartala, Tripura.
2 *Ananda Bazar Patrika,* Loc cit.
3 Ibid.
4 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 243.
5 Majumder R.C. op. cit., p. 490.
6 Sri *Rajamala,* Vol. III, p. 238; J.O.A.S.N.S. Vol. XIX, 1923; J.P.P.H.S. Vol. IV, Part. II, April, 1956, Pp. 109-115.

Sushang (the domain of Rājā Raghunāth) and a portion ceded to Khwajā Usman, and perhaps some portions of the present Districts of Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna."[1] Moreover, the *Rajamala* is silent about Iśā Khān's control over 'half of modern Tippera'.

Amaramāṇikya is reported to have offered asylum to Isā Khān, the Zemindar of Sarāil.[2] But there seems to be some confusion about the identification of Isā Khān Masnad-i-Ala and his son Dāud. In the words of Abdul Karim, "Jadunath Sarkar takes the first Iśā to be Musā Khān and identifies Daud as a son of Iśā Khān, 'Qullu Khan's last Wazir. (History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 214). We don't know the basis for Jadunath Sarkar's identification; it is true that the first 'Isā can not be identified with Iśā Khān *Masnad-i-Ala* because the latter had died 3 years before in 1599. He also can not be identified with Musā Khān, because in the *Akbarnama* there is no reference to Musā Khān at all. Moreover Musā Khān is not known to have been the ruler of Bikrampur. He may be another Isā Khān whose identity is now lost or the name Iśā here is a mistake for somebody else."[3]

Ārākān king Meng Phalaung

According to the old *Rajamala* the Arakan king Sikandar Shāh (Meng Phalaung 1571-1593 A.D.), occupied Chittagong and marched towards Tripura and reached Udaipur at the fag-end of the year 1584. The victorious Arakan force ransacked the capital, looted wealth and committed massacre. The Rājā of Tripura had to desert the capital in time and take shelter in the forests of Tetaiyā on the bank of the Manu to save his life. But he could not stand the shock and disgrace of this crushing defeat and actually committed suicide by taking poison. It is said that folk-songs were composed lamenting over the ill-luck of the Rājā and the disaster that fell upon the country. A few lines of one of such songs, if translated into English, would read like the following:

'The king has escaped;
What a fate to the Udaipur throne
Water-divers weep in the ponds;
other weep on the ground,
cattle lowing in the
cow-shed of Udaipur
'whom to give milk?'

1 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 238.
2 Ibid, p. 243.
3 Karim Abdul; *Bhati as mentioned by Abul Fadl and Mirza Nathani;* Nalinikanta Bhattasali Commemoration Volume, (Dacca Museum, 1966). Pp. 311-322.

Amaramāṇikya was succeded by his son Rājadharmāṇikya-I (C1586-1600 A.D.) who ascended the throne in 1586-87 A.D. The coin dated Saka 1508 (C1586 A.D.) and minted on the occasion of his accession has been found.[1] It mentions Satyabati as the consort of the king.

Rājadharmāṇikya

According to the old *Rajamala,* he returned to Udaipur after the departure of the Moghs. He was a devout *Vaishnava* and used to spend most of his time in the Vishṇu temple, erected by him at Udaipur. He is reported to have engaged eight Brahmins to sing devotional songs before the idol day and night. Such indulgence in religious ceremonies and total neglect of administrative duties on the part of a ruler could in no way restore the morale and confidence of the people, required so badly in the wake of such a demoralising and decisive battle, waged only a few years back. And hence the process of decline soon set in. Though the Mughal army which first made their appearance at the Kailāgarh during the reign of Rājadharamānikya disappeared temporarily with the march of the Tripura army[2], it took them no time to strike the last blow on the staggering power and annex Udaipur, the capital of Tripura.

Rājadharamāṇikya was succeeded by his son Yaśodharamāṇikya.

Yaśodharamāṇikya

The date of his accession may be fixed at 1600-01 A.D. instead of 1602, as reported by the old *Rajamala,* on the evidence of a coin minted by him in Śaka 1522.[3] Two types of coins minted on the occasion of his accession have been found.[4] On one coin the names of his consort has been inscribed as *'Lakshmi-Gauri-Jaya-Mahadevou.'* It appears that Yaśodharamāṇikya had, two if not three queens who enjoyed equal status at the time of investiture of the King.[5]

It has already been stated that the reverse side of the coins of Tripura contained the royal emblem i.e. the grotesque lion, moon and trident and the date. Coins without any mention of date have also been found. Vijayamāṇikya placed a figure of *Ardhanarisvara*

Coins of Tripura

on some of his coins. The next king who seems to have made a great change in the device is Yaśomāṇikya. He placed "the figure of flute-playing Krishṇa flanked by a *Gopi* on either side in the upper half of the flan and the lion *trisula* device in the lower half. The inscription on the other side mentions the name of the ruler."[6]

1 Numismatic Supplement, XXXVII, P.N. 47.
2 Singha K.C. op. cit., Part II, Ch. p. 75.
3 Numismetic Supplement, XXXVII, P.N. 47, Fig. 2.
4 Ibid; *Rajamala,* Vol. III. p. 237.
5 Majumder R.C., op. cit., p. 498.
6 Gupta P.L., op. cit., p. 130.

Yaśodharamāṇikya, according to the old *Rajamala,* occupied Bhuluā (Noākhāli) before the Mughal aggression ensued. Tripura was attacked by Ibrāhim Khān Fate-Jang, the Viceroy of Bengal in 1618 A.D. on the pretext of denial of the king of Tripura to send elephants and horses as revenue. Ibrāhim Khān Fate-jang was ordered by the Emperor Jehangir to invade Arakan. Some historians are of opinion that perhaps to facilitate the Arakan expedition, Ibrāhim made an attack on Tripura.[1] The arrangement made by Fate-Jang for the annexation of Tripura was definitely much more than it deserved, because "The downward stage in Tripura history began from the reign of Rājadhara (1586-1600), and reached its nadir in the reign of Yaśodhar or Yaśomāṇikya, son of Rājadhara (C 1600-1618)."[2]

Report of Bāhāristan-i-Ghayabi

According to the Bāhāristan-i-Ghāyabi, two land forces and one fleet was despatched against the Rājā of Tripura. "One regiment, consisting of more than two thousand and seven hundred cavalry, four thousand match-lock-men and twenty famous elephants was sent under the command of Mirzā Isfāndiyār". The second regiment, consisting of more than three thousand cavalry, five thousand match-lock-men and fifty elephants was despatched under the command of Mirzā Nuru'd-Din and *Masnad-i-Ala* Musā Khān, the zemindar. A fleet of three hundred war-boats with large equipments of war was sent under the command of Admiral Bāhādur Khān, an officer of the Khān Fate-jang.

The Bāhāristan gives a detailed account of the battles fought by the Rājā of Tripura against the Mughals who planned a two-pronged attack by land and river when Mirzā Isfāndiyār reached 'Kawāilāgarh' (Kailārgarh) with his army and naval force, 'the Rājā of Tippera planned to lead a night-attack against the imperial officers. The Rājā's force consisted of 'one thousand cavalry, sixty thousand infantry and two hundred elephants'. He had no match-lock-men with him. At midnight the Rājā's army 'fell upon Mirzā Isfāndiyār who had crossed Kawāilāgarh and reached the vicinity of Udaipur'. But the battle was won by the imperialists and the Rājā left the place for Udaipur.[3] The old *Rajamala* corroborates the account given by the Bāhāristān.

On his way to Udaipur, he suddenly came across the second land army of the Mughals and on reaching Udaipur, the Rājā tried to block the passage of the imperial fleet but it was of no avail. The

1 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 301.
2 Ibid, p. 243.
3 Borah M. T. op. cit., p. 511.

fleet joined the army in no time and jointly marched to Udaipur. The Rājā fled with his family but they were followed by the Mughals under the guidance of Mirzā Nurud-din. Ultimately he was captured with his family and belongings and "Udaipur was made the seat of a *thanah* and placed in-charge of Mirzā Nurullāh, and the Mughal commanders then went back to the *Subadar* with all the captured elephants and the royal captive (C end of November, 1618).[1] Ibrāhim Khān is reported to have visited Tripura towards the end of 1629, being 'attracted by the report of the wholesome climate and natural beauty of Tipperah.'[2]

Mirzā Nurullāh

During their stay at Udaipur, the Mughals started building one mosque but it remained incomplete due to their sudden departure. The roofless mosque situated on the northern bank of the Gumti is called by the people *Mughal Mosjid.* Besides, there is another building at Udaipur named as Badar Mokām reported to have been constructed in honour of Badar Āuliā, the famous Āuliā or saint of Sylhet.

According to the old *Rajamala,* the western plains of Tripura remained under the Mughal occupation for more than two years and Nurnagar *Pargana* was named after the *Thanadar* Mirzā Nurullāh and the occupied *parganas* were named as *Sarkar* Udaipur.[3] The Mughals, however, had to quit the area owing to an outbreak of epidemic and eventually Kalyāṇamāṇikya who did not belong to the royal family was chosen king by the people.

Sarkār Udaipur

Kalyāṇamāṇikya's coins (half and quarter-rupee) dated Śaka 1548 (1626-27 A.D.) have been found. The coins bear no name of his consort in contradiction to the tradition of Tripura coinage. On the reverse a *Śiva Linga* is inscribed. This indicates that the Rājā was a *Śaiva.* Kailashchandra Singha has quoted one copper-plate inscription of Kalyāṇamāṇikya. The plate is dated Śakabda 1573, Sana 1060, 14 Māgha. The date corresponds to 1650-51 A.D.[4]

Kalyāṇamāṇikya

Kalyāṇamāṇikya seems to have recovered the lost glory of Tripura to some extent by proclaiming himself an independent ruler and re-occupying some portions of the western plains. He distributed rent-free lands to the Brahmins. One inscription of Kalyāṇamāṇikya dated

1 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 302.
2 Ibid. loc. cit.
3 *Rajamala,* Education Directorate, Tripura, p. 69.
4 Singha K.C., *Rajamala;* p. 592.

Śaka 1573 (1651-52 A.D.) has been found on the Gopināth temple at Udaipur.[1] The name of his consort Śaharbati is also found inscribed on the plate. One *Ayma Sanad* granted by him, dated *Jabra* (Yabda?) 1563 *Teriji* 1069 Magh 7 (1659 A.D.) has also been noticed.[2]

Govindamāṇikya

According to the old *Rajamala*, Kalyāṇamāṇikya died in the month of *Jaistha*. Saka 1582 and his son Govindamāṇikya ascended the throne in the same year.[3] Two full *tank* coins and one quarter-rupee coin of Govindamāṇikya dated Śaka 1582 (1660-61 A.D.) have been found. Siva phallus is found inscribed on these coins. But Govindamāṇikya is reported to have also minted gold coin containing the following legend : "*Radhakrishnapade Śrī Yuta Mahārājā Govindamāṇikya, Śrī Śrī Mahārānī Guṇavati Mahādevya*".[4]

On the basis of numismatic evidence it may, therefore, be assumed that Govinda ascended the throne in 1660 A.D. just after the death of his father. According to the *Rajamala* Kalyāṇamāṇikya vested all royal power to the *Yubaraja* during the last part of his reign and spent his time in the *Durbar* mainly in religious discourses and it was only after the departure of the Rājā from the *Durbar* administrative work used to be conducted by *Yubaraja* Govindamāṇikya. That Govindamāṇikya became the *de facto* ruler at that time is evident from one of his copper plates, dated 1656 A.D. donating one *drona* of land to one Muslim. But he was dethroned by his step-brother Chhatramāṇikya (alias Nakshatra), the contestant to the throne, after about a year, as evidenced from the discovery of a coin of Chhatramāṇikya of Śaka 1583 corresponding to 1661 A.D.

Chhatramāṇikya

Chhatramāṇikya appears to have ruled over Tripura from 1661 A.D. to 1666-67 A.D. There is a difference of opinion about the cause of his death. According to the *Rajamala*, edited by Kaliprasanna Sen, he died of pox. But there is another opinion based upon the reported speech of Rājā Mahendramāṇikya to Mahmud Safi, quoted in *Tripura Buranji*, an account left by two emissaries of the Rājā of Assam.[5] From that statement it appears that Chhatramāṇikya was killed by Govindamāṇikya. According to the *Rajamala* written by Kailāshchandra Singha, *Yuvaraja*

1 Sen Kaliprasanna, *Rajamala*, Vol. III, p. 238.
2 Cumming, J.G., Survey and Settlement of the Chakla Roshnabad Estate in the District of Tippera & Noakhali; (Shillong, 1907), Appendix IV, p. VIII.
3 *Rājamālā*, Education Directorate, Pp. 76-78.
4 Deb Barma, Colnel Thakur Mahim Chandra, *Desiya Rajya* (Agartala, 1922), p. 229.
5 Bhuyan, Surya Kumar, ed. *Tripura Buranji*, Govt. of Assam in the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies 1938, Pp. 84-85.

Rāmadeva, son of Govindamāṇikya, fought fiercely against Chhatramāṇikya but he was defeated in a decisive battle near Comilla.[1] Govindamāṇikya appears to have incurred the displeasure of the then religious head of the State i.e. the *Chantai*, by discontinuing the traditional animal sacrifice before the Goddess Tripurasundari. It is more probable that the *Chantai* conspired with the disgruntled prince Chhatramāṇikya to oust Govindamāṇikya from power. The *Chantai* was, no doubt, able to influence the public opinion to a great extent against the Rājā and played a great role in hastening his fall. Govindamāṇikya being aware of such strong public sentiment against him either abdicated in favour of Chhatramāṇikya or withdrew while some resistence was offered by his supporters to gain time for his escape. Chhatramāṇikya seems to have received effective help from the priest and the aggrieved subjects. Chhatramāṇikya had no opportunity to receive any help from Shāh Shujā, the Subedar of Bengal, as the latter had already been dislodged from power.[2] This observation nullifies the popular story of Gobindamāṇikya's abdication in favour of his brother out of piety and humanism.

Role of Chantai

That Tripura enjoyed a *de facto* independent status in respect of hill areas at this time is borne by a letter addressed to Govindamāṇikya by Emperor Aurangzeb. The purport of the letter is that Govindamāṇikya shall have to capture and send Shujā to Aurangzeb. Started in a courteous language the letter thus ended with a threat: "I hope you will capture him and send him carefully under the suveillance of your army officers and thereby oblige me, so that the age-old friendship may continue to exist. Otherwise you will take it for certain that as a result of the stay of that imprudent rash in your territory, our happy relationship will be breached by conflicts. I do believe that things will be done in accordance with my letter.[3] It is not clear whether Govindamāṇikya took any step to capture Shujā before his flight to Arakan.

Tavernier's account

Tavernier, the French traveller, who came to India during the reign of Chhatramāṇikya (C1661 to 1666-67 A.D.) left some interesting accounts about the 'kingdom of Tipperah'. On his way he met some merchants of Tripura, of whom he wrote: "I met with three, one at Dacca, and two others at Patna. They were men of very few words; whether it were their own parti-

1 Singh, K.C. *Rajamala*, Vol. II, Ch. 7, p. 92.
2 Sarkar, J. N., History of Bengal; op. cit. Vol. II Pp. 337-349.
Deb Barma, Samarendrachandra, *Tripurar Smriti*, Pp. 209-10. The letter was translated from Bengali rendering of the original letter in Persian.

cular disposition, or the general habit of the country. They cast up their accounts with small stones like agats, as big as man's nail, upon everyone of which was a cipher. They had every one their weights, like a steller; though the beam were not of iron but of a certain wood as hard as Brazile; nor was the ring that holds that weight, and is put through the beam to mark the weight of iron, but a strong silk rope. Thus they weighed from a dram to ten of our ponds. They ride upon oxen and horses which are low, but very hardy. As for the king and nobility, they ride in their *Pallekies* or upon their elephants of war."[1]

About the territory, Tavernier wrote, "There is nothing in Tipperah which is fit for strangers. There is mine of gold, but the gold is very coarse. And there is a sort of very coarse silk which is all the revenue the king has. He exacts no subsidies from the subjects, but only that they, who are not of the prince nobility, should work six days in a year in his mine, or in his silk works. He sends his gold and silk into China, for which they bring him back silver, which he coins into pieces to the value of ten sous. He also makes their pieces of gold, like to the Aspers of Turkey; of which he has two sorts, four of the one sort making a crown and twelve of the other."[2]

Govindamāṇikya is reported to have taken shelter in the forests of Chittagong Hill Tracts. About the ruins of his abode, Captain Lewin wrote: "Far in the jungles on the bank of the Myanee and affluence of the Kassalong river, are found tanks, fruit-trees and the remains of masonry buildings evidence that at some bygone period, the land here was cultivated and inhabited by men of the plains. Tradition attributes these ruins to a former Rājā of Hill Tipperah who, it is said, was driven from that part of the country.[3] This is generally believed to be the place where prince Shujā, who was fleeing to Arakan to save his life from the wrath of Emperor Aurangzeb met the Rājā of Tripura. According to tradition, utmost hospitality was extended by Govindamāṇikya to Shujā, who in return presented his precious sword and a diamond ring to Govindamāṇikya. But no account of such meeting has been recorded in the history. Shujā, who was constantly being chased by Mirjumlā, is said to have left Dacca on 6th May, 'glided down the river towards the sea'. "He had already begged help from the king of Arracan, and two days after leaving Dacca, he was met by 51 ships sent by the king's governor of Chittagong". Shortly after "on 12th May 1660, he finally left the home of his

1 Tavernier's Travel in India; original English translation of John Phillip. Bangabasi Office, edition, (Calcutta, 1905), Pp. 451-52.
2 Ibid.
3 Lewin, T.H., The Hill Tracts of Chittagong and the Dwellers Therein, Calcutta, 1869.

ancestors and the province which he had ruled for twenty years, and sailed for Arracan with his family and less than forty followers".[1]

One copper-plate grant of Govindamāṇikya donating *Aima* land to one Ekdil Kāzi, dated San 1077, 19 *Kartik*, corresponding to 1667 A.D. has been found. This indicates that after the death of Chhatramāṇikya, Govindamāṇikya returned from his exile and ascended the throne again during the latter half of 1667 A.D.

According to tradition Govindamāṇikya had built a big mosque at Comilla known as Shujā Mosjid, as a token of love and respect to the prince. But others believe that this mosque was built by Shujā after his victory over Tripura.[2] Govindamāṇikya is reported to have built the famous Chandranāth temple at Chittagong, and made extensive grants of rent-free lands to the Brahmins. Mention may be made in this connection of his copper-plate grants dated Śaka 1591, 1593, 1594 and 1598 respectively.[3] Govindamāṇikya was a patron of Bengali literature. *Brihannaradiya Purana* was translated into Bengali at the instance of Govindamāṇikya who is reported to have accorded permission to the poet in Śaka 1591 (1669 A.D.). One one-fourth rupee coin of Govindamāṇikya, dated, Śaka 1582 (1660 A.D.), discovered recently, is reported to have been introduced by him to commemorate his decision to fix the land revenue at a quarter-rupee per *kani*. It is further said that he declared that no successor should introduce quarter-rupee coin if he increases the rate of land revenue any further. One one-eighth coin of Govindamāṇikya, having no date, has also been found. These denominations seems to have been issued as legal tenders. According to the old *Rajamala*, salt was first imported to Tripura during Govindamāṇikya's reign by a merchant and it was exchanged with the elephant of Tripura.[4] On the obverse of most of the coins of Govindamāṇikya legend of the king and Śiva *Linga* are found inscribed while the reverse bears the device of either trident and conventional lion rempant or moon and lion.

Rāmadevamāṇikya

The earliest coin so far discovered of Rāmadevamāṇikya is dated Śaka 1598 (1676 A.D.). This indicates that Rāmadeva was on the throne in 1676 A.D.[5] But

1 Sarkar, Sir Jadunath; A short History of Aurangzeb; Calcutta; 1962, Ch. V, Pp. 92-93.
2 Singha, K.C. op. cit. Vol. II, Ch. 7, p. 94.
3 Sen, Kaliprasanna op. cit. Vol. IV, p. 131.
4 *Rajamala;* Directorate of Education, Tripura, p. 81.
5 The latest copper-plate of Govindamāṇikya is dated 1673 A.D. But as one coin of his son, Rāmadevamāṇikya, dated 1676 A.D. has already been noticed, it is very difficult to reconcile the period from 1673 to 1676 A.D. If it is taken for granted that the coin of Rāmamāṇikya dated 1676 A.D. was minted on the occasion of his accession to the throne, then it may be considered that Govindamāṇikya ruled upto 1676 A.D.

we are not sure whether he ascended the throne in the same year. According to an inscription laid on the temple of Tripurāsundari at Udaipur, the temple was repaired by Rāmamāṇikya in 1681 A.D. when it is recorded to have been struck and sheared by lightning ('vateghata vibhinna-Devasadanam').[1] There is another temple to the west of Mahādeva group of temples at Udaipur. The inscription on the temple, built in 1673 A.D., refers to Rāmamāṇikya. "The inscription does not give the dedication to the diety enshrined but refers to *Parijata Harana,* from which it may be inferred that this was a Vaishnava shrine either of Lakshminārāyaṇa or Vishṇu as Krishna.[2] This raises one pertinent question whether Rāmadeva was on the throne when this temple was built. As no coin or copper-plate of Govindamāṇikya is available after 1673, this possibility can not be summarily discarded. In any case there is no doubt that the temple was built by Rāmamāṇikya either during the reign of Govindamāṇikya or during his own regime. There is also another Vishṇu temple erected by Rāmamāṇikya to the south of Govindamāṇikya's palace.[3]

During the early years of his short-term reign, possibly in October, 1682, Rāmadeva led a predatory expedition upto Sylhet. "But he was soon afterwards chastised and made amends by presenting three elephants to the Emperor."[4] It is reported that the re-occupied the two divisions, Kailāsahar and Dharmanagar from the Mughal possession.[5]

The *Rajamala* records the name of Rāmamāṇikya's consort as Satyabati.[6] But is Rāmamāṇikya's coin the name of his consort has been inscribed as Ratnābati.

Post of Baṛa Thākur

Rāmamāṇikyadeva seems to have committed a tactical blunder by creating the post of *Baṛa Thākur* (Prince-in-Chief) and appointing his second son Durjayadeva to it while there already existed the post of *Yuvaraja* to which his brother-in-law Balīvīmnārāyaṇa and eldest son Ratnadeva were appointed in succession. The creation of the post of *Baṛa Thakur,* wrought with dangerous possibilities, proved to be the base of dissension and intrigue within the palace over the question of succession.

According to the old *Rajamala* and the *Champakavijaya,*[7] Rāmadeva-

1 Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology, published by the Education Department, Tripura 1952, Pp. 3-4.
2 Ibid, p. 10.
3 Ibid, p. 8.
4 History of Bengal, Vol. II, p. 377.
5 Sen, T.C. *Fatik Raier Itihas* (Bengali), *Samaj,* Agartala, Feb. 25, 1956.
6 *Rajamala,* Vol. IV, p. 69.
7 *Champaka Vijaya* (Bengali), unpublished. "The chronicle might have been composed before 1705-10 A.D. When Champakaraya was killed" — Banerji, S. *Itihasasrita Bangla Kavita;* (Calcutta, 1958), p. 29.

māṇikya at the fagend of his rule, was ousted by Dwārikā Thākur, who occupied the throne under the name Narendramāṇikya but Rāmadevamāṇikya recovered his throne with the help of the Mughals and Narendramāṇikya was captured and sent to Dacca.

Ratnamāṇikya II

After the death of Rāmadevamāṇikya, Ratnamāṇikya II ascended the throne in Saka 1607 (1685-86 A.D.) at the age of five (according to some seven) years only, while *Yuvaraja* Champakarāya was the *de fac to* ruler of Tripura. Two types of Ratnamāṇikya's quarter-rupee coin both dated Śaka 1607 have been found. In one type the name of his consort has been inscribed as Satyabati and in the other as Bhāgyabati. Ratnamāṇikya's quarter-rupee coin indicates that the land revenue @ of quarter-rupee per *kani* prevailed during his regime also. During the first decade of his reign, Ratnamāṇikya was also dethroned like his father again by Narendramāṇikya (C1693-95) and took shelter in the forests. This could be managed by Narendramāṇikya with the help of the then Mughal Governor whom he is supposed to have won away by promising to present two more elephants over the prevalent system of annual presentation of elephants and one more exclusively for the Governor. According to *Champakavijaya,* composed by one Śhekh Mohi-ud-din, at the instance of Mir Khān, the chief of the army of Ratnamāṇikya, Champakarāya, *the Yuvaraja,* who took shelter at Chittagong, went to Dacca and tried to win away the Governor with the help of his army-chief and Durjadhana, the youngest brother of the king. Eventually they came back to Tripura with the aid of the Mughal army and defeated Narendramāṇikya at Chaṇdigaṛh. Narendramāṇikya was sent to Dacca as prisoner, and Ratnamāṇikya ascended the throne again after about two years.

Nārendramāṇikya

Champakarāya

That Ratnamāṇikya regained his throne sometime before the month of *Aswin,* Saka 1617 (1695 A.D.) is evident from a deed of sale of self. One barber, Santosh by name sold himself to a brahmin, Bhubaneswar Bhattacharyay by name in lieu of Rs. 4/- only on Aswin 2, Saka 1617.

It is interesting to note that among the witness of the sale-deed, there were two Muslims, three Brahmins and two Sudras. Similar deeds of sale of daughter and maid-servant made during the reign of Ratnamāṇikya II have also been found.[1]

1 Bhattacharyay, D.C. Deed of selling out oneself, *Chunta Prakash,* vol. XII, No. XII, *Chaitra,* 1345, p. 21 as quoted in *Amader Tripura,* vol. III, No. I, April-May, 1972, Pp. 13-14.

Champakarāya, who became the *Dewan-Munshi* after the fall of Balibhimnārāyaṇa during the governorship of Ibrāhim Khān (1690-97) was appointed *Yuvaraja* by the king.

Though Ratnamāṇikya was again made the Rājā, it was Champakarāya, the *Yuvaraja*, who practically ruled over the country for a considerable period, ignoring the tradition of sending annual presentation of elephants to Dacca. "The son of Rāmamāṇikya Rājā, Zemindar of Tipperah, for a while appears to have been wholly shaken off the Mughal yoke virtually, being only liable to a nominal tribute of 25,000 rupees for the *Parganah* of Nurnagar, which at the same time, was entirely remitted to himself in the form of a military *Jaigeer* from the Court of Delhi."[1]

Diplomatic relation with Assam

Ratnamāṇikya II, (C 1685-1712), was the first king of Tripura who exchanged diplomatic missions with the Rājā of Assam. Rājā Swargodeva Rudra Singha of Assam sent two envoys, Ratna Kandali and Arjunadāsa Bairāgī to the court of Tripura, with a mission to obtain the support and co-operation of the Rājā of Tripura, in building up a confederation of Hindu Rulers against the Mughals. The envoys left an account of Tripura entitled *"Tripura Desar Kathar Lekha"* (Account of the country of Tripura) in 1734 A.D. with an explanatory sub-heading as mentioned below. *"Śri-Śri-Rudra Singha Mahārājā-dewe Tripura Desara Rājā Ratna Māṇikya sahita prititpurbak katake gatagata kara katha, Śaka 1646".*[2]

Account of Tripurā Buranji

It appears from the account, that the Rājā of Assam had no communication with the Tripura court. The envoys of Assam who were first sent to Tripura on the pretext of fetching water of the river Ganges in 1709 A.D. were introduced to Ratnamāṇikya by Ānandarām Medhi, reported to be a Bengali musician, known to both the Rājās. Ratnamāṇikya expressed his desire to acquire friendship of Rudra Singha and sent a delegation of two men to Assam in 1710 A.D. Rudra Singha received them in July 1711 A.D. at his new capital Rangpur. In October 1711 the second delegation of Assam was sent to Tripura, led by the said two envoys again with a secret letter from Rājā Rudra Singha, soliciting Ratnamāṇikya's co-operation. The envoys reached the capital of Tripura in March 1712 and met the Rājā. But Ratnamāṇikya was removed from the throne shortly after by his step-brother Ghanaśhyām Baṛa Thākur, who occupied the

[1] Grant's view of Revenues of Bengal, Fifth Report, Pp. 365-396.
[2] Bhuyan, S.K., ed. *Tripura Buranji,* Assam, 1938, introduction, P. XI.

throne in May 1712 under the name Mahendramāṇikya. Obviously, this happened during the stay of the two envoys in Tripura who left an eye-witness' account of the incidents. They left Tripura in July 1612 and came again in January 1715 A.D. This time they were received by Dharmamāṇikya II (alias Durjaya Singha) who succeeded Mahendramāṇikya. The Assamese envoys left Tripura in May, 1715 and put their account into writing in 1724 A.D., about nine years after their third mission to the court of Tripura.

The envoys made an important reference on the early history of Tripura. According to their account, the ancestors of the Rājās of Tripura used the title 'Phā' after their names and not the word Rājā. Moreover, Ratnamāṇikya-I who is reported to have received the title 'Māṇikya' from the Sultan of Gauṛa,, is also reported to be the first Rājā of Tripura. He was born as a result of the union of one Kānchana Phā's daughter with the god Sadāśiva. It further stated that after his death his son Amaramāṇikya ascended the throne. The names of the successive Rājās were as following : Yaśomāṇikya, Vijayamāṇikya, Kalyāṇamāṇikya, Govindamāṇikya, Chhatramāṇikya, Govindamāṇikya, Rāmamāṇikya, Ratnamāṇikya, Ñarendramāṇikya, Ratnamāṇikya, Mahendramāṇikya, Dharmamāṇikya.[1]

Even if it is taken for granted that Ratnamāṇikya I was the founder of this kingdom, the chronology of the successive Rājās cannot be regarded as reliable because it has been proved on the basis of numismatic evidence that Ratnamāṇikya ascended the throne in 1464-65 A.D.

Socio-politico condition of Tripura during the reign of Ratnamāṇikya II

The account of Ratna Kandali and Arjuna Dāsa, however, throws a flood of light on the economic and political condition, social customs of the territory and presents a lot of information about the Rājā and his Durbar at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Though the Rājā was assisted by *Dewan, Ujir, Najir* and *Karkoon, Kotwal,* etc. he weilded absolute power and in all matters the final say rested with him.

According to the envoys of Assam, the Rājā of Tripura lived in a house built with bricks. It housed also an armoury. There were many temples and altars in the capital, dedicated to Vishṇu, Śiva and other gods and goddesses.

[1] *Tripura Buranji, op. cit.,* Ch. XII, Pp. 34-36.

The people living in places adjoining the river Gumti were prosperous. Among agricultural produces, paddy, potato, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, etc. were seen growing. Mango, cocoanut and jackfruit were found in abundance. The trade and commerce in the country were in a flourishing state. The envoys witnessed in the *Rajhat* (a weekly or bi-weekly market-place) utensils made of copper, brass and such other materials. Articles such as cotton, sugar, salt, milk and ghee were also there for sale. They mentioned some areas viz. Meherkul, Khaṇdal, Maṇdal, Vakachai, Lohāgarh, Tisnā, Mirzāpur, Lomāgar, Bhusaṇā, Kulāsar (Kailasahar?) and Dharmanagar where paddy, pulses and cotton of good quality were grown.

There existed perfect communal harmony and peace, said the envoys. People followed their respective vocations peacefully.

Mahendramāṇikya

It has already been mentioned that Ratnamāṇikya was imprisoned and consequently put to death by his step-brother Ghanaśhyāma who ascended the throne in 1712 A.D. under the name Mahendramāṇikya. He ruled for a short period of about two years and was succeeded by his younger brother

Dharmamāṇikya II

Dharmamāṇikya II in 1714 A.D. A number of coins, including quarter-rupee, of Dharmamāṇikya II dated 1636 Saka (1714 A.D.) has been found. The name of his consort was Dharmaśīlā as is evident from the coins. The legend of the coins indicate that the king was a devotee of Śiva and Durga. Dharmamāṇikya is credited to have introduced coins even of smaller denominations viz. one-sixteenth and one-thirtytwoeth-rupee. Obviously such small coins could have no date. Only the name of the king *Sri Dharma* or *Sri Dharmasya* are found inscribed on such smaller coins.

According to Śri Rājamālā[1] (edited by Kaliprasanna Sen) Jagatrāma (Jagatrāya), a descendent of Chhatramāṇikya, being externed by his uncle, Rājā Dharmamāṇikya II, took shelter at Patpasar and entreated its *zemindar* Āqā Sādiqe to assist him in occupying the throne. He is also reported to have made alliance with Mir Hābib, the *Naib* of Murshid Quli II of Dacca, through Āqā Sādiq and guided Mir Hābib's troops by the proper route so that they advanced suddenly into the heart of the kingdom near its capital. Mir Hābib's incursion into Tripura has been corroborated by Tārikh-i-Bāngālā and Riaj-us-Sālātin.

[1] Śri Rājamālā, vol. IV, Pp. 28-30.

But the old Rājamālā[1] says that before this inroad Dharmamāṇikya had to resist two attacks, one by the Nawab of Dacca and the other by Jagatrāma. The first attack was repulsed after about eight months. Jagatmāṇikya in alliance with the Moghs is reported to have sent an army against Dharmamāṇikya for the first time. They occupied the *thana* of Comilla but ultimately were driven out by the royal army. Jagatmāṇikya might have launched the second attack in alliance with Mir Hābib as mentioned earlier. "Absolutely unprepared for such an attack, the Rājā fled to the neighbouring hills, whereupon the fort of Chaṇdigaṛh, which had been his residence, was stormed by the invaders and the whole of his kingdom fell under the latter's control. It was given to the Rājā's nephew, Āqā Sādiq was appointed its *Faujdar;* and Mir Hābib went back to Dacca with a rich booty and many elephants."[2]

Though the Rājamālās do not mention Jagatmāṇikya as the ruler of Tripura, there is reason to believe that Jagatmāṇikya occupied the throne, may be with the help of Mir Hābib, and ruled over the State at least for a few years. On the evidence of a copy of the manuscript of Kriājogasāra, translated into Bengali by a Brahmin, Mukunda by name, it appears that Mukunda started his work on *Baisakh* 11, Saka 1648 (1726-27 A.D.) at the behest of Rājā Jagatmāṇkya who gave him permission to translate Kriāyogasāra, while he was seated in the court attended by officials. This statement tends to raise a pertinent question regarding the date of Mir Hābib's incursion into Tripura.[3]

Moreover the dates of two grants, one of Dharmamāṇikya II dated *Ashar* 17, 1134 Tripura era (1729-30 A.D.) and the other of Mukundamāṇikya, dated *Sravana* 11, 1139 T.E., as mentioned by Dinesh Chandra Bhattacharyay.[4] indicate that Mukundamāṇikya ascended the throne at sometime before *Sravana* 11, 1729-30 A.D. after the death of Dharmamāṇikya within the same year.

The old Rājamālā says that Dharmamāṇikya being reinstated to the throne, ruled for only one year. If it is true then it may be assumed that he came to the power again in 1728-29 A.D. when Jagatmāṇikya was dethroned by Shuja-ud-din.

[1] Rājamālā; published by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, 1967, Pp. 86-87.
[2] Sarkar, ed. History of Bengal, vol. II. Pp. 425-26.
[3] History of Bengal, vol. II, gives the date as 1785 A.D. Pp. 425-26.
[4] Bhattacharyay, Dinesh Chandra; *Swadhin Tripurar Rājamālā, Prabasi, Falgoon,* 1345 B.S.

Jagatmāṇikya's ambition, no doubt, paved the way of his occupying the throne but he became the ruler only in name since the real power remained with the Mughals in respect of hill Tripura also. Plains of Tripura which had so long been under the control of the independent rulers of Tripura, had already been integrated within the Mughal empire in terms of settlement and revenue and Jagatmāṇikya was granted the zemindary rights over Chāklā Roshnābād consisting of 22 *parganas*. Thus the areas of Tripura which went under the control of the Mughals consisted of one-fourth of Mymensingh, half of Sylhet, one-third of Noākhāli and some portion of Dacca districts as well.[1]

The position did not improve during Dharmamāṇikya's time. Though he was made king, no change was made in respect of other arrangements previously introduced by Mir Hābib. Moreover, the deputation of a Mughal *Faujdar* to Tripura was made on a permanent basis. So it may be said that Jagatmāṇikya's ambition led to the subjugation of the independent rulers of Tripura on a permanent basis in respect of the plains. That the *Faujdars* reigned supreme over the plains becomes evident from one *Kabuliat Patta*, dated 1716 A.D. of Murād Beg, the *Faujdar* of Nurnagar who changed the name of the *pargana* Nurnagar to Murādnagar, at least temporarily.[2]

After the death of Dharmamāṇikya, his brother Chandramaṇi Thākur ascended the throne under the title Mukundamāṇikya. The political history of Tripura since his time, seems nothing but "the history of tedious and interminable war with the Nawabs of Bengal who failing to establish permanent rights over the hill areas, were always fomenting intrigues and interfering with successions."[3] From the account of Grant it becomes known that Tripura regained her independence again after the death of Mursid Quli Khān (1727 A.D.).[4]

Mukundamāṇikya had the ill-luck of being captured by the Muslims during an invasion and thereupon he committed suicide. Rudramaṇi Thākur, a dashing youth, who was then organising a militia in the forests to withstand the invaders, took them to surprise and compelled the invaders to retreat. Thereupon Rudramaṇi ascended the throne as Jagatmāṇikya II and ruled for sometime. A coin of Jagatmāṇikya, dated Saka 1661 (1739-40 A.D.) has been noticed. The name of his consort as inscribed on the coin was Jayādevi.[5]

1 Stewart, C.; History of Bengal, Pp. 266-267.
2 Singha, Kailash Chandra, vol. IV, p. 560.
3 Bhattacharyay, A.C., Progressive Tripura, p. 128.
4 View of the Revenues of Bengal-Fifth Report, reprint of 1917, vol. II, Pp. 399-400.
5 Śri Rājamālā, vol. II, Pp. 391-400.

Panchkouri, the son of Mukundamāṇikya, was obviously, not sitting idle during that time. He approached the Nawab of Murshidabad and captured the throne of Tripura with the aid of the Mughal force and came to the throne as Indramāṇikya II. One quarter-rupee coin of Indramāṇikya, dated Saka 1666 (1744 A.D.) has been discovered.[1] This shows that Jayamāṇikya ruled for a short period of three to four years. A copper-plate inscription of Indramāṇikya dated *San* 1153 (1746 A.D.) donating some land has also been found.[2] This grant gives us some information about the existing categories of *taluks* under Nurnagar *Pargana*. Though ousted from power, Jayamāṇikya, did not lose heart. He fled to the hills and conducted guerilla war against the Rājā of Tripura. These fueds came to an end with the death of both Indramāṇikya and Jayamāṇikya.

Indramāṇikya II

During the reign of Indramāṇikya, Shamser Gāzi rose against the local chief of Dakṣhinśik *Pargana*. But Shamser was not a man to be contented with a small *zemindari*. He raised a strong army, declared himself as the ruler of Roshnābād and even fell upon Udaipur, plundered the capital and declared himself the Rājā of Udaipur. Indramāṇikya, being defeated, left Tripura for Murshidabad.

After Indramāṇikya, Jayamāṇikya again became the Rājā at the will of the Nawab of Murshidabad but soon a rivalry started between Jayamāṇikya and Udayamāṇikya, a son of Dharmamāṇikya II and ultimately, Harimaṇi Thākur, a brother of Jayamāṇikya occupied the throne under the title of Vijayamāṇikya II, but the real power rested with the Nawab, the Rājā being the tutelary head of the territory.

The days in between the reign of two Rājās, namely, Vijayamāṇikya II and Krishṇamāṇikya appear to be the darkest period in the political history of Tripura. The administration almost collapsed and utter lawlessness prevailed everywhere while the local chiefs and self-seekers defied the authority and the political condition deteriorated further.

During the absence of Indramāṇikya, Shamser Gāzi virtually ruled over Tripura. But he could not assume the title of Rājā of Tripura at first because the people refused to accept him as the Rājā and pay him taxes, so he had put up a puppet king in the person of Lakṣhmanamāṇikya, a grandson of Dharmamāṇikya II.

Shamser Gāzi

Lakṣhmanmāaṇikya

1 J.P.H.S., IV. pp. 109 ff.
2 Singha, Kailashchandra, *Rajamala*, Vol. IV, Ch. 7, p. 564.

It is reported that after three years' reign of Lakshmanamāṇikya, Shamser declared himself the Rājā and ruled over Tripura for seven years. He knew that the Nawab, due to his pre-occupation with the *Bargis* would not bother about his control over Tripura, provided more money was sent as revenue of the zemindary of Roshnābād. And indeed the revenue of Roshnābād increased considerably during the tenure of Shamser.[1] Shamser is reported to have appointed administrators for each *pargana* in the plains. Among them name of two Hindus have been mentioned.[2] He is also reported to have enforced a regulation in regard to the price of commodities to be sold within his jurisdiction. He fixed the weight of seer at 82 *sicca* and made a list of prices of commodities and a copy of the list was notified in every market. From the list, it appears that rice and chilly were sold at one paise per seer, oil at three annas and ghee at five annas per seer.[3] He is also reported to have granted tax-free land to the Hindu and Muslim inhabitants of Chāklā Roshnābād.

But Shamser created a terror over a large tract of land and not only Tripura, but Sylhet, Noākhāli and Chittagong also suffered most due to his large scale dacoities. It is reported that under the orders of the Nawab of Murshidabad, Shamser was eventually made captive by the Nawab of Dacca and sent to Murshidabad where he is reported to have been put to death. But condition did not improve much as Abdul Rajjak, an associate of Shamser, declared himself the ruler of Roshnābād and conducted guerilla war against the royal army. According to the *Rajamala*, Rajjak led several attacks but, being finally defeated, he went to Bhojpur where he was arrested on the charge of dacoity and sent to Murshidabad and subsequently killed. Dakshinsik *Pargana* was again brought under the control of the Rājā of Tripura. Krishṇamaṇi then sent Haridhan Thākur to Murshidabad to establish his claims on the throne of Tripura. The mission became fruitful and Krishṇamaṇi ascended the throne under the title of Krishṇamāṇikya in 1760 A.D.

Abdul Rajjak

Krishṇamāṇikya

But before his investiture to the throne, he had to take shelter in the forests and fight against Shamser Gāzi on several occasions. Being defeated at Udaipur in 1748 by Shamser and his allies he had to retreat to Cāchār.

One quarter-rupee coin of Krishṇamāṇikya dated Saka 1682 (1760-61 A.D.) has been found. He shifted his capital from Udaipur to

1 Chittagong Records, Vol. I, p. 11.
2 Singha, Kailash Chandra, Vol. II, Ch. X. p. 125.
3 Ibid, Pp. 125-126.

G1
V2,76
n.76

Agartala but after a short time the local *Faujdar*, who aspired to be the *zemindar* of Roshnābād, picked a quarrel with the Rājā over the question of revenue collection and complained against him to the Nawab, who being virtually a stooge of the Britishers, sought intervention from them. That the British officials was then eager to occupy Tripura taking advantage of the hostility between the Raja and the *fouzdar* will be evident from the following despatch from Calcutta to Chittagong on 3rd June, 1761: "we beg leave to recommend on Approbation from the Nawab of Murshidabad to such proceedings as may tend to the conquest of Tipperah (Tippera) as it will be a valuable acquisition to our Hon'ble Masters, and maintained at a small expense."[1] Subsequently on 20th June another despatch was sent to Islāmābād, asking Verelst, Company's Chief, to send army against Tippera. The despatch was drafted as such; "With regard to the Tipperah Raja, as the Nawab's *Phouzddar* had been obliged from his ill behaviour to take up arms against him, we desire that you will use your endeavour to reduce him to his due state of obedience to the Government of Islamabad."[2] Accordingly Lt. Matheus was sent to Tripura. As the Nawab's *Dewan* had already launched an attack, the British force did not face any resistance from the Rājā who is said to have surrendered to Lt. Matheus. "On their journey to Islāmābād the Chief and Council had learnt that the *Dewan* was in Tipperah, with an army making a conquest of that province 'towards the cost of which Muhammed Rejā Khān' had levied a special rate of two annas on all lands in the Chittagong District."[3] The resources of Tripura was assessed by a collector of revenue, sent from Chittagong, who 'found the country desolated by the Nawab's troops' and fixed the revenue for the first year at one lakh and one sicca rupees. Mr. Ralph Leak was then appointed the first Resident of Tripura and thus Tripura was reduced to the state of obedience to the British.

Two copper-plate inscriptions of Krishṇamāṇikya of Śaka 1689 (1767 A.D.) and Śaka 1698 (1776 A.D.) respectively have been found. By the former 15 *dronas* of land bounded by Devagrāma, Durgāpur, the river Titāsa and a hill containing two tanks, were granted in favour of the deities Lakṣhmināràyaṇa installed in the temple of Rādhāmohana situated by the tanks. Raghunātha [illegible] was declared *Sebayat* of the deities. By the latter [illegible] *dronas* of land in Meherkula was granted in favour of the deity Jagannātha. Besides,

1 Verelst in Chittagong, *Bengal, Past and Present*, V[illegible] XVII.
2 Ibid.
3 Alexander Mackenzee; op. cit., Pp. 271-272.

33304

one *Khanebari Sanad* of 1770 A.D. and one *Nankar Sanad* of 1780 A.D., both granted by Krishṇamāṇikya have also come to light.[1]

According to the *Krishnamālā*,[2] Krishṇamāṇikya, however, ousted Balarammāṇikya who was enthroned by the Nawab and occupied Roshnābād with the aid of Harry Verelst, the then Governor of Bengal. He again ascended the throne in 1767.[3] Verelst, according to the *Krishnamala*, requested Krishṇamāṇikya to accompany him in his Manipur expedition but the Rājā expressed his inability and sent his minister Jayadevarāya with Verelst. Krishṇamāṇikya donated land for construction of homestead etc. and for performance of the *puja of deities*. He even approved the grants of land made by Shamser Gāzi. He is reported to have completed the temple of *'Satero Ratan'* (Seventeen jewels) at Jagannāthpur, started by Ratnamāṇikya II.

After his death in 1783 A.D. queen Jahṇavidevi ruled over Tripura for about two years while Rājadharamāṇikya was sent to Chittagong as a prisoner on a charge of harbouring dacoits. Mr. Leak on behalf of the British collected the revenue during this period. There arose a dispute between Rājadharamāṇikya and Durgamaṇi Thākur over the question of succession to the throne. The dispute was, however, settled by Warren Hastings, who declared Rājadharamāṇikya II the king and Durgamaṇi, the *Yuvaraja*, respectively.

Rājadharamāṇikya II

According to the old *Rajamala*, the people of Tripura suffered for two years from the worst famine which desolated the country in 1784-85 A.D. Rājadharamāṇikya was admitted to settle permanently for his *zemindary* on the plains. One coin of Rājadhara dated Śaka 1707 (1785-86 A.D.) has been found. He is reported to have entered into matrimonial relation with the royal family of Manipur which helped him a lot in subduing the Kukkis, who made a savage raid into his territory.[4] One Copper-plate of *Inam* grant by Rājadharamāṇikya II, dated 1794 A.D. has been noticed.[5] A manuscript of the Rāmāyaṇa copied at the instance of Rājadharamāṇikya in Saka 1712 (1780 A.D.) by one Gangagovinda Bardhan has been found. Another manuscript of the Mahabharata copied in Saka 1719 (Tripura Era 1207) by the same copyist has also been found. On the basis of these two manuscripts it may be assumed that the reign of Rājadharamāṇikya continued at least upto 1797 A.D.

1 Cumming, J.G. op. cit. Appendix IV.
2 A chronicle about the reign of Krishnamāṇikya. Unpublished.
3 Banerji, S. op. cit., p. 92.
4 Singha, Kailash Chandra, *Rajamala*, Vol. II Ch. XII, p. 138.
5 Cumming, up. cit., Appendix IV.

On his death, there arose another dispute over the succession between his son Rāmagangā and Durgamaṇi Thākur, who had been appointed *Yuvaraja* at the time of his accession. According to the traditional custom of succession of the royal family, a ruler's son could not become a king by his right only, unless he had been appointed *Yuvaraja* by his father. But it has already been mentioned that Durgāmāṇikya was appointed the *Yuvaraja* while Rāmagangā was appointed *Bara Thakur* (Prince-in-Chief) who, according to traditions, is expected to succeed in case there was no *Yuvaraja* at the time of Rājā's death. Hence, it is natural that after the death of the Rājā, the *Yuvaraja* would become the ruler against the Rājā's heir, in case the *Yuvaraja* was not the Rājā's own son. But after Rājadhara's death, Rāmagangā occupied the throne by force while Durgāmaṇi, the nominated *Yuvaraja* took shelter in the hills and mobilised men to oust the usurper. One coin of Rāmagangāmāṇikya dated Saka 1728 (1806-07 A.D.) has been found. His consort was Tārādevi. When Durgāmaṇi launched an attack against Rāmagangāmāṇikya, the British officials asked him to file a suit in the court of law to establish his right to the zemindary and promised 'to postpone recognition of the Rājā until the case was concluded.' The case continued for five years (1805-1809) and in the meantime Rāmagangāmāṇikya married and a tax of one anna per head was levied on that occasion. On March 24, 1809 the *Sudder Dewani Adalat* gave judgment in favour of Durgāmaṇi. The succession to zemindary being declared as an integral portion of the 'impartible Raj' by the court the Company agreed to his accession to the throne in 1809 under the title of Durgāmāṇikya. The people had to pay again one anna as *touji* on that occasion. A coin of Durgāmāṇikya minted on the occasion of his investiture in 1809 A.D. has been found.

Durgamāṇikya

After the death of Durgāmāṇikya in 1813 a fresh litigation started in the British court between Rāmagangāmāṇikya on the one hand and three other claimants of the royal family, namely, Sambhu Chandra Thākur, Rāmchandra Thākur, and Maharani Sumitradevi on the other. The court upheld the claim of Rāmagangāmāṇikya who ascended the throne for the second time in 1815 A.D.[1] But Sambhuchandra was not sitting idle. He decided to oust Rāmagangā by force and with the help of the Hālāms and the Kukis conducted guerilla war against the Rājā for three years from 1824 to 1826 A.D. He also tried to incite the subjects of Hill Chittagong against the British authorities. "A reward

Ramagangā-māṇikya

1 Mackenzie; op. cit., p. 278.

of Rs. 5,000 was offered for his apprehension, his property, both in Hill and Plain Tipperah, was ordered to be confiscated ; and if caught, he was to be summarily tried by martial law."[1] But the hill people were so much devoted to Sambhu Thākur that instead of capturing they rather helped him to abscond in the hills.

Sambhuchandra's revolt

Sambhuchandra is reported to have revolted against the Rājā again after the cessation of the Burma War. But he was defeated at the hand of Dhananjaya, the *Subah*.[2]

Settlement of northern boundary

The boundary between Hill Tipperah and the British District of Sylhet was laid in 1822 by Lt. Fisher of the Survey Department. Opinions differ regarding the propriety of annexing a large tract of cultivable land and tea-gardens situated in between Rājā's territory and the British District of Sylhet by way of laying boundary which was not agreed upon by the Rājā. According to Mackenzie, the relation between the Rājā's people and landowners of the plains on the Sylhet frontier were strained due to bullying activities of a band of armed Tipperahs who occupied the small properties bought by the Rājā at outlaying hills and frequent depredations of British villages by outer Kukis who were at friction with the Rājā. The situation took a bad turn in 1819 when an order was issued "for laying down a definite and easily recognised boundary which would enable the Government to fix upon the Rājā the responsibility of keeping order in his own markets, and preventing the passage of marauders to the defenceless plains." Sandys, on the other hand, described this lopping off a large portion of the territory in the northern portion of the State south of Kuśhiārā river which formed for centuries the Northern boundary of the State and the Southern boundary of the District of Sylhet as an act of 'robbery of territory on the Tripura-Sylhet border' on the part of company's local officials.[3]

Kāshichandra-māṇikya

After Rāmgangā's death, his brother Kāshichandramāṇikya ruled for three years from 1826 to 1829. Sambhuchandra Thākur, having failed in his first attempt to occupy the throne, hatched upon a trick in 1827 to establish his claim on the hills by making an application to farm the hills at a *jumma* of Rs. 25,000. But this offer was rejected by the British

1 Mackenzie; op. cit., p. 276.
2 Singha, Kailashchandra, op. cit., Part II, Ch. XIV, p. 158.
3 Sandys, E.F., History of Tripura, Calcutta, 1915, p. 45.

Government on the ground that the hills 'had been so long unassessed, and had come to be looked upon as independent territory.'

Krishṇakishoremāṇikya

Krishṇakishoremāṇikya ascended the throne in 1830. The coin minted on the occasion of his investiture has been found. He shifted his capital to the present site, a few miles off from the earlier one, which in course of time came to be known as Old Agartala and the present site as Agartala.

From a lot of correspondence that took place in 1836 among the high officials of the East India Company, it appears that they had no clear idea about the rights of the Rājā as an 'independent Chieftain' on the one hand and as *zemindar* of Roshnābād on the other. The Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong who raised the issue questioned the Rājā's right to levy taxes on bamboo, cotton, etc. at important ghats and passes within the *zemindary* of Roshnābād and in the State proper as well. According to the Regulation XXVII of 1793 *Sariat* or all internal transit duties were abolished and as a result the *zemindars* received the compensation or remission in revenue. The Rājā of Tripura also being the *zemindar* of Roshnābād received an abatement of Rs. 28,000 from his annual *jumma* on this account. But the Rājā continued to levy duties on bamboo and cotton etc. on the plea of his absolute power as an independent Rājā of the hills. Thereupon the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong reacted very sharply and pleaded strongly for resumption of Tripura. But the decision of the Governor-General went in favour of the Rājā of Tipperah. The Deputy-Governor of Bengal in his letter to the Divisional Commissioner dated December 27, 1838, stated that "the Rājā had an independent hill territory ; that your propositions for its resumption are totally inadmissible, and that the Rājā has full right within his own territory to levy any duty he pleases."[1]

Revolt of Paitu Kukis

Sometimes, in the latter half of the century Sibbut, the *Sardar* of about 25 thousand Paitu Kukis residing in the hills to the east and north of Tripura defied the allegiance of the Rājā of Tripura and declared himself independent.[2] A section among his descendants, however, paid taxes to the Tripura *Durbar* as a token of their allegiance to the Rājā but the other section preferred to be ruled over only by their Chiefs and hence the Rājā of Tripura had no control over them.

1 Mackenjie, Alexander, op. cit., Appendix-D.
2 Singha, Kailashchandra, op. cit., Part III, Ch. VI, p. 354.

Lāl Choklā

Krishnakishoremāṇikya had to quote troubles when he expressed his inability to assist the British in subduing the Kukis who committed a massacre in Manipuri village of Kochābari in Pratapgarh on April 16, 1844 under the leadership of Lāl Choklā. They plundered the village and secured some twenty heads and six live captives. The Rājā's reply made the British believe that 'some connection did exist between Hill Tipperah and these Kukis'. Consequently, an expedition of the Sylhet Infantry was sent into the Tripura Hills under Captain Blackwood. They surrounded Lāl Choklā's village and cut off supplies. Lāl Choklā surrendered and pleaded guilty ; he was tried and transported for life.

Isānchandra-māṇikya

Krishnakishoremāṇikya spent most of his time in hunting, sports and merry-making and as a result, the State and the *zemindary* reached the stage of bankruptcy at the time of his death in 1849. Consequently, when Isānchandra māṇikya became the Rājā in 1849 he found himself assailed with perplexing problems. But instead of taking any firm stand to tide over the problems, he is reported to have "left the conduct of the Rāj almost entirely in the hands of his *Guru* (spiritual guide) Bipinbehari Goswami." The Rājā is said to have appointed Balaram Hāzāri, the *Dewan*, and entrusted him with the overall charge of administration of both the State and *zemindary*. But the misdeeds and exploitations of Balarām and his brother Sridām soon roused a section of the Tripuris against the administration. At the fagend of the year 1850 they attacked the house of Balarām under their Chiefs, Parikshit and Kirti. Balarām somehow escaped but Sridam was killed by Kirti. But they were captured and Kirti was killed by *yuvaraja* Upendrachandra, who was the real patron of Balarām.[1]

Rising of Tripuris

Sepoy Mutiny & Tripura

The Sepoy Mutiny, now considered by at least some as the first struggle of independence in India, broke out in Isānchandramāṇikya's time. The *modus operandi* of the sepoys of Chittagong seemed to be to proceed to Comilla through Tripura and incite the Indian regiments to rebellion and to advance further to Manipur, Sylhet and northern part of Assam.[2] The Rājā was, therefore, asked by the British officials not to allow the mutineers to go through Tripura, and if there be any infiltration, to arrest them. That the Rājā, outwardly at least, was

1 Sandys, E.F., History of The Tripura Raj, Calcutta, 1915, p. 78.
2 Chaudhury, S.B., *1857 and Tripura; Parichaya* (a Bengali journal), 27th year, Vol. I, (Sepoy Mutiny number), p. 43.

not in favour of the mutineers is evident from his orders banning infiltration into Tripura. According to Hunter, "the Sepoys of the 34th Native Infantry who mutinied at Chittagong on the night of the 18th December, 1857, plundered the treasury and then marched to Agartala, the capital of Hill Tipperah. The small force at the Rājā's disposal did not enable him to oppose the whole body of Sepoys, but orders were issued for the arrest and delivery to the British authorities of all mutineers found wandering within the limits of Hill Tipperah".[1] According to Webster, "The mutiny of 1857 left Tipperah untouched. In November of that year a panic was caused temporarily by the news that three companies of mutineers from Chittagong were marching northwards through Hill Tipperah. Accompanied by a number of escaped captives and hill tribesmen they passed Udaipur but finding the road to Comilla blocked by police and Rājā's men turned back into the hills and continued to march in a northernly direction, only entering the plains for a few miles."[2]

According to Kailash Chandra Singha, some mutineers took shelter near about Agartala, ignoring the orders of the Rājā but they were found out, captured and handed over to the British authorities at Comilla where they were hanged.[3] The Rājā is also reported to have sent an army in the northern division to put resistance to the mutineers. He also sent his political agent there to report about their activities to the British authorities. But in the footnote, Kailash Chandra Singha also stated that the British officials suspected Rājā's complicity with the Sepoys and were in favour of not only his arrest but also resumption of his State. He further stated that it was Metcalfe, the judge, who refrained the Government from taking such a rash action and thus Tripura was saved from being annexed to the British territory.[4]

The possibility of rendering some sort of assistance to the mutineers by some disgruntled members of the royal family and or some tribal chieftains does not seem to be altogether impossible but nothing could be said definitely for want of any positive information in this regard. The Rājā's role in this regard is also not very clear. That the Rājā assured the British officials all possible help to round up the mutineers is apparent but how far he went to the side of the British actively is not known.

1 Hunter W.W., op. cit., p. 168.
2 Webster J.E., Eastern Bengal District Gazetteers (Tipperah), 1910, p. 19.
3 Singha Kailash Chandra, op. cit., Part II, Ch. XV, p. 170.
4 Ibid, p. 171.

In this connection it may be remembered that Krishnakishore-māṇikya, the predecessor of Iśānchandra, did not, at all, cooperate with the British authorities inspite of repeated instructions in regard to subduing the Kukis who conducted predatory raids into the British territory in 1826, 1836 and 1844 A.D. respectively. Of course, for Iśānchandra, because of the critical condition of his State, it was not possible to openly defy the British authorities but still it can not be said that he really rose equal to the occasion in departure from established precedents created by his predecessor in such matters.[1]

Kuki raids

Brief mention about the Kuki raids prior to 1860 has already been made. On the 1st January, 1860, they burst into the plains of Tripura at Chhagalneyah under Khaṇḍal Police Station and committed wanton massacre of human lives and properties. Captain Dharanidhar Singha, a general of the royal army, who was then celebrating a *puja* with his men in a nearby village, fled at the news of the raid of four to five hundred Kukis at Chhagalneyah and the Kukis burnt and looted 15 villages, took 185 lives and made captive another hundred villagers, mostly women. It is reported that but for Gunā Gāzi, a local Chief, who collected some guns and made a counter attack on the bank of the river, the massacre would have been beyond imagination. The armed police sent by the District Magistrate reached the place only to witness the ravages prepetrated by the miscreants.[2]

According to the British report and judicial proceedings, "the main instigators of this invasion were four Hill Tipperah refugees of royal blood who being driven away by the Rājā of Tripura had lived for sometime among the Kukis, and who took advantage of the ill-feeling caused by an attack made by the Rājā's subjects on some Duptung Kukis to incite a rising that unfortunately become diverted to British territory. Some of the Rājā's own subjects also being exasperated by his constant exactions had invited the Kukis to ravage his territories. The raiders were believed to be the followers of Rutton Poiyā."[3]

The concluding portion of the report seems to be significant. The Riangs who used to take loans from the Bengali money-lenders of Khaṇḍal, could not repay the same due to successive failure of crops. The exactions of the creditors led them to join hands with the Kukis.[4]

1 Chaudhury, S.B. op. cit., p. 430.
2 Singha, K.C. op. cit., Part III, Ch. 6, Pp. 65-66.
3 Mr. J.D. Gordon's report and Judicial Proceedings, Nov. 1860, No. 245-47 as quoted by B.C. Chakravarty in his 'British Relations with the Hill Tribes of Assam since 1858, Firma K.L. Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, 1964, p. 50.
4 Singha, Kailash Chandra, op. cit., Pp. 65-66.

British troops raided Rutton Puiyā's village in January next but they could not be tackled as they avoided open conflict, adopted a scortched earth policy and took shelter into the jungles whenever chased. Even "during this expedition a large body of Kukis made a daring raid upon three villages and a rich mart near Udaipur in Tripura".[1]

The Hill Superintendent who was appointed in July 1860, met the Rājā of Tripura and "make the latter undertake (i) the establishment of five frontier posts of twentymen each, connected by roads, (ii) the establishment of a stockade of 150 men on the Fenny connected with the posts of a road, (iii) the appointment of six drill sergeants for his men and (iv) the admittance of a topographical survey."[2]

The death of Isānchandramāṇikya was followed by a series of litigations between Birchandramāṇikya (1862-96 A.D.) on the one hand and Chakraddhaja and Nilakrishna, the two sons of the late Rājā Krishnakisoremāṇikya on the other for succession to the throne and *zemindary*. Birchandra who seized the power in 1861 could formally be invested as *de jure* ruler in 1870 following the verdict of the Privy Council. But in about 1863, shortly after seizure of power he had to face the revolt of the Jamātiās under the leadership of Parikshit. The Jamātiās, though presently practising shifting cultivation, had a long tradition of serving in the militia of the Rājās of Tripura. Being exasperated by the exploitations of Wakhi Rāi, the *Hazari*, they revolted against the *Rāj*, stopped paying taxes and even dared to attack the royal palace at Udaipur. The Rājā who was not prepared for such a peremptory raid, had to escape through the back-door to save his life.

The army sent against them on his return to Agartala was defeated by the rebels. Then the Rājā took the help of two Kuki chiefs Murchhai and Hāppui who sent 600 Kukis to fight against the Jamātiās, who were only 200 in number. They fought to the last but all were killed and their leader Parikshit was captured by the Kukis. It is reported that 200 heads of the Jamātiās were brought to Agartala by the Kukis as token of their victory and were kept hanging in *terrorem*. Parikshit was, however, pardoned by the Rājā.[3]

The most turbulent peace-breakers of the territory in the east were the Lushāis. Both the British and Tripura had to suffer heavy loss of human lives and property because of frequent Lushāi raids.

1 Chakravarty, B.C. op. cit., p. 51.
2 Buckland, C.E., The History of India, Vol. I, Pp. 181-82.
3 Singha, Kailashchandra, op. cit., Ch. XVI p. 183.

As the policy of reconciliation followed by the British so long did not yeild the desired result, "the Government of India ordered the Lushāi Expedition on 11th July, 1871". Thus the Lushāis were subdued thoroughly no doubt, but "this happy conclusion as usual ended in depriving the Tripura Rāj of a large tract of territory all along its Eastern Frontier." The provisional 'inner line' or defence for Tripura fixed in 1874 unilaterally to be the Longāi River, a stream about 48 miles to the west of Tipai Mukh, came to stay as a permanent measure. The Tripura *Rāj*, no doubt, raised voice against this "slicing off of huge strips of country" without any reference to the Rājā of Tripura and suggested that "the Government will be graciously pleased to accept the River Dhaleswari as the Eastern boundary of this State and pass orders accordingly".[1] The question was raised again and again by the *Durbar* but at last in 1897 they were informed by the Chief Commissioner of Assam that the question of the Eastern boundary can not be re-opened.[2] The Rājā's requests were turned down on the following grounds. (1) "the inexpediency of going too near the Lushāis and provoking complications with them; and (ii) the impossible costliness of the Mahārājāh's maintaining proper out-posts along the extended frontier line."

During the early years of the East India Company there was a British Resident at Comilla who was also the Collector of Noakhali and Tipperah districts. The management of the Maharaja's *Zemindary* Chakla Roshanabad was in his hand for sometime. The office of the Political Agent of Hill Tripura was created in 1871 and Mr. W.B. Power was appointed the first Political Agent for Tripura on July 3, 1871 by the British Government. The Political Agent used to address communications to the *Naib* of the Mahārājā, who was in-charge of Maharaja's English office upto 1885. In 1886 *Dewan* became the in-charge of the English office.

About five years later, Birchandramanikya received the personal title of *Maharaja* in 1877 and in return he had to pay 125 gold mohurs as *nazarana* while his predecessor had to pay 111 gold mohurs.

The incidents narrated earlier indicate that the relation of the Tripura *Durbar* with the British Government had all through been somewhat anomalous. The British Government did neither annex the hill territory nor desist from taking any precipitative measure against the interest of this 'independent territory' whenever any such action was considered necessary by them. This could happen only because there was no treaty between the British Government and the Rājā of

1 Sandys, op. cit.
2 Ibid.

Tipperah in regard to the hill territory as is evident from the following observation. "The British Government has no treaty with Tipperah. The Raja of Tipperah stands in a peculiar position in as much as in addition to the hill territory known as 'Independent Tipperah', he is the holder of a considerable *Zemindary* in the district of Tipperah in the plains; he receives his investiture from the British Government and is required to pay the usual *nazarana*, Independent Tipperah is not held by gift from the British Government, or its predecessors, under any title derived from it or them, never having been subjected by the Mughal.[1]

Regarding the tradition and usage that continued upto the last ruler, Maharaja Birbikrammāṇikya (1923-47), Aitchinson observed that "the State pays no tribute but is nominally subject to the *nazarana* rules. Both as regards its own constitution and its relation with the paramount power, Tripura holds a position quite unique, as the Ruler holds *Zamindaries* under the British Government side by side with a sovereign State of comparatively large area with full powers of legislation and unqualified judicial powers extending to the right of inflicting capital punishment on British Indian subjects; while extradition between the State and British India is controlled by the existing general legal principles. There is no written treaty with the paramount power, the relations being governed by recognised usages and customs. The succession is hereditary, subject only to formal recognition of the paramount power, and the perpetuity of the present ruling dynasty had been assumed by a *Sanad* granted to the then ruler by Lord Ampthill on 20th June, 1904. The rulers strike out their own coins once after accession in exercise of their rights. The state is now in direct political relation with the Government of India, and His Excellency the Governor of Bengal is in the position of Agent to the Governor General. His highness enjoys the hereditary title of Mahārājā with a salute of 13 guns and is a member of the Chamber of Princes in his own rights".[2]

The administration of Birchandra was not in favour of permanent settlement of land. As a result even in Comilla town, the upper class of the society had to live in hutments purposely surrounded by a patch of paddy land to prove that these lands were nothing but *jotelands*. The same policy was followed at Agartala also.[3]

In about the end of the year 1880-81 a movement was launched for

1 Aitchinson, C.U., op. cit., p. 77.
2 Aitchinson C.U., op. cit., Pp. 77-78.
3 The works of Sen Nabinchandra, Vol. II, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, (Calcutta, 1959), Pp. 507-08.

Caste movement

raising the status of certain persons, and amongst others the Mahārājā, as Hindus; and the Mahārājā, who was himself concerned in the movement, claimed, as a Kshatriya, a certain position in Hindu society, which other Hindus are not willing to accord him.[1] This movement was resented by the Hindus of the Tipperah District. But some greedy *pundits* of Bikrampur came down to Agartala at the invitation of the ill-advised Mahārājā. They were given from two to six hundred rupees each, for openly drinking the water touched by the Tripuris. The Mahārājā was so much influenced by the intriguers that "all officers who did not join in the movement were removed from the Mahārājā's service and their places filled by those who support it"[2] Nabinchandra Sen, one of the renowned poets of Bengal, was then the Sub-divisional Officer at Fenny, half of which was then under the *zemindari* of the Mahārājā. According to him 'the waterfowls' i.e. the supporters of this 'caste movement' began to torture the *ryots* for tax, the rate of which depended upon the sweet will of these so-called 'waterfowls', According to the report of Nabinchandra, the relation between the Rājā and his subjects was anything but sweet; on the one hand the collectors began to extort the ryots who also resisted them by applying counterforce. Consequently a high tension was created in Chhagalneya *thana* and Parasuram outpost and a riot broke out near the court at Pāthāngarh between the procurers and the *riots* on the ground of forcible harvesting of paddy by the former. This happened within a week from the date of Nabinbabu's joining the post of Subdivisional Officer, Fenny.[3]

The 'caste movement' as it was called, appeared as a double curse. The Tripuris for whom this movement was initiated were debarred from eating pigs, fowls, she-goat etc. and were asked to keep secred thread on their shoulder. Naturally they could not feel happy due to the restrictions imposed upon them. On the other hand, those who left their job were also hard hit. The Hindus living in Tripura organised themselves to offer resistance. The Hindus of the adjoining districts of East Bengal took their side and a great commotion was created in this part of the country. It is reported that though the attempt failed in Hindu society beyond the limits of the state, the claims of the persons interested were enforced in Hill Tipperah itself. The Mahārājā had not only to spend all that he had but also to take huge amount of money as loan to meet the demand of his supporters. The dispute was even extended to the courts and

1 Ibid, p. 11.
2 Bengal Administration Report, 1881-82, Pp. 14-17.
3 Nabinchandra, op. cit., Pp. 439-40.

two Sub-divisional Officers and some leading pleaders left the State in protest.[1] Though the movement lost its strength after four or five years due to the strong opposition it received from all influential people of the State, it took some more years to die a natural death.

In the year 1884-85 it was reported that "the Mahārājāh is begining to see that it cannot at the end succeed, and that all the influential people of the State are opposed to it. Still the movement has not been entirely given up without compromising himself, the Mahārājāh is unable altogether to recede from the point to which he had advanced." It is, however, reported to have been stopped once for all after seven years when the Mahārājā was over head and ears in debt.

Reorganisation of administration

The modern period in the history of Tripura dates perhaps from the time of Birchandramāṇikya, He reorganised the executive and judicial administration after the British Indian fashion; abolished the supreme judicial power so long exercised by the Rājā himself and created a supreme judicial body, *Khas Appeal Adalat*, by appointing two judges. There was actually no political department till the chief control of the administrative organisation was set up as is found in the Administration Report for the year 1906-07. The Report stated that the chief control lies with the Minister whose office was at Agartala and is composed of several departments. The Administration Report for the year 1907-08 stated for the first time that 'the chief control of the administration lies with the Minister who is assisted by the Heads of Department. Some new departments like those of Excise, Stamps and Registration were created and laws were also framed thereunder. Civil and criminal laws were first codified in Tripura during his reign. He introduced a system of law examination in the State to help local aspirants to enter the profession. The territory was subdivided for better administration. Slavery, prevalent in the territory, was abolished in the State in 1878 A.D. on the advice of the British Government.[2] The post of Political Agent was also abolished in the same year and the District Magistrate of Tipperah was appointed the ex-officio Political Agent.

Suttee so long prevalent in Tripura was abolished in 1888, in accordance with the advice given to him by the British authorities.

Birchandra patronised a good number scholars, artists, musicians.

1 Ibid, p. 13.
2 Bengal Administration Report, 1878-79, Pp. 14-17.

Referring to his genius Dr. S. N. Sen observed ; "Birchandramāṇikya earned from the greatful people of Bengal the covetable but appropriate title of *Vikramaditya* of present age."[1] He accorded liberal grants to the *pundits* and *literati* for publishing religious and literary books.

Himself a lyrical poet, Birchandramāṇikya could easily discern the genius of Rabindranāth as a poet at a time when he was not very known to the people. In 1883 after the sudden death of Mahārāni Bhānumati, the bereaved Mahārājā had the occassion of going through *Bhagna Hridaya* (Broken Heart), a poetical work of Rabindranath. The Mahārājā being highly impressed sent felicitations to the poet and also conveyed his desire for intimacy. The incident has been referred to in Tagore's *Jiban Smriti.*

Birchandra died in Calcutta in 1896, after a protracted illness. He was succeeded by Rādhākiśhoremāṇikya during whose reign (1896-1909) perpetuity of the Manikya Dynasty was assured by the British Government through a *Sanad* issued on the 21st June, 1904. But the *Sanad* also clearly stated that every succession is required to be recognised by the Government of India.

Just seven days after the installation of the Mahārājā on the throne on March 5, 1897 an earthquake demolished almost all masonry buildings of Agartala in a few seconds. The Mahārājā erected a new palace 'more dignified and suitable than his predecessors have been able to provide', and built the Victoria Memorial Hospital and some other buildings. Besides, the temple of Lord Jagannātha, a school and a museum were also built. The jail was re-built at his instance.

Rādhākiśhoremāṇikya evinced keen interest in the development of literature. He followed the tradition of his illustrious father, promoted the cause of learning in the State and cultivated relationship with many eminent personalities of Bengal. The Mahārājā resumed the work of re-editing the Rājamālā, started during the reign of his father. *Silalipi-Sangraha* (collection of stone inscriptions) and *Brihahnnaradiya Puran* were published at his instance. The Mahārājā was accorded a public reception by the *Sangit Samaj,* a musical institution of Calcutta. Rabindranath himself took part in the drama, *Visarjan,* staged on that occasion. Rādhākiśhoremāṇikya established many educational institutions in the State, including one free second-grade college. With a view to facilitate mass communication, he opened several post offices

[1] Sen Dr. S.N., Rulers of Tripura (Bengali), *Chunta Prakash,* (extraordinary issue), January 6, 1929.

within the State in co-operation with the postal authorities of British India and improved the road system.

The Mahārājā is said to have been conferred with a title by a conference of Pundits of Vārānasi 'in recognition of his piety and benevolence' only a few days before his death.

Birendrakishoremāṇikya (1909-1923) "...was installed on the throne by His Honor Sir Lancelot Hare, the Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam on behalf of His Excellency, the Viceroy and Governor-General of India on the 25th November, 1909".[1]

The *Amatya Sabha* or the Advisory Council was re-constituted by him. The judiciary was strengthened. Some dispensaries and schools were also opened during his time to cater to the needs of the local people.

To improve the financial condition of the State, he appointed a retrenchment committee but ultimately the idea was dropped and the Mahārājā readily offered a cut from his privy purse to avoid retrenchment. The Penal Code Amendment Act and the Arms Act were passed during his time. Two training schools, one for sericultural and the other for agricultural training of the people were opened by him.

With a view to end the age-old family discord, and 'to administer the State with the assistance of the Rāj family', the Mahārājā appointed Mahārājkumār Navadwipchandra and Mahārājkumār Brajendrakiśhore the Minister, and Private Secretary respectively.

During his reign attention was given to the cultivation of tea and many tracts of waste land were converted into tea gardens. Some new construction work such as the Charmichael Bridge, the Kunjaban Palace and the beautiful Lakshminārāyaṇa temple and several office buildings were undertaken at his will.

The late Mahārājās were, no doubt, highly influenced by the spirit of renaissance that ushered in great changes in the socio-cultural life of the people of Bengal. The poet, Rabindranāth, no doubt, played a great role in developing a cultural link between Bengal and her eastern neighbour Tripura.

[1] Sandys, op. cit., p. 156.

But with due recognition of all the manly qualities of the Mahārājās, it can not but be noticed that only few tangible measures were adopted to improve living conditions of the hill people and to help them derive benefits of socio-economic reforms. They remained in their forest-clad hilly abodes and continued to eke out their livelihood in outlandish ways. The financial stringency under which the late Mahārājās worked, however, might have stood in the way of transforming their visions into reality.

Condition of the hill people

Mahārājā Birbikramkiśhoremāṇikya (1923-47) did not step in immediately after his father's death. The administration was left with a Council, while the young ruler continued his studies. He came to the power after the investiture ceremony was formally solemnised in 1927.

Birbikram-kishoremāṇikya

The young Mahārājā soon realised that to increase efficiency and to ensure progress in administration, power should be decentralised and democratised as far as possible. With that end in view he constituted some councils and committees of which the following may be mentioned : (a) *Mantrana Sabha* (Advisory Council), (b) *Byabasthapak Sabha* (Legislative Council) and (c) *Mantri Parishad* (Executive Council).

Another measure intended to give the village people the right to manage their own affairs through elected members was the constitution of *Grama Mandali*. In 1938, he issued a proclamation by which three such *Grama Mandalis* were ordered to be constituted in Sadar area. After a few months, he ordered that such *Grama Mandalis* will be formed all over the Sadar area. In the next year, it was decided that representatives for the Legislative Council will be elected from among the graduates and under-graduates on the basis of adult franchise. The Mahārājā approved the draft constitution of Tripura in the middle of the year 1941 and issued order for its immediate implementation. But no action was taken in this regard in view of the World War II that was still going on. So far known only 4 *Grama Mandalis* were constituted in all. This also indicates that the measure did receive little response from the people. It was rather viewed that the law was enacted to counter-act the popular movement and to mobilise the loyal chiefs of the planes.[1]

Constitution of Gramamaṇdali

[1] Dutta Biren, *Tripura Janater Ganatantrik Andolaner Rup-o-Nirbachanottar, Tripura, Tripurar Katha* (Bengali), (1359 B.S.), Agartala, p. 22.

The Mahārājā travelled widely all over Europe and America. This, no doubt, enabled him to gain first hand knowledge about the thoughts and ideas of the modern world. The progress of education in those countries impressed him so much that immediately after his coming back to home he drew up a model scheme *vidyapattan* i.e. establishment of educational institutions which included college of arts, science, technology, agriculture, medicine and a rural university. But his dream could not be fulfilled as the cruel hands of death suddenly snatched him away from his people at the age of thirtynine on May 17, 1947.

The Mahārājā was a distinguished member of the Chamber of Princes. He was subsequently elected President of the Council of Rulers for Eastern States.

The Mahārājā, being an astute ruler, had always kept a close eye on India's struggle for independence and with the dawn of independence, he could foresee the changes that may take place in the native states of India. So he did not hesitate to express his decision in favour of joining the Indian Union unlike other princely rulers of India. The Regent Mahārāni, Kanchanpravā Devi, in her proclamation on November 11, 1947 gave voice to the last desire of the late Mahārājā. She said, "The accession of this State to the Indian Union was decided by the late ruler after due consideration and full consultation with all sections of the people."[1]

After the demise of the Mahārājā, *Yuvaraja* Kiritbikramkiśhoremāṇikya Bahadur being minor of age, a Council of Regency had to be formed with his mother Mahārāni Kanchanpravā Devi as the Regent President. The Regent Mahārāni signed the Instrument of Accession on August 13, 1947 and thus its accession to the Indian Union was formally solemnised.

Period of Regency

The Mahārāni as Regent proclaimed that administrative reforms could not be implemented due to the World War II. She, however, assured that she would see that democratic administrative set-up be formed by including the representatives of the villages. During this period, the proposal of constituting one Public Service Commission was also approved by the Regent. The Regent Mahārāni dissolved the Regency Council on the advice of the Government of India on the 12th January, 1948 and took over all powers to herself and appointed the

[1] Proclamation made by Kanchanprava Devi, Regent Maharani, dated November 11, 1947.

Chief Minister to aid her in administration. After a few months the post of the Chief Minister was transformed to the post of *Dewan* of the State on March 21, 1948. The *Dewan* was assisted by one Adviser and a few Secretaries in day-to-day administration.

The Regent's rule came to an end when Agreement of Merger of Tripura with the Indian Union was signed by the Mahārāni, the Regent, on September 9, 1949. Following this agreement an administrator was appointed who took up the administration as Chief Commissioner of Tripura, a Part C State of India on October 15, 1949.

As a result of reorganisation of States effected on November 1, 1956, Tripura became a Union Territory with an Advisory Committee at the Centre to advise the Union Government in regard to :—

(a) General questions of policy relating to the administration of subjects in the State field,

(b) all legislative proposals pertaining to the territory,

(c) matters relating to the annual financial statements of the territory.[1]

Tripura Territorial Council

As a measure of democratisation of the administration the Tripura Territorial Council was formed on August 15, 1959 with the members elected on the basis of adult franchise. In July 1, 1963, the Union Territory of Tripura gained more stature with the dissolution of the Territorial Council and formation of a Council of Ministers and a Legislative Assembly.

Freedom Movement in Tripura

The history of freedom movement in Tripura is marked by two distinct phases. The first phase commenced with the revolutionary activities directed, no doubt, against the British Government in the first decade of this century and ended in the late thirties when a new phase commenced with a local movement launched against the oppressive measures of the princely administration. The second phase ultimately lost its local colour and merged itself in a greater struggle i.e. national struggle for freedom and continued till the territory was integrated with the Indian union in 1949.

[1] White Paper on Indian States, Government of India, Ministry of States, Pp. 229-31.

The first phase of the freedom movement, as it has been indicated, was conspicuously anti-British in nature and pattern and as such it only percolated into this State from the surrounding British districts of Bengal. The revolutionaries had, at the outset, nothing to do against the princely State of Tripura and so they hardly came into clash with the local administration. But the British Government kept keen eye on the activities of the revolutionaries carried inside the native states and as in the case of other native rulers, persuaded the administration of Tripura to take such actions against the political suspects, as were deemed suitable by them. So, it may be taken for granted that the administration of Tripura often took measures to prevent entry of political suspects into the State and also to put a stop to political activities carried secretly inside the State.

The British authorities issued clear instruction that whenever any political suspect would enter or leave the territory, the incident must be reported to the British police immediately in addition to sending of weekly report in this regard. The attitude of the Tripura administration becomes clear from their reports about Nishikanta Ghosh, who after being expelled from Bengal in connection with Barisal Conspiracy Case on December 9, 1915 entered into the princely territory.

The Chief Dewan of the Political Department of Tripura State referring to the case of Nisikanta Ghosh in his letter wrote: "You are aware under what circumstances he has been provisionally allowed to reside in this territory in consultation with you. We have always been unwilling to have him here. This feeling has been intensified by recent events". He also informed that the *Durbar* proposes to expel the political ex-convict Nishikanta Ghosh from the territory provided the Government fix his future residence.[1] This letter also reveals that a small criminal intelligence department with one Inspector-in-Charge was organised in that year by the *Durbar*.

Early revolutionary activities

Written accounts about the revolutionary movement, mostly carried on in secret, are, generally, very scanty. This is more so in case of Tripura, where in absence of sufficient official documents and other authentic reports, one has to depend mostly on stray information and reminiscences of octogenerians.

[1] Unpublished confidential letter of the Chief Dewan, Political Department, Tripura State to J. Bartley, I.C.S. Camp Darjeeling, dated 30-9-16 (D.O. No. 215).

The nature of activities of the revolutionaries in Tripura, was, however, almost the same as it was in other places of Bengal. It was more secret than public. The public part of their activities included opening of clubs or social organizations for training of youths in physical exercises viz. wrestling, *lathi* and dagger-play, boxing and some sort of social services like nursing, relief work for flood-affected or gale-stricken people, helping in cremeation etc. These humanitarian activities, were, no doubt, meant for the general members who formed only the 'outer circle', as it is called, of the club while the selected few, forming the core or 'inner circle', were engaged in secret seditious activities like training of recruits in the use of arms, collection of money and fire arms, political decoities, circulation of prohibited books and bulletins etc.

We get an account of such a club started at Agartala from the reminiscences of an ordinary member of the club.[1] According to him, the 'inner circle' of the club consisted of members like Kshitish-chandra Banerjee, Priyanath Banerjee, Nishikanta Ghosh, Probodh Dasgupta and Jogesh Chakravarty and others. They used to leave Agartala at times for a destination and with some purposes not known to the ordinary members and even after returning to Agartala they never disclosed their whereabouts or activities during the period of their sudden absence.

Thus the revolutionaries of Tripura continued their secret activities in close collaboration with their counterparts in Dacca, Comilla and Tipperah districts of the then Bengal. Some of them, at least, were guided by the leading members of *Anusilan Samiti* which had a pocket in Tripura also. It seems that with the gradual increase of the branches of the said *Samiti*, spread all over Bengal, arrangement for training of its members was made and Tripura is reported to have played an important role in this regard. "For the purpose of training its members, the *Anusilan Samiti* had two farms at Bilonia and Udaipur in Hill Tipperah. These were outwardly, and in part really, agricultural farms but they served mainly as centres for training. During day-time the members worked as labourers in the fields but at night they were given training in the use of different kind of arms, and practised shooting in the neighbouring hills. They had to work hard and live under strict military discipline."[2] Another centre is reported to have started at Melagarh. The third training

1 Bose Satyaranjan; *Tripurar Biplobider Smriti* (Bengali) in *Tripurar Katha*, Vol. VII, No. XIII, August 14, 1957, p. 5.
2 Mazumder R.C. ; History of the Freedom Movement in India; Vol. II, (Calcutta, 1967), p. 286.

centre was functioning a tea-garden at Kailāsahar. According to another writer, "Anusilan Samiti had opened one secret branch at Raja Babu's house, Krishnanagar, Agartala in 1931. Another cell was also opened at 'Narsing Ākhrā, near the present Motor Stand, Agartala.[1]

These training centres came to be regarded as ideal hiding place for the political suspects. It has already been noticed that the administration of Tripura acted according to the instructions of the British authorities and was not inclined to give any shelter to the political suspects of the British India. But the ruler of Tripura is reported to have at least once foiled the attempts of the Comilla Police to arrest two suspects at Sonamura wanted in connection with theft of a revolver. The Mahārājā on being informed of the intention of the police, ordered his men to fetch them to Agartala through hilly tracts. It is reported that the British administration was aware of this sympathetic attitude of the Mahārājā and so whenever any revolutionary absconded, an excuse would be given by them that he might have been 'concealing his presence somewhere in Tripura State."[2]

Khilafat & non-cooperation

In early 1921 *Khilafat* and non-co-operation agitators began to infiltrate into Tripura from the adjoining British districts of Tipperah, Noākhāli, and Sylhet. It is reported that some workers came to Agartala in April 1921 to collect subscriptions but they were summarily sent back like other political agitators. But these measures could not stop anti-British political activities conducted inside the State. The situation took a serious turn after the porter trouble, which, started in Chandpur on May 26, 1921. It led to Railwaymen's strike and general *hartal*. The repercussion of this strike and general *hartal* on the mind of the people of Tripura can be imagined from a confidential letter of the Minister of Tripura to the then Political Agent, Agartala. The Minister wrote: "I was further informed that our *bazar* at Akhaurā, in connection with the porter trouble at Chandpur which led to the strike on the Railway, went on *Hartal* for 2 days. On the 27th I received information that there had been meeting at Akhaurā presided by Babu Dhirendra Nath Dutta, a junior pleader of Comilla Bar, in which there was a discussion and perhaps a resolution of boycotting Agartala bazar as a retaliation for the action of the *Durbar* in supplying provisions to the European staff".[3] Shopkeepers of Mogra also refrained from

1 Sen, T.C., Tripura in Transition (1927-1957 A.D.), (Agartala, December, 1970), Pp. 56-57.
2 Bose Satyaranjan; op. cit., p. 5.
3 Minister's confidential letter No. 566/1-16 to the Political Agent, Agartala, dated 11th June, 1921 (Unpublished).

attending Agartala *bazar* on 29th May. Vigorous propaganda was carried among the fishermen under the leadership of Mahimchandra Das, a pleader, who was himself a fisherman by caste. Some fishes purchased by the *Naib* of the *Durbar* on 30th May were looted on the way. The non-co-operation agitation reached such a height that the Minister could not obtain a boat at Mogra on his way to Agartala. The matter had already been brought to the notice of Commissioner who then approved sending of escort to bring provisions from Ākhaurā and Mogra.

News of non-co-operation agitation reached Agartala from Kailāsahar, Dharmanagar and Bilonia Divisions of the State. The Minister in his letter to the Political Agent, wrote, 'The Collector of Kailāsahar further reported difficulty in obtaining provisions from Shamsernagar and even stopping of carts for conveying goods from Shamsernagar to Kailāsahar and refusal of shopkeepers to supply provisions to our people. The Collector of Bilonia has reported an agitation on the Noākhāli border urging people not to take out permits for export of forest produces from the Division."[1]

The results of propaganda, in the opinion of the Minister, was so acute that the situation called for immediate action. In his words, "I am constrained to observe that the authority of law and order seemed to be dormant in the midst of the general excitement and people have begun to count upon the authority more of the agitators than of the Government."[2]

In Kailāsahar Division, non-co-operation meetings are reported to have been held in Gangānagar, Muktāil and Manikbhāndar *mauzas*. On receiving reports of such meetings held within Tripura State near the tea-gardens situated in British territory, the Political Agent wrote a letter to the Minister of Tripura requesting to prevent such meetings in the State within seven miles from the tea-gardens.[3] The reaction of the British administration is also apparent from the comments of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet in regard to these meetings. According to him though harmless doctrines were preached in some of the meetings, yet there was a 'dangerous innuendo at the bottom of such vapourings'. Orders were issued to all Divisional Officers to prohibit such meetings by injunction.

1 Ibid.
2 Ibid.
3 Letter No. 877-P of Lt. Colonel, B.A. Corbett, Political Agent, Tripura to the Minister of Tripura, dated 11th June, 1921, (unpublished).

A few days after, information was received from Kailāsahar that the agitators were trying to persuade the grocers of Bālāganj to stop sending foodstuff to Agartala because ration was supplied to the European staff of Akhaurā Station from Agartala. The matter was brought to the notice of the Political Agent with request to move the Government of Assam to help the *Durbar* in the matter by stopping picketting.

One of the main aims of the *Khilafat* movement was boycotting of courts and trial of cases by private bodies. It is reported that an organization named *Dharma Sabha* was set up in Kailāsahar with Satishchandra Chaudhury as President and Abdul Mutahir Majumder as Secretary. Both Hindu and Muslim villagers were enrolled as its members. The organization prevented the litigants from going to the courts and arranged for trial of such case by themselves. Notices were issued to the persons who filed cases in the courts, asking them to justify their action. Necessary actions were taken by the *Durbar* to stop such meetings and not to allow the *Sabha* to interfere in non-compoundable cases or police cases.[1]

To narrate the activities of local organizations mention should be made of *Chhatra Sangha* and *Bhatri Sangha* first. The former reported to have been started in 1927 carried on its work partly in secret and partly in public. It is also reported to have received financial assistance from the administration for physical culture.[2] After some-time, some members of *Chhatra Sangha* dissociated with the parent body and started another organization named *Bhatri Sangha*. The youngmen of the locality were associated with either of the organizations which in their turn came to support the two main revolutionary groups of Bengal, viz., *Anusilan Samity* and *Jugantar* Party respectively. In addition to these two main organizations, there were several small pockets in different areas known by different names viz., *Milan Sangha, Matri Sangha* etc.[3]

The active members of these so-called clubs were highly influenced by militant organizations like *Anusilan Samity* and the impact of the news of Chittagong coup in 1930 had been so great upon the mind of the youngmen that even some members of the backward classes and women folk also took part in secret activities. *Bhatri*

1 Order on the confidential report of the Superintendent of Police, Tripura, No. 680 dated 20th June, 1921 (unpublished).

2 Bose, Satyaranjan, op. cit.
3 Dasgupta, Taritmohan, *Tripurai Ganotantrik Andolaner Itikatha;* (Bengali) in *Nagarik*, Vol. V. No. 23. July 1, 1963, p. 3.

Sangha availed of this opportunity and established secret contact with the terrorists of Chittagong.

Mention may here be made of a major raid of the revolutionaries of Tripura. One political decoity was committed at Agartala sometime in 1932, in a so-called medicine shop, Amar Sudha by name, in connivance with the son of the owner of the shop. It was really a pawn-shop. A special Tribunal was constituted at Agartala on 27.8.1932 to try the three accused, namely, Pabitra Paul of Comilla town, Sachindra Dutta of Dharkhar, P.S. Kasba and Krishnapada Chakraborty of Dutshahi, P.S. Tongibari, who were arrested after an exchange of fire.[1]

Krishnapada Chakravarty was sentenced to nine years' rigorous imprisonment while the two others received seven years' rigorous imprisonment each.[2] Robbery of money and arms were also reported from other places. The gun used during Tinsukia Mail Raid, is reported to have been stolen from the custody of one member of the royal family by some members of *Milan Sangha.* Some revolvers and rifles are also reported to have been taken out of the royal armoury.

In early January 1932 a copy of a secret letter seeking co-operation of Indian States in dealing with the Civil Dis-obedience Movement addressed to the Residents at Hyderabad and Mysore, was also sent to Tripura for taking necessary action. It was clearly stated, in the letter that "Although in some cases the States have not hitherto been troubled with political activity antagonistic to the administration, it is clear that the final object of all revolutionary propaganda must be the overthrow of all constitutional governments and that the resultant chaos and disorder will cause no less harm to the rulers and to the population of Indian States than in British India."[3] In conclusion, the Indian States were requested "to co-operate in ensuring that special activities of the Civil Dis-obedience Movement such as the boycott of British goods are not allowed to be practised in their States or their territory and that their States are not used as a basis for agitation in British India."

The first phase of the political movement in Tripura ended with the arrest of almost all the political leaders and workers, some of

1 Unpublished Records in Q.K.M.K. Vigilance Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, 1932 Bundle — 52

Sl. No. 17.

2 Sen, T.C., op. cit., p. 58.

3 Letter No. F. 20-P(S)/32, dated January 4, 1932 (unpublished).

whom were put to jails and detention camps or interned as detenues. Persons absconding in British India appear to have also been tracked, arrested and some of them transported to the Andamans.

The second phase which started after the release of most of the political prisoners in about 1936-37, was more public than a secret movement. It seemed to be exclusively a local movement at the beginning as it sought to redress the grievances of the agrarian population of the State. Based as it was on popular demands, the movement was, no doubt, a mass movement unlike the former.

Opinions differ in regard to the date of formation of Tripura Rajya Gana Parishad.[1] A twenty point demand including those for abolition of *taitung* (a system by which villagers were compelled to carry luggage etc. of the officials on tour), some feudal taxes viz., *Ghar chukti* (family tax) *Ghasuri* (tax on cutting of grass), removal of all restrictions on political activities and introduction of land reforms etc. formed the spearhead of this movement. The peasants were organised under the slogan of 'land for tillers' and the demand for giving lands to the tribal *jhoomias* (practising shifting cultivation) and landless agriculturists were focussed before public eye with increasing force.[2]

The campaign started by the Parishad against Tripura Government's eviction order of five hundred Muslim families of Ramnagar, Agartala is reported to have failed as the Muslims "took a compensation of Rs. 90/- per *kani* of land from the Government.[3]

It appears that though the movement initially started for agrarian reforms in Tripura, it soon merged itself in the national movement demanding full responsible government. The administration took it as a challenge and externed almost all the leaders from the State whereupon they continued to guide the rank and file, from adjoining British districts of Comilla and Sylhet etc. But eventually they were externed from neighbouring British districts also at the order of the British Government. Besides, restrictions were imposed on the movement of the workers inside the State and all sorts of meetings and processions were banned. Measures were also taken not to pass any report to the outside press. But, these measures, however, drastic and stringent, could neither suppress the popular movement nor extinguish the fire kindled in the heart of thousands of inspired men and

1 According to 'Tripura in Transition' it was started in 1935.

2 Singh, S.L., op. cit., p. 6.

3 Sen, T.C., op. cit., p. 22.

women. The more the violence resorted to, the more pronounced was the demand for full responsible government.

The *Gana Parishad,* which was affiliated to the All India State People's Conference, is reported to have extended its activities among tea-garden labourers despite all restrictive orders preventing its workers from entering the gardens.[1] The Harijans of Agartala also supported the movement. Some other organizations, viz., Tripura Rajya Janamangal Samiti, Hitasādhini Sabha also raised the demand of responsible government under the aegis of the Mahārājā.

It gradually gained momentum and spread among the peasants of the *zemindari* of Chāklā Roshnābād, who were debarred from entering Hill Tripura without paying certain taxes viz. *Ghasuri, Dao Chukti* etc.

With a view to appease the aggrieved cultivators of the Chāklā, the Mahārājā convened Chakla Roshnabad *Praja Sammelan* in December, 1937 and announced remission of arrear revenue for three years in that conference. But the conference was abruptly dissolved when the people's representatives demanded immediate release of their leaders. Thereupon they joined hands with the *Gana Parishad* to give vent to their protest against the oppressions of the administration.

The movement became so popular and extensive in nature that the Mahārājā thought it wise to introduce some administrative reforms to put a stop to it. In 1938, therefore, the Praja Mandal Act was passed wherein provision was made for holding elections on communal basis. "For this purpose a distinction was made between Bengali Hindus, Muslims and the Tripur Kshatriyas." The political parties resented the provision of the Act and boycotted the elections. The authorities, then, reacted sharply and sought to put an end to the movement by externing the leaders and arresting others.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, ban was imposed on Tripura Rajya Gana Parishad and Tripura State Congress and many workers of the said organization were held in detention as security prisoners and subsequently sent to jails in Bengal. Since the beginning of the year 1940 all meetings and processions were again banned and thus civil liberty was totally curbed. The security prisoners are reported to have been treated very badly but this report was subsequently denied by the Mahārājā of Tripura.[2]

1 Ibid.
2 Jaharlal Nehru's letter to the Mahārājā of Tripura, dated December 9, 1945 and Mahārājā's reply, dated December 14, 1945. (unpublished).

So long Tripura Rajya Gana Parishad had no direct link with the National Congress. In 1939 a deputation was sent from Tripura to Gandhiji who was then at Mālikandā in the Dacca district and reported to have advised them to put up a relentless fight against feudal oppressions with courage and determination.

A new constitution is reported to have been drafted by the State administration in 1941 but it was not actually introduced on the pretext of the war.

According to an arrangement with the Government of Bengal, 5 detenues of Tripura were transferred to Bengal jails a few months before the launching of the August Movement. Another storm of repression, in the form of large scale arrest, externment etc., swept over the State during the August Movement in 1942. All Congress Committees were banned.[1] But repression could only aggravate the discontent of the people all the more. It is reported that "even a section of the Mahārājā's armed force became restive in the face of political storm."[2]

The political situation of the State had been so tense at that time that it took no time to give a political turn to a so-called messianic movement amongst a section of the Riangs, a scheduled tribe, and to rouse them against the administration of the Mahārājā.[3] The movement was launched by one Ratanmani Noātiā who hailed from Chittagong Hill Tracts. A criminal case was launched against Ratanmani and his associates in the court of the Sadar Magistrate, Tripura under different sections but Ratanmani and his six followers fled to Chittagong Hill Tracts wherein they were arrested by the police and put to Rāngāmāti jail. A request was made by the Chief Minister, Tripura, to the Political Agent, Bengal States on November 29, 1943 to issue extradition warrants for the arrest and prosecution of the accused persons before the Sadar Magistrate, Agartala.[4] The warrant was, accordingly, issued in December, 1943.[5] Ratanmani is reported to have expired while under detention in *Along* (special prison where prisoners were remanded at the order of the Mahārājā) at Agartala. Some of his followers were tried by a special court under a special judge and convicted in July, 1944.

Rising of Ratanmani

1 Notification No. 1-16-C of 6-9-1942.
2 Dasgupta, T.M., op. cit., p. 10.
3 Singha, S.L., op. cit., p. 6.
4 Unpublished letter from Chief Minister, Tripura to the Political Agent, Bengal States, Agartala, Nov. 29, 1943.
5 Unpublished letter from Political Agent, Bengal States to the Dy. Commissioners, Chittagong Hill Tract, No. D. 327/D. 7-1-43, dated December 1947.

According to another version the followers of Ratanmani, a religious leader, actually rose against the Chaudhuries or *Sardars* in protest of their long exploitation and oppression. The Mahārājā of Tripura who ordered his newly appointed *Rai* or the headman of the Riangs to raise a band of soldiers from among the Riangs, was informed that Ratanmani and his followers were propagating against such recruitment. Subsequently reports were also received from Udaipur, Bagafa, Amarpur, Bilonia that Riangs under the leadership of Ratanmani revolted against the administration. The Mahārājā is reported to have ordered 'to burn the houses of the rebel Riangs and arrest them'. The arrested followers of Ratanmani, mostly famine-stricken due to acute shortage of food prevailing over the areas in the wake of the Second World War, were, however, released after shaving off the heads of all male members and compelling them to wear sacred thread (*paita*) and to adopt vaishnavism instead of Śaivaism as their religion. Ratanmani arrested by the British Police while he was crossing over Indian border was 'handed over to Agartala Central jail authority'. After a few hours he is alleged to have been shifted from the central jail to the Mahārājā's house where 'he met with unnatural death.'[1]

The order of ban on All India Congress and other political organizations was vacated in December, 1945 but the order empowering the Magistrate and the Police to stop unlawful meetings and processions and also to control the same organised under lawful order from the competent authority continued upto at least January 18, 1946 as is evidenced from a secret note from the Minister, Police Deptt., to the Minister, Political Department.[2]

The politically-minded people were, by that time, divided into two parallel camps, viz. leftist and rightist guided by two different ideologies. While the rightist group belonging to Gana Parishad reorganized themselves and formed Tripura State Congress and preached the ideas of the National Congress, the leftists launched the Praja Mandal movement under the banner of the Tripura Rajya Praja Mandal. In an appeal issued by the Praja Mandal in 1946, some demands were raised including (i) Tripura State is for the subjects of the State ; (ii) formation of full responsible administration to be controlled by the elected representatives of the people with allegiance to the Mahārājā, (iii) supply of drinking water in the villages, (iv) opening of free charitable dispensary in villages, (v) revival of cottage industries etc.

[1] Sen, T.C., op. cit., Pp. 14-18.
[2] Singh, S.L., op. cit., p. 6.

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Growth of Population

The total population of Tripura, according to the local tabulation of 1961 census data, is 11,42,005. This figure has since been increasing as a result of the influx of displaced persons from the adjoining districts of what is now Bangladesh. This influx greatly increased since January, 1964. The population is, at the close of the year 1964-65 estimated at 15,00,000.

The population trend in Tripura will be available from the following table.

TABLE — I
Population Trend (1901-61)

Year (1)	Population (2)	Variation (3)	Variation in % (4)
1901	1,73,325	—	—
1911	2,29,613	+ 56,288	+32.48
1921	3,04,437	+ 74,824	+32.59
1931	3,82,450	+ 78,013	+25.63
1941	5,13,010	+130,560	+34.14
1951	6,39,029	+126,019	+24.56
1961	11,42,005	+502,976	+78.71

Source: Census of India, 1961, paper No. 1 of 1962, Pp. 8-9.

There are ten sub-divisions in Tripura. Population figures in the sub-divisions are shown in the following table.[1]

TABLE — II

Total population according to Sub-divisions

Sub-division	Area in square Kilometres.	Population	Density (per sq.Km)
Amarpur	1,365	56,365	41
Bilonia	1,021	84,827	83
Dharmanagar	1,766	1,27,548	74
Kailasahar	1,171	1,04,126	87
Kamalpur	601	61,675	99
Khowai	1,393	1,29,948	93
Sabrum	616	43,397	70
Sadar	1,559	3,66,076	235
Sonamura	531	77,969	147
Udaipur	637	90,074	141

Source—(1) Statistical Department, Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1964, Govt. of Tripura, p. 2.

It will be seen that the Sadar sub-division has recorded the highest number of people — about one-third of the total population of the district — though it is not the largest sub-division in area. This is, perhaps, due mainly to the concentration of rehabilitated people in different areas of the sub-division. Amarpur sub-division has recorded the lowest number of people which is due mainly to the absence of communication facilities and the exacting nature of topography that makes difficult the opportunities of gainful employment on the part of the inhabitants. There are 46 tehsils in Tripurā and an analysis of the population in the tehsils will reveal that the distribution of population is very uneven and unsystematic. While there are tehsils with a population of more than 30,000, there are others with only some 500. This is explained by the fact that during the former princely regime little or no systematic efforts were made to develop Tripurā on a uniform basis. While people naturally gathered around the courts and seats of administration the interiors were rather neglected, resulting ultimately in an uneven distribution of population throughout the district.

The density of population in Tripurā has been increasing with each successive census. In 1911 the density per square kilometre was only 35 and in 1951 it rose upto 98, whereas in 1961 it stood at 107.

Tripurā's population is no doubt increasing, but density of population is far less than what is found in some districts of West Bengal. It is believed however that with the development of internal communication and availability of other amenities of life such as housing, drinking water, education and medical aid, Tripurā's population will also increase further in the coming years.

Besides, the major portion of Tripurā is still covered with forests. The north-western areas of the district are more thickly populated than the interiors. The people who migrated to this former princely State in earlier days first settled in the north-west region adjoining the plains of the mainland. They settled in those areas because the portion was more fertile than the interiors and secondly, it had an easy communication being accessible from the nearby railhead.

Population in Sub-divisions

Āgartalā in the Sadar Sub-division being the seat of Government and because of the facilities generally existing in a seat of administration, Sadar has recorded a higher percentage of population in all the census reports as compared with other sub-divisions of the district. Since the census of 1941 the population of Sadar has increased by 216,672 persons. Out of the fiftyfive tea gardens in Tripurā, twenty-six gardens are located in Sadar, and labourers imported from outside for these gardens have added to the increase of population in this area. In Khowāi 1951 census figures showed that the population increased by only 2.8 per cent, but this is not correct. Owing to widespread disturbances enumeration of tribal persons could not be made in the interior and secondly, a large number of tribal people shifted to other parts of the district in quest of virgin soil for *jhoom* cultivation. Upto 1941 the population of Kamalpur was enumerated along with Kailāsahar sub-division, as Kamalpur was separated from Kailāsahar for the second time in 1946 and finally after 1949. But even then the population of Kamalpur as it stands today was ascertained as 24,922 in 1941. During the last twenty years the total population in Kamalpur has increased by 36,753, the largest increase taking place in 1951 due to the influx of a large number of refugees from the neighbouring districts of Bangladesh.

One of the causes of the steady increase of population is due to the abundant supply of cultivable lands in the interior of the sub-division. There is further scope of increase of population in the sub-division, if communication facilities improve within the interior and also with the headquarters of the district. As compared with the

area and available land for cultivation, the increase of population in Kailasahar since 1941 has not been as it could be. The population in Kailasahar has been increasing gradually since the partition of the country in 1947 when displaced persons from Sylhet in Bangladesh began to pour in the sub-division in order to be permanently settled there. The population in Dharmanagar which is the northernmost sub-division in the district is also increasing. During the last twenty years its population has increased by 74,547 persons. Dharmanagar, being the most fertile area of the district with great possibilities of trade and agriculture, people from the adjoining districts of Sylhet (Bangladesh) and Cachar (Assam) have migrated to this sub-division in large numbers and thus added to the total population in the sub-division. In Sonamura, during the last twenty years the population has increased by 45,339 persons. During the ten-year period between 1941 and 1951 the percentage of increase in Sonamura had been 36.5 per cent, of which the natural increase is 25.2 per cent. This high rate of increase in the resident population is largely due to the higher birth rate among the muslim community that live in Sonamura in good numbers. Udaipur, though situated in the interior, is also registering a rapid increase in population owing to communication facilities and greater prospect of agriculture. During the last twenty years the population has increased by 45,123 persons.

The density of population is not very high, considering the fact that the sub-division has a comparatively large area and offers scope for economic development. Amarpur Sub-division is situated in the deep interior which did not have communication facilities previously. The increase of population is not at all satisfactory, although there is a vast area of cultivable land within the sub-division which stands fourth in the district in respect of area. The density of population per square kilometre in Amarpur is the lowest in the district — only 41 per square kilometre according to 1961 census. The low rate of increase in this region is attributed to the fact that migrants from adjoining areas could not enter this hilly region for lack of communication facilities. About 81.3 per cent of the people inhabiting this region is comprised of tribal population and the rest are Bengali Hindus, Muslims and others. During the years between 1921 and 1941 there was a gradual increase in population, though the rate was low. But there was a sudden setback during the period 1941-51 when the population went down by 21.6 per cent. While it is not precisely known why the population decreased during this period, it is assumed that shifting cultivators might have moved out in a mass exodus from the sub-division to other virgin areas for jhoom cultivation. The population increase in Bilonia sub-division has been

the highest in the district during the last twenty years. Some people of the Magh and Chākmā communities from the district of Chittāgong have migrated to this sub-division and have permanently settled here. Bilonia can still have a larger number of people, because there is cultivable waste land here and the system of internal communication has not yet come upto the mark. In Sabrum, the southernmost sub-division in the district, the rate of increase in population is going up and during the period 1941-61 it has increased by 23,163 persons.

As compared to the major sub-divisions of the district, Sabrum has registered not a very high rate of increase in population. This is due to the existence of large areas of forest, dearth of cultivable waste land in the interior and also absence of communication facilities. No other particular significance need be attached to this small increase of population save the fact that the place has little resources to attract people from outside except a few migrants from the adjoining areas of Noakhali and Chittagong (Bangladesh). The population position in the ten sub-divisions is given in the following table :—

TABLE — III

Population Trends in the Sub-divisions (1941-61)

Subdivision	Year	Population	Variation in %
Amarpur	1941	36,072	+ 56.25
	1961	56,365	
Bilonia	1941	32,149	+ 163.85
	1961	84,827	
Dharmanagar	1941	53,001	+ 140.65
	1961	127,548	
Kailasahar	1941	65,036	+ 60.13
	1961	104,126	
Kamalpur	1941	24,922	+ 147.47
	1961	61,675	
Khowai	1941	54,072	+ 140.32
	1961	129,048	
Sabrum	1941	20,773	+ 111.50
	1961	43,397	
Sadar	1941	149,404	+ 145.02
	1961	366,076	
Sonamura	1941	32,630	+ 138.94
	1961	77,969	
Udaipur	1941	44,951	+ 100.38
	1961	90,074	

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura 1965, Govt. of Tripura, Statistical Department, Pp. 3 & 4.

Immigration

When there is no organisation for the registration of migrants, the birth-place of a person is the only determining factor for ascertaining cases of immigration.

There are five types of migration which take place in Tripura: (a) Incidental migration which means minor movements between adjoining villages. This may be of permanent or temporary character. (b) Temporary migration which means movement to meet labour shortage or change of place for business purposes. (c) Periodic migration due to seasonal demands for labour shortage generally during the harvesting period. (d) Semi-permanent migration which means inhabitants of one place earning their living in another, but maintaining connection with houses and ultimately returning there. (e) Permanent migration usually in the nature of colonisation. It is generally a custom in many parts of the district for the women to visit their families at intervals. But the figure of population is not affected by this, since this is compensated by a corresponding movement of people from other states. Temporary migration also takes place during festive occasions particularly to Kailasahar, Udaipur, Agartala and Amarpur from neighbouring areas of the district. It is only during the recent years that the number of permanent migrants has greatly increased as a result of the massive influx of displaced persons from Bangladesh. It was found in 1951 that while 64.5 per cent of the population of the district were permanent residents, 35.5 per cent were migrants from other States. Migrants came also from several districts of Bangladesh. An analysis of the migrants from Bangladesh will show that the number of migrants coming from Noākhāli, Tipperāh, Sylhet is greater than those from other districts of Bangladesh. In addition to the refugees who came over to Tripurā for shelter during communal disturbances, most of the other migrants from Sylhet, Noākhāli and Tipperāh came here for business, agriculture and other callings. The people of these districts migrated to Tripurā in order to be permanently settled.

The people from Bihār, Orissā, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh migrate to Tripurā to work as tea-garden labour and to be employed as P.W.D. workmen. The people from Punjab, Bombay, Ajmere and Assam generally come for business, but their number is very negligible. The number of migrants from other foreign countries except Nepāl is very insignificant. People from Nepal generally come to Tripurā to serve in the Police and Military forces.

The number of migrants from Tripurā to other States is very negligible, and this is partly due to the existence of sufficient cultivable waste land, and partly to the unwillingness of the tribal people to migrate to the plains of other states. The tribal people, of course, migrate from one sub-division to another, but that is an internal movement mainly for *jhoom* or shifting cultivation.

There are six towns in Tripura according to the census of 1961. These towns are—Agartala, Khowai, Kailasahar, Dharmanagar, Udaipur and Bilonia. Excepting Agartalā there is no municipality in any one of them. So for all practical purposes there is only one urban area in Tripurā, and that is the capital town of Āgartalā. The urban areas account for a population of 102,997 which means only 9 per cent of the total population, while the rural areas account for a population of 1,039,008 which means 91 per cent of the population. That Tripurā is still preponderantly rural becomes evident from this figure of population distribution in urban and rural areas. The other five sub-divisional towns are small, though officially declared as urban areas.

The break-up of population in urban areas may be summed up as follows:—

Āgartalā	54,878
Bilonia	8,744
Dharmanagar	13,240
Kailāsahar	8,575
Khowāi	8,782
Udaipur	8,778
Total	102,997 (1961 census).

The variation of population at Āgartalā during the last fifty years is given in the following table.

TABLE — IV

Population of Āgartalā (1911-61)

Year	Total Population	Increase
1911	6,831	—
1921	7,743	912
1931	9,580	1,837
1941	17,693	8,113
1951	42,595	24,902
1961	54,878	12,283

Source: Census of India, 1961, Vol. I, Pt. II-A(1), p. 419.

It will be seen from the above table that during the last fifty years the population of Āgartalā has increased by 47,551. The steady increase received a great momentum in 1951 when the total population increased by 24,902 as against the increase of 8,113 in 1941. This high increase is attributed to the influx of large number of Hindu refugees from Bangladesh due to communal disturbances there. The table further shows that about 4.80 per cent of the population of the district reside in Āgartalā and 4.20 per cent at other five towns, the rest being scattered in the rural areas.

In view of the fact that the principal means of livelihood of the people of the district is agriculture; majority of the people—about 91 per cent—live in rural areas. In the absence of any satisfactory expansion of industry, trade and commerce which actually are the main features of an urban area, no town except Āgartalā has grown as yet to any considerable extent in Tripurā. Considering the rapid increase in population as also other economic activities and development in communication, it is quite likely that the sub-divisional headquarters, some of which are already treated as urban areas, will grow into full-fledged towns in future.

The rural areas in Tripurā may be divided into two categories. First, there are the areas which may be called 'Pādās' in the hills. In these areas the tribal people mainly reside. Secondly, there are those areas in the plains worked out by petty cultivators controlled by the revenue administration, *tālukdārs* or *jotedārs*. The *tālukdārs* as a class do no longer exist as a result of land reforms in Tripurā that have abolished all intermediate zemindary rights of private parties over lands.

The tribal people, as a rule, do not stay in the plains. They live on raised dwellings on *tillā* lands or high grounds adjoining a river, streamlet or what is generally termed as *charās*. These small tribal habitations are called 'Pādās'. Each pāda in the hill may be formed of two or three to forty or fifty houses according to the location of the areas. The system of *jhoom* cultivation being the principal means of their livelihood, they are mostly migratory and are called *jhoomias*.

The villages in the plains are similar to those found in the rural areas of Bengal. The cultivators there build houses near their own lands and thus form into villages. There are 4,932 villages in Tripurā according to 1961 census.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN TRIPURA

Historical Background

A glance at a map of India and Bangladesh will show why Tripura has received a large proportion of refugees. Being surrounded on three sides by Bangladesh and having a common border with the districts of Chittāgong, Noākhāli, Comillā and Sylhet, Tripura is the easiest place of migration of minority community of Bangladesh whenever such migration is essential due to political or communal troubles.

The influx of migrants in Tripura began almost in 1942 when a great communal riot took place in Raipur P.S. in the district of Dacca (now in Bangladesh). Maharaja Birbikramkishoremānikya Bahadur, the then ruler, undertook all sorts of relief and rehabilitation measures for the suffering migrants. Again communal riots broke out on a large scale in the district of Noākhāli and in Chāndpur subdivision of the district of Tipperah (now Comillā) in response to the 'Direct Action Day' declared by the Muslim League in Calcutta on 16.8.46. Consequently, a large number of migrants came to Tripura and the then ruler again provided rehabilitation to the sufferers of communal frenzy. Subsequently, some of the migrants returned to their respective homes on the assurance given by Mahatma Gandhi, but the majority of them did not respond to it and settled in Tripura.

The communal riot which took place early in 1950 in Bangladesh was directed against the minorities. It broke out in an extensive scale in almost all the districts of Bangladesh. The influx of displaced persons into Tripura started on a large scale from the middle of February, 1950. It was heaviest during the years 1950 and 1952 and 1955-56. Upto 1958, the total number of displaced persons, who officially registered themselves as refugees, was 3.74 lakhs comprising 83,000 families, of whom about 70,339 families (about 3,20,000 persons) were rendered rehabilitation assistance in one form or another, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 13.31 crores. The remaining families did not approach the Administration for rehabilitation benefit or having approached could not fulfil the requisite condition for grant of such benefits.

Movement of influx into Tripurā started mainly after the partition of the country and continued unabated till 1957. There was a fall of influx of refugees from Bangladesh and official registration was stopped from 1st May, 1958. Upto the above mentioned period 83,000 families consisting of 3,74,000 persons officially registered themselves as displaced persons from Bangladesh. Another wake of

migration traffic started from the middle of 1963, consequent on the great communal riot in Khulna, Jessore and other districts of Bangladesh. Almost all these migrants (from 1963 upto March, 1965) entered Tripura through unauthorised routes and without any travel documents. Government of India, Ministry of Rehabilitation, ordered not to entertain any migrant coming without travel document with effect from 1st April, 1965.

Rehabilitation programme has been mainly of two kinds, direct rehabilitation by Government and rehabilitation by refugees themselves with the assistance of the Government. In the matter of direct rehabilitation, 75 colonies were set up, out of which 35 were purely agricultural ones. They were granted loans for house building, purchase agricultural implements and were allotted land from khas area or from land acquired by the Government or in lieu thereof were given loan for purchasing land. In addition, they were favoured with maintenance grant for 9 months. The remaining 40 colonies comprised of agriculturists or businessmen. Those who wanted to be rehabilitated as agriculturists were given land and loan for building house, loan for purchasing bullocks and agricultural implements and arable land from khas area or by acquisition. Those who wanted to be rehabilitated as petty businessmen were given land and loan for building house and loan for business. Both were given maintenance grant also.

The displaced persons wanted to rehabilitate themselves according to their own choice, among the following :—

(a) Rural agriculture,
(b) Rural business,
(c) Urban business,
(d) Urban housing,

The displaced persons under these categories arranged for purchasing their land and were given loan for purchasing land, and also building house. Those who wanted to be rehabilitated as businessmen were given loan for business and also for purchasing land and building house.

Problems of migrants who have come on exchange of properties

6,828 families comprising of 35,073 persons came to Tripura on exchange of properties with the Indian Muslims. As they required some assistance to settle on the land, they were given loans for purchase of bullocks. Seeds and manures were distributed to them free

of cost. Besides, tube-wells were sunk in places of concentration of the migrants.[1]

Settlement of the Jhoomias

Rehabilitation of the Jhoomias has also made considerable progress which has already been reviewed. There are about 27,000 tribal families practising jhooming in Tripura. Of these 19,767 families have been settled on land as permanent cultivators at a total expenditure of Rs. 82.873 lakhs. Fiftyone model Jhoomia colonies have been established throughout the territory.[2]

Language

The comparative strength of the main language groups in the district and their variation during the period 1931-1961 are shown in the following table.

TABLE — V*

Language Groups (1931-1961)

Language	Number of Speakers 1931	1961	Variation since 1931	
Bengali	165,530	722,442	+	556,912
Hindi	12,804	18,451	+	5,647
Assamese	467	123	—	344
Santhali	2,173	1,634	—	539
Oriya	5,457	11,582	+	6,125
Telegu	1,918	1,713	—	205
Tripuri	148,298	211,883	+	63,585
Chakma	5,220	22,361	+	17,141
Kuki	1,470	1,902	+	432
Manipuri/Meithei	19,536	27,940	+	8,404
Halam	10,370	5,481	—	4,889
Garo	2,740	5,458	+	2,718
Lushai/Mizo	2,000	2,941	+	941
Khashi	23	332	+	309
Nepali	875	1,682	—	807

* Source: Census Report, Tripura, 1340 T.E. Pp. 45-48.
[1] Tripura on the March, Govt. of Tripura, March 1966, p. 49.
[2] Tripura on the March, 1968, Govt. of Tripura, Pp. 46-47.

It is to be noted that the strength shown against each language in the above table represents the number of speakers who have recorded that language as their mother-tongue in the respective censuses. As will be seen, Bengali remains the dominant language in the district.

The rulers of Tripura adopted Bengali as the court language, and it was the language of administration before merger of the district with the Indian Union in 1949. Bengali naturally enjoyed a position of pride in the district, and through the encouragement given to it by the erstwhile rulers, it has firmly established itself in every walk of life. There are groups of people who use this language even though they have a separate dialect of their own that is used exclusively within the community. It is reasonable to assume that about 80 per cent of the population in the district can use Bengali in the daily business of life. The rapid increase in the number of speakers of Bengali is attributable first, to natural increase of population and secondly to the influx of displaced persons who have migrated here from the Bengali-speaking areas outlying the district.

The next important language is Tripurī, the language of the Tripurās, the former ruling community of the territory. Distributing the language by natural division, we find the greatest prevalence of this language in Khowai, Sadar, Amarpur and Kailasahar Sub-divisions of the district. This language is found only in Tripurā and adjoining districts of Tipperāh and Chittāgong Hill Tracts. The enlightened section of the Tripurās whose intellectual and cultural attainments are as high as those of any other advanced community, has a commendable mastery over Bengali, and in the former ruling family there had been persons whose literary talents were remarkable. To this section of the Tripurās Bengali is as good as mother-tongue. The increase in the number of Tripuri-speaking people is slow according to the 1961 census which may be explained by the fact that a large number of Tripurās who know Bengali much better than Tripurī have recorded the former language as their mother-tongue. Tripurī has got a limited vocabulary, a fairly systematic grammar but no scirpt. It follows the Bengali script.

Hālām is the mother-tongue of the Hālām tribe and Rankhal is the dialect which is considered to be an offshoot from the Hālām dialect. The Chākmā dialect differs in many respect from Bengali, but it may be said that the influence of Bengali over Chāmkā is quite predominant. Of the Hindusthāni languages only Hindi and Urdu are spoken here, and of the two groups the Hindi-speakers are numerically greater. They are scattered all over the district. The languages of Bodo, Gāro and Khāshiās as also those of Lushais and Manipuris are treated as languages of Assam. But many people of these language groups have been staying in this district for a good length of time. The people who returned their mother-tongue as Oriya, Sānthāli, Kheroāri etc. migrated to this place mainly from Orissa and Bihar. The Mogh community speaks mainly the language of Burma. They are to be

found mostly in Sabrum and Bilonia, and their past historical associations are well known. The speakers of Arabic, Persian and English are very few. They were counted as only 220 in 1951. A significant fact is that there are some tribes who do not seem to have any dialect of their own. They are powerfully influenced by the dialect of another tribal group which they pick up and use in their daily intercourse of life. Mention may be made of such tribal groups in this connexion as Chāimal, Mundā, Bhil, Kaur etc.

Religion And Communities

There are only four predominant communities in Tripura professing different religious beliefs — Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians. Most of the tribal people have their own tribal customs and beliefs, but in the broader sense of religion they are believed to be followers of Hinduism and they have been all along returned as Hindus since the census of 1891. Only the Lushāi, Kuki and some people of the Gāro community have returned themselves as Christians, since Christianity has quite a good following among these communities. The Mogh and Chākmā communities as well as a few people of other tribes were declared as scheduled tribes but they profess Buddhism. The number of people professing Jainism and Sikhism is very negligible. After the census of 1881 no person was returned as an animist. Details regarding religious groups in the sub-divisions according to 1961 census are given in the following table.

TABLE — VI*

Religious Groups in Sub-divisions (1961)

Subdivision	Total	Hindu	Muslim	Buddhist	Christian	Siks	Others
Amarpur	56,365	39,449	10,139	6,214	561	2	—
Biloniā	84,827	63,768	15,665	5,216	178	—	—
Dharma-nagar	1,27,548	86,768	28,718	7,779	4,198	1	84
Kailā-sahar	104,126	79,366	15,166	7,455	2,080	1	58
Kamalpur	61,677	55,997	4,088	770	820	—	—
Khowāi	1,29,948	1,20,325	9,239	135	234	5	10
Sabrum	43,397	34,610	2,960	5,827	—	—	—
Sadar	3,66,076	3,14,450	50,306	100	1,143	35	42
Sonāmurā	77,969	29,846	48,084	22	13	4	—
Udaipur	90,074	43,419	45,637	198	812	1	7

* Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, p. 15.

An analysis of the figures will show that Hindus constitute 76 per-cent of the population, Muslims 20.1 per cent, Buddhists 2.9 per cent, Christians 0.87 per cent and the rest 0.03 per cent. The *Hindus* as a whole have occupied a very important place commanding an over-whelming majority of the population. Next to the Hindus, the Muslims occupy the second position in the district.

The Muslims of the neighbouring districts have migrated to this territory mainly due to abundant supply of cultivable waste land, and they have subsequently settled even in the interiors. During the period of Muslim rule in Bengal, Tripurā was subjected to Muslim invasion on a number of occasions. The Muslims could never subjugate the territory completely, but exercised a certain measure of suzerainty over the local rulers for some limited period of time. It was during this period that Muslims in some numbers entered into Tripura from the western side and settled in Udaipur and Sonāmurā along with the ruling caste. It is probable that conversion also took place to some extent particularly among the lower strata of the Hindu society. This accounts for the majority of Muslim population in Sonāmurā and Udaipur — areas which lay either across the route of the invading armies or happened to be the principal seats of administration. Upto 1941 the rate of increase among the Buddhists was higher than that among the Hindus and Muslims. But a fall in the rate is marked in 1951 and this perhaps was due to enumeration of a large number of Buddhists as Hindus. The Mogh and Chākmā communities of the district from Chittagong Hill Tracts profess Buddhism and they are to be found mainly in Sabrum, Bilonia, Amarpur and Kailasahar Sub-divisions of the district. The rate of increase among the Christians was very small upto 1911, but from 1920 their number began to in-crease rapidly when the Lushāis and Kukis embraced Christianity in large numbers. As regards others, the number of Sikhs, Jains and Parsees residing in the district is very few. They are not per-manent residents of Tripurā but have come over here for purposes of service and trade.

Since the communal disturbances of 1964 in Bangladesh, *Hindus* have been continuously pouring into Tripura and there is every possi-bility that the census of 1971 will register an unusual increase in the number of Hindus. On the other hand, the percentage of Muslim population may fall owing to the voluntary migration by some Muslims to the adjoining districts in Bangladesh.

Communities and Tribes

It will be evident from the figures stated earlier that the Bangalees

comprising both Hindus and Muslims constitute the most predominant community in the population of Tripura. Regarding their social customs, family traditions and cultural patterns, there is hardly any-thing new to add except that they follow the same traditions as pre-valent in Bengal. Apart from the Bengalees who constitute 63.26 per cent of the population, there is an important section of the people in the district known as the tribal communities who make up for the rest of the population.

According to the order of the President of India in 1956 on the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Tripura, there are nineteen scheduled tribes in Tripura. These tribes are — Lushāi, Mogh Kuki, Chākmā, Gāro,, Chāimal, Halam, Khasia, Bhutia, Kunda (including Kaur), Orāng, Lepchā, Sānthal, Bhīl, Tripurā, Jamatia, Noatia, Reang and Uchāi. Although tribal distinctions and dialects may not have any special significance, they are important in their individual social life. The number of tribal people according to 1961 census is 360,070 which accounts for 31.53 per cent of the total population in the district. A discussion is made in the following pages, somewhat briefly, about the important tribes in respect of their social, economic and other aspects of life.

The Tripurās

The Tripurās are divided into two groups — *Purān* Tripurās and *Natun* Tripurās. *Purān Tripurās* are the original inhabitants of the district. The former rulers of Tripurā emerged from this class. The ruling section of this group was also known as *Thakur* people. The *Natun* Tripurās came into existence at later periods as a result of marital contacts between the *Puran* Tripuras and a certain section of the Bengalee settlers. At the time of 1951 census no difference was made between the *Puran* and *Natun* Tripuras and they were enumerated under the one common head 'Tripura'. Between the *Natun* Tripuras and that section of the *Puran* Tripuras who dwell on the slope of the hills, there is a *great deal of differences* in respect of language, customs, tradition and culture, the former being greatly under the influence of the social and cultural pattern of the Bengalees. The Tripuras taken as a whole constitute the most weighty section of the entire tribal community, representing more than 50 per cent of the total tribal population of the district.

As already said, the *Puran* Tripuras are original residents of the district and they claim themselves to be descendants of the Kshatriyas. Among the tribal sections their supremacy is unchallenged in all

respects. Although very predominant in Khowai and Sadar Sub-divisions, they are to be found in every part of the district. A section of the Tripura community has advanced so fast in matters of education, culture and general enlightenment that it is a misnomer to include them within the tribal or hill Tripuras who still live their distinctive tribal ways of life on the slope of hills in the interirors.

In this section are to be found high public officials, writers, musicians, engineers, doctors etc., and as things stand today, they have nothing in common with the hill Tripuras except perhaps their old racial origin. So in all our discussion about the tribal people this group has to be automatically excluded.

The tribal Tripuras generally live on the slope of hills or hillocks in a group of five to fifty families. Their houses are built of bamboo and raised five or six feet high above the ground to avoid the dangers from the wild animals. Now-a-days some people are settling on the plains and erecting houses like the plains-people, adopting their methods of cultivation and following them in other aspects of life, such as dress, manners and cosmetics. Many of them are putting on mill cloth. Their occupations have not changed very much. They till lands, fetch wood from the forest, sell vegetables and bamboos or work as hired labourers. The women weave cloth in their traditional loin-looms, take care of the pigs and fowl and help men at the time of jhoom. At present, many Tripura young men have become good technicians and are working as motor-drivers, rickshaw-pullers or workshop mechanics.

The women generally leave their head uncovered like other tribal women and wear a scarf that reaches down upto the knee. They weave in their loin-loom a small piece of cloth which they call *ri-shā* (*ri* — cloth, *shā* — something small), and they use this small piece of cloth as their breast garment. As with all tribal people, the women of the Tripurās are very fond of scented flowers and leaves which suit them nicely as natural ornaments. The use of metal ornaments is quite common now-a-days.

Tripuri is the language of the Tripurā community. It has no script. It is written in Bengali alphabet. Almost all the Tripurās can speak and understand Bengali. They are, to all intents and purposes, Hindus and practise the religious rites as other Hindus do. Even in the *pujās* confined exclusively to them the form of worship and rituals have a striking resemblance to what is practised by the Hindus.

The Reangs

Next to the Tripuras the Reangs constitute the second biggest group among the tribal population. In 1961 their number was ascertained as 56,597 persons.

One cannot say definitely about the original habitat of the Reangs. It is now believed that they migrated to Tripurā from somewhere in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the middle part of the fifteenth century during the rule of Ratnamanikya I. Formerly they were to be found mainly in Amarpur and Bilonia Sub-divisions, but now they are distributed all over the district. It is often said that the Reangs are of Kuki origin and formerly they were palki-bearers of the Tripurā rājās.

The Reangs are divided into two broad groups: *Meshka* or *Mechka* and *Marchai* or *Malchai*. Within the *Meshka* group there are again some sub-groups, the principal among whom are the *Masha* and *Raichak*. In the *Marchai* group also there are sub-groups, the chief among whom are the *Reang, Apet* and Champung sub-groups.

Within their own social fold the Reangs are a very disciplined community and this explains why the community suffers so little from internal feuds and dissension. They have their own form of internal government based on a system of well-defined hierarchy. The head of the community enjoys the title Rai. The Reangs look up to him as their own monarch whose word is supreme in all matters of internal dispute, and it has to be obeyed. The heir-apparent to the Rai is called *Chāpiā Khān* and the next in the line of succession is called *Chāpin*. Succession is not hereditary and it is determined by the qualities of leadership. The personal retinue of the *Rāi* is quite respectable which includes, among others, a priest, a clerk, a drum-beater, an umbrella-carrier, a flute-player and a store-keeper. The chief minister of the *Rāi* is called *Rāikachak* who also must possess a personal retinue, in keeping with the honour of his high office, including an adviser, personal assistant and hewers of wood and drawers of water. During the princely regime, the rulers had hardly any direct contact with their tribal subjects. Whatever contact they made was done invariably through the local chieftains who enjoyed almost absolute autonomy in the internal affairs of the community and to all intents and purposes, acted as agents of the ruler. If these chieftains were loyal, which they usually had been, peace in the hills was assured and it, therefore, proved a paying policy not to disturb this tribal autonomy inside the hills.

In comparison with the Tripurās, the Reangs are very backward both educationally and economically. One of the chief causes of their appalling poverty is addiction to excessive drinking. They have

the right to distil liquor in their indegenous process for consumption at home and within the community. Their only resources are what they get as yield from jhoom cultivation. Recently some of them are taking to plough cultivation and minor forms of trade. Most of the Reang people are steeped in abject poverty and are just eking out a miserable existence. They are very extravagant, and if they have nothing else to spend on, they organise a community feast, revel in drinking and dancing and exhaust whatever might have been kept away as provision against a rainy day.

Reang women take particular care of their hairs and they prefer fragrant flowers as ornaments to metal things. Formerly they were never in the habit of buying mill-made textiles or other manufactured goods, but now-a-days they are often found to purchase toilet soap, scented hair oil and cosmetics. The malefolk are gradually taking to dhoties, coats and shirts. The Reangs are very fond of music and dance.

Generally the Reangs are believers in the *Sakta* cult but now-a-days some of them are turning to *Vaishnavism*. They worship many gods and goddesses. The system of worship comprises both Hindu practices and animistric rites. The principal gods and goddesses are:

1. Matāi Katar —Principal deities Lord Siva and Durga are worshipped as Matai Katar.
2. Tuimā —Goddess of water and river. The worship of the streamlet that flows by their habitation and provides it with water supply is an important religious festival of the Reangs. The worship of mother Ganga is also called tuimā.
3. Sāngrāmā —God of the hills.
4. Khulumā —God of cotton; it is significant that cotton specially should have a god to be worshipped.
5. Minlongma —Goddess of corn and wealth.
6. Buruirāo —Seven goddess of witchcraft.
7. Lāmprā —God of the sea and sky.

The Reangs celebrate two pujas which are directly related to their cultivation. One is held immediately prior to the commencement of the jhoom. Its principal objective is propitiation of the gods so that all members of the community, specially the able-bodied ones, keep well during the period of cultivation. The second one is held after the new crop has been harvested and this provides an occasion at once for worship and festivities. The second puja is quite akin to the *navanna* (new crop) festival of the Bengalees. Moreover, once in a year from all over the district assemble the Reangs at one place to celebrate the worship of *Tripurasundari* or *Lakshmi* or *Ker* or goddess of the river. It is, for all practical purposes, more of a social get-together than a religious congregation wherein the whole community worships, feasts, sings, dances, drinks to the lees, compromises all internal differences and seeks to bind all members of the community by the strongest possible bonds of unity, love and brotherhood. A good amount of money is spent for this annual festival and that is raised through subscriptions. If anything is left over as surplus, a part goes to the chieftains while the rest is kept away as reserve to be spent for the future benefit of the community.

The Reangs allow great freedom of intercourse between the sexes. Seldom does a Reang girl go astray and leave her clan. An illegitimate birth is not known among them, for the simple reason that in case a girl becomes expectant, the boy has to marry her. Reang girls never suffer from any difficulty. They are free and frank as the forest flowers or the gentle breeze, but with all their gay abandon they possess a mute coyness and modesty that is attractive. The Reangs follow a system of marriage that is quite akin to that of the Tripuras. The dowry system is looked down upon. In case of a negotiated marriage the groom has to stay and work for two years at his father-in-law's house.

This is the period of probation and during this period the girl is, to all intents and purposes, a wife to the young probationer. The boy is watched and if found fit and the partners like each other, the marriage is solemnised. If not, the boy is sent away from the bride's house and whatever might have happened between the boy and the girl is neatly forgotten. Child marriage is unknown among the Reangs. While marriages are settled through negotiation by the guardians under ordinary circumstances, courtship and love marriage also is not uncommon. If the boy leaves the bride's place of his own accord before the period of probation is complete, he forfeits all claim over her, and the father is left free to give the girl away in marriage to any persons he likes. A widow has to take off all her ornaments after

the death of husband and lead a life of celibacy for one year. After that period re-marriage is allowed. A widower also cannot re-marry within a year of losing the wife. Any violation of this custom meets with punishment in terms of monetary fine. Polygamy is not allowed within the Reang community and divorce too is ruled out unless both the partners desire a separation. This has kept stable the institution of marriage. Adultery or polygamous propensities are severely punished. Another commendable feature of the Reangs is that they never allow an elderly widower to marry a young girl far junior to him in age. They always insist on a proportionate age level between the couple and discriminatory treatment toward the weaker sex in this respect is strictly forbidden.

The Reangs are an emotional people and they flare up as quickly as they cool down. This is perhaps the case with most of the tribal people who, being intrinsically honest and open-hearted, are led more by impulse than cool calculation, when something happens contrary to their accepted code of conduct. In days of yore when Tripura was ruled by the princes, the Reangs constituted one of the strongest pillars of the state's military forces and they were much respected for their martial qualities. In Tripura's history two Reang generals of Maharaja Dhanyamanikya stand out very prominently. They are Raikachak and Raikacham who convincingly defeated the invading army of Hussain Shah, the Sultan of Bengal in the fifteenth century. The Reangs are also known much for their loyalty to the king or leader which leads to bind the community into a disciplined group of people.

The Jamatias

The Jamatias form just a section of the Tripurās. During the royal regime they constituted a section of the fighting forces of the rulers. In fact, the term has originated from the term *jamayet* which means gathering or mobilisation. They are the people who during princely rule were first asked to mobilise in times of an emergency to form the core of the army. They are now to be found in all parts of the district except Dharmanagar, Kailasahar and Kamalpur. The Jamatias are now settling down in the plains, building houses in the manner of the plains people and taking to plough cultivation in preference to jhoom. They declare themselves as Hindus, though their religion includes both Hindu and animistic rites. They have many systems in common with the Bengalees and their system of marriage is well developed. The custom of taking money from the groom's party at the time of marriage is considered heinous among the Jamatias. In

education they are still far behind the Tripuras, though they are gradually coming under the fold of literacy.

Jamatia women are experts in weaving. The Jamatia males of the plains are now dressed as Bengalees in mill textiles, while women have still retained the tradition of their weaving skill and usually dress in their customary way with a knee-deep scarf and small breast garment leaving the shoulders bare.

The Jamatias constitute the third largest group among the tribal people and in 1961 census 24,359 persons were recorded as Jamatias.

The Chākmās

The Chakmas, the fourth largest tribal group in Tripura, are to be found mainly in the sub-divisions of Kailasahar, Amarpur, Sabrum, Udaipur and Bilonia. According to the 1961 census, the number of Chakmas was recorded as 22,386 persons. They are followers of Buddhism, although there are some who are akin to the Hindus and have yet to embrace Buddhism. The Chakmas are divided into several groups and sub-sections, but no major difference is noticed in the manners and customs of the groups. These sections appear to have come into existence from the sectional leaders who might have wished to perpetuate their lines in the form of a following which in course of time might have organised into different sections within the broad community. The Chakma chiefs are generally called Dewans and they exercise great authority and influence within the community in all internal matters.

The Chakmas do not allow child marriage in their society, but some cases have recently been reported of child marriage. Child marriage has gained an upperhand in the Chakma community and unless discouraged in time the system will perhaps come to stay and gain momentum gradually. Marriage is generally settled by the guardians and the conjugal life of the Chakmas is on the whole happy and harmonious.

Women look after the happiness and comforts of men with particular care and this is considered to be the foremost duty of women. They also help men in jhooming and share labour with them almost equally. Their dietary habits are almost the same as that of the Kukis.

As is the case with all tribal women, the Chakma women also are experts in weaving. They put on hand-woven garments, while the men-

folk have taken to mill-made dresses. The Chakma women are very fond of flowers which they often use in the tress of their hairs. They also use metal ornaments which to some extent resemble those of the Bengalees. The Chakmas are very neat and clean in their domestic life. They depend mainly on jhoom for livelihood ; a few are now turning to plough cultivation. There are others who are getting engaged in services. They have made little advance in education as compared with the Chakmas of Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh) among whom can be found men of learning and piety. Drinking is not common among the Chakmas. but they are much addicted to smoking. Both men and women smoke profusely using different varieties of tobacco preparation.

The funeral ceremony of the deceased is held with great pomp and eclat. The dead body is kept in a wooden box for five to seven days after which men and women assemble to burn it and make gifts according to means. Although Buddhist by religion, the Chakmas have made a curious blending of Buddhism, Vaishnavism and even Islam in their prayer and religious couplets.

The Hālāms.

The Halams originally were one of the branches of the Kukis. It is said that the Kukis had lived in Tripura even before the Tripuras came in to conquer the land.

Those of the Kukis who had submitted to the Tripurā rājā came to be known as Hālāms. The Hālāms say that their fore-fathers were residents of Khorpintabhim a village in north-west Manipur, from where they spread out in Tripurā. Although of Kuki origin, the Hālāms have now-a-days become followers of the Tripurās in social manners and customs. Originally the tribe was divided into twelve sub-groups or *dafās,* but in course of time these sub-groups have further split into sections and now as many as sixteen clans are found to be making up for the whole Hālām community. Each clan has a name of its own that is quite meaningful and is derived either from the headman of the clan or the name of the place inhabitated by them.

The Hālāms are also followers of the *Sākta* cult, but the influence of Vaishnavism is quite marked in two sections — *Kalai* and *Rūpinī*. They follow the form of worship as practised by the Hindus and at the same time worship gods and goddesses in their own tribal way. They believe that God is one and the details are just parts of the supreme Lord who should also be appeased separately. They believe in the

existence of spirits too. Their idea is that the spirits possess supernatural powers to control the elements and not all of them are benign. So their worship must also be solemnised with offerings and sacrifice so that nothing calamitious bafalls the community in the form of crop failure or epidemic or any other natural disaster. The *Ker pujā* is a must with the Hālāms. Their *pujā* starts only after it has been done by the ruling family of Tripura. During the puja no outsider is allowed to enter into their settlement. The saying goes that the punishment for any tresspass is death.

Their most important religious festival is *bara pujā*. It is very expensive and hence celebrated once in every four or five years in a collective way when Halams of different areas assemble together, raise subscriptions and obesrve the rituals. Goats, fowls and pigs are sacrificed in large numbers and after the *pujā* there is, of course, plenty of liquor to wash the heavy luncheon down. During this festival they sit together to settle all internal disputes, try cases of crime and inflict punishment on the offenders which makes the *pujā* a useful social gathering in keeping peace and harmony within the community.

The Hālāms were once very notorious for their ferocity and the saying goes that they were cannibals in the past. Today they are as good or bad as any other tribal community. Their loyalty and devotion to the gods and king is legendary. To them the king was the living god and they surrender to him with an innate sense of dedication that was almost religious in fervour. Formerly they were recruited in the army in large numbers. They are also good hunters.

Widow marriage is in vogue within the Halam community. Child marriage was formerly prohibited but it is now taking place in some areas. To solemnise a marriage the consent of both the groom and the bride is necessary. A groom is required to stay in the house of the bride's father for a continuous period of four to five years preceeding the marriage and render honorary service there. Usually no religious ceremony accompanies the wedding but only entertainments in the form of feast, dance and drinking are offered. No male can take a second wife in the life time of the first one unless a divorce is granted by the society.

A woman also divorces her first husband and seeks a second one in which case the children, if any, should go to the husband and cannot be taken by the woman.

The Hālāms observe some rites after the death of a person but there is no fixed period of time on the expiry of which such rites should be

held. It all depends upon the convenience and circumstances of the family. During such rituals, rice, cloth and wine are offered to the priest as gifts. It is the right of the first male in the line of succession to perform the rites ; when there is no issue, the right goes to the wife and if there is no wife, the brother will step in. A person who leaves none of the above-mentioned relations behind has to remain content in the other world without any religious services whatsoever in his favour. The property of such a person is distributed among the community. The Hālāms burn the dead body.

Halam women generally put on *bond* necklace and earings. They are skilled weavers like other tribal women and weave their own garments which consist of two separate pieces, a knee-high scarf and a breast garment. Besides weaving, women look after such duties as cooking, drawing of water, fetching wood, husking rice, spinning, marketing and above all, rearing of children, while the menfolk get engaged in jhoom harvesting, settlement of internal disputes and other outdoor duties.

The language of the Hālāms is not basically different from that of the Tripurās. As a result of close association with the latter, the language of the Halams has undergone substantial changes specially in respect of intonation and accent. Most of the Hālām people know Tripuri.

In accordance with past traditions, the ruling house of Tripura holds a great community dinner every year on the night of the *Vijoyā Dasamī*. The feast is known as *Hasam Bhojan*. The phrase is explained in more than one way. One of the explanations is that the word Hasam means 'a soldier', and hence *Hasam Bhojan* means a great banquet held in honour of the soldiers. It is on this night that the Halams enjoy the proud position of privileged guests in comparison with other tribal groups. The reason may be that in the long past they constituted one of the pillars of Tripura's fighting forces and the ruler in order to foster close personal ties with his soldiers might have held the feast on the auspicious day of *Viyoyā Dasamī*, when men from all walks of life forget their class distinctions and embrace one another in fraternal greetings. If that be the case, then the purpose of the *Bhojan* was mainly socio-political to keep personal contact with even the lowest ranks of the army. Another interpretation is that the phrase is the corrupted form of *Asama Bhojan* which means a community dinner of the unequals. The function came to be known by that name, because in the dinner were invited people of all tribal groups and sections who had to sit and dine together, the position of pride being given to the Halams who were considered as no better than serfs in those days.

Should the second explanation be accepted, one must have a word of praise for the ancient rulers who had the courage to introduce such a step of remarkable social significance, specially at a time when society was ridden by all sorts of conservatism. This function takes place every year even now, although its grandeur has diminished considerably owing to passage of time and changed circumstances. To the old people the day brings back nostalgic memories.

In the 1961 census the total number of Halams was recorded as 16,298.

The Noatias

The word *Noātiā* means new. The Noātiās may be taken as a section of the bigger Tripurā group. Their characteristics or ways of living, as found now-a-days, do not suggest that actually they are a separate tribe. Even if they were separate in the past, it appears that they had been absorbed within the main Tripura stream long time ago. This group is divided into some sub-groups, as for example, *Kooa, Nusutsing, Achlong, Gerjan, Khalichu, Tongteai* etc.

Regarding social customs and manners the Noātiās have strong affinity with the Jamātiās. They are mainly *Sāktas* but now-a-days they are turning to Vaishnavism in large numbers. About 20 per cent of the Noatias depend upon jhoom cultivation for their livelihood, while the rest take to plough cultivation. When the change-over to plough cultivation is complete, it is expected that the Noatias will be able to improve their economic conditions considerably. Like other tribes their women also take interest in weaving and put on clothes woven by them. The Noātiās are still backward educationally, and their marriage and funeral customs are practically the same as those of the Reangs.

In 1961 census the number of Noātiās was recorded as 16,010.

The Moghs

The Moghs claim that they have descended from the same line of Khsatriyas in which was born Lord Buddha. The Burmese chronicle of *Mahārājoāng* and the Ārakān chronicle of *Rajoang* lend support to this popular story. For purposes of our discussion we need not go beyond the fact that the section of Moghs found in Tripurā were originally inhabitants of Ārākān.

They possibly migrated to Tripura and settled down here as a result of war or other political reasons which lead to mass movement of

population. The Moghs of Tripura profess Buddhism and they do not have any liking for any other form or religion. The number of Moghs recorded in the census of 1961 was 10,524.

The Moghs have no social or class distinction among them and there is no such thing as superior or inferior groups within the community. One goes to the top of the community only by virtue of economic solvency and better circumstantial factors. The headmen generally earn the title the *bomang, choudhury* and *tahasildar*. The task of these leaders is to maintain internal discipline and look after the main community activities. Formerly they used to help Tripura rāja by coming to the aid of the officers and keeping peace within the community. The Moghs as a community are very peace-loving, meek and self-reliant.

As regards marriage they follow a liberal policy. Marriage between different sections of the community is allowed. Generally the guardians have no say in respect of marriage of the young partners. The latter enjoy perfect freedom in the matter of selection and courtship, and when decide to enter into matrimony the elders simply cannot stand in the way. A young son can even live separately from his father's household after marriage. There is no hard and fast rule about this matter and the system of joint family is also not unseen. Child marriage is not permissible among the Moghs. A male generally weds at the age of twenty or twentytwo and a female at sixteen or seventeen. In all cases of marriage consent of both the partners is essential before negotiations can be finalised. Divorce may be sought by any one of the partners, and when it is granted by society both have equal rights to marry again according to choice.

Women enjoy a great deal of freedom among the Moghs. They are very strong, stout and industrious. All household duties are performed by them. In leisure time they weave their own garments. They are very fond of modern luxuries and like to put on gorgeous dresses and ornaments.

The Moghs burn their dead bodies and the funeral provides them with an occasion for great pomp and festivities. Their priests hold a service for the dead ; food and water are offered to him and then the corpse is taken to the burning *ghāt* for cremation. After seven days some rituals in the form of *Srāddha* are held for the good of the departed when priests and other people are treated with entertainments. Regarding food they have hardly any choice at all. All types of birds and beasts are eaten by them, but they have a special liking for rotten fish and meat.

The *jhoom* is still the principal means of livelihood of the Moghs. Some of them have already taken to plough cultivation in addition to *jhooming*. While Moghs in other States are fast coming upto the mark in respect of education, employment and cultural advancement, Moghs of Tripura are yet very backward and it is only recently that education has begun spreading among them in the interiors.

The Garos

The Garos originally belonged to the Garo Hills. It cannot be said definitely when they came over to Tripura. But there is no doubt about the fact that the Garos have been living in Tripura for a long time.

The Lushais and the Kukis

The Lushai-Kuki clans were originally inhabitants of the hills lying to the east and north-east of Tripura and to the adjoining hilly areas. In primitive times they were known as *Kirāts*. The name *Kirāt* was given to them by the plain-settlers who came over to Tripura from East Bengal. The people of Cachar call them *Luchāis*. This connotes something alarming ; *lu* means head and *chai* means to cut. Hence the word *luchai* means a head-hunter. It is agreed that the word Lushai is the currupted form of *Luchai*. That the Lushais used to hunt heads at the time of funeral of the chieftains even as late as the middle of the nineteenth century is now a matter of recorded history. The words *'Lushai'* and *'Kuki'* do not actually signify two different tribes ; they mean the same group of people with a common racial stock. In fact the wider term is *Kuki*. The *Kukis* as a tribe are in fact divided into fifteen clans : (1) *Paitu*, (2) *Belathat*, (3) *Thangulus*, (4) *Lalifang*, (5) *Bangkhai*, (6) *Mizel*, (7) *Namtu*, (8) *Chatya*, (9) *Phun*, (10) *Kunteri*, (11) *Lentai*, (12) *Jangtei*, (13) *Rangchan*, (14) *Balte*, (15)*Khoreng*. Of these groups, people belonging only to the first five clans are found in Tripura. As a process of simplification they may be further divided into two broad categories: Lushais and Darlong Kukis.

Although racially of the same origin, there is a degree of difference between the Lushais and Kukis as far as culture and educational attainments are concerned. In education the Lushais have gone far ahead of the Kukis, and as a result of the spread of education their general level of culture and accomplishment also has much improved. Christianity has spread fast among the Lushais and they have taken to western dress and manners. All this has brought about a line of demarcation between the two groups. While the comparatively back-

ward sections of the Kukis are still going on by their old name, the advanced and progressive sections have come to be known as Lushais. In Tripura the Lushai-Kuki clans are found mainly in Dharmanagar, Kailasahar, Kamalpur, Sadar and Udaipur sub-divisions. In 1961 census the Kukis were enumerated as 5,531 and the Lushais as 2,988 persons.

As stated earlier, the Lushais are far more advanced than the Darlong Kukis in matters of education and social advancement. Almost all of them have now turned to christianity and western customs and matters. Education is fast spreading among them, mostly due to government efforts, and it is expected that in future the Lushais will be an enlightened community among the tribal people of Tripura.

During princely rule some Kuki and Lushai chiefs used to get the title of Raja from the ruler of Tripura. These tribal Rajas were, for all intents and purposes, the sole arbitrators of their community in matters of internal administration. The ruler of Tripura seldom interfered with the internal autonomy enjoyed by the chieftains save and except that the latter were required to pay nominal homage to the State ruler once or twice in a year as token dependence. The courts of the ruler had no effective jurisdiction over the tribes who would settle all their family disputes and social squabbles internally under the control of the local chieftains.

The section of the Kukis who are still close to the Hindu faith are accustomed to worshipping many deities. The worship of Lord Siva according to their own tribal system is a very momentous ceremony held with great pomp usually before the harvesting of *jhoom*.

The Kukis, generally both male and female, remain almost half-naked. Women ordinarily cover the waist and the knee with a small piece of cloth, while the rest of the body is laid bare.

They are not accustomed to putting on any clothes except when going outside for marketing or ceremonial purposes. The clothes are invariably woven by women. Both the males and females generally keep long hair but these are seldom kept clean. There is a custom prevalent among the women to make a hole in the lobe of the ear and enlarge the same by degrees. The women with bigger holes in the ear are generally considered to be more beautiful than others with small ones. This has a resemblance to the old Chinese custom that smaller the feet, the more beautiful the woman was.

The Kukis are habituated in taking all types of birds and beasts. They are particularly fond of dried fish and burnt meat. They do not touch beef. They are addicted to drinking and all members of the family, male and female, young and old, sit together and revel in drinking.

The marriage system of the Kukis is almost similar to that of the Reangs. Child marriage is restricted, while widow marriage is allowed. Marriage usually takes place after the attainment of puberty. Of the two partners the male as a rule should be senior to the female. Dowry system is still in vogue but it is not prohibitive. In most cases, marriage is solemnised after obtaining consent from both the partners. The festival is marked by a great deal of drinking that is in fact the main feature of the ceremony. While a male is allowed to take a second wife during the life-time of the first one, the female cannot marry for the second time so long as the husband is alive.

The Kukis had a curious system of burying their dead bodies, particularly when a chief was to be buried. During the funeral of the chief, some heads must also be buried along with the dead chief.

They believed that a chief could not go to the other world without attendants, and some people must be there to do the leader's bidding in the other world. So they would usually find some slaves, cut their heads and bury the heads along with the dead chief in the same grave in expectation that the spirit of the slain slaves would look after the departed leader. Generally Manipurīs and Bengalees were captured for this gruesome ritual. In 1844 the Manipuri village of Kochabari was raided primarily for this purpose by Lāl Choklā, when Lāroo, his father and a chief, died. The incident created a sensation and the Tripurā *Durbār* received a severe jolt on account of the sack of Kochabari. The matter ended when British troops entered Tripurā, captured Lāl Choklā and transported him for life. This custom is no longer in vogue.

The principal means of livelihood of the Kukis is jhoom cultivation. The system of plough cultivation has not yet found favour with the Kukis mainly because there is dearth of plain lands in the hills and secondly, the Kukis always prefer living in high altitude of the hills.

The Bhils

The Bhils were enumerated in 1961 census as only 69, and they are settled mainly in the tea garden areas of Sadar. Their com-

plexion is very dark and they have a very wild appearance. They call themselves Hindus and they have been recorded as professing Hinduism. Polygamy is prevalent among this tribe, but marriage seldom takes place before a boy reaches the age of twenty and girl fifteen.

The Khāsiās

The Khāsiās form a very small fraction of the population. In the 1961 census they were enumerated as 349 persons. The Khasias settled in Tripura from Assam only during the last decade. As compared with the Khasias of Assam, the Khasias of Tripura are very backward both educationally and economically. The few people who are to be found here have hardly any social standing and most of them are engaged in minor type of services.

The Chaimals

The Chaimals are practically a branch of the Kukis. They follow the same manners and customs as those of the Kukis, jhoom cultivation is their principal means of livelihood. In 1961 they were to be found mostly in Kailāsahar, Kamalpur and Dharmanagar, their total number being only 50.

CHAPTER — IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

1. *Land utilisation : Reclamation*

Tripura has an area of 10,066 sq. km.* which is mainly hilly and is extensively covered with forests. The valleys that are bounded by the hill ranges are watered by rivers flowing from the latter which form the watersheds. Valley lands are fertile and the low lands lying in between small hillocks (locally called *Loonga*) are used for *bodo* paddy cultivation. A good number of *loongas* are swampy, boggy and marshy. They can be easily reclaimed for paddy cultivation.

Despite the fertility of the soil, for a long time, most of the area was not cultivated at all. Plough cultivation was most probably introduced in Tripura in about 15th century i.e. when the first Bengalee settlers came to Tripura. *Jhooming* or shifting cultivation practised on the hill slopes by the tribal people was the only form of agriculture until the Bengalee immigrants introduced permanent form of cultivation.

Writing about the 'Position of the Cultivators' during the 19th century, Hunter observed: "In the plains, where the cultivation is carried on in the same manner as in Bengal, a peasant's holding would be considered a large one if above 15 *bighas* or five acres in extent; and a very small one, if containing only six *bighas* or two acres. A husbandman cultivating a farm of this size (i.e. 15 *bighas*), would not be in such good circumstances as a respectable shopkeeper; but he would probably be as well-off as a man earning Rs. 8 or 16s a month in money wages. The classes cultivating by the plough are not generally in debt, although they do not hesitate to borrow money, especially for any domestic ceremony, such as a marriage".[1]

From the beginning of the present century there started large scale immigration of land-hungry peasants from the adjoining districts of Bengal. As a result, land utilisation showed considerable progress in the nineteen thirties. Out of the total area of 10,066 sq. km. of the

---

1 Hunter, W. W, A Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI. p. 503.

* Worked out by the State Director of Settlement and Land Records. According to the Surveyor General of India the area figure of Tripura is 4036 Sq. miles. Both the figures area however provisional.

territory, about 75 per cent or 8,00,315 hectares were under forests and out of the remaining area of 2,65,725 hectares, an area of 1,24,975 hectares was cultivated in 1937-38[1]. Areas of cultivated lands under different crops are shown in the following table.[2]

TABLE — I

Distribution of sown area under different crops (1937-38)

Crop	*Area sown*	*Yield*
Rice	1,04,603 hectares	20,02,013.80 quintals.
Jute	5,189 „	62,118.33 „
Mustard	4,134 „	21,349.33 „
Sugarcane	2,236 „	48,376.67 „
Others	4,592 „	—
Tea	4,225 „	12,619.32 „

Land utilisation in Tripura registered a further spectacular progress following the immigration of displaced persons from Bangladesh after the partition of the country and Tripura's subsequent merger in India. By the end of 1957, 3,65,000 displaced persons came to Tripura for rehabilitation.[3] Many waste lands had to be reclaimed for the rehabilitation of the refugees and agriculture was consequently extended to remote areas after clearing jungles and forests.

Just as this rehabilitation of displaced persons from Bangladesh led to the extension of agriculture both in area and in variety of crops raised, similarly the *Jhoomias* taking to settled plough cultivation in larger numbers also had the same effect. The *Jhoomias* coming into contact with the Bengalees learnt the benefit of plough cultivation and, therefore, became interested in owning land for cultivation. Secondly, the then Mahārājā took special measures for settling the *jhoomias* in the plains. In 1340 Tripura Era (1930-31 A.D.) an area of 11,000 *drones* (28,490 hectares) in Khowāi Sub-division, called Kalyānpur Reserve, was set apart as reserved for the settlement of the *Jhoomias*. Subsequently, the total area reserved for this purpose was raised to 5,05,053 hectares in 1941. The administration of the settlement of hill people in the reserved area was placed under the special charge of a minister.

1 Memorandum and Statistics relating to Agriculture, Forests, Exports and Imports, Tripura State (1937-38).
2 Ibid.
3 Rehabilitation in Tripura, published by Tripura Administration in the Department of Refugee Rehabilitation, 1958, p. 41.

The net result of all these changes was the sharp rise in the area under cultivation in recent years as compared with that in 1937-38. Out of the total area of 10,066 sq. km., 6,36,571 hectares were under forest in 1955-56. In 1964-65 the area under forest came down slightly to 6,35,252 hectares. The net area sown in 1964-65 rose to 2,31,009 hectares as compared to 1,94,654 hectares in 1955-56. The cultivable waste land was also much reduced during this period. In 1964-65 it came down to 3,723 hectares as compared to 9,000.2 hectares in 1955-56. The area under current fallows also came down to 5,812 hectares in 1964-65 against 8,903.1 hectares in 1955-56. The table II at page 162 shows yearwise land utilisation in Tripura from 1955-56 to 1964-65.

Reclamation land

Land utilisation statistics of Tripura show that in 1964-65 culturable waste, current fallow and other fallow lands accounted for about 13,582 hectares which may be taken as the rough estimate of the total area available for reclamation. Total area under these heads in 1953-54 was slightly higher than 35,000 hectares. This shows some encouraging progress in the matter of fuller utilisation of land for cultivation. It appears that a steady progress has been maintained in regard to culturable waste, and current fallow lands since 1960-61.

Recovery of swamps constitutes the major land reclamation programme. And in the process of rehabilitating the refugees in land and settling the *Jhoomias* in plains-land cultivation, considerable area of marshy and boggy lands have been reclaimed by clearing them of the standing weeds and elephant-grass. The stagnant water is generally bailed out by pumps or constructing suitable narrow canals across the swamps. Water is bailed into the neighbouring streams or *charās*. About 56,656 hectares, which are classified as 'permanent pasture and other grazing land' mainly covering hillock, locally called *'tilla'*, are also available for cultivation through contour bunding and beach terracing. The National Council of Applied Research estimated that "The total area suitable for reclamation during the next decade may, therefore, be of the order of about 120,000 acres (48,562 hectares)..... The land, when reclaimed, would consist of bunded and terraced fields and would include plots suitable for field crops as well as permanent crops ..... It may, therefore, be broadly assumed that 50 per cent of the reclaimed area is suited for field crops and the remaining 50 per cent for miscellaneous tree crops."[1]

1 Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, National Council of Applied Economic Research, 1961, p. 42.

TABLE — II

LAND UTILISATION IN TRIPURA*

	Area in hectares								
	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
Land put to non-agricultural use	33,184.3	33,184.3	33,184.3	33,184.3	33,184.3	37,231.1	35,231.1	37,846.2	38,099.0	38,226.0
Barren and un-cultivable land	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,665.6	5,666.0	5,666.0
Permanent pasture and other grazing land	56,656.0	56,656.0	56,656.0	56,656.0	56,656.0	56,656.0	53,968.0	53,363.0	53,368.0	53,368.0
Land under miscellaneous crops	1,15,335.5	1,15,335.5	99,148.1	99,148.1	97,124.6	94,696.5	89,435.6	89,435.6	89,210.0	88,937.0
Cultivable waste	9,000.2	8,797.9	8,498.4	8,498.4	8,693.7	7,689.1	6,070.0	6,353.6	4,735.0	3,723.0
Other fallow	6,070.3	6,070.3	6,070.3	6,070.3	6,070.3	5,665.6	4,046.9	4,046.9	4,017.0	4,047.0
Current fallow	8,903.1	8,700.7	22,961.9	17,903.3	15,738.5	11,331.2	7,284.3	6,736.0	6,360.0	5,812.0
Net area sown	1,94,654.0	1,95,058.7	1,97,284.4	2,02,343.0	2,06,916.0	2,11,343.2	2,27,176.5	2,27,231.2	2,29,743.0	2,31,009.0
Area sown more than once	35,558.6	35,671.9	31,363.2	37,684.4	40,468.6	37,635.8	38,849.9	39,861.6	40,469.0	91,459.0

* Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, Statistical Department, Government of Tripura, 1965, Pp. 32-33.
P. Provisional.

Outturns of major and minor forest produces are given in the following table.[7]

TABLE — III

Out-turns of Major and Minor Forest Produces

	Quality in Cubic Metre			Total value	Values of minor products. (Rupees in Lakhs)			Total
Year	Timber	Fire-wood	Char-coal	Rs. Lakhs	Canes & Bamboos	Fodder	Other	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1953-54	10,137	14,300	—	18.64	4.98	5.22	24.27	34.47
1954-55	9,543	44,995	—	27.75	25.11	0.14	8.74	33.99
1955-56	14,951	1,63,445	—	78.84	30.00	5.37	4.65	40.02
1956-57	17,743	1,38,479	—	68.38	16.84	0.16	8.76	25.76
1957-58	21,291	1,80,026	—	86.95	11.79	0.16	7.01	18.96
1958-59	29,639	71,172	4,519	61.69	3.54	0.20	—	3.74
1959-60	30,623	33,390	—*	49.31	0.80	—	—	0.80
1960-61	22,334	63,964	58	138.63	8.32	0.55	0.10	0.97
1961-62	20,101	34,388	142	55.70	7.44	0.42	0.38	8.24
1962-63	17,001	40,830	164	37.45	8.31	1.21	0.02	9.54
1963-64	23,992	46,355	156	58.51	8.27	0.21	0.02	8.50

* Included in Col. 3.

An additional area of 187 hectares have been brought under plantation by way of distribution of fruit plants and grafts etc. during the Third Plan period. The area brought under fruit plantation is 225 hectares. Water area to the extent of 0.6 acres have been reclaimed by the Government and 2 hectares by private parties.

Soil conservation

Soil erosion is an acute problem in Tripura. It is mainly caused by rain-water. Because of the practice of shifting cultivation in the hills, bare hill-slopes are easily susceptible to erosion during the rainy season. All river waters become muddy at this time which is an indication of erosion of soil at the upper regions. What is more serious, all rivers and streams flowing from the hills are thus silted up and, no wonder, cause heavy damage to the valleys by recurrent overflowing of their banks in the rainy seasons. Flood is almost an annual feature in Tripura.

1 Source: Statistical Abstract-Tripura, 1961 & 1965. Published by the Statistical Deptt. Govt. of Tripura, Pp. 45-46 and Pp. 49-50.

The undertaking of appropriate soil conservation measures is, therefore, an urgent need for proper development of agriculture in Tripura. Different measures are being taken in this direction under the five year plans. Terracing and contour bunding are important steps in stopping soil erosion of cultivated slopes. During the second year of the Third Plan 89 hectares of terracing, 23 hectares of contour bunding and 44 hectares of *Loonga* reclamation were done under the Soil Conservation, Pilot Project and Tribal Welfare Schemes.[1]

During 1964-65 (upto October) 10 hectares of contour bunding, 16 hectares of bench terracing and maintenance of forest plantation in 41 hectares were effected under the Soil Conservation, Pilot Project Schemes.[2]

For systematic research work on soil conservation needs and how to meet them, a research farm has been set up at Arundhatinagar which is carrying out different research projects.

A comprehensive law on soil conservation for enforcement in this territory is under preparation.

Irrigation

Cultivators of Tripura are mainly dependent on rainwater for irrigation of their lands. Paddy is the main crop of Tripura and the sowing of paddy seeds almost wholly depends upon timely shower. Tripura has heavy annual rainfall — the normal being 210 centimetres. But as usual with monsoonic rains wide fluctuation from year to year are experienced. There is also much uncertainty about the time of arrival and departure as also about the peak period of the monsoon. Wide disparity in the distribution of rainfall over the different sub-divisions of the territory is also noticed. Annual rainfall in Tripura varied between 204.1 and 270.0 centimetres over the years 1954 to 1961.

Since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan the Government have been laying greater stress on the expansion of irrigational facilities. Irrigation by canals is still unknown. Tanks and minor irrigation work like diversion, lift, tube-wells form the main sources of irrigation. Facilities for minor irrigation were initiated in the Second Plan period and during the Third Plan period 40 different types of minor irrigation schemes were undertaken to provide irrigation to about 3,232 hectares of land. Irrigation by shallow tube-wells has also been taken in Kailāsahar Block. There are innumerable streamlets

[1] Tripura on the March, Published by the Publicity Department, Government of Tripura, 1964, p. 15.
[2] Ibid, 1965, p. 13.

locally called *Chara*) scattered all over the territory by suitably bunding which neighbouring lands can be irrigated. Such minor irrigation work are being constructed on the basis of the detailed schemes prepared by the Irrigation Division. The proposed minor irrigation schemes numbering 50, when completed, are estimated to be able to irrigate about 11,600 hectares of land. Irrigated area by sources and that under different crops are shown in the following tables.[1]

TABLE — IV
Irrigated area by sources
Area irrigated by (in hectares)

Year:	Tanks	Other sources	Total
1956-57	—	1562.09	1562.09
1957-58	60.70	3217.26	3277.96
1958-59	89.03	3350.80	3439.83
1959-60	424.92	7506.93	7931.85
1960-61	485.62	11128.87	11614.49
1961-62	485.62	12593.82	13079.44
1962-63	1100.75	13051.12 (a)	14151.87
1963-64	1214.06	14435.15 (a)	15649.21
1964-65	1700.00	15499.00	17199.00

(a) including area irrigated by Tube-wells.

TABLE — V
Irrigated area under different crops (in hectares)

Year	Food crops	Sugarcane	Tobacco	Others	Total
1956-57	1133.12	323.75	—	105.22	1562.09
1957-58	2622.36	404.69	—	250.91	3277.96
1958-59	2751.86	404.69	—	283.28	3439 83
1959-60	4856.23	809.37	647.50	1618.75	7931.85
1960-61	10845.58 (a)	404.69	364.22	—	11614.49
1961-62	11015.54	404.69	364.22	1294.99	13079.44
1962-63	12087.97	404.69	364.22	1294.99	14151.87
1963-64	13577.21	404.69	364.22	1303.09	15649.2
1964-65	15123.00	405.00	364.00	1307.00	17199.00

(a) including vegetables etc.

[1] Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, Statistical Department, Government of Tripura, 1965, p. 41.

About 45 irrigation schemes were taken up during the year 1967-68 of which 16 are continuing from the year 1966-67. Among these Kaluri irrigation scheme near Kadamtalā and Lalcharā drainage scheme may be mentioned.

Soil

Crop growth depends on various factors other than 'soil-varieties' or 'soil-groups'. In Tripura there are broadly 3 types of soil-groups.

(i) Forest and hilly laterite soil of north Tripura comprising Kamalpur, Kailāsahar and Dharmanagar Sub-divisions.

(ii) Alluvial soil of central Tripura comprising Khowāi, Sadar, Amarpur (part), Udaipur and Sonāmurā Sub-divisions.

(iii) Red and Yellow soil of south Tripura comprising Amarpur (part), Bilonia and Sabrum sub-divisions.

All crops may grow in all types of soil-groups provided other factors are congenial.

Characteristics of Tripura's soil are listed below: —

(i) Highly permeable and leached;
(ii) Low moisture retentivity;
(iii) Parent material: Shale and sand-stone;
(iv) PH range average is 4.5 to 6.1 (acid soil);
(v) Top soil: Sandy loam to loamy clay in texture;
(vi) Structure-Crumb and sub-angular blocky;
(vii) Low in Nitrogen (available and total both);
(viii) Low in phosphate available, total phosphate is high;
(ix) Medium to high in Potash (available);
(x) Deficiency of Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphar in average soil.

Crops

The low plainlands are suitable for wet paddy cultivation. Paddy is the most important crop in Tripura. Sugarcane, jute, oilseeds and

Major crop

tobacco are also raised in the plains in good quantities. In the hills, cotton, til (sesamum), paddy, various vegetables and even jute are grown by *jhooming*. Hill slopes are used for pine-apple, orange, lichi, jack-fruit and banana plantains in different parts. In Manipuri villages arecanut is planted in large numbers but total production falls far short of total needs of the territory.

Rice

Aus (Autumn paddy), *Aman* (Winter paddy) and *Bodo* (Summer paddy) are the different seasonal kinds of paddy that are cultivated in Tripura. The *Aus* crop is raised earliest of all. Seeds are sown from the middle of March to the middle of May and the crop is harvested from the middle of July to the middle of September. *Aush* is grown in high levels, which are not likely to be submerged by rain-waters during the rainy season. Seeds are broadcast and the plants are not transplanted.

The *Aman* or the Winter paddy is the main variety and is most extensively grown in the territory. Seeds are sown in seed beds in June or July and the seedlings are transplanted in the fields in clumps of four or five when about a foot high. The fields are to be well-cultivated and thoroughly wet with rain-water before transplantation can be made.

The production of rice was only 136.50 metric tonnes in 1955-56 but in 1959-60 the production rose to 155.72 metric tonnes and since then a gradual increase of output is noticed upto 1964-65 when the production reached to 223.92 metric tonnes (provisional), while the area under rice did not remain unchanged over the same period. In 1955-56 the area was 164.71 hectares and in 1959-60 the area increased to 172.40 hectares but in 1960-61 the area came down 170.37 hectares; then again from 1961-62 to 1962-63 the area gradually increased and then again it came down to 113.73 in 1963-64. The provisional area under rice in 1964-65 was 242.81 hectares.

Bodo rice is also first sown in seed beds and then transplanted in boggy and marshy fields in December or January. The crop is harvested in March-April.

A list of the more important varieties of paddy as enlisted by the Agriculture Department, grown in Tripura follows: —

Seasonal kinds of paddy	*Local name*
Aush	1. *Lema* 2. *Kachalat* 3. *Teropali* 4. *Pechi Badam* 5. *Ful Badam* 6. *Dumai* 7. *Murali* 8. *Sonamukhi* 9. *Chinal* 10. *Kataktara* 11. *Dharial*
Aman	1. *Thakurbhog* 2. *Latisail* 3. *Malati* 4. *Saiamara* 5. *Moinasail* 6. *Najirsail* 7. *Mulasail* 8. *Govindabhog* 9. *Madhumalati* 10. *Kalamkati*
Bodo	1. *Kali Bodo* 2. *Tepi Bodo* 3. *Jagli Bodo*
Jhoom	1. *Jhoom Malati* 2. *Dooma* 3. *Fulbadam*

Changes in the area under different crops

In the old days, jute, sugarcane, mustard, pulses, etc. were not cultivated in Tripura. The Bengalee peasants settling in Tripura introduced these crops. Jute was, however, not grown in large quantity. It is only after partition when India stressed on the need to become self-sufficient in Jute production that the total area sown under jute and production thereof rose considerably.

Jute and mesta

Jute and Mesta are now the major cash crops of Tripura. Production of jute increased from 7,000 metric tonnes in 1953-54 to 19,050 metric tonnes in 1961-62. The production of Mesta, which was first grown in Tripura only in the fifties, was only 1,680 metric tonnes in 1956-57 but in 1961-62 its production rose to 18,110 metric tonnes. (see table VII) While the area under jute remained more or less unchanged over the years that under Mesta significantly increased from 1,420 hectares in 1956-57 to 14,160 hectares in 1960-61 (see table VI). After 1961-62 areas of both Jute and *Mesta* decreased gradually and in 1964-65 the areas of Jute and Mesta came down to 9,710 and 9,310 hectares respectively. The production of both crops also came down to 10,890 and 8,350 metric tonnes respectively. Sadar Sub-division is the main Mesta and Jute producing area in the State.

Potato

Potato is another important crop which was introduced not very long ago. But the cultivation of potato is becoming popular and remunerative by and large. Area under potato was 850 hectares and yield was 3,160 metric tonnes in 1953-54 and they rose to 1,660 hectares and 6,250 metric tonnes respectively in 1960-61. The yield of potato reached the all time high level of 15,000 metric tonnes in 1963-64 (see table VII). In 1964-65 the yield was 14,630 metric tonnes.

Pulses

Pulses are not still very extensively grown. The Agriculture Department is encouraging the raising of these crops by supplying the farmers with seeds of pulses at subsidised rates. This is bearing some result. The total area under pulses rose from 690 hectares in 1953-54 to 1,380 hectares in 1960-61 while the yield went up from 320 metric tonnes in 1953-54 to 610 metric tonnes in 1960-61. The area under pulses gradually increased and reached 1,850 hectares in 1964-65 and the yield went up to 840 metric tonnes.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane cultivation is undertaken by a good number of peasants. It is grown mainly for use in the production of *Gur* (molasses). Gradual increase in the production of sugarcane is noticed since the year 1955-56. The production rose from 6,390 metric tonnes in 1955-56 to 9,780 metric tonnes in 1964-65.

TABLE — VI

*Area under principal crops**

Area in 000 hectares.

Year/Sub-division.	Rice	Pulses	Potatoes	Sweet Potato	Sugar-cane	Cotton	Jute	Oilseeds	Tobacco	Mesta	Chillies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1955-56	164.71	0.88	1.05	0.61	2.47	8.50	8.17	8.05	0.53	—	0.89
1956-57	164.30	0.98	1.11	0.65	2.63	7.89	8.50	7.85	0.69	1.42	0.85
1957-58	146.50	0.98	1.11	0.81	2.75	7.55	7.61	7.04	0.76	18.21	0.95
1958-59	163.25	1.17	1.34	0.81	2.70	7.28	8.90	6.72	0.81	12.14	0.87
1959-60	172.40	1.29	1.62	0.89	2.75	7.41	8.09	6.62	0.89	10.12	0.97
1960-61	170-37	1.38	1.86	0.83	2.67	6.68	6.07	7.08	0.93	14.16	1.00
1961-62	174.83	1.61	1.82	1.02	2.82	7.28	14.16	7.57	0.01	16.17	1.09
1962-63	180.29	1.66	2.14	1.02	2.80	7.28	12.14	7.73	1.02	13.76	1.13
1963-64	113.73	1.76	2.43	0.93	2.91	6.88	11.94	7.40	1.03	13.35	1.14
1964-65	242.81(P)	1.85	2.48	0.89	2.92	6.07	9.71	7.24	1.08	9.31	1.14
1964-65											
Amarpur	11.98	0.04	0.09	0.02	0.11	1.30	0.93	0.71	0.06	0.43	0.06
Bilonia	26.51	0.20	0.13	0.05	0.10	0.40	0.41	0.19	0.10	0.26	0.06
Dharmanagar	34.76	0.24	0.67	0.07	0.83	0.84	0.81	1.14	0.25	0.24	0.23
Kailasahar	27.92	0.20	0.36	0.04	0.38	1.38	0.93	1.03	0.07	0.57	0.07
Kamalpur	15.26	0.10	0.23	0.02	0.34	0.49	0.65	0.48	0.13	0.32	0.01
Khowai	26.43	0.24	0.23	0.07	0.26	1.23	1.05	0.67	0.10	1.26	0.15
Sabrum	10.52	0.16	0.08	0.03	0.11	0.13	0.40	0.36	0.04	0.14	0.05
Sadar	48.96	0.33	0.51	0.13	0.33	0.26	2.71	1.61	0.19	4.53	0.22
Sonamura	20.84	0.10	0.06	0.30	0.16	0.01	0.61	0.46	0.06	1.13	0.13
Udaipur	19.63	0.24	0.12	0.16	0.30	0.03	1.21	0.59	0.08	0.43	0.16

* Source: Statistical Abstract, Government of Tripura, 1965, p. 345.
P: Provisional.

TABLE VII

*Yield of principal crops (Yield in '000 Metric tonnes)**

Year/Sub-division.	Rice	Pulses	Chillies	Potatoes	Sweet Potato	Sugar-cane	Cotton	Jute	Oilseeds	Tobacco	Mesta
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1955-56	136.50	0.36	0.43	3.56	3.33	6.39	1.29	9.41	3.05	0.24	—
1956-57	151.57	0.43	0.40	4.06	3.73	7.39	1.39	10.50	3.44	0.28	1.68
1957-58	121.60	0.43	0.36	3.81	4.24	7.86	1.42	10.00	2.88	0.28	16.42
1958-59	133.21	0.54	0.44	5.92	4.23	6.87	0.96	10.45	2.42	0.29	13.81
1959-60	155.72	0.57	0.42	6.11	4.35	7.61	1.16	10.92	2.28	0.30	9.11
1960-61	158.48	0.61	0.47	6.25	4.74	7.74	1.07	7.46	2.77	0.34	12.73
1961-62	169.68	0.73	0.38	6.82	5.63	8.35	1.33	19.05	3.10	0.34	18.11
1962-63	173.48	0.73	0.36	11.97	5.83	9.17	1.34	16.33	2.88	0.35	15.42
1963-64	173.94	0.78	0.39	15.00	5.88	9.62	1.12	14.72	3.07	0.38	13.47
1964-65	223.92(P)	0.84	0.39	14.63	5.52	9.78	1.05	10.89	3.01	0.40	8.35
1964-65											
Amarpur	10.72	0.02	0.02	0.53	0.14	0.39	0.21	0.76	0.30	0.02	0.45
Bilonia	23.89	0.09	0.03	0.84	0.30	0.30	0.07	0.55	0.09	0.03	0.29
Dharmanagar	34.82	0.12	0.10	3.91	0.44	2.94	0.15	0.87	0.53	0.10	0.23
Kailasahar	29.53	0.10	0.02	1.93	0.24	1.24	0.25	1.25	0.36	0.03	0.64
Kamalpur	13.22	0.05	0.01	1.20	0.15	1.10	0.08	0.65	0.21	0.05	0.29
Khowai	25.34	0.11	0.05	1.44	0.42	0.83	0.21	1.29	0.29	0.04	1.26
Sabrum	9.46	0.07	0.02	0.52	0.22	0.36	0.02	0.40	0.15	0.02	0.13
Sadar	41.08	0.14	0.07	3.20	0.82	1.10	0.04	3.08	0.64	0.07	3.79
Sonamura	17.87	0.04	0.03	0.38	1.82	0.51	0.01	0.68	0.19	0.02	0.89
Udaipur	17.99	0.10	0.04	0.68	0.97	1.01	0.01	1.36	0.25	0.02	0.38

* Source: Statistical Abstract, Government of Tripura, 1965, p. 34.
P: Provisional.

Most of the peasants of the plains in Tripura use the same old-fashioned plough, yoke, *Chanya* (clod-breaker), spade, sickle and *niri-kachi* (weeding-sickle) etc. Animal power (of bullocks and buffaloes) is the only power that is generally commissioned into the services of agriculture. The Agriculture Department is, however, trying to introduce better implements for the use of the cultivators. The village level workers and agri-assistants are the personnel through whom this is attempted.

Process of scientific agriculture

Among the modern implements introduced in Tripura mention may be made of tractors, electric pumps and oil engines. Three censuses of agricultural implements and machinery in use in Tripura have been taken, the results of which are given at the next page.

The table VIII shows that 13 tractors were in use in Tripura. Wooden ploughs numbering 1,00,745 still predominate, although it would be better to devise some improved type of plough to suit the undulated topography of Tripura. Tractors are useful not so much for regular ploughing as for reclamation of waste lands.

The First Plan had no specific target of additional food production, though programme of agricultural development viz. reclamation of waste land, minor irrigation, starting of seed stores etc. were initiated. Under the Second Plan a target of 10.160 metric tonnes of additional food production was fixed and it was achieved almost in full by distribution of improved seeds, introduction of improved farming practices, green manuring and adopting Japanese method of paddy cultivation. During the Third Plan period 23,155 metric tonnes of additional food was produced by implementing some programmes including extension of areas of cultivation, increased use of fertilisers and proper utilisation of irrigation resources, double cropping etc.

Emphasis has recently been given on the introduction of high-yielding varities of paddy viz. Taichung Native 1, I.R. 8 and for wheat on Sonora 64.[1]

Japanese method of cultivation was introduced during the First Plan period and continued upto the Third Plan period. Table IX will show the area shown under Japanese method for the years from 1961-62 to 1964-65.

[1] Tripura on the March, Publicity Department, Government of Tripura, 1968, p. 9.

TABLE — VIII

Census of Agricultural Implements and Machinery

Year : Sub-div.	Wooden Plough	Iron Plough	Carts	Sugarcane Crushers (Bullock)	Oil Engines	Electric Pumps	Tractors	Ghanies with crushing capacity 5 seers or more	Ghanies with crushing capacity less than 5 seers.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1951 Census	43,503	—	515	991	173	—	3	76	427
1956 Census	63,095	627	458	149	13	—	7	92	72
1961 Census	100,745	52	746	295	—	23	13	69	—
1961 :									
Amarpur —	5,791	—	34	2	—	1	—	6	—
Bilonia —	9,546	2	110	16	—	3	—	4	—
Dharmanagar —	16,486	24	2	126	—	12	1	6	—
Kailasahar —	9,523	6	140	22	—	3	—	3	—
Kamalpur —	6,346	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
Khowai —	9,912	1	4	51	—	—	4	27	—
Sabrum —	3,929	—	32	42	—	—	—	—	—
Sadar —	22,603	2	248	2	—	3	7	11	—
Sonamura —	8,208	13	32	1	—	—	—	—	—
Udaipur —	8,401	4	144	14	—	1	1	12	—

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, p. 37.

TABLE — IX

Year	Net area sown	Gross area sown
1961-62	2.25 Lakhs hectares	2.25 Lakhs hectares
1962-63	2.26 „ „	2.67 „ „
1963-64	2.26 „ „ (Approx.)	2.70 „ „
1964-65	2.30 „ „	3.22 „ „

Seeds & Manure raising

Good seeds are one of the pre-requisites of the yields of agricultural crops. Cultivators of Tripura formerly used local seeds. But to supply them with improved seeds, a programme for the establishment of ten seeds-multiplication farms was included in the Second Plan for multiplication and distribution of improved seeds. Nine such farms continue to function for the production of improved variety of seeds. Besides, seeds and seedlings of fruit plants like cardamom, turmeric and ginger are being produced and multiplied in the nurseries and distributed to the growers.

Like improved seeds, fertilizers are also necessary for raising yields as well as for conservation of soil-fertility. But the peasants of Tripura did not have the habit of using manures in any appreciable quantity.

To-day, they are, however, increasingly using manures in cultivation. The Agriculture Department is trying to develop local manurial resources. Green-manuring and use of compost are being popularised. Eight bone-digesters have also been established for the production of bone-meals. The additional production of village compost by mixing green leaves and farm refuses with cow-dung has been intensified in the Community Development Block areas. Urban composting has been tried at Agartala with some success. Different chemical fertilizers are also being supplied at subsidised rates.

TABLE — X

Yearly distribution of Chemicals
(figures in Metric Tonnes)

Items	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1. Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	74.92	227.04	364.00	430.00
2. Super Phosphate	61.81	95.40	65.50	138.00
3. Ammonia Sulphate	29.08	—	16.34	—
4. Murate of Potash	4.30	2.01	19.69	12.50
5. Bone-meal	70.23	53.16	79.79	17.00

The National Council of Applied Economic Research opined that "Chemical fertilizers are not the most suitable type for Tripura due to the acidic nature of the soils, their low PH value and their gross deficiency in nitrogen, organic matter, phosphorus and potash. Moreover, chemical fertilizers are to be imported from distant places which add considerably to the cost." Therefore, they emphasized on the "tapping of local manurial resources such as farmyard composts, green manuring and bone-meal".[1] Accordingly the Agriculture Department is developing all these sources of local manurial resources. The following table shows distribution of local manures during the year 1963-64 to 1966-67 respectively.[2]

TABLE — XI

Yearly distribution of local manures
(figures in Metric Tonnes)

Items	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
1. Rural compost	19,198.00	2,22,320.00	2,50,000.00	1,48,547.00
2. Green manure seeds	0.48	1.92	0.46	7.88
3. Urban compost	279.00	1,619.00	1,580.50	930.00

Plant protection

Every year a considerable quantity of crop is damaged by pests, diseases and rats. To minimise the losses caused by insects, birds, rats and diseases, the plant protection scheme was undertaken under the First Five Year Plan.

Insecticides, fungicides, rat poisons, seed dressing chemicals and plant protection equipment were purchased and distributed to all sub-divisions. Equipments were given to cultivators for free use and pesticides at subsidized prices for protection of crops from insect pests, rats and diseases. Fifty land compression sprayers and one power sprayer were purchased by the Agriculture Department besides 910 land compression and 14 power sprayers stocked at the Community Development Blocks to make them available to the cultivators for spraying insecticides as and when necessary. About 2,437 hectares have been brought under plant protection measures during the period from April to October, 1965.

1 Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, op. cit. p. 109.
2 Based on the report of the Directorate of Agriculture, Tripura.

Agricultural training & model farm

Under the scheme of training of students in agriculture one Basic Agricultural School was started in 1957-58 for imparting basic agricultural training to the village level workers, agricultural assistants. Students are also sent to different agricultural colleges outside Tripura for attending different courses. There is a model agricultural farm at Lembucharā where, besides production of different agricultural crops, a nursery is also maintained for fruit plants. Another experimental farm at Kalashi in Sābrum is also doing good work in this line.

Horticulture

The prospect of horticulture in Tripura is very bright. Oranges are profusely grown on the Jampui Hills, pine-apple is very easily grown in the hill slopes, where lichies and jackfruit are also planted. Horticulture has a special use for Tripura as a soil conservation measure. Keeping this aspect in view, both the Agriculture and the Forest Departments are popularising fruit tree plantations. Cashewnut seeds are distributed for this purpose and in many areas cashewnut plantations have grown up. A Horticultural Officer was appointed in the Agriculture Department in 1957 to carry out the horticultural development programme. This department is executing different plans to increase the area under fruit plantations in the territory. Two more fruit plant nurseries and two progeny orchards were started in 1960.

The important horticultural development programmes include attainment of self-sufficiency in cocoanut and arecanut and development of cocoa plantations. To supply cocoanut and arecanut seednuts to growers, two nurseries — one for cocoanut and one for arecanut — have been established. Cocoa seedlings have been procured from Kollar and Burliar fruit stations and are being departmentally planted for observation as to the possibility of its large scale plantation.

In 1963-64 different fruit plants numbering 78,400 and 1,000 Kg. of improved cashewnut seeds were distributed at 50 per cent subsidised rate. Two model orchards — one at Kālādhepā in Sabrum subdivision, and the other at South Hichacharā in Biloniā Sub-division — have been established.

Pine-apples

Pine-apples of Tripura are very tasteful and these are grown so

abundantly that in the past they did not fetch good return to the growers. Price of a pine-apple fell to even 4 to 5 paise each in the past. Of late pine-apples are being exported to Calcutta which help to keep up the price.

In 1957 the Agriculture Department set up a fruit canning section to utilise the surplus fruits like orange, pine-apple, lemon, guava, lichi to protect the growers from suffering economic loss. Canned pine-apple slices, pine-apple juice, orange squash, lemon squash, guava jelly, tomato juice, etc. produced in this unit, are commanding very good market in and outside Tripura. The following table[1] shows the year-wise values of the commodities produced from the aforesaid fruits from the year 1959-60 to 1964-65.

TABLE — XII

Year	Central value of the commodities produced (in Rs.)
1959-60	Rs. 61,944.32
1960-61	Rs. 74,157.99
1961-62	Rs. 51,467.41
1962-63	Rs. 62,000.30
1963-64	Rs. 1,30,000.60
1964-65	Rs. 1,65,000.90

Jhooming and the Jhoomias

Jhooming is a kind of shifting cultivation that is extensively practised in the hills of Tripura by different hill tribes. It is a very primitive, uneconomic and exhaustive form of cultivation. The *Jhoomias* have a self-sufficient economy. In their *Jhooms* they raise everything that they need, Paddy, cotton, sesamum, maize millet, *kaon, binni,* gourd, pumpkin, brinjal, red-pepper, melon, water-melon, pigeon-pea, cucumber etc. are the more important *Jhoom* crops. Almost every *Jhoomia* family has a spinning wheel and a handloom. They leave in bamboo huts which they build on the tops of hills. The details of the different stages of *jhooming* are described below.

Old bamboo forests are the most suitable sites for *Jhooming*. In the month of *Agrahayana* (Nov.-Dec.) the *Jhoomias* go out for the

[1] Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura 1965, op. cit. Pp. 58-59.

selection of sites for *Jhooming*. After selecting a site they start cutting off bamboos and felling down plants and trees in the area. This is generally the men's job. By the beginning of *Falgun* when the debris become highly inflammable, fire is set on the dry vegetation. The debris must be totally burnt out and reduced to ashes which serves as a very good manure. Then in the months of *Baisakha* (April-May) and *Jaistha* (May-June) when they expect rains in a day or two, start sowing of seeds in the *jhoom*. Seeds are dribbled into small holes dug by their *dāo*. Instead of dribbling different seeds in different plots they mix-up all the varieties of seeds together and put the mixture in the holes so that in one hole different seeds are dribbled. When rain falls over the *Jhoom* the seeds become covered with ashes and gradually they sprout. During the rainy season rainwater irrigates the *jhoom*. And at that period weeds grow very quickly which necessitates frequent weeding at least thrice on average.

To protect the *jhoom* crops from being damaged by birds, monkey, wild pigs, fowls, deer, elephants etc. the *Jhoomias* have to keep a watch on their *jhooms* which they do by building watch-houses in the *jhoom* and living therein day and night.

Starting from *Bhadra* (Aug.-Sept.) harvesting of *jhoom* crops continues upto *Agrahayana* and *Paush* (Nov.-January). Paddy is harvested first (in *Bhadra-Aswin*) and next maize to be followed by sesamum. Cotton is plucked last of all. Vegetables are collected as and when deemed necessary.

After the harvesting is over, they will not farm the plot again in the following season. For, after one such cropping the area loses its fertility and therefore it is forsaken. A new plot will be *jhoomed* again. When the available *jhoom* lands around the village are thus exhausted, the whole village shifts to a new area.

According to the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 1955[1] about 25,000 tribal families in Tripura practised *jhoom* and the total area subjected to *jhooming was* 6,47,504 hectares.

Demerits of Jhooming

Jhooming is decried almost in all quarters on account of its causing soil erosion and loss of forest resources. At the time of *jhooming* all vegetative cover over the soil is cleared; hence the soil becomes easily susceptible to rain-water erosion. It does not only cause soil erosion but also leads to heavy silting of river beds. This together with the

[1] Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 1955, Part I, p. 167.

fact that bare hill slopes lose their water-retaining capacity is to a great extent responsible for the rivers to overflow their banks and innundate their valleys which is a very common feature in Tripura to-day.

Another grave defect is the gradual deterioration of the vegetation in the hills that is caused by repeated *jhooming* of the same plot. Vast areas in the hills which were once covered with forests are now covered with thatch grass.

Rat menace

In 1959 *jhoom* crops (especially paddy) were heavily damaged by rats in Kailāsahar, Dharmanagar and Kamalpur Sub-divisions. Rats cause some damage to crops every year, but the damage of the year under review was almost unprecedented. Rat menace becomes much acute whenever bamboos flower. After about 30 to 50 years bamboos flower and after flowering the bamboos die out. Whenever this occurs, rat population tremendously increases devouring the *jhoom* crops. Devastation caused by rats in such years can be only compared with that caused by locusts. One explanation of such a rise in rat population is that bamboo fruits are very much relished by rats and eating of these cause a rise in fertility of rats.

Tripura's almost entire production of cotton sesamum come from the *jhooms*. Area under *Jhoom* cultivation rises from year to year.

Production of jhoom crop

The estimated area under *Jhoom* cultivation during 1967-68 was 15,000 hectares of which 10,500 hectares were under paddy, 2,100 hectares under sesamum and 2,630 under cotton.[1] Rice output in the *jhoom* constitutes about one per cent of the total production of rice in Tripura.

The following table[2] shows the year-wise production of *jhoom* rice in Tripura from 1956-67 to 1967-68.

TABLE — XIII

Year	Quantity of Jhoom rice produced	Year	Quantity of Jhoom rice produced
1956-57	4,25,750 Mds.	1962-63	14,700 Metric Tonnes.
1957-58	3,535,800 ,,	1963-64	13,040 ,,
1959-60	3,02,150 ,,	1964-65	7,570 ,,
1959-60	11,176 Metric Tonnes	1965-66	6,114 ,,
1960-61	10,871 ,,	1966-67	7,466 ,,
1961-62	14,020 ,,	1967-68	7,365 ,,

[1] Based on the report of the Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Tripura.
[2] Source: Directorate of Agriculture, Tripura.

The *Jhoomias* do not pay any rent. House tax (*gharchuktikar*) at different rates for different tribes is collected.

In view of evil effects of *jhooming* and with a view to improving the economic condition of the *jhoomias* the Government has undertaken the scheme of weaning the hillmen from *jhooming* and settling them in plains-land and urging them to take to plough cultivation.

The plan for settlement of the *Jhoomias* taken up during the First Plan was continued upto the end of the Second Plan period. Each family was allotted adequate land and sanctioned grant of Rs. 500 in two instalments for purchasing seeds, bullocks and agricultural implements. Of late, each family is alloted two standard acres of land and a grant of Rs. 300 for purchase of seeds, bullocks and agricultural implements. Whenever possible, these settlements are converted into Model Tribal Colonies by provision of additional facilities, such as co-operative societies, cottage industries, fisheries, recreation centres, schools and dispensaries. Upto the end of September, 1968, 55 model *Jhoomia* colonies have been established.[1] Thus 20,842 families have been settled during the period from 1953-54 to 1968-69 (upto September, 1968).[2]

Cattle census

Tripura's total area being 10,066 Sq. Km., the density of livestock here was 0.7 per hectare in 1961 as against the all India figure of 1.1 per hectare. In respect of the cultivated area only there was 3.5 heads of livestock per hectare in Tripura, whereas in the country as a whole the figure was 3 per hectare. Average number of livestock per head of Tripura's population was 0.6 and the corresponding all India figure was 0.76. Thus Tripura is, on the whole, less overcrowded with livestock as compared to India as a whole. But most of the species are of very poor breed and low productive capacity either as the source of milk, meat and wool supply or as drought or transport power supply, as the case may be. "A pair of bullocks ploughs about three acres of land per day in Tripura as compared to eight acres in all India. The average milk yield per cow is 328 lbs. per annum as compared to 382 in the country."[3]

Cattle numbering 4,94,960 comprised the highest proportion of total livestock, viz. 67 per cent, but cows in milk were 90,987, that is, only

1 Tripura on the March, Government of Tripura, 1969, p. 55.
2 Ibid.
3 Techno-Economic Survey of India, op. cit, p. 57.

19 per cent of the total number of cattle, while working cattle numbered 1,57,082, that is slightly higher than 30 per cent of the total number of cattle.

Fodder crops

Fodder crops as such are seldom grown in Tripura. Common grazing grounds for cattle are also conspicuous by their absence. Tripura has 56,656 hectares of permanent pasture but they are overgrazed and mostly neglected. Hay, straw and husk are mostly used as cattle-feed. The Department of Animal Husbandry has undertaken small schemes of growing fodder crops and scientific maintenance of pasture lands within the Key Village Block areas. In the beginning of the Third Plan under the programme of fodder crops development, one dry fodder exhibition and training centre was set up at Rādhākrishnapur in Sadar Sub-division. Various essential materials for balanced cattle-feed are supplied to the dairy-farmers from this centre.

Dairy-farming

There is no dairy-farm worth its name in Tripura. Milk supply is mainly conducted by milkmen who belong to a particular caste (*Satgope*). There are also Muslim milkmen. They are generally agricultural farmers and along with farming they rear cows as a subsidiary source of income. The former class of milkmen collects milk from the villagers in the neighbourhood of the towns or markets as the case may be. The general practice is to advance some money to the owners of cattle against the promise of authorising the lender to collect milk for the agreed period. The rate at which the milkmen pay the owners is invariably much lower than the retail market rate.

Towards the end of the Second Plan, one Urban Milk Supply Scheme for Agartala town was undertaken. The target of supplying 18.66 quintals of pastuerized and skimmed milk was reached within a few years. The target has since been raised to 37.33 quintals. Butter, *Ghee* (clarified butter) and cheese are also being produced in this unit.

Poultry farming

Poultry population in Tripura, according to the 1961 livestock census is 7,03,000 and all these birds are indigenous and poor. Ducks and fowls are the important items of poultry in Tripura. But the territory is not self-sufficient in eggs. These are imported from

Bangladesh in large numbers. Eggs of ducks are more popular than those of hens.

The hillmen of Tripura rear chickens in large numbers but these are seldom marketed. Most of these are sacrificed for different worships and rituals.

During the Second Plan, a poultry farm with a foundation stock of 200 layers was started by the Government at Gandhigram, about six miles from Agartala.

The long-run target set by the Animal Husbandry Department is to increase the local production of egg, so that each individual of the territory may have one egg a day. In achieving this target the following programmes for development have been adopted.

(i) To upgrade the indigenous poultry population in the villages the existing Government Poultry Farm will be expanded to be able to supply better stock. Extension centres will be opened and private poultry farms will be assisted in all possible ways.

(ii) Poultry farmers will be provided with training facilities in the Government Poultry Farm or the proposed poultry extension centres.

(iii) Poor poultry farmers will be given loans of Rs. 500 each free of interest to encourage better rearing of poultry.

(iv) It is proposed to subsidise rearing of day-old chicks by poultry farmers to the extent of 50 paise a chick. It is expected that from the Government Poultry Farm and the two poultry extension centres 4,000 day-old chicks will be available for such subsidized sales.

Animal Disease and Veterinary Services

Diseases like Hetminthiasis, Diarrhoea, Tynpanities are common among Tripura's cattle population. The contagious diseases are Haemorrhagic septicaemia, Anthrax, Black Quarter and foot and mouth diseases. The incidence of these diseases are comparatively few and the mortality on account of these is negligible.

No incidence of Rinderpest has been recorded since 1960-61. The Rinderpest Eradication Scheme was started in 1960 and was completed by the end of 1964. The entire cattle population of this territory is now protected against Rinderpest.

Tripura has one veterinary hospital, 13 veterinary dispensaries, 2 mobile veterinary units, 16 veterinary units and stockman centres and 28 animal husbandry sub-centres to provide with all sorts of veterinary aids.

Piggery

Pigs are reared mainly by the hillmen of Tripura who are very fond of pork. To improve the breed the Animal Husbandry Department has set up two pig units—one at Gāndhigram and the other at Kāthāliacharā in Biloniā.

Fisheries

Before partition, Tripura had to depend on the neighbouring districts of East Bengal (now Bangladesh) for the bulk of her fish-supply. But after partition, the supply became not only irregular but also depleted, and occasionally it was completely stopped. Tripura's rivers being hill streams do not provide much scope for riverine supply of fish. Therefore, all attempts were directed at the fullest exploitation of inland pounded waters such as tanks, canals, lakes etc. for pisciculture. Immigration of a good number of fishermen from Bangladesh was very helpful in augmenting the fish supply of Tripura from internal sources.

Annual production of fish in the territory is estimated at 3,200 metric tonnes. Per capita consumption of fish per annum is approximately 1.5 kilogram according to an official estimate. 1,820 hectares of water-area are estimated to be under fish culture in the territory. 600 hectares of more water-area are planned to be brought under fish culture by the end of the Fourth Plan, thus raising the annual production of fish to 8,400 metric tonnes.

Work of inland pisciculture was started by the end of the year 1949. By the end of the year 1953, 10.52 hectares of water-areas were brought under scientific pisciculture. In 1950 the famous Rudrasagar Fishery Scheme was taken up. Rudrasagar is a big lake, having an area of more than 600 hectares. It falls in Sonamurā Sub-division. Fishes are cultured according to modern scientific methods under the guidance of a trained employee of the Department of Agriculture. Fishes are caught and marketed by a Fishermen's Co-operative Society to which the lake has been leased out. Supply of fish from this lake varies from 130 to 150 metric tonnes per annum.

In extending and developing pisciculture the greatest difficulty is felt in the matter of fish-spawn supply. Tripura does not have any spawning ground and, therefore, she has to depend on other neighbouring States for her supply of carp fry. In 1955-56, 103,100 nos. of carp fingerlings were sold to the interested pisciculturists and 2,97,450 carp fingerlings were stocked in Government-managed tanks and lakes. The latest technique to culture fry locally by inducing the major varieties like *Rohee, Katla* and *Mrigel* to breed under local conditions by hormone treatment has been taken up. In 1959, experiments conducted on the above lines proved a success in the case of *Rohee* and *Kal Bas*. Seven fish farms having facilities for raising fish seed have been set up during the Second and the Third Plan periods. There is a fish seed centre at Agartala also. Annual production of fish seed raised locally by adopting specialized technique of induced breeding is 2.50 crores. Fry fingerlings so raised are distributed to fish farmers at nominal rates.

The present area of Government-owned tanks and lakes is 68 hectares to which another 40 hectares will be added soon. Loans are being provided to fish farmers for fish culture and fry and fingerlings are being distributed at subsidised rates. Recently an exotic species known as *Cyprinus carpio* has been introduced in this territory. The species is fast growing like Indian carps and under optimum conditions can reach table size within one year.

Every year 30 students of the Farmers' Sons' Training School at Lembucharā are taught preliminary science of pond culture for practising in their respective villages. In 1956-57 one trainee was sent to the Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, Calcutta. In 1955-56 one more trainee and in 1957-58 two more trainees were sent to the same research station.

Livestock

Since 1951 three quinquennial censuses of livestock and poultry have been taken in Tripura, the results of which are presented in the following table.

TABLE — XIV

*Number of Livestock and Poultry**

Year	Livestock										Poultry	
	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horse & Ponies	Mules	Donkeys	Camels	Pigs	Total Livestock	Fowls	Ducks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1951	1,90,708	27,603	1,183	34,493	475	—	—	—	73,513	3,27,975	6,37,730	1,24,849
1956	3,02,865	40,477	6,774	1,01,332	746	3	11	5	40,095	4,92,308	3,51,341	41,189
1961	4,94,960	42,564	3,351	1,57,815	1,097	—	—	—	35,218	7,35,005	6,75,643	81,652
1966	5,88,290	49,737	2,267	1,32,212	1,773	—	—	—	36,627	8,10,909	5,48,050	1,15,307

* Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, p. 43; and Report of the Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Tripura.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

Tripura is mainly an agricultural area with a predominantly ruralised population. A study of the livelihood pattern of this population, as it was in census of 1961, shows that about 11 per cent belonged to different industrial avocation. Out of 1,23,490 persons, included in the industrial categories of the census, about 20.8 per cent depended upon household industries, while the remaining (79.2 per cent) stuck to commerce, transport and other callings.

The ancient rulers of Tripura were great patrons of handicrafts. According to a legend, Subarai, the founder of the Tripura kingdom, once declared that he would support all women who could show outstanding skill in weaving.[1] This indicates that loin-loom commanded highest respect in the past. Loin-loom, indeed, is the oldest and most developed cottage industry of Tripura. Weaving is still widely practised by local people, tribals and particularly Manipuris. Among the traditional produces mention may be made of *dubris* (a piece of skirt to be wrapped twice over the body.) rihā or risā (breast-garment, made primarily from bamboo splits), bed-covers, screens, *asanas* etc. Of these, particularly rihā is remarkable for its colourful variety and texture. "The lustrous beauty of the designs is worked out in all their amazing intricacy by the actual process of weaving and not with any help from the needle."[2]

Silk is another age-old industry of Tripura. Jean Baptist Tavernier, who visited India during the reign of Aurangzeb (in the middle of the 17th century) thus wrote, "There is a sort of coarse silk which is all the revenue the king has. He exacts no subsidies from his subjects, but only that they, who are not of the prime nobility, should work six days in a year in his mine, or in his silkworks. He sends his gold and his silk into China for which they bring him back silver, which he coins into pieces to the value of ten sous."[3]

1 Sen, Kaliprasanna, Rājamālā; Vol. I, Pp. 113-114.
2 Handicrafts in Tripura, a pamphlet published by the Directorate of Industries, Tripura 1959, p. 8.
3 Tavernier's Travels in India, the Third Book, *Bangabasi* Office, Calcutta, 1905, Ch. XV, p. 552.

In 1875, while mentioning this old industry, W. W. Hunter wrote: "Many years ago one of the Tipperah Rajas married a daughter of king of Assam, and with her there came a small colony of *tasar* silk weavers. This industry is now confined to one small village, and is said to be fast dying out." A few miles off from Agartala there is still a small village called *Resham Bagan* (Silk garden) which possibly bears witness to this fact. During the reign of Mahārājā Birendra-kiśhoremāṇikya (1909-23 A.D.) a school was opened at Agartala for giving sericultural training to the interested persons.

Among other traditional handicrafts mention may be made of boat making, brass and bell-metal work, ivory carving, cane and bamboo work, horn, hide and pottery. Raja Vijayamanikya (1532-65 A.D.) is reported to have rehabilitated some skilled goldsmiths and bell-metal artisans of Dhvajaghat (Dacca district) in a place under Bisalgarh Police Station, later called Dhvajanagar in memory of Dhvajaghat.[1] Vijayamanikya had a strong naval force which consisted of many kinds of boats. Of these, *Morkosa, Konda* and *Long,* particularly suitable for shallow, hilly streams, were produced in Tripura.[2] Ivory carving has also a rich tradition in Tripura. "During princely regime care was taken to develop the industry and sometimes master-artists were hired from the Punjab to ensure further technical improvement. It is found in old records that extensive research work was undertaken about ivory and the tuskers — their shape, quality and suitability. These papers provide a wealth of information that is all indicative of a high standard of excellence attained in the industry in the days of yore".[3] The historic throne and the royal seat of the Rajas of Tripura, constructed of ivory, are excellent specimen of oriental craftsmanship. Bamboo and cane craft is a household industry in Tripura like weaving. This traditional handicraft of Tripura yet can boast of its artistic produces. Wood, horn and leather work and pottery also received attention and patronage of the Rajas of Tripura, But at later period only weaving and a few handicrafts viz., bomboo and cane work came to be known as principal industries.

The main characteristic of these industries is that "all these industries never reached the stage which might be said to be industries of organised sector on commercial scale." The main reasons behind this drawback were the peculiar geographical location of the State, which is covered with dense forest, lack of good internal communication, and lack of scope of proper marketing.

1 Sen, Kaliprasanna, Rajamala; Vol. II, Pp. 153-154.
2 Ibid, p. 118.
3 Handicrafts in Tripura, Directorate of Industries, Tripura Administration, Agartala, 1959, p. 13.

On the other hand, Tripura is geographically so handicapped that possibilities of growth of large-scale manufacturing industries are almost nil. At the first, it is bounded by Bangladesh on three sides. Secondly, poor power supply, narrow internal market, want of adequate supply of raw materials and mainly high transport cost stand in the way of the development of medium and large-scale industries. So in the First and Second Plans emphasis was given on the development of cottage and small-scale industries.

Some small-scale industries, already briefly mentioned, have been in existence in the territory since the days of the Rajas of Tripura. These are now taken up for detailed examination.

Cotton weaving industry

Cotton weaving is the oldest and most important industry of Tripura. But it was a tribal household industry in the strict sense. Almost each tribal family had one or more looms and *Charkhas* and weaved coarse cloth for its own requirements. According to census 1920, there were 34,856 tribal families in Tripura while the number of loin-looms were 34,485. In 1930 the number of looms rose to 41,424 and the number of *Charkhas* became 41,119. According to the Industrial Survey Report, 1955-56, excluding household looms there were about 1,857 weaving units employing 3,933 workers in Tripura.[1] But the total number of weavers in the territory was 15,000.[2] With the increase in demand for imported cotton-piece goods at Agartala and other sub-divisional towns of Tripura, the need for the modernization of the textile industry has become all the more apparent. It has been suggested that "the training of tribals in dyeing, calendering, designing and finishing and the use of improved loom appliances like the take-up-motion and fly shuttles will have to be a part of the programme".[3] Accordingly schemes have been taken up to supply the weavers with dyed yearn by the Central Marketing Organisation, to supply improved looms and accessories, to provide loans and subsidy on transport cost of yarn and facilities for marketing through Central Marketing Organisation and sales depot. One Central Dye House has also been set up under the Handloom Development Scheme.

According to the census of small industries, 1965-66, there were in all 607 handloom units of which 28 belong to the co-operative societies.

1 Industrial Survey Report, 1955-56, Directorate of Industries, Tripura.
2 Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura: Published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, 1961, p. 98.
3 Ibid.

The total number of workers engaged in this industry was 1,943, of whom 569 were self-employed, 656 belonged to members of the families, 167 part-time workers and 551 full-time workers.[1] A calendering and sizing plant for meeting the finished and sizing requirements of handloom is expected to be set up in the Fourth Plan. Eight hundred power-looms will be installed through co-operative societies and individual enterpreneurs.[2]

Silk weaving industry

It has already been observed that silk weaving is one of the important age-old industries of the territory. In early part of the 20th century experiments for silk rearing began under the supervision of one officer who was sent to Bangalore for training in silk rearing and weaving and subsequently to Japan for completion of studies.[3] Of late silk weaving has become popular particularly with the tribals. Four demonstration centres on sericulture have been set up at Bisramganj, Karamchara, Champaknagar and Santirbazar where different techniques of silk-production are demonstrated. Schemes have been taken up for supply of rearing and reeling appliances at subsidised cost and for providing grants for construction of rearing houses by the village rearers. *Eri,* mulberry and *tasar* have been cultivated in all the demonstration centres. Seven hundred and sixtyfive families are reported to have derived benefit of the scheme.[4]

In 1966-67 about 7 hectares of land were brought under castor and mulberry cultivation and during the year 295 persons took up this industry in addition to the existing persons. According to the same report 31,140 layings were distributed amongst the rearers which produced 220 kg. of yarn during the year.

Pottery industry

According to the report of Techno-Economic Survey there were 592 pottery units employing 1,335 workers in Tripura during 1961. The report further stated that this industry is in a depressed state. "Substitution of pottery products like jars, *sarahis* (earthen water-pots), *hukkas* by metal and ceramic products is the principal cause of the decline."[5]

1 Census of Small Industries in Tripura, 1965-66, Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, p. 21.
2 Tripura on the March, Publicity Department, Govt. of Tripura, 1967, p. 20.
3 Bhattacharyay, A.C. Progressive Tripura, Calcutta, 1948, p. 48.
4 Tripura on the March, Publicity Deptt. Tripura, 1968, Pp. 18-19.
5 Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, op. cit. p. 94.

In a recent survey[1] undertaken by the Statistical Cell, Directorate of Industries, Tripura, it was found that pottery industry stands second in having largest number of units. There were in all 633 units, of which only 4 belonged to the co-operative societies. Of these units, the largest number being 127 were in Sadar North Block, 56 in Sadar South, 14 in Sadar East, 32 in Teliamura Block, 36 in Khowai, 28 in Salema, 44 in Kumarghat, 29 in Chamanu, 5 in Panisagar, 14 in Kanchanpur, 24 in Amarpur, 3 in Dharmanagar, 18 in Rajnagar, 45 in Satchand, 35 in Bagafa, 53 in Udaipur and 70 in Melaghar Block, employing 1,591 workers altogether. During the year 1965-66 these units consumed raw materials to the value of Rs. 1,92,677 and the value of their production stood at Rs. 11,94,078.

Tailoring industries

Tailoring industry covers maximum number of units. There were 691 tailoring and readymade garments establishments in Tripura. Of these 144 were in Sadar Central, 71 in Sadar North, 38 in Sadar South, 27 in Sadar East, 45 in Teliamura, 25 in Khowai, 51 in Salema, 78 in Kumarghat, 21 in Chamanu, 23 in Panisagar, 34 in Kanchanpur, 11 in Kamalpur, 9 in Dumburnagar, 20 in Rajnagar, 21 in Satchand, 7 in Bagafa, 48 in Udaipur and 18 in Melaghar Block. The total number of persons engaged in this industry was 1,046 of whom 690 were self-employed. Tailoring industry along with two other industries e.g. handloom and pottery cover about 52.25 per cent of the units.[2]

Khadi and village industries

The regional office of Khadi and Village Industries Commission was set up at Agartala at the later half of 1963. Under the schemes for introduction of Khadi and some other village industries, eleven spinning and weaving centres and three Khadi Gramodyog Bhandars, one each at Agartala, Kanchanpur and Nutan Bazar have been functioning. Besides, there are in all ten Ambar *Charkha* Centres in different areas of the territory. Among the village industries mention may be made of hand-pounding of paddy, leather and pottery, schemes for bee-keeping and production of *gur* and *khandsari* are being implemented by the Department of Industries. During 1966-67 seventeen sub-stations rendered services to 583 bee-keepers in 733 colonies. About 4,622 kg. of honey was extracted by those sub-stations during

1 Census of Small Industries in Tripura, 1965-66, op. cit., p. 4.
Ibid.

the same period. One hundred twentyone bee-keepers received subsidies for purchase of bee-hives and other accessories. *Gur* and *khandsari* worth Rs. 2,24,262 were produced during the same year. About 4,000 persons are engaged in these activities.[1]

Among other small-scale industries blacksmithy, carpentry and jewellery owned 30 and 251 and 296 units respectively. Among other industries having small number of units mention may be made of brick and *bidi* manufacturing, oil *ghani, gur, khandsari,* cycle and rickshaw repairing, motor reparing and allied engineering job works, cane and bamboo works, tin-smithy, printing press etc. According to the census of small industries in Tripura, 1965-66, brick manufacturing alone provides about 20 per cent of the total value of production while seven groups of industries viz., handloom, carpentry, pottery, rice-mill, *bidi* making and brick-manufacturing together provides 72 per cent. Five other group of industries viz., blacksmithy, jewellery, saw mills, motor repairing and soap manufacturing together contribute 14.76 per cent of the total output.

Names of remaining small-scale industries with their total number of units shown within brackets as found during 1965-66 are given below :—

Foot-wear and leather goods (24), carpentry (251), trunk making (16), musical instruments making (18), cycle and rickshaw repairing (157), watch repairing (30), photo & book-binding (23), bakery (31), saw mills (17), cotton ginning (1), umbrella-handle manufacturing (1), radio repairing (7), printing press (23), cane & bamboo works (including pāti making and basketry), (95), handicrafts (2), soap manufacturing (5), idol & doll making (13), copper & brass-smithy (14), wet battery manufacturing (6), tyre retreading & vulcanising (10), tin-smithy (29), bullock-cart wheel manufacturing (4), pharmaceutical works (3), dyeing and printing (2), spray painting (2), and one each of fruit canning, ice & cold storage, hosiery, conch shell cutting and ornaments making, tile, R.C.C. spun pipe, aluminium, cooking spices, lime manufacturing.[2] Among these handicrafts only a very few were in the co-operative sector. Even in 1969 only three bamboo & cane handicrafts, six pottery and four carpentry units were found functioning as co-operative societies.

1 Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, op. cit., p. 94.
2 Ibid, Pp. 11-12.

Industrial development

Various measures for the development of cane & bamboo, the two traditional handicrafts of Tripura, were taken during the three successive plan periods. A Design Extension Centre has been set up at Agartala for evolving attractive and new designs on handicrafts and placing the same before the manufacturing units. The Centre also undertook a training programme on handicrafts. During 1966-67 the Centre is reported to have produced articles worth Rs. 20,000.[1]

Every year financial assistance is provided by the government to small industrial units. During 1966-67 loan to the extent of Rs. 2.93 lakhs was provided to 11 units working on various trades viz., spun pipe manufacturing, oil mill, saw mill, brick, hosiery, soap, handloom accessories, brass metal work, readymade garments, cycle parts etc.[2]

For marketing of cottage industry's products of Tripura, whether produced by individuals, co-operative societies or Government Departments, there are four sales emporia, one each in Calcutta, Agartala, Dharmanagar and Udaipur under the control of Central Marketing Organisation, started in 1959. During 1966-67, local products worth Rs. 2.18 lakhs were marketed through these sales emporia.[3]

The Central Marketing Organization supplies raw materials viz., yarn, iron and steel, dye-stuff, chemicals, cement, camphor etc. at a moderate price to the industrial units and helps in marketing. The overall transaction made by the organisation during 1966-67 amounted to Rs. 8.23 lakhs.

To provide technical know-how and guidance four Industrial Institutes, one each at Agartala and Bagafa (in Bilonia Sub-division) and Kailasahar (in Kailasahar Sub-division) have been set-up. These Institutes impart training in weaving, dyeing, tanning, boat making, leather crafts, basketry, umbrella and umbrella handle manufacturing and tailoring. Statements indicating number of trainees receiving training in different crafts in different years are given below :

[1] Tripura on the March, Publicity Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, 1958, p. 20.
[2] Ibid. p. 18.
[3] Ibid, p. 17.

TABLE — 1[1]

Industrial Institute, Kailasahar (later converted to I.T.I.)

Year	Weaving	Tanning	Hand-made paper	Baske-try	Umbrella handle	Leather crafts	Black-smithy	Carpen-try	Tailo-ring	Motor-Mech.	Electri-cal.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1956-57	10	11	5	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957-58	5	4	5	9	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958-59	9	7	6	11	5	7	—	—	—	—	—
1959-60	9	5	5	13	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1960-61	15	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961-62	8	—	2	6	—	8	8	7	—	—	—
1962-63	8	—	—	8	—	—	2	8	—	16	5
1963-64	11	—	—	11	—	—	2	8	—	14	4
1964-65	9	—	—	7	—	—	4	2	—	8	3
1965-66	13	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amarpur.											
1964-65	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	8	—	—
1965-66	12	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	12	—	—

[1] Source: Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, Agartala.

TABLE — II[1]

Yearwise and tradewise number of students completed training from Industrial Institute, Bagafa.

Year	Weaving	Tanning	Handmade paper	Basketry	Umbrella handle mfg.	Black-smithy	Carpentry	Tailor-ing	Leather crafts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1956-57	6	5	7	3	9	—	—	—	6
1957-58	8	4	4	1	2	—	—	11	3
1958-59	5	3	5	6	—	2	6	—	6
1959-60	8	—	4	5	—	6	9	—	—
1960-61	5	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—
1961-62	5	—	—	4	—	—	8	—	—
1962-63	6	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1963-64	2	—	—	2	—	—	7	—	—
1964-65	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1965-66	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Source: Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, Agartala.

TABLE — III[1]

Sessionwise number of students completed training from Industrial Training Institute, Indranagar (non-engineering trades)

Year	Cane & bamboo works	Hand weaving of fancy furnishings	Stenography
1	2	3	4
1960-61	14	12	—
1961-62	10	4	—
1962-63	14	12	10
1963-64	13	9	3
1964-65	9	5	6
1965-66	13	15	9

[1] Source: Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, Agartala.

TABLE — IV[1]

Sessionwise number of students completed training from Industrial Training Institute, Indranagar (engineering trades).

Period	Blacksmithy	Carpentry	Electrician	Fitter	Mechanic motor	Turner	Welder	Moulder	Sheet-metal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nov. '59 to April '61	9	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aug. 60 to Jan. '62	—	2	10	17	15	12	5	—	—
May '61 to Oct. '62	3	5	8	—	—	—	12	—	—
1963-64	10	11	17	19	47	34	20	17	5
1963-64 to 1964-65	9	8	18	32	29	18	20	13	2
1965-66	*	8	12	13	16	12	14	14	10

* No Examination held.

[1] Source: Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, Agartala.

Industrial Estates

The Industrial Estate started at Arundhutinagar during the Second Plan period has provided factory accommodation together with common service facilities to 14 industrial units. The employment position in these units was about 160 in 1967 with an average annual production worth Rs. 10 lakhs.[1] Another Industrial Estate was set up at Udaipur accommodating three units. Of the three units, one on blacksmithy and one on carpentry are in the public sector. The units produced articles and rendered services worth Rs. 5,000 per month on an average and all their products were sold out during 1966-67. Another unit for tea-chest fittings has also been introduced. The model blacksmithy unit set up during the Second Plan period at Panisagar for imparting training in the trade has been shifted to Dharmanagar and turned into a production-cum-servicing centre. During 1966-67 the unit earned revenue to the amount of Rs. 48,000.[2]

State-aid to industries

Under State Aid to Industries Rules, loans are provided to deserving industries. During the three plan periods, a total sum of Rs. 30,48,037 was issued as industrial loans to 3,258 industrial units in the territory under four schemes viz., State Aid to Industries, Rehabilitation Scheme, Rural Industries Project Scheme and Handloom Scheme. Of the amount, Rs. 1,62,600 was advanced during the Third Plan period alone to 25 units under Rural Industries Project Scheme. The highest number of units receiving loans under State Aid to Industries Scheme was 102 during the Third Plan period while that under Handloom Scheme stood at 1,114. Against a total advance of Rs. 30,48,037, the total amount realised during the three plan periods amounted to Rs. 4,54,103 which works out to only about seven per cent of the total loan issued. In other words, the amount due for realization against these loans was Rs. 25,93,934.

Rice, oil & flour mills

During 1965-66, there were in all 128 rice, oil and flour mills in the State [rice mills — 48, flour mills — 71, and rice & oil mills (combined) — 9], of which 15 were in Sadar Central, 27 in Sadar East, 10 in Teliamura and 2 in Sadar North. Of the remaining, 19 were in Kumarghat, 14 in Panisagar, 9 in Udaipur, 8 in Bagafa, 6 in Rajnagar,

[1] Tripura on the March, 1967, p. 17.
[2] Ibid, 1968, p. 18.

5 in Melaghar, 4 in Satchand and 3 each in Khowai and Salema Development Blocks. Kanchanpur Block had only one such mill.

Saw mills

There were in all 17 saw mills of which 11 were in Sadar Central and 2 each were in Bagafa and Udaipur Blocks and one each in Sadar East and Kumarghat Blocks.

Ice & cold storage

There was only one ice & cold storage in Sadar Central Block.

R.C.C. spun-pipe making

There was only one R.C.C. Spun-pipe making factory in Sadar Central Block.

Manufacture of aluminium products

One unit manfacturing aluminium utensils from sheets started functioning in 1963 at Arundhutinagar Industrial Estates. The unit also produces sheets from ingots having re-rolling arrangement.

Cotton ginning

There were two factories of powerised gin cotton at Agartala according to the report of Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura.[1] The report further stated that 11,203 maunds of this cotton was exported to Japan via Calcutta in 1957. But in 1965-66 the number of factories came down to only one with only 10 full-time and 30 part-time workers. The factory produced gin cotton amounted to Rs. 65,000 during the year.

Dairy products industry

During the Second Plan period a scheme, namely, Agartala Milk Supply Scheme with a capacity to handle 1,850 litres of milk per day for distribution at Agartala town was introduced in the public sector. The distribution of milk was started from April 18, 1961. The scheme was subsequently expanded to meet the growing demand of the people during the Third Plan period and the target of supplying 3,700 litres of whole-milk daily was well exceeded by September, 1967.

[1] Techno-Economic Survey; op. cit. p. 93.

Provision has been made for issuing loans to interested farmers or co-operatives, agreeable to supply milk to the dairy factory. The factory also produces *ghee* and butter from the surplus milk, collected from rural producers. The cream collected is melted into *Ghee* Heating Stations and the residue sold to the villagers as stock-feeds.[1]

Match factory

In 1939 a Royal Charter was issued for the incorporation of Maharaja Match Factory Ltd. Under this Charter the company was given monopoly for manufacturing and exporting matches, splints and veners and such other works. The existing match factory owned by some person was then sold to the company. In addition to production of match, provisions were made in the Charter for business on a large-scale of manufacturing and trading in various substances out of raw materials found in the territory. Tripura Industrial Agency who were the Managing Agents of the Tipperah Hill Development Company Ltd., established in January, 1922 to carry into effect several objects, specially 'taking over as a going concern known as the Pratapgarh Agricultural Farm in Tripura State' was also the first Managing Agents of the Maharaja Match Factory Ltd. Some time after integration of the State with the Indian Union, the second match factory in the name of Plywood Corporation, started manufacturing safety matches at Agartala. The plant manufacturing safety matches had difficulties in procuring soft woods and in competing with the Western India Match Co. The factory was liquidated after some time. In 1966 a match factory was started at Arundhutinagar Industrial Estates, manufacturing "Pine-apple" brand safety matches.

Power schemes

Prior to integration of the territory with the Indian Union, Agartala, the capital of Tripura, was the only town, electrified by a diesel power station, owned by a private agency. The power station was taken over by the Government during the First Five Year Plan and its generating capacity was increased from 280 K.W. to 490 K.W. During the Second Five Year Plan period the generating capacity was augmented further to 1,053 K.W. and power was supplied to 13 localities including the sub-divisional towns of Dharmanagar, Kailasahar, Khowai and Udaipur. At the end of the Third Plan period the generating capacity was further increased to 2,393 K.W. and power was supplied to 22 more localities, thus bringing the total number of

[1] Tripura on the March, Publicity Department, Tripura, 1967, p. 45.

localities electrified in Tripura to 35. Thus all the sub-divisional towns, block headquarters and important localities in Tripura have been provided with power supply.

With a view to meeting the great demand for electric supply and to make it available all over the territory at a cheap rate, the Government of Tripura decided to purchase power in bulk from the Umium Hydro-electric Project undertaken by the Government of Assam. This bulk supply scheme was phased out for implementation in four stages, of which the first two are expected to be undertaken immediately.[1]

Gumti Power Project

Gumti Power Project, the biggest power generating project in Tripura envisages the utilization of the potential created by the *Dumbur Falls* by constructing an earth-cum-rock fill dam on the river *Gumti.*

"The total provision for Third Five Year Plan is Rs. 73 lakhs — Rs. 40 lakhs for Gumti Hydro-Electric Project and Rs. 33 lakhs for Thermal Scheme. Against this provision a sum of Rs. 3.80 lakhs was spent during 1961-62 and Rs. 5.15 lakhs during 1962-63".[2]

"The Planning Commission accepted the Gumti Hydro-Electric Scheme and authorised the State Govt. to incur expenditure on preliminary works of the Scheme. Accordingly, Survey of the dam site and preparation of the estimates for the work were taken up."[3]

Tea industry

Tea is the only organised industry in Tripura. Tea gardens of Tripura are tiny in size and some of them are even uneconomic units. The birth of the tea industry in Tripura dates back to 1919 when leases of 24,000 acres of land for tea plantations were granted by the late Maharaja Birendrakiśhoremāṇikya.

By 1930 the total number of gardens reached 40 and the total amount of capital invested by the different tea concerns was estimated at one crore of rupees. Since then the industry had a progressive but a checkered career. When the industry was started, the total area of tea estate was 960 hectares but in 1964 it rose to about 5,554.62 hectares and the total number of concerns rose from 40 in 1930 to 56 in 1964. Among the tea growing States in the country, Tripura occupies fifth place in regard to the area under tea.[4] Position of the tea industry of Tripura vis-a-vis India is as follows:

[1] Tripura on the March, Publicity Deptt., Tripura, 1968, p. 32.
[2] Annual Administration Report (1962-63); Tripura Administration, p. 29.
[3] Ibid, 1964-65, p. 40.
[4] Bulletin of Tea Statistics, Government of Tripura, 1966, p. 3.

TABLE — V

AREA UNDER TEA IN DIFFERENT STATES OF INDIA (AS ON 31ST MARCH) SINCE 1961

(Area in hectare)

State	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	1,62,367.20	1,63,280.89	1,63,873.98	1,66,250.66	1,69,658.82	1,72,304.46
West Bengal	82,705.23	82,864.51	83,615.49	84,829.68	85,031.49	85,648.25
Kerala	39,783.88	39,881.08	39,920.88	39,958.38	39,921.59	39,614.94
Madras	32,722.54	32,749.85	32,931.51	33,028.48	33,206.94	33,709.10
Tripura	5,084.74	5,375.32	5,171.62	5,249.70	5,501.88	5,536.95
Punjab (Kangra)	3,763.16	3,763.16	3,763.16	3,763.16	3,763.16	3,763.00
Uttar Pradesh	2,084.11	2,083.98	2,069.80	2.012.46	1,972.22	1,972.22
Mysore	1,794.09	1,775.91	1,781.98	1,789.23	1,810.68	1,811.29
Himachal Pradesh (Mandi)	420.01	420.01	420.01	420.01	420.01	420.00
Bihar	533.64	533.69	533.69	533.69	475.81	475.88
TOTAL (India)	3,31,258.50	3,32,728.40	3,34,082.12	3,37,835.45	3,41,762.60	3,45,256.07

Source: Bulletin of Tea Statistics, Government of Tripura, 1966, p. 14.

Since 1950 the industry has been showing signs of decline. The 1952 recession in the tea industry, inflicted a severe strain upon the industry. Although the industry just like in other parts of India has survived the crisis, yet the recession has left an indelible mark upon the conditions of the industry in Tripura. Of course, even before the recession partition of the country and Tripura's merger in India had caused certain difficulties for the industry as the direct transport lines with India were cut off thereby. However, in spite of so many difficulties, the industry is pulling on and not very badly. The table given below would show the position.

TABLE — VI

Showing Production of Tea (in 000 kgs.) in different States of India.

States	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Assam	1,82,311	1,73,900	1,69,663	1,95,532	1,81,888	1,89,661
West Bengal	86,258	84,700	83,456	89,541	86,979	85,721
Kerala	39,545	40,879	42,088	39,597	43,567	44,687
Madras	39,768	41,196	44,721	49,755	47,343	48,493
Tripura	2,701	2,312	2,524	2,985	2,646	2,490
Punjab (Kangra)	1,074	1,027	1,045	1,070	1,012	966
Uttar Pradesh	804	787	660	726	612	419
Mysore	1,779	1,829	2,159	1,817	2,218	2,259
Himachal Pradesh	114	91	84	106	70	45
Bihar	55	49	60	57	39	65
TOTAL—(India)	3,54,409	3,46,770	4,46,460	3,72,186	3,66,374	3,74,806

Source: Bulletin of Tea Statistics, Govt. of Tripura, 1966, p. 18.

Characteristics of the Tea Industry of Tripura

The average size of the estates in Tripura is about 80 hectares which is very small in comparison with gardens elsewhere in India ; in the Dooars and Assam the average size is not less than 202 hectares even in Darjeeling it is about 121 to 141 hectares.

Capital invested per acre of plantation is also very small. The tea estates are scattered throughout the Sadar, Kailasahar and Dharmanagar sub-divisions of the territory. Average per acreage yield is 1.31 quintal.

Quality of tea produced in Tripura is very poor and it is mainly used for blending with superior quality of tea to reduce the price. The gardens manufacture both green and black tea, though the latter predominates. Selling-price of Tripura tea is also very low in comparison with other places of India. The highest price quoted for tea of different regions from 1954 to 1966 would reveal the picture.

TABLE — VII

Annual average prices per Kg. of Indian Tea sold at different auctions

Calcutta — Leaf.
Calendar years

Year	Assam	Cachar	Darjeeling	Dooars	Terai	Tripura	Other places	Total
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1954	6.47	5.72	7.35	6.01	6.40	5.98	4.95	6.29
1955	5.94	4.64	6.29	5.26	5.17	4.95	—	5.61
1956	5.13	3.76	6.12	4.11	3.87	3.37	3.21	4.73
1957	5.24	3.98	6.60	4.33	4.29	3.87	4.29	4.91
1958	5.10	3.85	6.93	4.11	3.94	3.74	3.98	4.71
1959	5.02	4.11	6.71	4.29	4.22	3.94	3.96	4.77
1960	5.48	4.51	6.80	4.79	4.71	4.44	—	5.25
1961	4.98	4.18	6.48	4.48	4.44	4.45	5.31	4.85
1962	5.42	4.04	7.32	4.44	4.37	3.77	—	5.10
1963	5.35	4.49	7.09	4.67	4.69	4.25	7.42	5.18
1964	5.15	4.43	7.59	4.61	4.65	4.12	7.07	5.10
1965	5.17	4.47	8.55	4.76	4.74	4.03	—	5.21
1966	5.62	4.66	9.65	4.88	4.84	4.26	7.08	5.62

Note — The figures upto and including 1961 pertain to Export Sales only.
Source : Tea Statistics, 1966-67, issued by the Tea Board of India, September, 1967, p. 27.

TABLE — VIII[1]

Calcutta — Dust
Calendar year

Year	Assam	Cachar	Darjeeling	Dooars	Terai	Tripura	Other places	Green Tea	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.	Rs. P.
1954	4.97	4.69	5.04	4.64	4.69	4.42	3.08	—	4.82
1955	5.30	4.31	5.17	4.62	4.53	3.78	3.30	3.39	5.02
1956	4.73	3.81	4.49	3.83	3.70	3.12	3.21	2.40	4.40
1957	4.31	3.59	4.44	3.76	3.67	3.39	3.39	1.10	4.14
1958	4.36	3.70	4.47	3.76	3.56	3.56	3.76	1.52	4.18
1959	4.58	4.03	4.60	4.14	4.03	3.96	3.83	2.27	4.40
1960	5.17	4.57	5.02	4.78	4.66	4.39	—	—	5.04
1961	5.13	4.14	4.87	4.48	4.29	4.04	—	—	4.86
1962	5.05	3.87	4.52	4.21	3.65	3.31	—	—	4.73
1963	5.04	4.49	4.94	4.61	4.35	4.03	—	—	4.88
1964	4.90	4.45	4.91	4.43	4.36	3.95	4.07	—	4.75
1965	5.06	4.69	4.99	4.75	4.66	3.97	—	—	4.93
1966	5.16	4.59	5.46	4.75	4.62	3.93	3.71	—	4.99

[1] Source: Tea Statistics 1966-67, issued by the Tea Board of India, September, 1967, p. 28.

The Statistical Department of the Tea Board undertook a Techno-Economic Survey of the Tea Industry of Tripura. The Survey revealed that there were 55 tea plantations covering an area of 5,047 hectares during the period from 1956 to 1960. But all the tea gardens were not running on profit. Tea Estates are generally very small-sized and their operational efficiency is also very low. "A systematic programme of manuring had not been adhered to by any of the gardens. The bushes were planted in a thoroughly disorganised and haphazard fashion, primarily because of lack of technical know-how".[1] The industry has been facing some serious problems such as, paucity of funds, high transport cost, non-availability of chief fuel, etc.

[1] The Statesman, Calcutta, January 1, 1964.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

Banking and Finance

"The indigenous banking system in the past did play a part in the field of business in Tripura. Some private banks and the State Bank, Tripura carried on their business."

One banking department was started in the Treasury in 1932. In 1935 the Tripura State Bank was opened to facilitate the business activities in between Tripura and British administered districts and for offering credit facilities to the people of the territory.

Among the private banks, mention may be made of the Girish Bank Ltd., the Associated Bank of Tripura Ltd. and the Tripura Modern Bank Ltd. The main function of these banks was offering of loans and facilities of cash credit.

The registered office of the Girish Bank Ltd. was incorporated on April 1, 1930 and the bank was liquidated on January 10, 1948 and December 8, 1949 by the Tripura High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively.

The Maharaja of Tripura was the patron of the Associated Bank of Tripura Ltd., which was incorporated in 1934. Its registered office was at Gangasagar, A & B. Railways and its chief office was at Agartala, Tripura. The share capital of the bank was declared as Rs. 5 lakhs, divided into 20,000 shares of Rs. 25 each. The bank was liquidated on December 19, 1949.

The registered office of the Tripura Modern Bank Ltd., incorporated on April 9, 1929 under the Indian Company Act 7 of 1913, was at Akhaura, A & B Railways (now in Bangladesh), with its chief office at Agartala and one branch office in Calcutta. The share capital of the Bank was Rs. 30 lakhs, divided into 1,20,000 shares of Rs. 25 each. The Maharaja of Tripura was the patron of the Bank. It had branches in British administered areas, viz. Akhaura, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chittagong, Dacca, Badarpur, Gauhati etc. The Bank was liquidated on March 9, 1954.

Besides the private banks offering loans, the Maharaja of Tripura had a special fund under *Niz Tahabil* from which loans were issued to the members of the royal family. Loans were issued to the *Thākur* people, Government employees and even to the businessmen from this fund at a nominal interest.

In 1945, a new bank with the denomination of the Tripura State Bank Ltd. was registered under the Tripura State Government Act. The new bank was a share holder's bank and was quite separate from the existing Tripura State Bank which merged in the new bank in 1946 after the Tripura State Bank Act was passed. The Finance Minister of Tripura, who was the administrative head of the old State Bank, became the General Manager of the new bank which was incorporated in Tripura State with registered office at Agartala. It had three branches, one each at Dharmanagar, Khowai and Kailasahar. The Bank created a working capital of about Rs. 15.50 lakhs during the eight months from the date of commencement of its business and earned a profit of Rs. 2,552. At the end of the year 1947, the Bank's authorised capital stood at Rs. 1 crores, divided into one lakh shares of Rs. 100 each. The net profit during the year was Rs. 29,154.

In the post-integration period, the increase in population as well as in the volume of business activities, laid sufficient ground upon which money lending business might thrive. Being attracted by the possibilities of jute, oil-seed trade etc. some businessmen came down to Tripura to trade in jute, oil-seed and cotton. "They are now, broadly speaking, controlling these trades in Tripura and meeting the financial needs of other local traders as well as producers of agricultural commodities."

"Besides, there are professional licensed money-lenders engaged in only lending money to petty businessmen and to producers of agricultural commodities in rural areas. Gold and agricultural commodities are being used as securities against the money advanced."[1]

General credit facilities in Tripura are available from the following sources :

(a) *Tripura State Co-operative Bank Ltd.* — It was incorporated on January 25, 1957 with its head office at Agartala. It rendered financial help to the co-operative societies. The Bank issued loans to the tune of Rs. 120.42 lakhs for seasonal agricultural operations and for purchase of cattle, seed, manure, agricultural implements etc. upto

1 These portions are quoted from Finance Department's Report, a Govt. of Tripura.

March, 1966. The Bank has branches at Udaipur, Bilonia, Kailasahar, Dharmanagar and Teliamura.

(b) *Tripura Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Ltd.* — The Bank was opened on February 26, 1960 with its registered office at Agartala. It has no branch. This bank is a long-termed agricultural credit institution. The normal limit of individual borrowing is Rs. 10,000. It is exclusively meant for the peasantry within the meaning of the term 'agriculturist'.

(c) *Scheduled Banks* — Among the scheduled banks granting loans to small-scale industries mention may be made of the United Commercial Bank Ltd., and the United Bank of India Ltd. The branches of the above mentioned banks were opened at Agartala in 1949 and 1952 respectively.

(d) *State Bank of India* — The State Bank of India has branch office at the district headquarters. The Bank acts as bank-treasurer in addition to its normal business.

National Savings

Tripura's progress in Small Savings movement seems to be steady. While in 1960-61, total gross deposit under all the Small Savings Securities in Tripura was 54,47,000, the figures rose to 91,81,000 in 1965-66. That the people of the territory are gradually becoming more serious about savings is evident from the following figures.[1]

TABLE — I

Small Savings Gross in Tripura (Figures in thousand of Rupees)

1960-61	54,47
1961-62	63,48
1962-63	65,78
1963-64	78,62
1964-65	99,68

It may also be pointed out here that out of all Small Savings Securities, Post Office Savings Bank Accounts seem to be most popular here.

[1] Step by Step, A Souvenir on Small Savings in Assam, 1969, Directorate of Small Savings Schemes, Assam, p. 21.

TRADE & COMMERCE — COURSES OF TRADE: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

In the past there were exportable surplus of forest products and of certain agricultural produce. Forest products were mainly exported to the adjacent districts of Assam and Bangladesh, namely, Sylhet, Tipperah and Noakhali and in smaller quantities to districts of Dacca, Backerganj and Faridpur. There were three channels through which these products were exported. These were (1) River-route Mahal i.e., exported by river-routes. All the main rivers of Tripura flow into Bangladesh. (2) Permit Mahal i.e., exports of minor forest produce by land route permits. These permits entitled the holders to collect and make a shoulder-borne export independently, i.e., without the help of anybody else, minor forest produce such as bamboo, sungrass, fuel, etc. from the forest area. (3) Khushki Mahal i.e., exports of timber, bamboo in bundles of 100, sungrass in bundles of 4½ feet girth, fuel in cubic feet, bamboo mats in piece, umbrella handles etc. by number.

Among the exports of argicultural produce cotton, sesamum, jute, mustard, rice, sugarcane etc. were the main items. Rice and sugarcane were mainly exported to the neighbouring districts of Bangladesh through either land route or river route. But cotton was purchased by agents of important firms of Calcutta. Tripura's cotton is short-stapled and in Calcutta market, this is commonly called 'Comilla Cotton'. Jute was also controlled by a few agents of Calcutta or of Narainganj (Bangladesh). Oilseed was also taken to Calcutta by the purchasing agents operating in Tripura.

Tea is also an important trade of export. It is directly sent by the respective gardens to Calcutta.

Cottage industry products like hand-loom products, baskets, cane products, bamboo-made curios and tinned fruit products like orange squash, pine-apple juice, and also pine-apples are being exported now.

Tripura's imports consist of all manufactured goods used by the people of Tripura, cotton textiles including readymade garments, cotton yarns and twists, woolen goods, metal and manufactures thereof, machinery (for tea gardens), motor vehicles, cycles etc., hardware, sugar and molasses, kerosene oil, petrol, liquor, paper, drugs and medicines, salt, spices, tobacco, coal, matches are the important items.

Besides these manufactures, rice, fish and eggs, oil and ghee, fruits and vegetables, raw tobacco, wheat etc. are also imported. Among

other items, mention may be made of books, cinema materials, live-stock, gold and silver, clock and watch, sugarcane, pressing machine, tea chests, umbrella with fittings, tinned food, cosmetics, leather goods, furniture, building materials etc.

Volume & Value of Exports

Volume of exports of cotton and sesamum in 1872, 1873-74 and 1874-75 as recorded by W. W. Hunter, were as follows :

TABLE — II

Year	Total export of cotton.	Total export of sesamum.
1872	54,000 Mds.	Not available.
1973-74	40,511 Mds.	12,541 Mds.
1974-75	36,000 Mds.	12,000 Mds.

Elaborate statistics about Tripura's exports and imports for the period 1934-35 to 1937-38 are available from 'Memorandum and Statistics Relating to Agriculture, Forests, Exports & Imports of Tripura State', brought out by the Tripura Government in 1937-38. Volume and value of exports of forest produce for the year 1934-35 and 1937-38 are shown in the following table.[1]

TABLE — III

Name of product	Volume of Exports		Value of Exports (in Rs.)	
	1934-35	1937-38	1934-35	1937-38
Timber in Cft.	5,07,210	6,23,700	3,92,770	6,34,940
Bamboo in bundles of 100 each	5,20,270	6,38,570	5,20,560	7,59,200
Sungrass in bundles of 4½′ girth each	12,03,800	14,87,510	3,12,630	4,77,860
Fuel in Cft.	6,34,550	7,67,140	79,980	1,00,560
Bazali in bundles of 100 each	2,33,280	3,17,590	58,320	94,130
Umbrella handle in bundle of 100 each	27,420	29,430	12,180	16,540
Bamboo mats (Dhari) in piece	2,81,670	2,52,200	22,160	20,150
Miscellaneous	—	—	1,03,070	1,33,460
TOTAL	—	—	15,01,670	22,36,840

[1] Hunter, W. W.; A Statistical Accounts of Bengal, Vol. VI, p. 508.

Exports of agricultural produce

In 1937-38, 27,83,130 Mds. of rice was exported, value of which was Rs. 48,70,480. Total export of jute in that year was 1,61,346 Mds, value of which was Rs. 7,26,060. Exports of other items are shown in the following table.

TABLE — IV

Name of product	Quantity exported in 1937-38	Value of exports in 1937-38 (in Rs.)
1	2	3
Mustard	45,120 Mds.	2,25,600
Sugarcane (Molasses)	1,57,290 ,,	6,29,160
Cotton (ginned)	16,440 ,,	1,23,300
Sesamum	15,620 ,,	55,670
Tea	27,88,870 Lbs.	10,45,830

Total exports of agricultural crops and processed goods in 1937-38 stood at Rs. 96,02,010 and the average of 1934-35 to 1936-37 stood at Rs. 86,20,780.

Imports

There were 48 items of imports, as classified, from cloth, salt, kerosene, machinery, etc. to minor articles such as earthen wares, betel leaves, etc. The total value of imports amounted to Rs. 51,79,980 in 1937-38 and the average value for the years 1934-35 to 1936-37 was Rs. 49,43,620.

Statistics of imports and exports for 1957 show fall in the volume of exports of all the important goods viz. mustard, cotton, sesamum etc. But there has been a significant increase in the quantum of exports of jute, jute-goods and other fibres. The fall in the volume of exports of certain goods is not necessarily the results of fall in their respective outputs. In most of the cases, the rise in the internal consumption, and inevitable consequence of a marked rise in population, accounted for these falls.

TABLE — V*

Exports and Imports in 1963-64 (in Quintals).

	Commodities	Exports	Imports
1.	Cement.	—	9,676.53
2.	Coal and coke.	—	36,749.96
3.	Cotton, twist & yarn.	—	192.22
4.	Cotton piece goods.	—	4.48
5.	Fruits dried.	—	5.60
6.	Glass.	2.24	7.46
7.	Grain, pulse & flour.	—	19.03
8.	Pulses other than gram & grain products.	—	8,081.77
9.	Rice not in husk.	—	63,621.75
10.	Wheat.	88.84	2,370.82
11.	Wheat flour, grain, pulse & flour.	—	4,013.08
12.	Other sorts.	4.48	785.29
13.	Hide and skins.	168.33	—
14.	Jute raw (Loose).	12,534.89	2.99
15.	Jute raw (pucca bales)	28,227.77	—
16.	Gunny bags & cloth.	266.49	—
17.	Iron & steel.	150.79	9,747.17
18.	Lime & Limestone.	—	116.82
19.	Vegetable oils (castor)	—	32.47
20.	Vegetable oil (groundnut)	—	599.43
21.	Vegetable oil (others)	—	1,188.12
22.	Vegetable oil (others)	—	303.82
23.	Oilseeds, groundnut.	—	175.80
24.	Rape and mustard.	33.22	273.22
25.	Til or jinjili.	223.95	—
26.	Salt.	—	20,661.82
27.	Gur, jaggery & Gur shakkar.	—	142.95
28.	Molasses.	—	3,511.45
29.	Tea.	—	189.61
30.	Other timber.	622.11	—
31.	Wool (Raw)	0.75	—
32.	Raw Cotton (lint)	—	2.99

* Accounts relating to the Inland (Rail and River borne) Trade of India fo twelve months ending 1964.

Trade centres

In Tripura there is no regulated market. There are certain important centres of wholesale business in Tripura which mainly deal in rice, jute, cotton, oilseeds etc. Otherwise there is no business centre of great importance in the commercial world. In all the subdivisions there are certain big markets viz., Teliamura in Khowai, Ranirbazar, Bisramganj and Champaknagar in Sadar; Melaghar in Sonamura, Fatikroy and Dhumachara in Kailasahar; Kulai in Kamalpur, Kurti and Kanchanpur in Dharmanagar, Kakraban and Jamjuri in Udaipur; Manu in Sabrum; Santirbazar, Hrishyamuk in Bilonia and Ampi in Amarpur where the hill people bring their jhoom products like, cotton, sesamum, vegetables etc. as also the settled cultivators bring their agricultural produce for sale. The merchants, their agents and other middlemen attend these markets. The *Mahajans* generally give crop advances to the cultivators, locally called *dadan*, and against those advances collect the agricultural produce. Many shop-keepers also deal in *dadan either* directly or as agents of *Mahajans* of Agartala.

Agartala is the main centre, through which most of the imports enter Tripura and exports are also sent through Agartala. Dharmanagar comes next in importance.

Fairs & melas

The fairs and *melas* of Tripura are mainly of religious type and most of them are of local importance. Only one *mela* attracted the dealers from adjoining districts of Bangladesh and Calcutta and various consumers' goods were brought for sale in the *mela.* The *mela* was called *'Vaisakhi Mela'*. It was a very old *mela* and we have a reference of the *mela* in Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal. The *mela* was held every year at Agartala in the month of *Vaisakh* under the patronage of the Maharaja himself. Besides local products, many other things, mainly wooden chest and implements were imported by boat from downstream. This *mela* had a chief attraction for the tribals who used to collect all their necessary equipments once for a year. The Maharaja himself made heavy purchases to encourage indigenous products. This *mela* has been discontinued since 1956.

Of the religious fairs and *melas* of the territory Ūnokoti tirtha *mela* in Kailasahar sub-division, Tirthamukh (Dambur) *mela* in Amarpur Sub-division, *Kherchipuja mela* in Sadar Sub-division, Sivachaturdasi *mela* in Udaipur Sub-division, Kamalasagar Kalibari *mela*, Simna

Brahmakunda *mela* in Sadar Sub-division used to draw a large number of people. A list of notable *melas* of this territory is given in Appendix (Table VII).

The markets, *huts*, and *melas* were previously under the administrative control of the Territorial Council of Tripura. Now these are under the control of the District Magistrate. The Government of Tripura organise every year one exhibition for each sub-division in between the months December and January. Besides, every year an Industrial Exhibition is also organised at Agartala by the Government to observe All India Handicrafts Week.

Co-operation in wholesale and retail trade

During the Second Plan period six Primary Marketing Societies, each equipped with urban and rural godowns, were registered. Eight more Primary Marketing Societies were organised upto the period June 1964, thus raising the total number of such societies to 14 at the end of June, 1964. Construction of 12 godowns at the headquarters level and 64 at the rural level were completed during the same period at the cost of Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 5.64 lakhs respectively.

The paid-up share capital and share capital of these societies were Rs. 3.90 lakhs and Rs. 9.28 lakhs respectively during the period mentioned above. These societies handled goods worth Rs. 20.79 lakhs both as owners and as agent during the year 1963-64.

The Apex Marketing Society, functioning as the Marketing Federation in the territory, constructed one big godown at headquarters level and two rural godowns at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively during the first year of the Third Five Year Plan. The paid-up capital and the working capital of the society stood at Rs. 94,000 and Rs. 6.53 lakhs respectively at the end of June 1964. The Government contribution in the paid-up capital amounted to Rs. 80,000.

There were 71 Service Co-operative Societies (including 4 under the Tribal Welfare Scheme) during the Second Plan period and 67 more such societies were organised upto June, 1964 in the Third Five Year Plan. The total number of agricultural credit societies stood at 380 (including 140 service societies) and their membership rose to 58,660 during the same period.

According to the programme of converting all existing purchase and sale societies into service co-operatives, eleven such societies have already been converted. The Tripura State Consumer's Co-operative Society, the only whole-sale consumers' stores for this territory, has been strengthened and brought under the new scheme styled as 'Whole-sale Store'.

There were 58 Consumers' Co-operative Societies with Rs. 6,72,541 as working capital at the end of the period June, 1964.

Under the training scheme 495 office bearers, 1316 members of managing committees and 4,821 ordinary and potential members were trained up by the educational units of the State Co-operative Union upto the end of the year, 1964-65.[1]

Weights and measures

The standard weight was universally the seer, of which the fractions and multiples were always constant. The seer itself, however, varies for different commodities and different parts of the territory. These variations are expressed in terms of the *tola*, the *tola* being the weight of a rupee coin. The standard seer is equivalent to 80 *tolas* and is in use for measuring all commodities which were imported into the territory. Rice, paddy, cotton, jute and wheat grown in the territory were measured in terms of seer which was usually estimated to contain 82½ *tolas*. The denominations of the seer were as follows:

5 *kanchas*=1 *chhatack* 4 *chhataks*=1 *powa*.
4 *powas*=1 seer; 2 seers=1 *pura;* 20 *puras*=1 maund.

The measure of distance is:

18 inches=1 *hath* (cubit); 2 *haths*=1 gaz (yard).
8 *haths*=1 *nal;* 440 *nals*=1 mile.

The above terms are applicable to linear measure. The table of square measure based upon them is: —

20 *gandas*=1 *kani;* 10 *nals* × 12 *nals*=1 *kani*.
16 *kanis*=1 *dron*.

The standard *kani* is equivalent to 17,280 sq. ft. or 1920 sq. yard which is 3/10th of the English acre.

[1] Tripura on the March, op. cit. 1965, Pp. 47-49.

Measures of quantity proper are not in use, as commodities are sold by weight and not by quantity. Paddy is, however, sold by quantity, in baskets, each of which contains a certain recognised volume or capacity. The denominations of the paddy baskets are as follows: —

2 seers make one *pura.*
4 *puras*=1 *katha* and 5 *kathas*=1 maund.

The European measure of time is in use in the towns. The Indian measure of time are as follows:

7½ *dandas*=1 *prahar;* 8 *prahars*=1 *dibarat* (a day and night); 7 *dibarat*=1 *saptaha* (1 week); 2 *saptahas*=1 *paksha* (a fortnight).

The *masa* or a month, varies from 29 to 32 days. The *batsara* or year consists of 12 months or 365 days, when compared with English standards, the *dandas* is made equal to 24 minutes, and the *prahars* to 3 hours. The Bengali almanac is in use in the territory.

The metric weights and measures were introduced in different industries and trades all over the country in 1958 with provision for use of old weights for a definite period of two years and thereby making the use of metric weights compulsory from 1st October, 1960. The Rajasthan Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 was extended to the Union Territory of Tripura by a notification from the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The provision of the said Act in so far as it relates to the units of mass came into force in respect of transactions involving sale and purchase of goods in the municipal area of Agartala with effect from December 1, 1958. In order to carry out the provisions of the Act, the Tripura Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Rules, 1958 were passed on December 16, 1958. The use of metric commercial weights has become compulsory at Agartala Municipal area from October 11, 1960. The metric capacity measures were also introduced within the Agartala Municipal area on April 1, 1961 by the Government of India with the transitional period for one year, thus making their use compulsory from April 1, 1962.

The metric linear measures introduced in the whole of the Union Territory of Tripura from November 1, 1961 have been made compulsory from October 1, 1962 and in the remaining areas from April 1, 1962 by notification of the Government of India. Before the Act had come into force, one Chief Inspector and one Inspector were appointed and trained at the Weights & Measures Department, Government of Bombay, for working in the Weights & Measures Organisation. One whole-time Superintendent was appointed in place of one part-time Superintendent during the year 1958-60. The Chief Inspector has been appointed to function as the Head of Office.

There being no manufacture of metric weights in Tripura, temporary arrangements were made at the beginning to obtain metric weights from outside. During the year 1962-63, three licences for manufacturing and two licences for repairing of weights and measures were issued and 59 dealers dealing in metric weights and measures were given licences. But the production of local manufacturers being insufficient to meet the local demands, steps were taken for procurement of stamped weights & measures from outside.

With a view to eliminating non-standard weights, local shops were inspected and non-standard weights seized. A notification under Section 23 of the Rajasthan Weights & Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, as extended to the Union Territory of Tripura for prosecution of traders using non-standard weights, was issued in March, 1962.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATION

Old Time Routes & Modes of Communication

About communications of Tripura, W. W. Hunter wrote : "There are no road worthy of the name in Hill Tipperah, the capital itself is almost cut off from the rest of the world for want of land communication, the route by water being only open in the rains".[1] He further said, "In order to visit the Sub-divisional headquarters of Kailasahar in the north-east of the State, it is necessary to make a long detour by river through the British districts of Tipperah and Sylhet, the journey taking about fifteen days: whereas, if there were a road or even a pathway over the hills from Agartala, the journey could be easily accomplished in four or five days at the most. The paths used by the Kukis and the hill-men, in the less frequented parts of Hill Tipperah are almost invariably along the summits of mountain range."[1]

From the above excerpt, it will be clear how un-developed and backward communications and transport system were in those days. There were no road links even between the capital town and the sub-divisional headquarters. Communications between Agartala and the sub-divisional headquarters were much eased after the inauguration of the East Bengal Railway and the Assam Railway. These lines run along the frontiers of Tripura and the sub-divisional headquarters were located near the railway stations. The stations were, of course, within the area of the neighbouring district of Bengal. Akhaura was the nearest railway station to Agartala. A metalled road linked Agartala with Akhaura.

Taitun

In the absence of internal roads and communications movement in the hills was very difficult. To meet this difficulty, the 'Taitun' system was introduced. Under this system when the king or his officials moved into the hills, the hill people had to provide them with guides and labour for carrying the goods upto the next village. The later

1 Hunter, W.W. Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah, p. 507.

villages would follow the former ones by rotation. This way the goods were relayed to the destination.

Though the system had been continuing since the remote past, its first official reference is available in Tripura Act IV of 1919. In this Act it was mentioned that those who would carry loads were to be paid annas four per head. Due to ignorance the hillmen never claimed it, officials also seldom paid it. The hillmen were very loyal to the king and any Government Officer was cosidered as the representative of the king and, therefore, the system seems to have worked smoothly.

Foorai

To convey any royal message, order, the king sent one *'Binindia'* (carrier of royal message) to the hills. The messenger carried a royal insignia made of iron called *'Foorai'*. Whatever order one would give by presenting the *'Foorai'*, the hillmen would have to carry that out. In the past, all the tribals were warriors and generally to mobilise them to the battle field, the 'Foorai' was sent to the hills. Once a *'Foorai'* reached the village, the villagers would themselves carry the same from village to village to announce the proclamation. Stern measures were taken against delinquents. They had to face rain, storm and wild beast at night to conduct the *Foorai* from one hamlet to another.

Waterways

"There is no river traffic, properly so called in Hill Tipperah; and there are no river-side towns of any size in which the inhabitants gain their living by river industries... cotton grown in the hills is also frequently conveyed westwards by boats, but the extent of this traffic is not sufficient to separate trade for its carriage."[1]

Commodities like cotton, log, railway sleepers, bamboo, orange, sun-grass etc. were, however, used to be carried by boats during the princely regime. Rivers and streams flowing in Tripura does not generally help developing a river traffic.

Elephants

Elephants served as the only means of transport at various places where no roads exist. They were also used in carrying hill products from hills to different places.

1 Hunter, W. W., Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah.

Railroads

Until recently there was no railway within Hill Tripura. In 1964 a metre-gauge rail line linking Dharmanagar with Kalkalighat under the North-East Frontier Railways was laid. It was formally opened to goods and passenger traffic on April 22, 1964.

Lahar

In the old days there were no good roads except some hill roads which were constructed by clearing jungles, levelling the path to make it wide and walkable. Even such roads needed constant care and maintenance. For this purpose the Government used to settle some tribal families or even a *para* (hamlet) by the side of the roads at intervals of a few miles. Their duties were to maintain the roads in good condition and to help the Government officials by carrying their luggage from any such post to the next one. In return they were exempted from paying any *Gharchukti Kar* (family tax). They could practise their *jhoom* which helped in clearing jungles on either side of the roads. The system was known as *lahar*.

After independence of the country when Tripura merged to India there was no direct road-link between Tripura and the rest of India. In such a situation Tripura had mainly to depend on air communication. Agartala was connected with Calcutta by daily air service.

Road transport

The Assam-Agartala Road links Tripura with the rest of India. The construction was completed before the First Five Year Plan period and this road is an example of great engineering feat. Peripherial roads of the Northern and Southern sub-divisional headquarters are linked with this road.

Vehicles and conveyances

With the development of roads the number of major vehicles such as lorry, jeep, cars, private buses etc. used has much increased. The number of motor vehicles on road rose to 2,023 in 1964-65 as against only 799 in 1955-56.

At Agartala town there are four bus routes linking the town with its outskirts. Cycle-rickshaws constitute the most commonly used conveyance. Cycles are also used in large number.

Bus & Taxi service

There are private-owned bus and taxi services, in between Agartala and all the sub-divisional headquarters.

Travel facilities

There are a few hotels at Agartala. In other sub-divisional headquarters there are some eat-houses and restaurants but they are of poor standard. There are, of course, Dak-Bungolows at every sub-divisional headquarters. Besides these, there are Inspection Bungalows maintained by the Public Works Department and (at some places) Forest Rest Houses. Visitors and tourists can use these Bungalows by obtaining permission from the respective Departments.

Post and Telegraphs organisation

The Tripura Postal Division is a part of Assam Postal Circle and is controlled by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Tripura Division, who is in charge of all Post Offices in Tripura. The R.M.S. Office is controlled by the Senior Superintendent R.M.S. Silchar. The Departmental Telegraph Office at Agartala is controlled by the Senior Traffic Superintendent, Shillong and the Telephone Exchange is controlled by the Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Shillong. There is a Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs at Agartala under the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Shillong to look after the Telephone Exchanges in Tripura. The following table shows the number of Post & Telegraph Offices in Tripura (upto 1964-65).

TABLE — I[1]

Year	No. of Post Office	No. of Tele-graph Office	No. of Telephones Main	Extra	Public Call Offices
1953-54	93	9	81	20	1
1954-55	112	10	128	26	1
1955-56	129	12	203	36	2
1956-57	154	12	209	50	2
1957-58	161	11	201	59	3
1958-59	173	11	303	62	5
1959-60	181	12	373	69	5
1960-61	191	13	404	101	9
1961-62	199	13	N.A.	N.A.	9
1962-63	213	18	479	152	10
1963-64	229	22	483	144	14
1964-65[2]	242	23	564	259	15

[1] Statistical Abstract, Statistical Department, Tripura: 1964, Pp. 89-90.
[2] op. cit, 1965, Pp. 87-88.

Staffing Pattern

There is one Head Post Office in Tripura Division at Agartala under the charge of a higher selection grade Head Postmaster. 11 Sub-Post Offices come under the charge of lower selection grade Sub-Postmasters. The rest 38 Sub-Post Offices are under the charge of time-scale Sub-Postmasters. The branch Post Offices are placed under the charge of extra departmental hands who are paid some allowances for their work based on the quantum of the traffic handled. The Postal Division is divided into two Inspecting Zones, each under an Inspector of Post Offices. There are 16 Overseers' Zones controlled by line Overseers who control the Runners and the Extra Departmental Mail Carriers who carry mails in the interior on foot.

The Superintendent of Post Offices is in overall charge of all the staff in the Post Offices in Tripura. He is assisted by one Head clerk (in the rank of a Senior Inspector) and one Divisional Inspector of Post Offices in managing his office and carrying out inspections or investigations.

As regards Telephone Exchange, the Sub-divisional Officer, Telegraphs is the local officer in-charge and he is assisted by Engineering Supervisors, Telegraphs and Engineering Supervisors, Phones, in controlling the Telephone Exchanges.

The Departmental Telegraph office at Agartala is under charge of a Telegraph Traffic Supervisor who is controlled by the Telegraph Traffic Superintendent, Shillong. All other telegraph offices form part of post offices and are under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Agartala.

The strength* of Tripura Postal Division as on 31.1.69 is given below. This does not include the staff of Telephone Exchanges, D.T.O. and R.M.S.

Gazetted	1
Class — III	378
Class — IV	138

Brief history and its gradual expansion and development

At the time of partition of India, there were a few Post Offices in Tripura and the main Post Offices at Agartala was also only a Sub-

* Source: Information furnished by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Agartala vide his letter dated 31-1-69.

Post Office managed by one Sub-Postmaster and five clerks only. With the influx of population, this Sub-Post Office was upgraded to a Head Post Office on 1-1-1954. All the Post Offices in Tripura continued to be controlled by the Superintendent of Post Offices, Silchar (Cachar Division) till a seperate Postal Division was created in Tripura, with headquarters at Agartala in February, 1961. Thereafter, there has been a rapid increase in the number of Post Offices and Tripura Postal Division now consists of one Head Post Office, 49 Sub-Post Offices and 222 Branch Post Offices.

Telephone Exchange

The Agartala Telegraph Sub-division was created on the last part of 1958 under a Sub-divisional Officer with minimum staff that were necessary. At the infant stage of the Sub-division there were only two Exchanges and now the Sub-division is having 7 Exchanges with total staff of 177.

Expansion and Development.

The Agartala Telegraph Sub-division is having 7 Exchanges, 34 combined offices and 18 Public Call Offices. There are 4 Private Branch Exchanges and one Auto Branch Exchange. Four more SAXS, four more Public Call Offices and nine more Call Offices are to be opened in near future. More Public Call Offices and Call Offices are likely to come on rent and guarantee basis. The present T-32 Trunk Boards at Agartala will be replaced by T-43 Boards shortly. Trunk Boards (T-32) will be installed at Bilonia, Dharmanagar and Radhakishorepur in near future.

Proposal for replacing all magneto exchanges by small auto-exchanges in the Sub-division exists and will be carried out gradually.

Facilities for more circuits from Agartala to Silchar and other places will be extended with the installation of 8 channel working in between Agartala and Silchar. The installation is likely to be taken up shortly by the installation party, Calcutta. The construction work of Agartala-Silchar has already been completed by the construction officer, (Telegraphs), Dharmanagar.

The Post & Telegraph Directorate has approved the expansion plan of Microwave Link connecting Agartala and Silchar with Shillong and Calcutta. The preliminary survey is under progress.

The following are the existing Exchanges

1. Agartala (C.B.)	840 equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 1200 lines
2. Dharmanagar (Mag)	50 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 100 lines SAX
3. Kailāsahar (Mag)	100 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 100 lines SAX
4. Kamalpur (Mag)	100 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 50 lines SAX
5. Rādhākishorepur (Mag)	100 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 100 lines SAX
6. Biloniā (Mag)	100 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 100 lines SAX
7. Sonāmurā (Mag)	50 lines equipped capacity —	Proposed further expansion to 50 lines SAX

Source: Information furnished by the Sub-divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Agartala, vide his letter dated 28-1-69.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATION

Livelihood categories

According to the census of 1961, Tripura has a total population of 11,42,005 with a density per square mile of 283. About 9 per cent of the total population, i.e. 1,02,997 persons live in urban areas and the remaining 91 per cent live in rural areas.

Tripurā is mainly an agricultural area, where 72 per cent of the total workers are engaged in agriculture (64 per cent as cultivators and 8 per cent as agricultural labourers) and only 2.3 per cent in manufacturing other than household industries. Occupational pattern of Tripura is shown in the following table.

Public Administration:

After Tripurā's merger in India, the whole administrative system was overhauled. This called for appointment of a number of experienced and efficient class I and class II officers, not to speak of a large number of clerical and field staff. Government is the biggest employer in Tripura. On 30 June, 1964 the total number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted staff was 7,173. Number of Gazetted Officers was 181. Among the non-Gazetted staff pay of 4,064 persons was below Rs. 51.00; that of 2,109 persons varied between Rs. 51.00 and Rs. 100.00 and that of 360 ranged between Rs. 101 and Rs. 150.00. 14, 32, 60, 25 & 19 Gazetted officers were in the pay brackets of Rs. 101.00—150.00, Rs. 151.00—200.00, Rs. 202.00—250.00, Rs. 250.00—300.00 and Rs. 301.00—350.00 respectively. Fourteen Gazetted Officers' pay ranged between Rs. 351.00 and Rs. 501.00, that of twelve between Rs. 501.00 and Rs. 1,000.00. Pay of 5 Gazetted Officers exceeded Rs. 1,000.00.[1]

In the initial stages, there was great difficulty in finding suitable officers in adequate number. Many officers from other States of India had to be brought on deputation.

Even in 1964-65 Tripura depends on outsiders to fill up vacancies in

1 Bulletin of Economics and Statistics Vol. I, Nos. 1-4, p. 27.

TABLE—1

Population and occupational distribution of Tripura, 1961

Population	Workers	As cultivators	As agricultural labour	In mining, quarrying livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting & plantation, orchards & allied activities	At household industry	In manufacturing other than household industry	In construction	In trade & commerce	In transport, storage & communication	In other services	Non-workers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11,42,005	4,37,229	2,80,881 (64)	32,912 (8)	12,193	25,153	10,839 (2.3)	4,100	18,521	4,779	47,851	7,04,776

(Figures in brackets indicate percentage distribution of total workers).

Source: Census of India, 1961 census, paper No. 1 of 1962, final population, Pp. 60-61.

different offices. Air Transport, which is the chief means of communication between Agartala and other parts of India, high cost of living, absence of other amenities were the chief deterrents to the outsiders' accepting any job in Tripurā. But most of these difficulties have now been largely removed.

A large number of Government quarters of different types have been constructed to house the employees at Āgartalā. In the moffusils many class III and class IV staff are also provided with Government quarters.

In Tripurā there is one Govt. Employees' Association. The Association brings out a periodical named 'Āmāder Kathā' in Bengali. Some co-operative consumers' stores are being run by the Association with great success.

Learned professions like Teachers, Doctors, Engineers & Lawyers

In expanding education, medical services and constructional activities in Tripurā, the want of school and college teachers, doctors and engineers was severely felt in the early stages. Persons were recruited to these professions mostly from outside. Literacy is very low in Tripurā. According to 1961 census 2,31,188 persons representing 20.2 per cent of the total population were literate as against 15.5 per cent of population 6,45,707 in 1951. In 1921, 1931 and 1941 the percentages of literacy in Tripurā were 7.7, 3.4 and 6.5 per cent respectively. Same is the case with engineers and to some extent with the doctors. In 1965 there were 185 doctors, 71 engineers and 228 college teachers (including Teachers' Training College teachers), 4489 primary and middle school teachers, and 1405 high & higher secondary school teachers in Tripura. The Administration has, therefore, adopted the policy of encouraging local youths to undertake higher studies in respective lines by awarding scholarships and offering financial assistance against the execution of a bond that the receipients will serve Tripura for a specified period. This policy is proving very successful.

There has been a great awakening in Tripurā in recent times. The people of Tripurā are very eager to educate their children. Quite a good number of boys and girls go in for specialised education like that in medicine, nursing, engineering and for post-graduate studies in Arts and Science. Professions like teaching in college, engineering, medical practice etc. are highly valued in Tripura.

Tripurā has 10 learned Bars, one at each of the Sub-divisional headquarters and 199 lawyers enrolled in all the bars. Many members of the Bar are old-guards of the neighbouring District courts and Munsiff courts. A good number of lawyers now practising at Agartala District Court and Judicial Commissioner's Court, were members of the Comilla Bar which was once famous in pre-partition days. This profession is also a paying profession and, therefore, it has been able to attract promising youngmen. Some prominent members of the Agartala Bar participate in cultural and social activities of the town, while quite a few others are active political workers. Some of them were members of the Territorial Council of Tripurā.

Domestic & Personal Service

A progressive fall in the supply of domestic servants and the consequent rise in their wage-rates is quite noticeable in Tripurā. Most of the people of Tripurā are poor but the paradox of want of domestic servant remains. This may be attributed to the following causes. Expansion of Govt. offices provides employment to many illiterate and semi-literate persons as peons, guards, daftries, etc. Professions like rickshaw-driving, shopkeeping, peddling, cobbling, shoe-polishing, restaurant and hotel services etc. are drawing in a large number of persons who would otherwise work as domestic servants. There has also been a general change in outlook and consciousness of status. Services of a domestic servant are looked down upon. Average monthly salary of a domestic servant varies between Rs. 10.00 and Rs. 15.00.

Washermen, Barbers and Tailors

With the coming of a large number of washermen and barbers by caste as displaced persons from Bangladesh there is no dearth of people belonging to these professions. Both of these professional persons have their respective associations, which fix up rates of their different kinds of services.

The tailoring profession is flourishing in Tripura. Many tailors came from Bangladesh as refugees. With the rise in use of tailored garments like shirts, trousers, coats, blouses, frocks, shorts etc., this profession has become one of the most paying professions to-day. According to the 1961 census, there were 384 number of washermen, 1002 number of barbars and 1467 number of tailors in Tripurā.

Labour organisations

There are 11 (eleven) employers' organisation and 37 workers' organisations registered under Trade Union Acts, 1926 in this territory. Total number of members of the employers' organisations is 549 and that of the workers' organisations is 9,956.[1]

These organisations have been trying to promote, maintain, up-hold and advance the cause and interest of the members of the organisations and also to improve the conditions of their members and to safe-guard their respective interests by negotiation, conciliation, arbitration and other legal methods or ways and means. They have also been trying to foster and develop friendly relations, amity, peace, mutual help and co-operation among the members of the organisations.

1 Report of the Labour Directorate, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, dated 28-11-68.

CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

General Economic Trends

Tripura was once famous for her low cost of living. Population was then very small, goods flowed from neighbouring districts into Tripura against Tripura's export of forest products in abundance and Tripura was self-reliant in the production of food and, therefore, the general level of prices was low. But after partition of the country, the neighbouring districts fell in Bangladesh and all the usual channels of communication were closed; there was no other way but to depend on air transport which was costly. Rapid increase in population also put severe pressure upon the internal economy. The retail prices of the commonly consumer goods have been rising since 1956 as shown in Table-I at the next page.

Cost of living is now very high in Tripura. Cost of living indices of middle and working classes for Agartala as compiled by the Statistical Department of Tripura indicate a continuous rise since 1956 as evidenced from the following tables.

TABLE — II*

Middle-class cost of living index at Agartala
Base: August, 1939=100.
(monthly average or calendar months)

Year	Food	Clothing	Fuel & lighting	House-rent	Miscellaneous	All combined
1956	544.8	427.6	448.5	450.0	322.2	452.8
1957	598.1	450.9	463.3	450.0	329.8	484.7
1958	640.8	461.4	590.4	450.0	347.1	520.7
1959	638.4	469.0	689.4	450.0	362.7	531.8
1960	637.6	519.4	674.0	450.0	364.6	536.8
1961	707.5	535.7	639.5	450.0	382.8	576.1
1962	710.9	572.0	674.0	450.0	397.8	588.8
1963	724.8	593.2	718.6	450.0	415.5	606.4
1964	800.3	612.7	714.5	450.0	434.0	651.2
1965	904.2	606.0	775.3	450.0	450.7	710.2

TABLE — I

RETAIL PRICES IN TRIPURA

Prices in rupees per Kilogram

Year	Rice (Medium)	Foodgrains & its products: Chira (boiled) (Coarse)	Chira (Medium)	Muri	Wheat (Atta)	Arhar	Moog	Pulses: Musuri	Gram	Edible Oils: Mustered Oil.	Vanaspati Dalda (2 Kg. in tin upto Dec. '66)	Ghee (Cow's pure)	Other articles: Milk, Cow's (Litre)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1956	0.66	0.57	1.04	1.20	0.84	0.72	0.83	0.84	—	2.68	—	8.51	0.54
1957	0.62	0.55	0.95	1.08	0.83	0.76	0.86	0.90	—	3.01	—	8.64	0.58
1958	0.64	0.54	0.99	1.15	0.84	0.80	1.03	0.94	—	2.72	—	8.91	0.55
1959	0.63	0.58	0.96	1.21	0.84	0.98	1.06	0.98	0.92	2.65	—	8.93	0.56
1960	0.54	0.50	0.88	1.07	0.80	0.90	1.00	0.90	0.85	2.91	—	9.59	0.59
1961	0.62	0.56	0.95	1.13	0.76	0.81	0.96	0.86	0.86	3.15	—	9.70	0.64
1962	0.65	0.59	1.02	1.15	0.75	0.86	0.96	0.91	0.86	3.39	Prices not collected	10.20	0.62
1963	0.70	0.65	1.03	1.22	0.74	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.87	3.14	7.56(a)	10.20	0.65
1964	0.79	0.74	1.14	1.31	0.78	1.23	1.27	1.20	1.09	3.95	8.12	10.66	0.66
1965	0.81	0.75	1.24	1.45	0.85	1.57	1.61	1.52	1.58	4.40	8.83	12.63	0.73
1966	1.10	0.99	1.50	1.85	0.84	1.46	1.62	1.46	1.66	4.64	12.61	14.71	0.88

(a) Average of six months.

Source : i) Quarterly Bulletin of Economics & Statistics, Statistical Department, Government of Tripura, Vol. XIV. No. 4, p. 13.
ii) Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Statistical Department, Government of Tripura, Pp. 208-9.

TABLE — III *

Working-class (Low Income Group) cost of living Index at Agartala
Base: August, 1939=100.

(Monthly average or calendar months)

Year	Food	Clothing	Fuel & lighting	House-rent	Miscellaneous	All combined
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1956	530.7	436.5	456.2	450.0	353.2	464.4
1957	577.9	459.2	475.6	450.0	357.3	497.3
1958	623.8	469.9	605.9	450.0	377.4	539.2
1959	619.1	478.1	703.3	450.0	393.7	549.6
1960	605.3	530.3	693.3	450.0	399.1	547.4
1961	670.3	545.0	658.0	450.0	424.5	587.7
1962	684.0	582.3	695.8	450.0	442.8	606.4
1963	698.9	603.4	723.9	450.0	464.1	625.0
1964	770.3	618.0	730.4	450.0	493.4	672.6
1965	865.3	615.2	792.9	450.0	516.0	734.8

Sources : Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965 published by the Statistical Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala, Pp. 213-14.

Wages are not very high in comparison to high level of prices. In Tea industry fixed minimum wages are Rs. 1.25 for men, Rs. 1.12 for women and Rs. 0.62 for children. Minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act are Rs. 2.00 for Sadar, Sonamura, Udaipur, Bilonia and Khowai Sub-divisions and Rs. 1.62 for Amarpur, Sabrum, Dharmanagar, Kailasahar and Kamalpur Sub-divisions.

The standard of living of the general run of the people is very low. In the town of Agartala and other sub-divisional headquarters a small class of well-to-do business community has arisen. According to economic standard, the population of Tripura may be classified into the following groups.

1. Members of the princely families (The feudal class)
2. A small class of very well-to-do businessmen.
3. Highly paid Govt. officials (their number is very small).
4. Government officials having a monthly income of Rs. 300.00 but not exceeding Rs. 800.00 and middle-class businessmen, lawyers and owners of houses and lands etc.
5. Clerks, teachers, small shop-keepers, washermen, barbers and other professional classes.
6. Owner-cultivators in the villages.
7. Landless tillers and agricultural labourers and the Jhoomias.

People belonging to classes (1) to (3) maintain a very high standard of living and those falling under class (4) can somehow manage to maintain a middle-class standard of living while all of the rest have deficit budgets. But the condition of the clerks, teachers etc. whose income is fixed is very unsatisfactory. House-rent at Agartala is very high, prices of all other goods are also exhorbitant and, therefore, they live a very miserable life. But there is a redeeming feature for them. In Tripura unemployment of educated persons is almost absent. Both men and women who have at least passed the School Final Examination are able to secure a Govt. job either as a teacher or a clerk or a field-worker.

At Agartala, in most of the families there are two to three earning members whose income, when pooled together, amounts to Rs. 200.00 to Rs. 300.00 a month. Since the number of members of family in most cases varies between five to ten, this monthly income is not deemed enough.

In the hills and the rural areas the self-reliant economy still predominates. Therefore, most of the rural folk are more or less self-reliant but their standard of living is extremely poor. The displaced persons who have not yet secured any gainful employment are maintaining a very precarious existence.

The standard of living in the town is definitely showing an upward trend. Rise in the consumption of fine and superfine cloth, donning of costly garments, owning of radio sets, sale of cinema tickets, purchase of cycles, scooters and car, building of pucca-houses, etc. are some of the signs. But this is limited to a small section of the total population.

Monthly average of cinema-goers has risen from 60,026 in 1955 to 131,532 in 1963. The number of broadcast receiving licenses was 367 in 1954 and it rose to 2361 by the end of 1961 but again came down to 2,281 in the year 1963. Then again the number rose steadily and at the end of 1965 it became 4,510. Consumption of electricity has also significantly risen. In 1953 total consumption of electricity was 4,87,244 kilowatts but it rose to 58,92,855 kilowatts in 1965. In 1963, 1,95,928 gallons (8,90,681 litres) of petrol was consumed and in 1963 it rose to 58.63 (in 000 litres).

Population Shift from Agriculture to Industry

There has not been any significant shift of population from agricul-

ture to industry. In fact, no new industry, save some small-scale and cottage industries, has developed in Tripura in recent times. Tea is the only organised industry in Tripura. There were in all 52 estates in the year 1954 and the total number of workers employed were 7,668. Though the number of estates became 54 in the year 1960, the total number of workers came down to 7,365. The number of estates and the total number of daily average workers became 56 and 7,976 respectively at the end of 1964.[1]

In the last few years there has been a significant rise in the number of Government employees. Among them about 80 per cent are school teachers. To man the innumerable junior basic schools set up all over the territory including remote hill corners, a large number of primary school teachers has been appointed. In 1964-65 the number of primary school teachers was 3,618. This large scale employment of primary and junior basic school teachers has gone a long way to solve the unemployment problem of educated youngmen and women. Teaching profession is now the biggest profession in Tripura.

Growth of an Artisan Class

Getting training at Government cost in different cottage industries like handloom-weaving, leather-work, basketry, carpentry etc. and receiving liberal financial help from the Government, an artisan class is slowly developing in Tripura (See table at the next page).

Growth of Daily-wage Labour

Tripura suffers from an acute shortage of road-building and house-building workers. In the early stage progress of building roads and houses was very slow for want of workers. Contractors used to import outside labourers for the purpose.

This has been stopped by the Government to encourage the refugees and tribals to undertake such work. As a result, a class of daily wage-earners has grown from among the tribals and village landless tillers.

Problems and Prospects of Economic Development

Time stood still for a long time in Tripura. Under the rule of the Rajas, Tripura's need for all-round economic development was

[1] Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Pp. 38-39.

TABLE — IV

Year-wise and trade-wise number of persons trained from 1956-57 to 1965-66

Year	Weaving	Training	Hand-made paper	Basketry	Umbrella handle Mfg.	Leather crafts	Black-smithy	Carpen-try	Tailor-ing	Mech.
1956-57	16	16	12	15	17	6	—	—	—	
1957-58	13	8	9	10	16	3	—	—	11	
1958-59	14	10	11	17	5	13	2	6	—	
1959-60	17	5	9	18	8	—	6	9	—	
1960-61	20	—	16	18	—	—	—	—	—	
1961-62	13	—	2	10	—	—	—	8	—	
1962-63	14	2	—	8	—	8	8	9	—	
1963-64	13	—	—	13	—	—	2	15	—	
1964-65	21	—	—	7	—	—	4	18	8	
1965-66	28	—	—	13	—	—	7	12	12	

Source : Report of the Directorate of Industries, Government of Tripura, dated 18-11-68.

neglected. With Tripura's merger in India came a sudden change in the approach to her socio-economic needs. Tripura being a centrally-administered unit, revenue and capital expenditure of Tripura far exceed the amount of revenue receipts of Tripura. This will be clear from Table — V.

TABLE — V

Revenue receipts and Revenue and Capital expenditure of Tripura

(Rs. in 1,000)

Year	Total revenue receipts	Total revenue & capital expenditure	Difference between receipts & expenditure
1957-58	39,88	5,04,13	(—) 4,64,25
1958-59	39,59	4,97,38	(—) 4,57,79
1959-60	54,08	5,75,10	(—) 5,21,02
1960-61	49,68	7,37,77	(—) 6,88,09
1961-62	61,84	8,77,75	(—) 8,15,91
1962-63	53,96	8,03,79	(—) 7,49,83
1963-64	48,39	9,89,42	(—) 9,41,03
1964,65	1,32,30	12,36,50	(—) 11,04,20

Source : i) Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1964, Pp. 120 and 124.
ii) Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Pp. 118 & 122.

The administrative set-up was also modernised, reoriented and streamlined to handle the development activities. As a result of all these changes and planned efforts, Tripura is emerging out of her extremely backward condition into a progressive agricultural region. The biggest handicap that stands in the way of Tripura's rapid economic development is her ill-developed and inadequate communication system. For import of goods, Tripura has to depend on air transport or rail-cum-steamer transport either *via* Bangladesh or *via* Assam and in either case, transport costs are high for obvious reasons. This is one of the important reasons for the existence of a very high level of prices in Tripura.

Next in importance comes the difficulty of developing an already extremely backward region. Not long ago Tripura's population mainly consisted of tribal people who practised a very primitive form of cultivation. Now the composition has significantly changed with the coming of the displaced persons from Bangladesh. But it is to be noted that among the displaced persons in Tripura an overwhelmingly large number belongs to the depressed classes. And therefore the main aim of Tripura's economic development is economic rehabilitation of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

The rapid rise in population is also causing concern to the planners in Tripura. In 1951 Tripura's population was 6.5 lakhs which swelled to 9.05 lakhs in 1958 and by 1961 it rose to 11,42,005. Thus population increased almost 100 per cent in a period of ten years. This will bring into bold relief what a tremendous task faced the planners in solving the economic problems of Tripura.

The Agriculture Department was much expanded to carry out the programme of agricultural development in the territory. The Community Development Blocks are also there to achieve the goal of rural economic development of Tripura.

Employment Exchange

In Tripura, the District Employment Exchange was opened in the first year of the Second Five Year Plan and one Employment Market Information Unit under the District. Employment Exchange was started in 1959-60. The Exchange is always co-operating with the different employing authorities (Public & Private) in finding suitable candidates for the manpower requirements.

Highly qualified technical persons are in constant shortage. However, the Exchange managed to secure about ten M.B.B.S. Physicians for Relief & Rehabilitation Department, Tripura, six trained Dhais for State Social Welfare Board, Tripura and one Draftsman for Statistical Department, Tripura.

Through this Exchange, 106 scheduled caste candidates, 145 scheduled tribe candidates, 39 ex-servicemen candidates, 121 female candidates secured jobs.

Figures of registration, placings, submission and the number waiting in the live register are given below:—

TABLE—VI

Year	Applications registered during the period	Applications placed in employment during the period	Applications on live register at the end of the period	Employees using the Exchange	Vacancies notified during the period	Vacancies outstanding at the end of the period
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1959	5,761	726	3,580	21	1,430	350
1960	5,430	565	3,497	20	998	277
1961	6,921	523	4,377	21	1,456	568
1962	7,508	699	5,599	23	1,453	663
1963	7,936	595	5,633	16	1,583	371
1964	10,772	622	11,464	15	1,597	659
1965	8,443	1,158	13,439	15	1,738	659
1966	6,750	994	12,979	14	1,638	869

Source : Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Tripura, Vol. XIV No. 4, P. 19.

Figures of occupational distribution of applicants on live register in the District Employment Exchange were as below during the period 1959-63.

TABLE—VII

Number of applicants on live register in the District Employment Exchange, Tripura seeking employment (monthly averages or calender months) assistance in.

Year	Industrial supervisory service	Skilled & Semi-skilled	Un-skilled service	Educational service	Clerical service	Domestic service	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1959	8	213	1,182	558	148	95	977	3,181
1960	4	302	1,373	515	146	144	974	3,458
1961	8	367	1,419	700	242	140	951	3,827
1962	13	484	1,914	939	494	138	928	4,909
1963	12	663	2,835	730	598	67	866	5,771
1964	18	799	3,465	1,507	1,110	34	1,512	8,447
1965	35	895	4,606	2,673	1,630	29	3,103	12,972
1966	59	771	4,448	2,687	1,751	27	3,418	13,161

Source : Quarterly Bulletin of Economics & Statistics, Govt. of Tripura, Vol. XIV, No. 4, P. 20.

By circulating vacancies to other Exchanges, this Exchange managed to secure 8 trained Dhais from Silchar Exchange and one Draftsman from Kerala.

The problem of unemployment in Tripura is not so keenly felt as it is in other parts of the country. There is no problem of unemployment whatsoever amongst the graduates and the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe matriculates. About 1,500 persons (including students) join the labour force of Tripura annually.

Community Development Projects

The first Community Development Block (Stage-II) with headquarters at Jirania in Sadar Sub-division was opened on 2nd October, 1952. The Block comprised an area of 160 sq. miles and covered 118 villages with a total population of 99,927. Subsequently two National Extension Service Blocks one at Dharmanagar and the other at Kailasahar were opened. Thus there were in all three Development Blocks at the end of the First Five Year Plan period. The total expenditure under the Community Development Programmes during the same period came to Rs. 15.98 lakhs. During the 2nd Plan period 8 more Blocks of different stages were opened and at the end of the year 1965-66 the total number of Blocks rose to 17. The total population, number of villages and the area covered by these Blocks were 10,87,127 and 5,291 and 10,652 sq. kilometres respectively. Particulars of each of these Blocks are given below:

TABLE SHOWING THE NAME OF BLOCKS, POPULATION, AREA AND PRESENT STATE OF EACH BLOCK

Sl. No.	Name of Block	Headquarters	Name of Sub-div.	Total population.	Tribal (According to 1961 Census).	Area in Sq. Kilometres.	No. of villages.	Date of inauguration	Present stage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Sadar East Block	Jirania	Sadar	71,837	6,250	401.4	511	Oct., '52	Post-Intensive II from April, '62
2.	Dharmanagar Block	Panisagar	Dharmanagar	87,158	3,663	440.3	177	Oct., '53	Post-Intensive II from April, '64
3.	Kailasahar Block	Kumarghat	Kailasahar	1,04,126	10,568	1,201.8	586	April, '55	Post-Intensive II from April, '66
4.	Kamalpur Block	Salema	Kamalpur	61,675	19,932	621.6	320	April, '56	Stage II from April, '63
5.	Amarpur Spl. M.P. Block	Amarpur	Amarpur	56,365	15,201	1,364.9	455	Oct., '56	M. P. Stage II from April, '63
6.	Bilonia Block	Bagafa	Bilonia	84,627	24,070	1,020.5	466	April, '57	(T. D. Stage II) Stage II from April, 1964
7.	Sabrum Block	Satchand	Sabrum	43,397	20,333	616.4	192	April, 1958	T. D. Stage II from Oct., '63
8.	Kanchanpur Longai T. D. Block	Kanchanpur	Dharmanagar	40,390	30,037	1,274.3	332	Pre-extension from April '59 Stage I from April, 1960	T. D. Stage II from April, '65
9.	Khowai Block	Kanki	Khowai	52,512	18,414	388.5	308	Pre-extension from Oct. '59	Stage II from Oct., '65
10.	Udaipur Block	Udaipur	Udaipur	90,074	21,154	637.1	179	Pre-extension from April, '60	Stage I from Oct., '61
11.	Sonamura Block	Melagarh	Sonamura	77,969	8,251	530.9	170	Pre-extension from Oct. '60	Stage I from Oct., '61
12.	Sadar North Block	Mohanpur	Sadar	48,893	20,028	297.8	321	Pre-extension from Oct. '61	Stage I from April, '63
13.	Teliamura Block	Teliamura	Khowai	77,436	40,311	1,004.9	654	Pre-extension from April '62	Stage I from Oct., '63
14.	Sadar South Block	Bishalgarh	Sadar	1,90,468	37,603	852.6	609	-do-	-do-
15.	Chamanu Block	Chailengta	Kailasahar	28,100	23,500	280	280	T. D. Stage II from April '64	Stage II from April, '64
16.	Rajnagar Block	Not yet finalised	Bilonia	46,145	13,093	218	229	From Oct. '64	C. D. Stage II from Oct., '64
17.	Dumburnagar Block	-do-	Amarpur	16,	14,324	205	204	-do-	T. D. Stage II from Oct., '64

In view of the recommendations of the Government of India stress is being given to agricultural production, rural arts and crafts, industries and communications.

Local Development Works

In accordance with the pattern laid down by the Government of India the above scheme for utilisation of rural manpower was first introduced in Tripura in the year 1961-62, and has been extended to seven Blocks. An expenditure of Rs. 7.585 lakhs has been incurred under this scheme during the Third Five Year Plan for employment of rural manpower in useful projects like market, road, excavation of irrigation channels, tanks, construction of embankments, reclamation of waste land etc. This scheme has formed to be very useful in providing employment to the rural people particularly in the lean agricultural season and chanalises human resources to constructive utilitarian projects. This scheme will, therefore, be extended to more Blocks in due course with a total provision of Rs. 20 lakhs.

In the Third Five Year Plan it was decided that resources available under local development programme should be utilised for providing drinking water facilities in rural area. The scheme is being implemented in rural areas on realisation of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total cost as contribution from the villages. During the Third Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 4,663 lakhs was spent. About 1,475 villages have been provided with drinking water facilities covering population of six lakhs.

Village Housing Project

Under the scheme loans are provided to the villagers for construction of houses. During the Third Five Year Plan period an amount of Rs. 3.47 lakhs was spent and 99 persons were benefited.

Low Income Group Housing

Under this scheme a provision of Rs. 10,000 lakhs was made for the Third Five Year Plan. A total expenditure of Rs. 5,847 lakhs was incurred upto 31st March, 1965. The scheme was temporarily suspended in 1963-64 due to national emergency. It was, however, resumed in 1964-65 and in the year 1965-66, a provision of Rs. 2.50 lakhs (i.e. Rs. 2.30 lakhs as loan and 0.20 lakhs as grant) was made for implementation of this scheme. Thus the total loan expenditure during the Third Five Year Plan stands at Rs. 8.147 lakhs, giving benefit to 71 families.

Middle Income Group Housing

Under this scheme a provision of Rs. 3.676 lakhs was made during the Third Five Year Plan out of which an expenditure of Rs. 3.417 lakhs was spent and 99 persons were benefited.

Economic Rehabilitation of the Tribal People

Economic rehabilitation of the tribal people of Tripura still remains one of the vital problems of the territory. Tribals are becoming aware of the value of owning lands and settled plough cultivation. Land hunger among the tribals is noticeable. In the proposed Land Reform Bill transfer of land from tribals to plainsmen has rightly been prohibited. Welfare activities for the scheduled tribes are to be given the highest priority in any economic plan for Tripura.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

State Administrative Set-up

The administration of this territory is conducted by an Administrator with the designation of Chief Commissioner. Prior to the enforcement of Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Chief Commissioner was assisted by one Chief Secretary, two Secretaries, two ex-officio Secretaries, one Legal Remembrancer, two Deputy Secretaries and six Assistant Secretaries. The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 came into force from July 1, 1963. According to the provisions of the Act, a Legislative Assembly has been set up for the territory and a Council of Ministers has been formed on the date, with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Chief Commissioner in the exercise of his power to make laws.

Council of Ministers

The Council consists of the Chief Minister and other Ministers. In addition, there are three Deputy Ministers. The Ministers are now assisted by the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, two other Secretaries, one Deputy Development Commissioner, seven Deputy/ Under Secretaries and one Assistant Legal Remembrancer. Besides, the Principal Engineer, the Director of Education and the Director of Rehabilitation also act as ex-officio Secretaries for their respective Departments. Other Heads of Departments of the administration are the Inspector-General of Police, Director of Agriculture, Superintendent of V. M. Hospital, Officer-in-charge of Survey and Settlement, Director of Industries, Director of Health Services, District Registrar, Chief Forest Officer, and Treasury Officer.

The area of the territory is 10,066 sq. Km. and according to census 1961 the population is 11,42,005.

District Administration

Tripura is one District territory and there is one District Magistrate & Collector who is assisted by three Additional District Magistrates and Collectors, and one Senior Deputy Magistrate.

For administrative purposes the territory is divided into ten Revenue sub-divisions, each being under the charge of an Additional Sub-divisional Officer (recently designated as Sub-Deputy Collector) with the exception of Khowai Sub-division which is under full-fledged Sub-Divisional Officer (recently designated as Deputy Collector). The other nine sub-divisions have been grouped into three zones, each being under a Zonal S.D.O. (Deputy Collector). The Central Zone consists of Sadar, Sonamura and Amarpur sub-divisions, the Northern Zone consists of Kailasahar, Dharmanagar and Kamalpur sub-divisions and the Southern Zone consists of Udaipur, Bilonia and Sabrum sub-divisions. The Zonal Sub-divisional Officers are assisted by one or two Additional Sub-divisional Officers. There are two Additional S.D.Os in Sadar, one each in Sonamura, Udaipur, Bilonia and Amarpur, Sabrum, Kailasahar, Dharmanagar and Kamalpur sub-divisions. All the S.D.Os and Additional Sub-divisional Officers have been vested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

The Sub-divisional Officers and Additional Sub-divisional Officers are responsible for maintenance of law and order in their respective areas, besides collection of revenue and distribution and re-payments of agricultural loans etc. They are also responsible for other developmental works undertaken in the sub-divisions. In each sub-division there are one or two Circle Officers assisting the S.D.Os in the matter of collection of revenue and making various enquiries. Then again, in each sub-division, except Sadar, there is one Sub-Treasury Officer invested with the powers of Second Class Magistrate. Besides the works of Sub-Treasury, the S.T.Os also assist the S.D.Os in day-to-day administration of the sub-divisions. The Circle Officers are invested with the powers of Third Class Magistrate. Each sub-division is again divided into tehsils according to area and population. There are at present 45 tehsils, each under the charge of Tehsildar. He is assisted by one or two Assistant Tehsildars. The main functions of Asstt. Tehsildars are to collect revenue and statistical data as and when required by the administration.

Besides, there are a few Block Development Officers at the Block level, who under the supervision of respective S.D.Os carry out the development schemes in their respective Blocks.

Judicial

The Court of the Judicial Commissioner is the highest judiciary in this territory. There are one District and Sessions Judge, one Additional District & Sessions Judge, one Sub-ordinate & Assistant Sessions

Judge and eight Munsiffs, having a separate court for each. Four Munsiffs have been vested with the powers of Magistrate.

Others Officers — State Level

The other State-level Officers are mentioned below. They are administratively under the control of their respective Heads of Departments. It is not necessary to indicate their functions here, as in most cases, the designations give a fair idea of their functions. Functions of other officers have already been described.

1. Chief Electoral Officer.
2. Dy. Chief Electoral Officer.
3. Additional Director of Education.
4. Superintending Engineer.
5. Surveyor of Works.
6. Animal Husbandry Officer.
7. Public Relations Officer.
8. Dy. Director of Education — 6.
9. Officer-in-charge, Educational Publications.
10. Dy. Director of Industries.
11. Fishery Development Officer.
12. Dairy Development Officer.
13. Senior Statistical Officer.
14. Superintendent, National Sample Survey.
15. Superintendent, Central Jail.
16. Social Welfare Officer.
17. Assistant Director of Industries.
18. Agri-Information Officer.
19. Horticulture Officer.
20. Plant Protection Officer.
21. Agronomist.
22. Cashewnut Development Officer.
23. Dy. Registrar, Co-operative Societies.
24. Statistical Officer, Industries.
25. Deputy Animal Husbandry Officer.
26. Assistant Conservator of Forests.
27. Assistant Settlement Officer.
28. Superintendent, Government Printing & Stationery.
29. Assistant Employment Officer.
30. Labour Officer.
31. Cultural Research Officer.
32. Surveyor of Works.
33. Deputy Publicity Officer.

34. Malaria Officer.
35. Disease Investigation Officer.
36. Dairy Extension Officer.
37. Inspector of Factories.
38. Chief Inspector, Metric Weights & Measures.

Other Officers — District Level

The other district-level officers are mentioned below. They are administratively under the control of their respective Heads of Departments. It is not necessary to describe their functions in details, as in the case of most of them, the designations give a fair idea of their functions, while the functions of others have already been described in relevant chapters.

1. District Controller of Civil Supplies.
2. Superintendent of Police.
3. Additional Superintendent of Police.
4. District Inspector of Schools.
5. District Inspector of Social Education.
6. Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
7. District Health Officer.
8. Executive Engineer, Division I.
9. „ „ „ II.
10. „ „ „ III.
11. „ „ „ IV.
12. „ „ Electrical Division I.
13. „ „ „ „ II.
14. „ „ Investigation Division.
15. „ „ Minor Irrigation Division.
16. District Panchayat Officer.
17. District Sub-Registrar.

Central Government Offices

The Central Government offices located in Tripura are (1) Ministry of Finance — Income Tax Department. The administrative head of the office for Tripura is the Commissioner of Income-Tax, Shillong. The State is divided into 2 wards. These wards are looked after by two Income Tax Officers.

(2) Ministry of Transport and Communication — The Post and Telegraph Department: — The Superintendent of Post Offices, Tripura Division, Agartala is in charge of the Postal Circle of Tripura and is

under direct control of the Post Master General, Assam Circle, Shillong. The Telegraph and Telephone services are looked after by S.D.O. (Telegraphs) Tripura, Assistant Communication Officer, A.C.S. (Office).

(3) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting — There is one Regional Field Publicity Officer.

(4) Ministry of Irrigation and Power — One Executive Engineer, River Investigation Division, C.P.W.C.

(5) Ministry of Home Affairs — Deputy Central Intelligence Officer.

(6) Land Customs & Central Excise — Two Superintendents of Customs, each in charge of one Circle and subordinate to the Assistant Collector of Customs, Shillong.

(7) Anti-Corruption Department (Govt. of India) — Deputy Superintendent of Police.

(8) Indian Air Lines Corporation — Officer-in-charge.

(9) Meteorological Officer, in charge of office, located at Agartala Aerodrome.

(10) Central P.W.D. — Assistant Engineer, R & B. Asstt. Engineer, (Power House), Asstt. Engineer, Electrical (office).

CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Early History

The Rajas of Tripura towards the middle of the 19th century ruled over an area of about 7,632 sq. miles. In 1857, while giving the description of the boundary of Tripura, Thornton thus wrote: "Tippera (Independent); an extensive tract of mountainous country, bounded on the north by the British Districts of Sylhet and Cachar, on the east by the territory of Burma, on the south by Burma and Chittagong and on the west by the British District of Tipperah, is 130 miles in length, from east to west, and 80 miles in breadth and contains an area of 7,632 sq. miles."[1]

As the State is hilly and full of jungles, no revenue survey on scientific lines was so long possible. Piecemeal survey was done from time to time for small blocks of lands scattered and isolated. Since 1301 T.E. corresponding to 1891 A.D., piecemeal survey with the help of compass has been done for the purpose of assessment of land revenue.

Prior to 1891, according to the report of the Political Agent, the most important sources of the State revenue were (1) rent for lands in the plains of hill Tipperah (2) a family tax in the hills (3) duties on forest products, cotton, and *til* and (4) the sale of elephants captured in the Raja's territory. Usually no rent or land revenue was collected from the hill tribes who pursued shifting cultivation called jhoom on hilly lands and were liable to a tax called "Ghar-Chukti", which used to vary in rate per family from tribe to tribe. The procedure followed in regard to the assessment of family tax was thus: the headman of the tribe settled with the Raja during the Durga Puja festival, the amount to be paid by each family and the families in their turn paid the same, irrespective of the number of persons in a family. But the system of collection left every scope for the collectors to exact money

1 Thornton, E.; Gazetteer of the Territories under the Government of the East India Company and of Native States, 1857, p. 977

from the tribals under various pretexts and often with loss to the Government exchequer. "During the years 1871 and 1872, hardly any taxes were levied, — first, on account of the Lushai raids and, secondly, on the ground that the men serving as coolies during the Lushai expedition and with the survey party, could not cultivate their jhooms and had, therefore, no means of paying taxes. Large number of families are every year exempted from payment of the family tax on the ground of poverty, or for other reasons."[1]

A table showing the rates of assessment of family taxes on the different tribes in the year 1874-75, is given below: —[2]

TABLE — I

Tribe	Rate per family	
Tipperah	Rs. 3 8 0	£ 0 7 0
Jamaityas	,, 3 8 0	£ 0 7 0
Nowatteas	,, 10 0 0	£ 1 0 0
Riangs	,, 10 0 0	£ 1 0 0
Hallame	Rates varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 or even less	4s. to 1s.3d
Kukis	Rs. 5 4 0	£ 0 10 6

The revenue derived from the levies on export of cotton and *til* was considerable. It is reported that more than one-fourth of the total revenue of the State of Hill Tipperah in 1874-75 was derived from this source.[3] "The cotton is grown entirely on the hill jhooms, and is sold by the hill-men to the exporters either in the hills or in the markets in plains. The exporter has to pay the farmer of the cotton mahal a duty varying from Rs. 1-2 to Rs. 1-14 per maund, according to the quality of the cotton. The farmers of cotton mahals have also right to collect a duty on the export of *til*, at rates varying from 8 *annas* to 14 *annas* per maund. The total revenue realised from farming the cotton and *til* duties amounted in 1874-75 to £4716 1s. 9d. being an increase of £ 148, 12s on the revenue of the preceding year".

Among other sources, duties on the export of parrots and *Garjan* oil, elephant capturing, the grazing of buffaloes and manufacture of native liquor etc. deserve mention.

1 W. W. Hunter; Statistical Account of Bengal; Vol. (Statistical Account of Tipperah) 1876; p. 510
2 Ibid. p. 510
3 Ibid. p. 511

A table showing the revenue of the State for the two years 1873-74 and 1874-75 is given below, which will give an idea of the sources and amount of revenue collected during the years[1].

TABLE — II

Sources of Revenue	Amount realised 1873-74 £ s. d.	1874-75 £ s. d.
1. Land Revenue in the plains	3,865 0 0	3,878 18 1
2. Family tax in the hills	2,466 14 0	2,421 14 0
3. Tax on forest produce exported	2,732 15 9	4,039 11 6
4. Duties on cotton and *til* exported	4,569 9 9	4,718 1 4
5. Royalty on elephant captured	1,801 12 0	2,400 0 0
6. Duty on parrots exported	2 6 9	2 6 9
7. Duty on *Garjan* oil exported	3 1 7	3 1 7
8. Tax on grazing of buffaloes	18 14 5	12 4 5
9. Duty on rice and paddy exported	15 10 3	19 4 7
10. Duty on mustard seed exported	6 4 8	6 4 8
11. Duty on *chora sikar* or earthen caves sold	6 14 0	6 14 0
12. Tax on spinning wheels	2 15 3	2 15 3
13. Licences to Muhammedan Kazis	12 10 0	12 10 0
14. Market dues	104 12 11	104 12 11
15. Law and justice (fines etc.)	221 8 6	204 8 6
16. Court fees	345 16 9	239 7 3
17. Process fees	— — —	35 16 6
18. Commission fees	— — —	110 12 3
19. Cattle pounds	36 3 3	104 2 2
20. Abkari or excise	62 13 9	97 1 0
21. *Nazar* or tribute	60 6 0	273 12 0
TOTAL:	16,334 14 6	18,693 4 1

Besides the above mentioned sources of revenue, duties were also levied on export of rice, paddy, mustard seed, and taxes realised on spinning wheels and by licences to Muhammedan Kazis (Kāziā mahal) for the registration of marriages within a certain village or group of

1 Ibid p. 513

villages.[1] But the amounts derived from these sources were in each case very small and only illustrates the multiplicity of the prevailing sources of revenue.

Forms of Settlement

In the year 1290 T.E. (1880 A.D.) an Act named "Rajaswa Sambandhiya Niyamābali" was passed, and under this Act, extensive blocks of land on revenue or rate of revenue fixed in perpetuity were settled by the State. Such settled estates were called *Kayemi Taluks.*

The State introduced another class of *taluk* called "Taskhichi Taluk". The Taskhichi taluks were also permanent, but their revenue would be increased at the rate of two *annas* per rupee on the expiry of a period of every twenty years. Since the early part of the twentieth century, granting of Kayemi taluks has been discontinued.

A table, as prepared by the Political Agent in 1872 showing the rent paid for rice lands, in various parts of the plains of Hill Tipperah is quoted below:

TABLE — III

	Rate per standard bigha Max. Rs a p	Min. Rs a p	Rate per Acre Max. s d	Min. s d
Western portion of the State adjoining the District of Tipperah	1 7 4	1 4 0	8 9	7 6
Western portion of the State further in the interior	0 12 6	0 8 0	4 8	3 0
Northern portion along the Sylhet boundary	0 10 0	0 6 8	3 9	2 6
Southern portions bordering on Noakhali and Chittagong	0 8 4	0 5 0	3 1½	1 10½
Further inland than above	0 8 4	0 3 4	3 3½	1 3

Source : Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah, p. 506.

[1] Hunter; p. 512

In the year 1296 T.E. (1886 A.D.), another Act called "Prajā Bhumyadhikari Ain" (Law of landlord and tenant) was passed which governed the rate of rent, mutation, realisation of rent, relinquishment of land, survey of land, acquisition of land, limitation etc.

According to section 57 of the Act, a raiyat desirous of taking *patta* for jungle lands to be cleared by him was granted land free of rent for three years from the date of taking such *patta.* When the land under the *patta* is cleared, the *raiyat* would acquire a right of possession over the land. The rate of revenue on expiry of the three years was fixed as follows :—[1]

(a)	After expiry of first 3 years	2 *annas* per *kani* per year.
(b)	,, ,, ,, next 3 ,,	4 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
(c)	,, ,, ,, next 3 ,,	6 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
(d)	,, ,, ,, next 8 ,,	12 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Thereafter, the rate of revenue would be in accordance with the revenue rate prevailing for similar other lands in the locality.

Under the Praja Bhumyadhikari Ain, 1296 T.E., the *raiyats* used to hold permanent and heritable rights, but they could not transfer their lands nor fell valuable trees thereon without the prior consent of the Bhumyadhikaris, except where, under any law, custom or usage, they had right to do so.

The under-*raiyati* (korfa) system was also prevalent in the State. But the under-*raiyats* had no right over the land which they could cultivate under a *raiyat* in 'Barga' or 'Bhagchash'. They could be evicted by the *raiyat* at his will and they were thus tenants at will.

An Act called the Act 4 of 1326 T.E. (1916 A.D.) akin to the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, was passed for the realisation of arrear land revenue, dues of local bodies and sundry other dues.[2]

Settlement of Agartala town

There was no municipal town in this State except Agartala and people of this town had so long no right, title and interest over the land they were occupying. With a view to removing these anomalies, Maharaja Birbikramkishoremanikyabahadur framed a set of Rules in the year 1346 T.E. corresponding to 1936 A.D., called

[1] Tripura Code Part II. p. 18
[2] Ibid p. 147

"Rajdhani Agartala Sahar Bandobasta Sambandhiya Bidhan".[1] Settlement and transfer of the town lands were governed by this 'Bidhan'. The special feature of this Bidhan was that none could transfer any land without the permission of the Revenue Authority.

So long the Divisional Officers were entrusted with the work of settlement within their respective jurisdiction. During the year 1925-26, Settlement Officers were appointed in two Divisions namely Sadar and Kailasahar, while the existing system continued in other places.[2]

Permission was given for the first time in 1935-36 to open tea-gardens in taluki settlements after realisation of nazar. For settlement of Taskhichi and Abadi jote lands, *Salami* and *nazar* were also realised.[3]

Survey

In view of the necessity of survey for correct measurement and mapping of land the then Maharaja of the State enacted a law in the year 1899 named "Jarip-o-Bandabasta Sambandhiya Niyamabali, 1309 T.E.".[4] Since the purpose of this survey was to measure and map the land allotted, piecemeal survey in Blocks was done and no overall survey was undertaken. As the population of the State was very sparse, the rules intended that people from neighbouring areas should come and take settlement of land by clearing jungles.

The Survey of India carried on "Topographical Survey" of the northern part of the State adjoining Assam from 1907 to 1910 and that of the southern part adjoining the districts of Tipperah, Noakhali, Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts from 1930 to 1939. To avoid heavy jungles, the survey was carried on almost entirely from 'Machans' or platforms raised at the top of high trees and for the main streams a detailed survey was made.

There are 21 great trigonometrical stations established by 'the Geodatic Branch, Survey of India, in this State. These G.T.S.s serve as the point of origin of all susequent surveys.

The present Government keenly felt that there should be a scientific survey of the entire State and records of rights should be prepared in

1 Ibid p. 269
2 Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for the year 1335 T.E., p. 6
3 Ibid 1345 T.E., p. 7
4 Tripura Code Part II, p. 49

the interest of revenue administration, maintenance of law and order and tackling various disputes arising out of immovable properties.

With the introduction of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 (Act 43 of 1960) it was decided that implementation of land reforms should also be done by the Survey and Settlement Department along with the survey and settlement operation. Accordingly a revised programme of survey and settlement operation was drawn up superimposing the implementation of land reforms and covering a period from 1959-60 to 1965-66.

It was originally intended that the operation would cover (a) Survey and Mapping of lands (b) Preparation of Record-of-Rights (c) Settlement of Land Revenue, and (d) Collection of various statistics. Since the enactment of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960, the operation had two more objectives viz., (a) to afford a basis for preparation of compensation roll under the Act, (b) to collect and correlate as much information as possible regarding land tenure so as to facilitate implementation of land reforms.

The survey & settlement operation including land reforms in Tripura was carried on according to a phased programme. The progress from the year 1960-61 to 1963-64 in the different stages of work was as follows:—

TABLE — IV

Progress in sq. miles

Stage of work	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1. Village Boundary Demarcation	3674.00	3974.00	4116.00	4116.00
2. Traverse	2250.00	3077.00	3931.00	4106.00
3. Kistwar (internal survey)	1500.22	2264.01	3264.83	4001.00
4. Khanapuri (preliminary record writing)	1202.18	2004.43	2856.60	3705.61
5. Bujharat (local explanation)	627.75	1585.00	2507.69	3363.46
6. Implementation of land reforms (notification vesting estate in the Govt. u/s 134 of the Act)			1831.00	2342.00

7. Attestation and Jamabandi		886.46	1927.59
8. Preparation of draft publication and compensation rolls		482.74	981.49
9. Draft publication of record-of-rights	1585.00	306.14	1664.59
10. Disposal of objection			917.82
11. Final publication			748.65
12. Final scrutiny			286.14

The statement above shows that village boundary demarcation and traverse survey for the entire territory have already been completed. By the end of 1964, Kistwar, Khanapuri and Bujharat have also been completed in the entire territory.

Soil and land use survey is also being carried on in course of the survey & settlement operation, classifying land according to its capability. Preparation of soil map showing all the necessary details and other types of map, viz., village map, block map, thana map, subdivisional map and the map of the Union Territory of Tripura have been printed.

Collection of Revenue

The demand and actual collection of land revenue during the period from 1960-61 to 1962-63 were as follows:—

TABLE — VI

	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Current demand	12,03,408	12,20,033	12,36,913.12
Total realisable demand	20,30,406	20,73,629	29,57,690.97
Collection against current demand	8,35,217	7,10,301	7,26,130.18
Collection against arrear demand	5,52,806	4,21,588	5,41,919.87

The increase in demand was due to new settlements. In all, 2,191 settlement cases involving 8,607.62 acres of land and Rs. 14,027.92 of land revenue were finalised during the period from 1960-61 to 1961-62 and steps were taken to make expeditious settlement of lands with Jhoomias, landless agriculturists and refugees.

Collection of Revenue

The District of Tripura for the purpose of land revenue collection, as also for administrative and other purposes, is divided into three zones which are again divided into ten sub-divisions and forty-five tehsils. Total land revenue assessment in the territory, without taking the present settlement results into consideration, is about Rs. 12,00,000/-. The present set-up of collection of land revenue consists of three Sub-divisional Officers in charge of zones, ten Addl. Sub-divisional Officers (Sub-deputy Collectors), thirtyone Circle Officers, fortynine Tehsildars and eight Asst. Tehsildars. The survey & settlement operation has revealed that new areas brought under cultivation during the past decades have not been assessed to land revenue at all, and with the abolition of intermediary rights, consequent on the enforcement of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act. 1960, the income of the territory is likely to go up to 90 lakhs. Added to this would be instalments of premium and other dues from lands. So long the Tehsildars and Asst. Tehsildars were actually collecting land revenue from *jotedars;* and *talukdars* were paying the land revenue dues to the Treasury. Now that *taluks* have been abolished in the entire Tripura, all land revenue is being collected by Tehsildars and Asstt. Tehsildars under the supervision of Circle Officers and their superior officers upto the Collector.

The present *maujas* are constituted by the survey & settlement operation number 871. It is found that with a jurisdiction of about 20 revenue *maujas* per *tehsil* in average, neither the Tehsildars nor the Circle Officers can be expected to make 100 per cent inspection of fields, whereas it is necessary to do so at their levels. Govt. revenue, therefore, seriously suffered.

Revenue Circle

With a view to strengthening the land revenue collection organisation and to making it more effective and capable of obtaining intensive results, a scheme for re-organisation of tehsils and circles is on the anvil. Under the present system, there are Class I, Class II and Class III tehsils depending on the quantum of land revenue demand assigned to the respective tehsils. But under the new scheme, the tehsils are proposed to be organised with an annual land revenue demand of round about Rs. 20,000/- for each at the newly approved rates and in consideration of homogeneity in physical features, facility of communication and compactness of the *maujas* under each proposed tehsil. In cases of sparsely populated *maujas* having low land

revenue demand, the jurisdiction of a tehsil will cover a wide area while in cases of small *maujas* with high land revenue demand, the area of a tehsil will be smaller. A proposed supervising circle will have an annual land revenue demand of round about Rs. 80,000/-.

Under the scheme of the re-organisation, the 871 settlement *maujas* have been grouped into 170 tehsils under 35 circles.

Requirement of officers and staff for circles and tehsils under the new scheme

Each tehsil is manned by the following staff :—

(i) One Tehsildar;
(ii) One Amin;
(iii) Two peons;

Each circle may be manned by the following personnel :—

(i) One Circle Officer;
(ii) One Surveyor;
(iii) One Lower Division Clerk;
(iv) Two Peons.

The total requirement of officers and staff will thus be as follows:—

Sub-Deputy Collectors	10 (ten),
Circle Officers	35 (thirtyfive),
Tehsildars	170 (one hundredseventy),
Lower Division Clerks	35 (thirtyfive),
Surveyors	35 (thirtyfive),
Amins	170 (one hundredseventy),
Peons	410 (four hundredten).

Revision of Rules

The Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Allotment of Land) Rules, 1962 and the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms (Amendment of Rule 211) Rules, 1962 were enforced during the year 1962-63.

Relation between Landlord and Tenant — Historical Background

The erstwhile princely State of Tripura is still predominantly agricultural. There were no industries in the past, nor are there any worth its

name even now. Hence the majority of the population had always to depend on agriculture by some way or other. According to the report of the Political Agent prepared in 1872, as quoted by Hunter, "The Raja of Hill Tipperah, although the owner of the whole State, holds comparatively little of the land in his own hands, the greater portion being in the hands of talukdars and farmers." In those days, farm containing 12 *bighas* of land in the plains was considered much and a cultivator having a farm of 15 bighas of land was generally regarded as well off, though he might not be so well off if compared with a respectable shop-keeper. Apart from the big farmers, the cultivators in the plains were not generally in debt. But it was a practice with them to borrow money especially for any domestic ceremony viz., marriage.[1]

But in the case of *jhoomias*, the want of fresh *jhoom* land remained a great problem in some parts of the State. The Political Agent noticed this during a journey from Udaipur to Agartala sometimes in 1874.[2]

It has already been pointed out that instead of a fixed rent, a tax was levied on each family of the *jhoomias*. The amount of the tax used to vary according to tribes, to which the families belonged. According to Hunter, "The element of compulsory or customary service enters largely into the conditions which determined the amount of this tax, the Kukis are sometimes excused from all money payments, on the understanding that they must render military service when required, and the pure Tripuras pay a lower rate than some of the other classes, as they have to render personal service at the Palace, and also to carry out any orders they may receive from the Raja by latter".

Though the hillmen often had to pay extra fees under various pretexts amounting sometimes to 50 per cent on the tax originally settled, yet they preferred the family tax system 'to a light but unbending system of taxation.' Besides, the system of collection of such tax was not very regular. 'Sometimes several seasons pass without any call being made for money payments.' Moreover, it is reported that "large number of families are every year exempted from payment of the family tax on the ground of poverty, or for other reasons."

Land Reforms

With a view to amending the law relating to land revenue and to

1 Hunter; Statistical Account of Bengal Vol. VI p. 503
2 Ibid p. 506

provide for the acquisition of estates and for certain other measures of land reforms, the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 (Act 43 of 1960) was passed and introduced in this territory.[1] The Act makes various provisions on land revenue and land reform matters.

Section 30 of the Act provides that the Administrator may at any time direct the determination or revision of revenue rates for all lands in any area of which revenue survey has been made.

According to the provision of Section 32 of the Act, the Settlement Officer, for the purpose of determining revenue rates, may divide any area into units, having regard to physical features, agricultural and economic conditions and trade facilities and communication. Regard shall also be had, in case of agricultural lands, to the profits from agriculture, consideration paid for leases, sale prices of land and the principal moneys on mortgage, and, in case of non-agricultural lands to the value of lands for the purpose for which it is hold. But the revenue rate of any class of land shall not exceed:—

(ii) in case of other lands, 3 per cent of the market value of the gross yield from the land,

(ii) in case of other lands, 3 per cent of the market value of the land.

The table of revenue rates, confirmed and published under Section 34 of the Act, shall remain in force for a period of thirty years.

The Administrator may, by an order, direct alteration or revision of revenue rates under clause (a) of Sub-Section (2) of Section 37 when, in his opinion, the circumstances have so changed as to cause substantial increase or decrease in the yield of crops generally or in a particular area, after the expiry of ten years from the date, on which the table of revenue rates was introduced.

According to Late Maharaja's order[2] no land in the Tribal Reserve (i.e. land reserved for five classes of tribals, viz., Puran Tripura, Noatia, Jamatia, Riang and Halam) in certain area could be transferred by any of these classes without the permission of the Government. If any such transfer was made, such transfer was void.

[1] Tripura Code Part I, p. 1
[2] Order No. 325 dated 1-6-1353 T.E. (1943) as published in the Tripura State Gazette — Extra-ordinary Issue, dated 7-6-1353 T.E.

According to Section 187 of the Tripura Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act, 1960, transfer of land from tribals to non-tribals, without the permission of the District Magistrate & Collector, is illegal. This section was enforced in the whole territory of Tripura with effect from April 14, 1961 by notification issued by the administration.

Tenancy Reforms

With the introduction of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960, bulk of the tenants becomes *raiyats* holding lands directly under the Government. The Act provides that (a) the right of the *raiyats* in the land shall be permanent, heritable and transferable, (b) the *raiyat* shall be entitled, by himself, his servants, *under-raiyat*, agents or other representative, to erect farm building, construct wells or tanks or make other improvements thereon for the better cultivation of the land or its convenient or profitable use, (c) the *raiyat* is entitled to plant trees on his land, enjoy products thereof and fell or utilise or dispose of timber of any tree on his land.

The interest of an *under-raiyat* in any land held by him shall be heritable, but not transferable. No *under-raiyat* shall be evicted from his land, except under the order of the competent authority, as provided for in Section 118 of the Act. But the *under-raiyat* shall be entitled to be restored to possession of the land, from which he was evicted, if the *raiyat* fails to cultivate such land personally within one year from the date on which he took possession thereof or ceases to cultivate such land personally in any year during the period of four years next following. Section 126 of the Act further provides for transfer of ownership of land to *under-raiyats*.

Section 111 provides for the maximum rent payable by *under-raiyat* as one-fourth of the produce of such land, if plough and cattle for cultivation is supplied by the *raiyat*, and if cattle is not supplied by the *raiyat*, one-fifth of such produce, and in any other case, four times the land revenue payable in respect of the land.

Provision for commuting the rent paid in kind into money rent has been provided for in Section 114 of the Act.

Grant of written receipt for the payment of land revenue and rent has also been provided for in Sections 23 and 115 of the Act.

A *raiyat* can relinquish his rights in respect of any land in his possession in favour of Government by giving a notice in writing not

less than three months before the close of any agricultural year, as per provision of Section 107.

Ceiling on Holdings

Section 164 of the Act provides that no person, either by himself or together with any member of his family, shall hold in any capacity any land in excess of 25 standard acres in aggregate. (one standard acre = one acre of *Nal* or *Lunga* or three acres of *Tila*). If the number of members of the family exceeds five, he may have five additional standard acres for each additional member, but not exceeding 50 standard acres on an aggregate. Action has already been taken for speedy and effective implementation of this provision.

The provision for ceiling on land holding shall not apply to land owned by the Government or a local authority. Administrator may, however, on application, exempt under Section 178, land comprised of tea gardens, orchards etc., from the operation of Section 164.

Prevention of Fragmentation

Provisions have been made in the Act for prevention of fragmentation (Ch. XIV of the Act), but these have not yet come into force.

While all the provisions of the Land Reforms Act, except those relating to prevention of fragmentation and Section 99(1) (c) giving rights to the *raiyat* to trees, have been enforced by the middle of November, 1964 throughout the territory. Notification enforcing Section 99(1) (c) with effect from 1-12-64 in Kamalpur, Khowai and Sonamura sub-divisions has also been issued.

Abolition of Intermediaries and Payment of Compensation

Section 134 of the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 provides that the Administrator may, by a notification in the Official Gazette, declare a date from which all rights, title and interest of every intermediary in such estate shall vest in the Government free from all encumbrances.

The intermediaries, who are entitled to receive compensation, are served with notices in TR.L.R form 54 calling upon them to submit returns in form 55 within a period of 30 days from the date of service of the notices. On receipt of the returns in form 55, these are scrutinised and the Compensation Officer prepares compensation assessment

rolls in respect of every estate vested in the Government, as per provisions of Sections 144, 145 and 146 and the draft publication of such compensation assessment rolls is made under section 149 of the Act for receiving and considering objections, which may be filed within three months of the draft publication of such rolls. When no objection is filed or all the objections filed have been disposed of, the Compensation Officer causes the compensation assessment rolls to be finally published under Section 152 and sends the same to the respective Sub-divisional Officers for payment.

Compensation

Payment of compensation to the extent of Rs. 3,93,251.26 has been made to the ex-intermediaries upto the end of the year 1963-64.

Consolidation of Holdings

With the completion of survey and settlement operation including land reforms in the entire territory, the work of consolidation of holdings may be taken up.

Administration of Taxes other than Land Revenue

In addition to land revenue, the other main sources of income of the territory are excise duty, stamp duty, registration fee, cattle pounds fee, duty on tea etc.

EXCISE

The Political Agent of Tripura wrote in his annual report for 1873-74 that the source of revenue from excise duty seemed to have been almost totally neglected. Licence was granted to a man to manufacture and sell indigenous liquor and he carried on a monopoly business by paying £ 32.4s annually to the State. The Political Agent also mentioned that almost all the residents in and around Agartala prepared liquor for their own consumption and this proved, beyond doubt, that even if there were any rules restricting private manufacture, those were not adhered to. The licensed dealer used to sell his liquor among the hill people coming down to Agartala. The Law of the Rajas operated only in plains, and spirit was not sold in hills. In the year 1874-75, however, there were 84 licensed manufacturers and vendors of spirit in the plains, and excise revenue amounted to £ 97.1s only.[1]

[1] Hunter; Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI 1876, London, Pp. 511-512

There was a marked increase in the excise revenue from the beginning of the twentieth century. Within a period of thirty years the amount of excise revenue rose from Rs. 9,196 in the year 1905-06 to Rs. 40,057 in the year 1935-36.[1] In the year 1945-46 (1355 T.E.) a special excise duty was levied on tea, tobacco and betelnut, and a considerable amount of revenue (Rs. 4,11,837) was realised during the year 1945-46 as Special Excise Revenue. The revenue under 'General Excise' also showed a sharp increase, partly as a result of equalisation of rates with British India, and partly due to the establishment of a distillery during the triennium ending in the year 1945-46. The amount realised as General Excise Revenue stood at Rs. 2,16,158 in the year 1945-46.[2]

Excise Administration

In the new set-up, after the merger of the State with the Indian Union, the excise administration of the territory was under the charge of the Chief Officer of Excise. This post was being held by an Addl. District Magistrate & Collector in addition to his normal duties. In the exercise of his duties the Chief Officer of Excise was assisted by two Inspectors — one in charge of the Central Warehouse and the other responsible for supervision of the work of excise field staff.

The entire territory has been divided into following six Zones, each under the charge of one Sub-Inspector and 3 guards: (1) Dharmanagar (2) Kailasahar (3) Khowai and Kamalpur (4) Sadar (5) Udaipur, Amarpur and Sonamura (6) Bilonia and Sabrum.

The Bengal Excise Act, 1909 (Bengal Act 5 of 1909) was extended to this territory with effect from August 1, 1962 in place of the Tripura State Excise Act. The Excise Administration in the territory had so long been following, in many details, the spirit of the West Bengal Excise Act, and with the introduction of the new measure in 1962, it was further strengthened. The significant change affected by the new Act is in regard to the withdrawal of traditional exemption granted to tribal people upto 20 seers of 'pachwai'. Besides, as a result of introduction of the West Bengal Act here, the excise administration in the territory came to be the direct responsibility of the District Magistrate & Collector in his capacity as the Collector of Excise (ex-officio).

---

[1] Administration Report, Tripura State, 1935-36, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, p. 32

[2] Consolidated Administration Report, Tripura State, (1943-46 A.D.), Political Department, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, p. 29.

Liquor

Tribals are allowed the privilege of free home brewing of 'Pachwai' to the extent of 20 seers at a time for domestic consumption. This limit, however, can be exceeded on ceremonial occasions only with the special permission of the Collector.

No toddy is tapped in the territory, nor is there any demand for it.

Licences are issued to vendors for retail sale of foreign liquor. There are four foreign liquor shops in Tripura. Three are located at Agartala, while the fourth is at Dharmanagar. In the territory, a weekly dry day is fixed prohibiting sale of liquor including country liquor. According to a phased programme of Prohibition, strength of country liquor has been reduced from 30 u.p. to 40u.p.

Bhang & Ganja

Bhang and Ganja grow in abundance in Tripura, but there are no Government licensed shops for their sale.

Charas

Possession of this drug is totally banned in this territory.

Opium

As opium is not produced in this territory, the entire supply of opium is obtained from the Gazipur Opium Factory. Opium smoking has been prohibited in Tripura since 1947. The sale of opium from excise shops has been totally stopped from April 1, 1954, and it is supplied only to the addicts on medical certificate direct from the Treasury and Sub-Treasuries. There was no opium smoking offences during the last two years. There is no industry in Tripura involving use of opium in the manufacture of medical preparations.

Cocaine

The Dangerous Drugs Act (Act II) of 1930 has been extended to this territory and licences for the sale of cocaine are issued only to licence holders of pharmacies.

Revenue

The total excise revenue of the territory rose from Rs. 1,64,214.25

in the year 1959-60 to Rs. 2,97,351.81 in the year 1961-62. In the year 1962-63, it fell down to Rs. 2,69,266.63.

Stamps

Prior to merger with the Indian Union, independent Tripura had a Stamp Act of its own. After the integration, the Indian Stamp Act was extended to this territory from April, 16, 1950. After some amendment this Act, as in force in the State of Assam, has been extended to Tripura with effect from July 15, 1963. The salient feature in the present amendent is enhancement of certain fees and the substitution of certain wordings to suit the purpose of this territory.

The average of the receipts of the last five years in respect of non-Judicial stamp, Stamp for copies and Court Fees relating to the Judicial Commissioner's Court was as follows:—

TABLE — VI

Year	non-Judicial Stamp	Stamp for copies	Court fees (in rupee)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1959-60	5,000	4,000	16,000
1960-61	7,000	5,500	18,000
1961-62	6,500	6,000	14,500
1962-63	6,500	5,000	14,000
1963-64	7,500	7,000	12,500

The total receipts for the five years ending 1964 in respect of non-Judicial Stamp, Court Fees, Stamp for copies, average annual income from other sources (fines etc.) relating to all other Courts of Tripura were as follows:

TABLE — VII

Year	non-Judicial Stamp	Court Fees	Stamp for copies	Average annual income from other sources (fines etc.)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1960	1238.00	64,729.06	2,178.44	1,980.53
1961	1679.25	72,837.16	2,295.93	1,962.10
1962	1263.05	70,912.32	1,532.49	745.16
1963	1526.75	78,997.98	3,366.28	888.50
1964	1565.75	97,308.33	5,566.65	2,485.75

Registration

The Chief Commissioner, Tripura is the Inspector-General of Registration. He is assisted by the Addl. District Magistrate & Collector, who acts as the District Registrar. There are three departmental Sub-Registry Offices at Sadar, Dharmanagar and Udaipur. Besides, there are seven ex-officio Sub-Registry Officers at the headquarters of the civil sub-divisions at Kailasahar, Khowai, Kamalpur, Sonamura, Bilonia, Sabrum and Amarpur. There is also a Joint Sub-Registrar attached to the Sadar Office at Agartala.

The returns of income from registration for the period from 1959-60 to 1962-63 are as under:—

TABLE — VIII

Year	Income	Expenditure
	Rs	Rs
1959-60	2,28,257.75	84,588.44
1960-61	1,15,808.92	89,009.58
1961-62	77,758.45 (net)	1,09,562.24
1962-63	72,559.37 (net)	96,982.43

The registration of documents is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 and the Tripura Registration Rules, 1954.

Tax on Motor Vehicles

All motor vehicles kept or used in Tripura are liable to taxation under the Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1932 as extended to the State of Tripura under section 2 of the Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950 (30 of 1950).

Description of motor vehicles and annual rate of tax are given below;—

(See section 4)

Description of motor vehicles and rate of tax

TABLE — IX

	Annual rate of tax. (in rupees)
I —*Bicycles and Tricycles.*	
Cycles (including motor-scooters and cycles with attachment for propelling the same by mechanical power) not exceeding eight hundred-weight in weight unladen —	
(a) Bicycles —	
(i) Not exceeding two hundred pounds in weight unladen	15
(ii) exceeding two hundred pounds in weight unladen	30
(iii) if used for drawing a trailer or side-car, in addition to the tax payable under (i) & (ii)	10
(b) Tricycles.	30
II — *Vehicles for carrying passengers not plying for hire.*	
(a) Vehicles not measuring more than fifty square feet over-all	40
(b) Vehicles measuring more than fifty square feet but not measuring eighty square feet over-all	50
(c) Vehicles measuring eighty square feet and more than eighty square feet over-all	70

Area to be measured by wheel base × track.

	Annual rate of tax (in rupees)	
	Vehicles fitted entirely with pneumatic tyres	Other vehicles
III — *Vehicles for carrying passengers for hire.*		
(a) Seating not more than eight persons	75	100
(b) Seating more than eight persons, in addition to the tax payable under (a), for every additional person that can thus be seated upto thirty	3	4
(c) Seating more than thirty persons, in addition to the tax payable under (a) and (b), for every additional person that can thus be seated	2	4
IV — *Vehicles for transport of goods.*		
(a) Not exceeding twelve hundred-weight weight unladen	50	75
(b) Exceeding twelve hundred-weight but not exceeding one ton in weight unladen	100	150
(c) Exceeding one ton, but not exceeding two tons in weight unladen	125	175
(d) Exceeding two tons, but not exceeding three tons in weight unladen	150	200
(e) Exceeding three tons, but not exceeding four tons in weight unladen	200	200
(f) Exeeding four tons, but not exceeding five tons in weight unladen	300	350
(g) Exceeding five tons	400	500
(h) If used for drawing a trailer in addition to the tax payable under (a) to (g), for each trailer	50	50

Provided that two or more vehicles shall not be chargeable under (h) in respect of the same trailer.

CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

Law and Order

Tripura has a common border with present Bangladesh and, as such, a very large proportion of crime of every description had a direct or indirect bearing on border incidents. The criminals took shelter on the other side of the border or adopted hit and run tactics. Other contributory factor to crime figure was the influx of population from outside the territory with ambition to become rich quick by foul means.

Due to the national emergency arising out of the Chinese invasion, the crime figures for 1962 showed a sudden upward trend. The situation, however, was brought down to normal of 1961 in the next year as will be evident from the Table — III.

Crimes

Table — I shows the number of cognizable crimes reported to the Police, the cases sent up to the Courts and the results thereof. These figures include all cognizable crimes, but do not include the security sections of the Criminal Procedure. The Table — II shows the number of non-cognizable crimes reported and tried. The Table — III shows figures of only important crimes for the years 1951 to 1963.

Dacoity

From the Table — III it will be evident that cases of dacoity have decreased gradually. In the year 1951 the figure was 142. The figure came down to 23 in 1955 and again started increasing and reached upto 88 in 1962. Though the figure appears improved compared with the figures of 1951 to 1954, yet it can not but be said that the Pākistāni criminals have contributed at least 70 per cent of the dacoity cases. As a preventive measure V. R. parties have been organised in the border areas and border patrol is being tightened up.

The cases of robbery, burglary and theft have also been increased in the territory since 1958.

Smuggling

The Table — III at page 273 shows that more cases of smuggling are being detected. These smuggling cases relate to cases under Section 20(3) of West Bengal Security Act for smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh. There is no specific section of Law for taking action against smuggling of goods. There are also instances of a good number of cases in which the Police of the territory seized goods viz. bidi leaves, medicines, clothings, spices etc. and these were handed over to local Land Customs authorities dealing with the Customs Law.

Sex crime

Sex crime is not a problem in the territory. In the past also only a few cases were reported to the Police. In the years 1957, 1958, 1959 & 1960 the numbers of such cases were 5, 7, 8, and 6 respectively. During the next three years no such cases were reported to the Police.

TABLE — I

Cognizable crime included in the Classes I to V,* including abetment and criminal conspiracy

Return of Cases

Year	No. of cases reported in the year.	No. of cases convicted.	No. of cases acquitted.
1954	520	62	76
1955	956	4949	512
1956	1,036	82	389
1957	1,534	82	334
1958	2,201	225	206
1959	2,611	216	319
1960	2,687	170	230
1961	2,750	198	401
1962	2,857	169	293
1963	2,969	306	427
1964	2,399	185	357
1965	2,115	258	813

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Pp. 156-157.

* Names of cognizable crimes as are included in the classes I to IV.

Class-I — Offences against the territory, public tranquility etc., harbouring deserters by Master of Ship; offences against the public justice;

(*Foot note continued on next page*)

TABLE — II

Non-Cognizable crime-classes I to V, including abetment and criminal conspiracy

Return of Cases

Year	No. of cases reported in the year	No. of cases convicted	No. of cases acquitted
1954	2,619	786	1,809
1955	2,704	802	1,794
1956	2,519	827	1,682
1957	1,861	439	779
1958	1,002	29	703
1959	939	58	341
1960	933	62	346
1961	1,146	53	362
1962	1,127	60	549
1963	999	78	512
1964	956	61	521
1965	1,015	115	480

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Pp. 164-165.

(*Foot note continued from previous page*)
offences by the public servant; false evidence, false complaints and claim and fraudulent deeds and disposition of properties; forgery and fraudulently using forged documents not being Govt. promissory notes and false flying accounts; offences relating to weights and measures; making or using false trademarks; rioting, unlawful assembly and affray.

Class-II — Serious offences against persons; causing miscarriage.
Class-III — Serious offences against property; extortion.
Class-IV — Minor offences against persons; wrongful confinement; criminal force, hurt on grave or sudden provocation, voluntarily causing hurt; compulsory labour.

TABLE — III

The table showing incidents of crime from the year 1951 to 1965*

Year	Total cases	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery	Theft*	Burglary	Sex	Border Raids	Smuggling	Others
							8	9	10	11
1951	1446	8	142	58	800	55	3	—	2	378
1952	1255	20	133	93	251	676	—	—	15	67
1953	1084	16	66	31	616	26	4	1	2	322
1954	1020	8	66	21	445	93	3	—	3	381
1955	956	13	23	22	336	172	5	—	4	381
1956	1072	10	34	20	271	277	—	—	14	446
1957	1641	20	35	23	358	570	5	71	1	548
1958	2393	14	27	38	692	647	7	56	7	905
1959	2896	25	39	34	856	781	8	41	44	1068
1960	2946	30	38	40	895	622	6	36	53	1226
1961	2865	22	27	44	1017	641	—	—	—	1114
1962	3012	31	88	47	1136	430	—	—	—	1280
1963	3138	21	36	36	1102	507	—	—	—	1436
1964	—	26	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965	—	26	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Police, Tripura.
* Figures in the Table represent the number of cases reported and not the number of cases convicted. The column "Theft" includes both cattle lifting and ordinary theft.

ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE

Early history

During the days of the Rajas of Tripura, the number of Police Stations was trival. From old records, it appears that in the year 1874-75, there were only five Police Stations and eight Out-posts in the State. The Police Stations were situated at Agartala, Bisalgarh, Hrishyamukh, Madhabnagar and Sabrum-Magrum. The Police Force consisted of three *Dārogās* or Sub-Inspectors, two *Naib Dārogās* or Deputy Sub-Inspectors, two clerks, one officer called Hāzāri, five Jamādārs or Head Constables, three Dafādārs and eightysix Constables.[1]

Until the year 1873-74, the Courts of Hill Tipperah as well as the Police administration were guided by the primitive system of equity and law. Practically the Raja's order was law and it was sufficient to annual the decrees of the Courts. In 1873, according to Hunter, nine enactments were passed, including, besides others, a Criminal Procedure Code, a Civil Procedure Code, a Police Guide, and a Limitation Act.[2] Afterwards, a proclamation to the effect that in the event of absence of any relevant law on any subject, the law in force in India would be applicable to this State as well, was made. And thus many legal complications were removed.

The necessity of improving the condition of the Police Force, had been felt, for the first time in Tripura, in the first decade of the twentieth century. It was at that time, the British Government agreed to lend the services of Superintendent of Police to the Rājā of Tripura. Accordingly, the Chief Law Instructor of Dacca Police Training College was appointed as Superintendent of Police. He was also entrusted with the charge of collection of revenue. It was stipulated that the newly-appointed Superintendent of Police will properly train up the local Police Officers.

The year 1905 was a landmark in the history of Police administration in Tripurā as the separation of Revenue and Police Departments was effected during the year. Two years later, the Police Department was thoroughly re-organised, and the Police Officers, being trained in Bengal, remained in the charge of the administration. Forms used

[1] Hunter, Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI (Statistical Account of the State of Hill Tipperah), p. 517.
[2] Ibid. p. 462.

in the Police Department of Bengal were then introduced in Tripura. But it is interesting to note that the language of these forms were rendered into Bengali before their introduction in Tripura as Bengali was the court-language at that time.

Since the year 1910 contact between the Tripurā Police administration and the Police administration of the neighbouring British Districts of Bengal became closer and co-operation meetings were held regularly.

Until 1946 no significant change in Tripurā Police Force was noticed except the change in the designation of the Police Chief from Police Commissioner to Superintendent of Police again and the abolition of the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police in 1945. During this period, the numerical strength of the Force increased gradually due to separation of Police and Tehsil work. It was increased to 619 in 1943 and to 754 in 1944. The marked increase in 1944 was a war-time measure and the number again came down to 654 in 1945. Among the officers, there were four, five and five Inspectors in 1943, 1944 and 1945 respectively. In 1943 the C.I.D. consisted of one Sub-Inspector, six *Naib Dārogas* and five Constables. The strength was subsequently raised to one Inspector, three Sub-Inspectors, ten Naib *Darogas* and ten Constables.[1]

Since 1948, special attention has been paid to the re-organisation and re-orientation of the Police Force in Tripura. But in reality, the work of re-organisation of the Force started by the end of 1951 when the total strength of the force was increased to 1,664. From 1951 on, the Police Force in Tripura registered a steady increase as is evidenced from the strength of 2,937 in the year 1963 against that of 1,664 in 1951. This figure does not include the strength of Chowkidars numbering 227.

In order to cope with the increased volume of work relating to maintenance of law and order and to strengthen the border security, the Police Force was augmented by appointing one Additional Superintendent of Police and a Commandant on the administrative side during the year 1962-63. And to further strengthen the border security, one battalion was raised during the next year.

[1] Tripura State Consolidated Administrative Report for 1943-1946, p. 36

The different categories of staff working during the year 1964 under various branches of the Police Force in Tripura are shown in the following chart.

Unarmed Branch.

1. Supdt. of Police
2. Addl. Supdt. of Police
3. Dy. Supdt. of Police
4. Inspector
5. Sub-Inspector
6. Asstt. Sub-Inspector
7. Head Constable
8. Constable
9. Constable Driver

Armed Branch.

1. Commandant
2. Asstt. Commandant
3. Inspector
4. Sub-Inspector
5. Asstt. Sub-Inspector
6. Head Constable
7. Naik
8. Constable

Wireless Organisation

1. Asstt. Commandant
2. Inspector (Com)
3. Supervisor
4. Radio Mechanic
5. Radio Operators
6. Store-Keeper
7. Engine Fitter
8. Messenger

Transport Section

1. Mechnic
2. Driver
3. Engine Fitter
4. Cleaner

Police Hospital

1. C.A.S. Grade-I
2. C.A.S. Grade-II
3. Senior Nurse
4. Asstt. Nurse
5. Radio Operator
6. Ward Boy
7. Medicine Carrier
8. Cook
9. Sweeper

Home Guards

1. Mechanic
2. Dy. Supdt. of Police
3. Inspector
4. Sub-Inspector
5. Head constable
6. Naik
7. Constable
8. Home Guard

The Police units have also been increased due to reorganisation as shown below:—

1.	Police Stations	25
2.	Police Courts	10
3.	Circles	8 (including Kotwali)
4.	Zonal Office (SDPOs Office)	3
5.	B.O.Ps.	45
6.	Immigration Check Post	6
7.	Radio Station	64
8.	Police Hospital	1
9.	Home Guard Organisation	1

The District Executive Force consists of 1323 Unarmed and 1282 Armed rank and file including S. P., Addl. S. P., Dy. S. P. etc. This branch deals with normal law and order problem including management of Police Stations, Courts, Special Branch (General and Foreign Sections) and Treasury Guards etc.

Armed police

This Force consists of 1282 rank and file including 1 Commandant.

Police Radio Organisation

The Tripura Police maintains a net work of Radio Stations in all Police Stations and selected vulnerable border posts. This branch functions directly under the Superintendent of Police.

Home Guards

Home Guards Organisation has been started during the emergency in the year 1963. In order to augment the resources of Tripura Police, 553 Home Guards were engaged on duties at vital installations. At present there are 2700 Home Guards.

Police Hospital

Within the Police Lines at Arundhatinagar, a Police Hospital with 20 beds has been inaugurated, having both the wings, viz, Out-door and In-door. The Out-door Department attends not only to the police personnel themselves but also to the members of their families.

Police Training Organisation

Various trainings, calculated to improve the efficiency of the force, have been arranged. The Officers and N.C.Os of the armed branch receive different kinds of training from the Military Camps at Mhow,

Source: Office of the Inspector General of Police, Government of Tripura, Agartala.

Secundrabad, Faizabad to which they are attached. The officers of the unarmed branch receive training in Police Training College, Barrackpore and other Police Units in West Bengal. Since 1955 a small organisation has been set up for training of the recruits in the constable rank. A full-fledged Police Training College has started functioning since 1965. There is no Railway Police in Tripurā.

Fire Services

The Fire Services of the territory are also under the control of the Home (Police) Department. The Commandant, Armed Branch, is functioning as Director of Fire Services in addition to his normal duties. Originally, there was one Fire Station at Agartala and subsequently two more units, one at Dharmanagar and the other at Udaipur have been sanctioned by the Government of India with a staff strength of two Leading Firemen, two Drivers and ten Firemen with necessary fire appliances. The total strength of the fire service units in the year 1967 was 110.

During the year 1967 the Brigade turned out on 220 fire incidents. The statement below gives the figure of different type of fires.

TABLE — IV

	Type	*Nos.*
1.	Household	92
2.	Manufacture & repair establishments	3
3.	Shops, offices and commercial establishment	13
4.	Storage	4
5.	Refuse and outdoor storage	6
6.	Timber & wood works	1
7.	Road vehicles	11
8.	Educational institutions	2
9.	Petroleum installations	7
10.	Miscellaneous	11
11.	False alarm	1
12.	Forest & plantations	9
13.	Electrical installations	10
14.	Special calls	50

The Fire Brigade rescued five burning persons and one without injury. One human life was lost before the arrival of the Fire Brigade in one incident. The number of animals lost due to fire was ten.

JAILS AND LOCK-UPS

Location and Organisation

From old records it appears that in 1874-75 there was one Jail at Āgartalā and two lock-ups in the Sub-divisions of Kailāsahar and Udaipur. The total number of prisoners in the Jail was sixtysix and about fiftyfive were released from the jail during the same year. One prisoner died in the jail and 18 were admitted to the hospital.

The discipline of the jail was not strictly enforced and it was reported that prisoners were occasionally allowed to go home for a few days, with mere promise to return and on occasions they were sometimes set free in a body.[1]

Present Set-up

At present only one Central Jail and nine Sub-Jails exist in this territory. The Central Jail is at Āgartalā and the Sub-Jails are in the nine sub-divisional headquarters. Average daily population of all classes of prisoners in the Central Jail and Sub-Jails was 490.22 in the year 1965.

The Inspector General of Prisons, who holds the office in addition to his other duties, is also the administrative head of the Jail Department. The subordinate staffing pattern is as under:—

Jailor—one, Medical Officer—one, Sub-Jailors—two, Head Clerk—one, Accountant—one, Store-keeper-cum-Cashier—one, Clerk—one, Compounder—one, Machineman—one, Compositor—one, Head Warders—four, Warders—thirtyfive, Female Warders—three, and Sweepers—two, Sub-jails-Superintendent (ex-officio)—one, Sub-jailor—one, Headwarders—two, Warders—six.

Central Jail

It has an accommodation for four hundred fourteen prisoners comprising convicts, under-trial prisoners, civil prisoners and non-criminal lunatics. The following statement gives the average daily population of the prisoners during the year 1960-65.

---

1 W. W. Hunter, Statistical Account of the State of Hill Tipperah, 1876, p. 462.

TABLE — V

Year	Males	Females	Total
1960	405.05	9.35	414.40
1961	421.77	21.27	443.04
1962	432.97	18.87	449.84
1963	491.25	32.70	523.95
1964	423.33	27.01	450.34
1965	466.73	23.49	490.22

Prison Discipline

The system has been oriented to modern lines by taking the prisoners in confidence through a body of Panchayat elected by the prisoners. The Panchayat helps the authorities in maintaining discipline and in the matter of disposal of cases of infringement of prison discipline, besides performance of other allotted tasks, sanitation, drawal of ration, preparation and distribution of food, helping in general education, games and exercises, use of courteous language and proper use of Government property etc.[1]

Health and Sanitation

The general condition of health in jails is quite satisfactory. For the accommodation of prisoners new buildings have been constructed and some buildings have been extended and these have been provided with sanitary fittings, electrical installations, water supply arrangements and all other modern amenities for decent living.

The following table shows the number of sickness and mortality among prisoners during the years 1960-1965 in all the jails.

TABLE — VI

Years	Total number admitted into hospitals	Total daily average number of sick	Total deaths
1960	1,006	2.34	1
1961	373	4.93	1
1962	290	36.94	1
1963	62	3.78	No death
1964	178	3.78	-do-
1965	29	1.77	4

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, p. 180.

[1] Bengal Jail Code, Vol. I, Ch. XVI.

Welfare of Prisoners

Training: The prisoners are given training in various vocational trades, viz., cane and bamboo works, weaving, busketry, gardening, agriculture, shop-keeping, masonry work, bee-keeping, poultry, fishery, carpentry, wheat grinding, oil milling, paddy husking, Ambar spinning, printing, book-binding, nursing etc. so that they can settle themselves after being released from the goal.

Educational Facilities: The prisoners are given compulsory education upto M.E. standard at the Central Jail, Agartala. Intending prisoners are allowed to appear at university examinations and other examinations. Two prisoners passed the School Final Examination from the Jail centre during the year 1960.

The prisoners are also encouraged in all possible extra-curricular activities such as contributing articles for the prison magazine 'Prāchir', in physical culture, musical performance etc. There is a small library within the Central Jail, Āgartalā, with books of varied interest, journals and daily newspapers affording the prisoners scope to build and keep up their reading habit that goes to reconstruct their mental outlook appreciably, besides affording wholesome occupation in their idle hours of prison life.

The rules on Jail Panchayat have been introduced. Release of prisoners on parole and furlough have been implemented and the prisoners are earning daily wages of which they can utilise 33 per cent in purchasing commodities from the jail canteen run by the prisoners and remit 33 per cent for family welfare and maintenances while the balance remains in deposit for payment at the time of release with which they can settle in their post-prison life.

The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 has been introduced since July, 1963.

Remission

The remission rules have been greatly liberalised and rules for shortening of sentences have been introduced in order that reformed prisoners may earn liberty without the least delay.

After-care

The After-Care Scheme for released prisoners has been drawn up

and receiving attention of the Government. In the meantime released prisoners are helped through related departments in getting settled in life. They are provided with agricultural loans, services and other help and guidance. Some of the released prisoners were rehabilitated in small business with their earning of wages in the jail. A few of them, while in jail were made interested in their family affairs and they remitted money for the welfare of their family out of their wages. Some of the released prisoners have already been appointed in the local municipality and in government offices.

Juvenile Delinquents & Political Prisoners

Juvenile delinquents and political prisoners, wherever there is any, are treated as per provisions of the Bəngal Jail Code and the Security Prisoners Rules respectively in this regard. They are kept separately from other inmates in wards meant for them and particular care is taken in respect of juvenile delinquents by trained personnel to know and understand their problems in order that they might be helped to be on the right tract of social norms again.

Board of visitors

The Board of Visitors is appointed by the Chief Commissioner, consisting of five ex-officio and three non-official members including one Lady Visitor to visit the jail by turn to meet and inspect buildings, prisoners, food and examine the punishment-book and offer suggestion for the improvement of prison and reformation of the inmates.

JUSTICE

Short History

"Until the year 1873-74 the Courts of Hill Tipperah dispensed justice according to a primitive system of equity and good conscience and there was no regular judicial procedure".[1] There were only a few enactments to limit penalties in criminal cases. The then lower courts had no supervision by higher courts.

The administration of justice much improved in the year 1873-74 and nine enactments were passed at the instance of Indian Legislative Council. These included a Criminal Procedure Court, a Civil Procedure Court, a Police Guide and Limitation Act, Evidence Act etc.[2]

[1] Hunter, W. W. Statistical Account of the State of Hill Tipperah, 1876, p. 462.
[2] Ibid.

There were two Magisterial Courts and one Civil Court of original jurisdiction at Āgartalā in 1874. Besides, there was an Appellate Court and a Court for Special Appeals. There were also two Criminal Courts of orginal jurisdication, — one having jurisdiction over hill-tribes and the other over Bengalees and Manipuris. There was a State Council, constituted by the Maharajas, consisting of nine official and four non-official members. The functions of these Courts were partly legislative and partly judicial. Laws were enacted by the State Council with the assent of the Mahārājā. The Privy Council (regulated by an Act of 1326 T.E. corresponding to 1916) was formed with three members for hearing appeals to the Maharaja. There were satisfactory co-operation between the official and non-official members. Laws were enacted in the sittings of the State Council with the assent of the ruler. The judgments of the Courts held by the ruler of Tripurā were not subject to the revision by any officer of the British Government. He had the power of even inflicting capital punishment. There were also two Sub-divisional Officers at Kailāsahar and Udaipur, having magisterial and judicial power over their respective jurisdictions.

In the year 1908 two classes of courts were constituted in Tripurā exercising both civil and criminal jurisdiction under an Act of 1318 T.E. corresponding to 1908 (Constitution of Court Act). One was the *Khas Adalat* or the Chief Court with its original and appellate sides and thirteen or fourteen other Courts of Magistrate-Munsiffs exercising original jurisdiction only. The language of all Courts was Bengali. All the laws of Tripura were enacted in Bengali, following the line laid down by the identical enactments in British India. Some special laws were also enacted during the ruler's regime for *Jhoom* cultivators and hilly people to pay rent house-wise like "*Gharchukti Kar Āin*" and "*Addakar Ain*". These two laws are still in force.

There were ten Courts of original jurisdiction both for civil and criminal cases during the year 1905-06, of which three were in the Sadar Division, two in the Kailāsahar Division and one at the headquarters of each of the other five Divisions. The Court of the Sessions which was also the First Court of Appeal and the *Khās Appeal Ādālat* or the Court of Final Appeal were both located at Āgartalā.

Appointment of a qualified lawyer to the post of Public Prosecutor and of a Travelling Auditor may be mentioned as two important measures adopted during the year 1910-11.

The total number of Courts varied from time to time. There were seventeen Courts of Justice in this State during the triennium 1943-46

exercising both civil and criminal jurisdiction viz., High Court of Judicature, Tripurā, with its Appellate original sides, and sixteen Courts of Magistrate-Munsiffs exercising original jurisdiction only.

After the merger of Tripura with the Indian Union on October 15, 1949 Tripura (Courts) Order 1950, came into force with effect from January 26, 1950. A Court of Judicial Commissioner was established in Tripura under Section 3 of the said order. The Judicial Commissioner's Court has been functioning as the High Court for certain purposes under the Judicial Commissioner's Court (Declaration as High Court) Act, 1950. In addition to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner, the Court of the District Judge, the Court of the Subordinate Judge, the Court of the Munsiff were also established under section 15 of the Tripura (Courts) Order, 1950. Thus after the merger, the judicial set-up of Tripurā has been similar to that of other States of the Indian Union.

The Act and Ordinances specified in the Schedule to the Merged States Laws Acts, 1949 were extended to Tripurā under the Part C States Laws Act, 1950 (known as the Union Territories Laws Act, 1950).

Besides, West Bengal Land Development & Planning Act, West Bengal Evacuee Property Act, Bengal Municipal Act, Bengal Excise Act, Bombay Money Lender's Act, Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, and U. P. Panchayat Raj Act have been extended to Tripura with suitable modification under Section 2 of the Union Territories Laws Act, 1950. Following the merger Tripura Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act of 1960 was enacted. Revenue Courts have also been established in Tripura to enquire into or to decide any question arising between the parties to any proceedings regarding lands under Section 4 read with Section 81 of the Tripura Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act of 1960. Appeal lies from every original order passed under the Act. The Chief Commissioner is the highest authority for all revenue appeals.

Judicial Organisation and Procedure

The Judicial Commissioner for Tripurā is also the Judicial Commissioner for Manipur. He holds court in Tripurā for about two weeks in a month.

The Judicial Commissioner's Court is the highest Court in Tripurā exercising almost all the functions of the High Court under Judicial Commissioner's Court Act, 1950. Tripurā (Courts) Order 1950 guides

the relationship between the Judiciary and the Administrative set-up and also the lower level of the Judiciary with the higher level. All appointments and transfers of District Judge, Subordinate Judge and Munsiffs are made by the Chief Commissioner in consultation with the Judicial Commissioner. The appointment of Registrar of Judicial Commissioners' Court is made by the Judicial Commissioner under article 229 of the Constitution. The general superintendence and control over all Courts in Tripura vest in and all such Courts are subordinate to the Court of Judicial Commissioner.

Subordinate Courts

There are twelve Civil Courts subordinate to the Court of the Judicial Commissioner. These are: District Judge's Court (1), Additional District Judge's Court (1), Subordinate Judge's Court (1), Additional Subordinate Judge's Court (1) and Courts of Munsiff (8).

The District Judge functions also as Session Judge under Prevention of Corruption Act, Presiding Officer of Labour Court and Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation Court. He also functions as the Land Acquisition Judge subject to the general superintendence and control of the Judicial Commissioner. The District Judge has control over all the Civil Courts within the local limits of his jurisdiction. The Additional District Judge also functions as Session Judge, Land Acquisition Judge and Municipal Assessment Tribunal. The two Subordinate Judges are vested with the powers of an Assistant Session Judge of whom one is doing judicial work. They are also vested under Rule 30 proviso, Tripura Courts Order 1950, with the power to hear Civil Appeals from the decrees passed by a Munsiff having pecuniary value upto Rs. 100.00. Besides, power has been conferred by an order dated September 7, 1964 S.C.C. on the two Subordinate Judges and all the Munsiffs under rule 15 and 23, Tripura Courts Order upto the value of Rs. 500.00 and Rs. 200.00 respectively. Besides, there are one District Magistrate, three Additional District Magistrates, one Senior Dy. Magistrate and fortynine Stipendary Magistrates to try criminal cases. A Municipal Assessment Tribunal has also been formed under Section 149A of the Bengal Municipal Act, as extended to Tripura. Besides, all Heads of Departments of the Government also exercise the function of quasi-judical administrative tribunals to certain extent.

The Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Procedure Code are being generally followed in Civil and Criminal matters. The Judicial Commissioner has his own rule regarding Judicial procedure. The

quasi-judicial bodies have special laws of their own, but apart from the special rules Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code apply as far as practicable according to the merits of the cases.

Separation of Judicial Functions

Separation of Judicial and Executive functions in Tripura has not been achieved though the principle has been accepted and is being followed to certain extent. In view of the peculiar position of Tripura it is considered that the process of separation of Executive from Judiciary is not expedient.

Jury System

Trial by Juri was never in vogue in Tripura since its integration.

Tribal Laws

The views of *Sardārs* representing different tribal communities regarding adoption of Hindu Marriage Laws have been ascertained in all the sub-divisions of Tripura. The customary laws of different scheduled tribes are not identical and by and large, each tribe desires to retain its own existing laws. It may take considerable time for them to understand and appreciate fully the Hindu Laws.

The following table shows the number of cases filed, pending and disposed of in the Judicial Commissioner's Court during the period from 1958 to 1964.

TABLE — VII

Nature of Cases/Suits

Year	Civil			Criminal		
	Institutions	Total for disposal	Disposed of	Institutions	Total for disposal	Disposed of
1958	105	160	42	83	120	57
1959	98	216	51	114	178	80
1960	126	294	84	165	260	159
1961	144	350	130	78	183	115
1962	101	321	56	86	154	93
1963	107	372	85	89	150	83
1964 (Upto 31st December)	104	391	145	78	145	110

Pending upto the end of March: Civil-246, Criminal-67. The comparative study reveals that there has been a gradual increase in the number of cases instituted and disposed of in the Court of Judicial Commissioner.

The table below shows the number of cases filed and disposed of in District and Session Judge's Court during the period 1959-60 to 1962-63.

TABLE — VIII

Nature of Cases/Suits

Year	Civil appeal and cases Institution	Disposed of	Cr. motion Cr. appeal & Special cases Institutions	Disposed of	Session Case Institution	Disposed of
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1959-60	339	313	383	323	32	27
1960-61	457	258	295	265	52	34
1961-62	370	342	260	256	33	41
1962-63	754	120	130	281	24	39

In the case of Sessions Judge's Court also a gradual increase in the number of institutions and disposal of cases may be noticed.

Bar Associations

The origin of the Bar Associations in Tripurā dates back to the first decade of the twentieth century. In the year 1912, it was reported that excluding Kailasahar and Sonamura Divisions, there were Bar Libraries in six other Divisions viz., Sadar, Bilonia, Udaipur, Dharmanagar, Khowai and Sabrum.[1] Strangely, no mention of any

[1] *Niyam Sangraha of 1322 T.E.* published by the General Department of the Ministry, Agartala, 1324 T.E. (1914 A.D.).

Bar Association was made in this report. It is apparent from the report, that these libraries were managed by the Secretaries. During the year 1322 T.E. it was decided to spend half the amount realised as adjournment fees due to the civil suits in the work of the Bar Libraries under the authority and supervision of the Officers-in-Charge of the respective Divisions. The Secretaries of the libraries concerned were instructed to receive the allotted sum of money from the Courts and utilise the same in the purchase of law books etc. for the libraries.

There was a so-called Bar Association at Āgartalā named *Ukil Sabhā*, during the first decade of this century. The *Sabhā* was constituted under the presidentship of Abdul Gaffar Munshi, a local lawyer. Obviously it existed only in name. The members of the Bar used to pass their leisure period in a kutcha hut, somehow erected for the purpose. In the year 1923 the *Ukil Sabha* at Āgartalā was reconstituted as the Agartala Bar Association and by the year 1928 it became a fulfledged Bar Association. At the beginning the members used to pay annas eight only as monthly subscription and at a later period an admission fee of Rs. 25/- was introduced by the Association. The Association had also built a pucca building out of its own fund on a land donated by the High Court and this had been possible due to the effort of some prominent lawyers. The Association at its extra-ordinary general meetings ended on November 17, 1956 adopted a new constitution under which the name of the Association was changed to Tripura Bar Association. According to the new constitution any lawyer practising in the courts of Tripura is eligible to become its member. Every member pays Rs. 25/- as admission fee and Re. 1/- per month as subscription. There are at present 106 members of the Association. The Association maintains its own library. This Association is chiefly meant for the lawyers practising in the District Civil and Criminal Courts and the High Court of the territory.

Besides, there are Sub-divisional Bar Associations in nine other sub-divisions of the territory. These Associations are more or less confined to those legal practitioners, who practise in the Criminal and Revenue Courts subordinate to the District Magistrate. The total number of law practioners enrolled in nine Sub-divisional Bar Associations of Tripura is ninetythree.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture Department

The Director of Agriculture is the Head of the Department. He is assisted by one Superintendent of Agriculture (H.Q.) and one Accounts-cum-Administrative Officer and some technical officers (Class II) like Plant Protection Officer, Superintendent of Agriculture (Marketing), Superintendent of Agriculture (Soil Conservation), Agricultural Information Officer, Assistant Engineer and Fishery Development Officer. The technical officers at the headquarters are responsible for execution of respective schemes and extension of technical guidance to the Zones and Blocks. They are assisted by supervisory staff viz. Research Assistants, Technical Assistants, Special Officers etc.

From the agricultural point of view, the territory has been divided into three Agricultural Zones viz. North, South and Central and each Zone is directly under one Superintendent of Agriculture. This Zonal set-up of Agricultural Department was introduced on June 1, 1963 in view of expansion of activities.

In each Zone, there is one Horticulture Officer to look after the horticultural programmes. In addition, there are some technical officers (non-gazetted) to look after different branches viz. plant protection, fisheries, soil conservation, etc. There is also one Subdivisional Agricultural Officer in each Zone. At the Block level there are one Agricultural Extension Officer, one Fishery Extension Assistant, one Inspector, one Seed Store Overseer, and ten Village Level Workers to implement the agricultural programmes.

Besides, there are other staff posted in the Blocks viz. Agricultural Assistants, Plant Protection Kamdans, Plant Protection Overseers etc.

Animal Husbandry Department

Since the merger of Tripura with the Indian Union, the Animal Husbandry section functioned, as an adjunct of the Agriculture Directorate. In February 1958, some of its functions were transferred to

the Tripura Territorial Council, which was vested with the responsibility of executing the schemes under Article 28 of the Territorial Council Act. Thereafter, in April 1959, the *nucleus* of a separate department was formed. After the dissolution of Tripura Territorial Council and formation of the Government of Tripura on July 1, 1963, the Animal Husbandry Department continued to function as a separate Department. The work of the Department is looked after by the Animal Husbandry Officer, who is in-charge of the Department. He is assisted by the Officer-in-charge of Key Village Schemes, two Veterinary Inspectors, one Dairy Development Officer, and thirtytwo Veterinary Assistant Surgeons.

There are one Veterinary Hospital, thirteen Veterinary Dispensaries, two Mobile Veterinary Units, and Stockman Centres and twenty-eight Artificial Insemination Sub-Centres, catering all sorts of veterinary aid in Tripura.

Forest Department

The Forest Department of the State is under the control of the Conservator of Forests, with his headquarters at Agartala. He is helped by four Divisional Forest Officers, of whom three are in-charge of three territorial Divisions and one in-charge of one Direction Division and attached to the office of the Conservator of Forests. In addition, there is a Soil Conservation Division under one Assistant Conservator of Forests for implementation of afforestation programme in water-shed. This Division has been created to cope with the additional work. There are also two Assistant Conservator of Forests, who assist the Conservator of Forests in the implementation of various development programmes.

Each Forest Division is divided into some Forest Ranges under the control of Forest Rangers. Forest Ranges are again divided into Forest Beats under the control of Foresters. The Foresters are to look after the forests, detection of forests offences such as *Jhooming* within Reserve Forest areas and other prohibited areas, unauthorised extraction of forest produce by public and traders, unregulated grazing, setting fire to forest areas and illegal extraction of forest produces by intruders, collection of revenue and implementation of various development programmes. They are assisted by Forest Guards working under them.

Industries Department

The Director of Industries is the Head of the Department. He is

assisted by one Deputy Director, four Assistant Directors, one each for training, handloom, loan and khadi & village industries. There are also one Accounts-cum-Administrative Officer, one Master Designer (Industries), one Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, one Marketing Officer, one Manager, Central Marketing Organisation, one Statistical Officer, one Community Project Officer, (in-charge of Sericulture) and two Organisers (khadi & village industries). In addition, there are one Estate Manager for industrial estates, one Technical Officer for rural industries projects, Kailasahar, two Works Manager, one for Model Carpentary Unit and the other for Model Blacksmithy Unit, and one Public Relations Officer.

The Principal is the Head of the Industrial Training Institute at Indranagar, Agartala. Besides, there are Extension Officers (Industries) in each Development Block to assist the Block Development Officers in the implementation of the schemes under rural arts & crafts and industries programme.

Co-operative Department

The work of the Co-operative Societies in the State is looked after by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who is the Head of the Department. He is assisted by one Dy. Registrar, five Assistant Registrars (one for each co-operative zone viz.,) North, South and Central and one for audit and the other for administration). There are also District Auditor, three Co-operative Officers for marketing, industries and farming respectively, one Co-operative Extension Officer for Women's programme, one Senior Inspector, few Inspectors and Auditors. Each Block has also been provided with one Extension Officer (Co-operation).

Public Works Department

Originally there was only one Public Works Division with 5 Subdivisions looking after the works of the Public Works Department throughout the territory. After the merger of Tripura with the Union of India in October, 1949, the function of the Public Works Department was given to the Works & Buildings Department, under the re-organised set-up.

The name of the Works & Buildings Department was also changed into Public Works Department under the new set-up. The functions of the Department were being carried out in two parts viz. (1) Secretariat function & (2) Executive function.

The Secretariat function was being conducted by a Secretary in the Administration. But later the Secretariat function was conducted by the Principal Engineer, who was ex-officio Secretary also.

Soon after the integration, various development programmes were taken up and to cope with the volume of work the office of the Principal Engineer was opened on June 18, 1954 and a new Division named Northern Division was opened on August 16, 1954.

With the increase of activities of the Public Works Department, the following Divisions on Civil Engineering side were also opened to strengthen the Department: (1) Southern Division opened on 20.5.58, (2) Agartala Division No. III on 1.11.58 (originally this Division was under the Rehabilitation Department and merged with the Public Works Department on 1.11.58), (3) Agartala Division No. II on 2.8.60, (4) Amarpur Division on 7.4.62 and (5) Ambasa Division on 16.4.62.

The Southern Division opened on January 29, 1957 was kept in abeyance with effect from June, 1957 and a new Division named Agartala-Assam Road Division was opened on June 12, 1957 for dealing with the works of Assam-Agartala Road and subsequently closed in June, 1959 after completion of the work.

Consequent upon merger of the Engineering Cell of the Tripura Territorial Council with the Public Works Department due to introduction of Union Territory Act, 1963 with effect from July 1, 1963, three more Divisions namely (I) Agartala Division No. IV, (II) Teliamura Division, Teliamura and (III) Southern Division No. II, Santirbazar started functioning under the Public Works Department with effect from July 1, 1963.

As the number of Divisions under the Public Works Department gradually increased, opening of an additional circle office was found necessary and subsequently the office of the Superintending Engineer, Additional Circle was opened on October 1, 1959.

State Organisation of the Public Works Department

One Principal Engineer, three Superintending Engineers, five Surveyor of Works, eighteen Executive Engineers, one Technical Assistant, five Assistant Surveyors of Works, five Assistant Engineers, one Residential Engineer and sixtyfive Sub-divisional Officers comprise the set-up of gazetted officers of the Department.

Functions

Principal Engineer: He is the administrative and technical Head of the Department and also the ex-officio Secretary with headquarters at Agartala. He has got two Surveyors of Works, one Technical Assistant, two Assistant Surveyors of Works and two Assistant Engineers under him for planning and other technical matters, and also an Administrative-cum-Accounts Officer for assisting him in accounts and administrative side. Agartala Division No. II, Agartala Division No. III, Teliamura Division, Northern Division and Ambassa Division are under his direct centrol. Besides, he has got technical and administrative control over the Superintending Engineers.

Superintending Engineers: The Superintending Engineer, Additional Circle has got one Surveyor of Works, one Assistant Surveyor of Works and one Assistant Engineer for helping him in technical matters and the following Divisions are under his direct control (1) Agartala Division No. I, (2) Agartala Division No. IV, (3) Minor Irrigation Division, (4) Investigation Division, (5) Southern Division No. I, Udaipur (6) Southern Division No. II, Santirbazar and (7) Amarpur Division, Amarpur. The Superintending Engineer (Electrical) is in charge of the Electrical & Mechanical Divisions, and the Superintending Engineer, Gumti Project Circle, is in charge of the Gumti Power Project Scheme.

Staffing pattern: Each Divisional Office is a working unit and is headed by an Executive Engineer. Work of a Division is distributed amongst the Sub-divisions thereunder, each of which is headed by an Assistant Engineer. In each sub-division there are Sectional Officers for supervision of various works. The Executive Engineer is responsible for efficient execution of works under his Division to the Superintending Engineer/Principal Engineer of his Circle.

The Superintending Engineer/Principal Engineer looks after each Division in his circle so that each Executive Engineer is provided with necessary facilities for execution of works entrusted to his Division.

Circle and Divisions

Agartala is the headquarters of 2 Circles (Buildings & Roads) and one Circle (Electrical) of the Public Works Department, under the Principal Engineer and the Superintending Engineers. Each Circle has some Divisions comprising some Sub-divisions under Executive officers. The Divisions with their headquarters and Sub-divisions under them are mentioned below branchwise.

A. Roads and Buildings Branch comprises the following Divisions.

1. Agartala Division No. I, Agartala with 4 Sub-divisions.
2. Agartala Division No. II, Agartala with 4 Sub-divisions.
3. Agartala Division No. III, Agartala with 5 Sub-divisions.
4. Agartala Division No. IV, Agartala with 4 Sub-divisions.
5. Northern Division, Dharmanagar with 5 Sub-divisions.
6. Ambassa Division, Ambassa with 4 Sub-divisions.
7. Teliamura Division, Teliamura with 4 Sub-divisions.
8. Southern Division No. I, Udaipur with 3 Sub-divisions.
9. Southern Division No. II, Santirbazar with 3 Sub-divisions.
10. Amarpur Division, Amarpur with 3 Sub-divisions.

Roads and Buildings:—In pre-integration days the only means of communication to Sub-divisional headquarters was the railway running close to the border of Tripura. After the partition, those railways fell into Bangladesh and Sub-divisional headquarters were severed, as there was no road worth the name. To evercome these difficulties, a programme for the construction of roads was taken up during the first two Five Year Plans. Now, all Sub-divisional headquarters are connected with Agartala by roads and Agartala is also connected with Assam by Assam-Agartala road.

Works for further improvement of those roads are in progress. There was also a proposal for construction of a new road connecting the southern part of the territory with the North directly, which will open up a vast area hitherto inaccessible. Construction of the road has been taken up.

To meet the requirement of the administration, a good number of buildings have been constructed and many more are under different stages of construction.

B. Irrigation and Flood Protection

Irrigation and Flood Protection branch comprises the following Divisions.

1 Minor Irrigation Division, Agartala with 4 Sub-divisions and 2) Investigation Division, Agartala with 4 Sub-divisions for implementation of minor irrigation schemes taken up for increasing food production of the territory, one Division named Minor Irrigation Division was opened under the Public Works Department on November 5, 1959.

Investigation for minor irrigation schemes has been carried out in several sites and a few schemes have already been taken up. There was a provision of Rs. 35 lakhs for minor irrigation schemes in the Third Five Year Plan.

Flood Protection: In Tripura there are places, which are annually afftected by floods. For the purpose of investigation of flood protection work, one Division named Investigation Division was opened under the Public Works Department on July 1, 1962.

Flood protection work has already been taken up at Agartala, Durgapur, Sonamura, Bilonia, Khowai and work has also been taken up in several vulnerable places. Investigation for moderation of flood on two important river basins — Howrah basin and Gumti basin is also being carried out.

C. Electrical & Mechanical branch comprises the following Divisions

1) Electrical Division No. I, Agartala with 5 Sub-divisions.
2) Electrical Division No. III, Agartala with 5 Sub-divisions.
3) Mechanical Sub-division, Agartala.

Nationalisation of Electric Supply

The Agartala Electric Supply, which was a private concern, was nationalised on January 15, 1954. As various schemes were envisaged in the Five Year Plans, a Division known Electrical & Mechanical Division was opened under the Public Works Department on March 18, 1957 to deal with Power Schemes.

To cope with increased volume of works due to the increase in number of Power Schemes in the territory, during the Plan period, one more Electrical Division and five Electrical Sub-divisions have been created in the Public Works Department with effect from May 13, 1965. The existing Electrical & Mechanical Division has been renamed as "Electrical Division No. I" and the recently created Division has been named as "Electrical Division No. II" with its headquarters at Agartala. Besides, a Circle Office (Office of a Superintending Engineer) has been created with the above two Divisions at its disposal for proper supervision/execution of the Plan Schemes in Electrical side. The Circle Office created with effect from June 5, 1965 started its function when a Superintending Engineer took over the charge of the Circle with effect from August 27, 1965.

Power Schemes: Prior to integration of the territory with the Indian Union, Agartala, the capital of Tripura, was the only town, electrified by a diesel power station, owned by a private agency. The power station was taken over by the Government during the first Five Year Plan and its generating capacity was increased from 280 K.W. to 490 K.W. During the Second Five Year Plan period, the generating capacity was augmented to 1,053 K.W. and power was supplied to thirteen localities including the sub-divisional towns of Dharmanagar, Kailasahar, Khowai and Udaipur. At the end of the Third Plan period the generating capacity was further increased to 2,393 K.W. and power was supplied to twentytwo more localities, thus bringing the total number of localities electrified in Tripura to thirtyfive. Thus all the sub-divisional towns, Block headquarters and important localities in Tripura have been provided with power supply.

With a view to meet the great demand for electric supply and to make it available all over the territory at a cheap rate, the Government of Tripura decided to purchase power in bulk from the Umium Hydro-Electric Project undertaken by the Government of Assam. This bulk supply scheme was phased out for implementation in four stages, of which the first two are expected to be undertaken immediately.[1]

Gumti Power Project

Superintending Engineer, Gumti Project Circle is in charge of the Gumti Power Project and he has got one Surveyor of Works, two Executive Engineers, one Assistant Engineer and one Assistant Surveyor of Works for helping him in technical matters and the following Divisions are under his direct control. (1) Gumti Project Division No. I and (2) Gumti Project Division No. II.

Gumti Power Project, the biggest power generating project in Tripura envisages the utilization of the potential created by the *Dumbur Falls* by constructing an earth-cum-rock fill dam on the river *Gumti.*

Miscellaneous Works

1) *Agartala Water Supply Schemes* — The scheme has been executed by the Public Works Department as deposit work of the Agartala Municipality. The work has been completed and the Water Works has been formally opened on August 15, 1966.

[1] Tripura on the March, Publicity Department, Govt. of Tripura, 1968; p. 32.

2) *Agartala Drainage-Scheme* — This is also being done by the Public Works Department as deposit work of the Agartala Municipality. Major portion of the work has been completed and the work is in progress.

3) *Residential Quarters in Kunjaban Area* — There is acute shortage of residential quarters at Agartala. To cope with this problem, a scheme for construction of residential quarters at Kunjaban has already been taken up. As many as one hundred eightyseven different types of quarters were constructed and one hundred and three quarters were under construction during the period under review.

CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Early History

The Municipality of Āgartalā was first instituted in the year 1871 with the Political Agent as its Chairman. Subsequently, this office was given to the Dewan or Chief Officer of the Rājā of Tripurā and the Political Agent became an ordinary member of the Municipal Committee.

The area of the Municipality was then about 3 sq. miles and its funds were provided by a State grant from the pound fund, judicial fines and other sources known as "General Fund". The funds received by the Municipality in the year 1872 was mostly utilised in constructing a bridge, making roads through the bazar and repairing sheds for market days. The roads, drains and general conservancy of the town however, remained in a wretched state.

In the year 1874 an Act was passed by the Rājā providing thereby power for levying taxes from the inhabitants of the area and for attending sanitary measures. "Notwithstanding the Act, however," the Political Agent reported in July, 1875, "the Municipality then existed only in name. The total assessment for the year 1874-75 was £ 85-4s but only £ 35-8s was realised. The total expenditure was reported to be £ 99-4s-9d. The total income, including the Rājā's grant was £ 72-4s-3¾d, leaving a deficit of £ 27-0s-5¼d."[1]

The reasons behind such a deadlock were not far to seek. In the opinion of the Political Agent, as quoted by Hunter, "in a place like Āgartalā, where the Rājā's word is law and where all dread his power in a manner almost slavish, it is hopeless to suppose that any institution can flourish which is based on a system of self government".[2] Besides, the population of Āgartalā almost entirely consisted of Rājā's relatives and retainers, people connected with local Courts, offices and a few shopkeepers.

1 W. W. Hunter; Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI, Hill Tipperah; 1876, London, p. 496.
2 Ibid.

The Political Agent, therefore, advocated a Town Committee instead of the so-called municipality, pertaining to the character of a Cantonment Committee, of which the Rājā should be the President. The Committee should be composed of persons specially qualified to advise and assist him in matters relating to public health, safety and convenience etc.

But the municipal administration did not undergo any appreciable reformation. It carried on somehow with the royal patronage and under the supervision of an official Chairman. During the early years of the twentieth century, the State Physician continued to be the Chairman of the Municipality. He was assisted by one Vice-Chairman and an Overseer. The activities of the Municipality were mainly confined to the street lighting, sweeping, removal of night soil etc. In addition to these the Municipality gradually undertook cleaning of certain tanks and drains. Its income was all along being subsidised by the State.

From the administration report of the State for the year 1915-16, it is known that the house-tax was based on the income of owners or the occupiers @ 4 per cent and latrine tax was levied Rs. 4/8/- a year for one latrine and Rs. 2/4/- a year for every additional one.[1]

On the expiry of the previous committee consisting of nine members, a new committee with official Chairman and a non-official Vice-Chairman was constituted towards the end of the year 1925-26. The Officer-in-Charge of Revenue Department was nominated as the Chairman. Realising that a large portion of the demand was irrevocable the new committee made an attempt to regularise the Tauji by writing off old dues. The town bazar remained under the control of the Municipality which took steps to improve the food supply. The income for the last four years was shown separately from the year 1925-26.

No improvement was marked in the realisation of municipal taxes. Even taxes amounting to thousands of rupees remained unrealised from the Rājā's family members living outside the palace proper.

The health of the town was often affected during these years for scarcity of pure drinking water in the town. With a view to preventing occurrence of epidemics in future, sinking of tube wells in different parts of the town was arranged in the year 1935-36.[2]

1 Administration Report, Tipperah State, Agartala, 1915-16, p. 13.
2 Administration Report, Tipperah State, Agartala, 1935-36, p. 24.

A committee of twelve Commissioners — six elected by the public and six nominated by the State with Deputy Commissioner of Police as the Chairman, administered the Municipality from the beginning of the year 1353 T.E. (1943) upto the 1st week of Agrahāyan, 1355 T.E. (1945).

This committee was afterwards superseded and a new committee was appointed with ten Commissioners, all nominated by the State. But the new committee was dissolved barely a month after and the municipal administration came under the direct management of the State Government on the 1st Pous of the year 1355 T.E. (1945). Towards the end of the year 1353 T.E. (1943) small-pox prevailed in the town in epidemic form and all possible measures were adopted to prevent its spread by compulsory vaccination throughout the town.

The elected Municipal Board was again superseded by the State Government in April, 1955 and an Administrator was appointed to look after its work. Since then the management of the Municipality has been under the Administrator assisted by an Executive Officer. The District Magistrate and Collector, Tripurā is the Administrator of the Municipality.

The existing municipal law was proved to be outdated and inadequate to augment the sources of income of the Municipality for meeting its present-day needs. For want of fund the Municipality could not extend civic amenities. The Act was, therefore, repealed and the Bengal Municipal Act. 1932 was extended to the territory with effect from August, 1961. The new Act contains adequate provisions for levy of tax, rate and fee on holdings, water supply, conservancy, trades profession and calling etc. which were not assessable under the Tripura Municipal Act of 1349 T.E.[1] corresponding to 1939.

Second Five Year Plan Period

Under the Second Five Year Plan, six schemes namely (1) Drainage, (2)Water Supply, (3) Improvement of Roads, (4) Park and Garden, (5) Town Hall and (6) Market were taken up by the Municipality for the improvement of Agartala town. The Park and Garden scheme was subsequently dropped and the Drainage and Water Works schemes have been carried over to the Third Five Year Plan for completion. A new scheme relating to sewerage was also included in the Third Plan.

[1] Tripura Code, Part II, 1962 p. 274.

G
V2176
n72

Drainage and Water Works

The execution of the scheme had been entrusted to the Public Works Department and the scheme was progress. Implementation of Sewerage Scheme for construction of underground sewers had been proposed to be dropped in view of emergency.

Roads

The target of metalling of 9½ miles of road and construction of thirtytwo culverts during the Second Plan period had been exceeded and upto the end of March, 1962 metalling of 10.63 miles of town roads and construction of thirtythree culverts were completed.

Town Hall

In order to fulfil a long felt demand of the town people a scheme for construction of a Town Hall was taken up during the year 1959-60. An amount of Rs. 1 lakh was given to the Municipality for the purpose by the Government. The construction of a Community Hall, two store rooms, lavatory, electrical and sanitary fitting has been completed.

33304

Market

The marked scheme included remodelling and reconstruction of the Battala Bazar and construction of three new markets — one at Dhaleswar and the others at Durga Chowmuhani and Maharajganj Hawker's market.

Non-Plan Schemes

Besides the Plan schemes, some non-plan development schemes were also undertaken during the same period. These include among other works, construction of a Bus-stand, metalling of the main town roads. A major portion of the town roads had been black topped and metalled.

Slum Clearance

With a view to providing better and rent free housing accommodation to the sweepers and other backward classes, two housing projects under the slum clearance scheme for construction of sixty tenements were taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.08 lakhs during the

Second Plan period. All the tenements had been constructed according to a phased programme. A new scheme for the development of Shibnagar area has been taken up. Preliminary works viz., preparation of plans and estimates for construction of roads, drains and culverts etc. have been completed. Out of Rs. 3 lakhs sanctioned as grant for implementation of the scheme Rs. 54,000/- has been spent upto September, 1965. The progress of work is satisfactory.[1]

Tripura Territorial Council

Tripurā lost its existence as a Part C State and became a Union Territory on November 1, 1956 as a result of reorganisation of States. And the regime of the Council of Advisers was also replaced by a statutory body of Tripura Territorial Council on August 15, 1957 under the Territorial Council Act, 1956 (Act 104 of 1956) passed by the Parliament of India.

On expiry of this term on 31-7-62 in pursuance of Section 12 of the Territorial Council Act, 1956, a new Council was constituted with thirty elected members. Subsequently, two more members were nominated by the Government of India. The administration was accordingly re-organised. The Council carried out its administration through five major Departments viz., General Administration, Education, Health Services, Engineering and Animal Husbandry. The General Administration Department functioned as Secretariat of the Council and was responsible for the supervision and co-ordination of the workings of other Departments. The Chief Executive Officer was in-charge of this Department. He was also the ex-officio Secretary of the Council. As Secretary of the Council, he had administrative and financial power over all the other offices of the Council. In accordance with section 31 of the Territorial Council Act, one Finance Committee and four Standing Committees, one each for Engineering, Education, Health Services, and General Administration and Animal Husbandry were formed with the Chairman of the Council as the ex-officio Chairman of each Committee. These Standing Committees were responsible for the general sanction of all schemes and expenditure incurred by the Council. These Committees used to meet almost once every month and take decisions on important matters. They had, however, no executive power.

The Territorial Council Rules, as approved by the Government of India, were enforced in the Council with effect from February, 1962.

[1] Tripura on the March, op. cit. 1966, p. 46.

During the year 1962-63 the Council prepared the following Bye-laws and Rules:—

(i) Bye-laws regarding protection of tanks, ponds and wells from pollution etc.

(ii) Rules regarding sanction of reconstruction (repair) grant to the Managing Committees of Primary & Middle Schools.

(iii) Rules on method of recruitment in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission.

(iv) Rules for the award of Attendance Scholarship.

Revenue & Public Relations

The Revenue and Public Relations Office of the Tripura Territorial Council took over actual management of all the properties like markets, ferries, ponds and tanks from the Sub-divisional Officers in the early part of the year 1959-60. Previously the income from these sources was realised by the Sub-divisional Officers on behalf of the Council according to an arrangement with the Administration. During the year 1961-62, one hundred and eightysix Mahals were transferred from the Administration to the Council thus bringing the total number of Mahals under the Council to three hundred and fortythree at the end of March, 1962. Another ten Mahals were transferred during the year 1962-63 to the Council, thus bringing the total to three hundred and fiftythree.

The Council passed the following bye-laws which, after receiving the approval of the Government of India, came into force with effect from January-February, 1960.

(i) The Tripura Territorial Council (Establishment) Maintenance and Management of Markets Bye-laws, 1959.

(ii) The Tripura Territorial Council (Private Bazar and Melas) Bye-laws, 1954, and

(iii) The Tripura Territorial Council (Management of Ferries) Bye-laws, 1959.

Auctions of markets, ferries and tanks were conducted by the Revenue and Public Relations Office. Auctions of the ponds were

conducted by the respective Sub-divisional Officers on behalf of the Council. The Revenue and Public Relations Office also looked after the work relating to relief measures. Fairs and exhibitions were also organised by the Council with a view to creating enthusiasm among the rural people and to bringing home to them the aims and progress of the various development activities.

Finances

The financial position of the Council will be clear from the table quoted below, from the administration report of the Council for the year 1962-63.

Income

Apart from the grant of Rs. 2.50 lakhs received from the Government of India, the following income accrued to the Council's fund as revenue during the year from the following sources:—

TABLE — I

(i) Education	—	Rs.	3,91,540.52
(ii) Medical	—	Rs.	28,508.91
(iii) Engineering —			
(a) Rent of buildings.	—	Rs.	1,695.29
(b) Misc. P.W.D. receipt.	—	Rs.	2,22,367.34
(iv) Fees for Services rendered —			
(a) Markets.	—	Rs.	30,575.87
(b) Ponds.	—	Rs.	3,008.50
(c) Ferries.	—	Rs.	15,515.77
(d) Tanks.	—	Rs.	1,870.00
(v) Animal Husbandry —			
(a) Other receipts.	—	Rs.	21,490.71
(b) Receipt from Milk Supply Schemes.	—	Rs.	2,61,371.53
(vi) Interest on loans & advances.	—	Rs.	101.56
(vii) Government Contribution —			
(a) Entertainment Tax.	—	Rs.	1,99,000.00
(b) Land Revenue.	—	Rs.	1,30,000.00
(c) Taxes on Motor Vehicles.	—	Rs.	1,30,000.00
(d) Miscellaneous.	—	Rs.	6,872.58
Total	—	Rs.	14,43,858.58

Main Heads of Expenditure

(i) General Administration.	—	Rs.	5,22,070.19
(ii) Education.	—	Rs.	1,08,84,879.74
(iii) Medical	—	Rs.	20,04,133.71
(iv) Public Health.	—	Rs.	12,33,839.07
(v) Engineering.	—	Rs.	99,22,320.95
(vi) Animal Husbandry.	—	Rs.	10,89,494.92
Total	—	Rs.	2,56,36,738.58

MEDICAL

The Principal Officer, Health Services, was the Head of the Medical & Public Health Department of the Council. Medical services were rendered throughout the territory through different agencies viz. Sub-divisional Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, State Dispensaries, Mobile Dispensaries and itinerant teams. The Principal Officer was assisted by one Health Officer, one Malaria Officer, one B.C.G. Team leader, one Civil Assistant Surgeon Grade—I, in-charge of medical stores and one School Health Officer.

The functions of the Medical Department of the Council may be broadly divided into two parts viz. (1) Medical and (2) Public Health.

The following table will show the progress of the Department under the control of the Council.

TABLE — II

	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
No. of Sub-divisional Hospitals	5	5 (two more constructed)	7 (one more under construction)	7
No. of Allopathic Dispensaries	89	93	97	104
No. of Primary Health Centres	6	6	10 (six more under construction)	12
No. of Mobile Medical Units	4	4	4	4
No. of Mobile Eye-Units	2	2	2	2

TABLE — II (*Contd.*)

	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63
No. of Homeopathic Dispensaries	5	5	5	5
No. of Ayurvedic Dispensary	1	1	1	1
No. of Family Planning Centres	—	—	—	12
No. of School Health Units	—	3	3	3
Regional Laboratories	—	2	2	2
No. of Leprosy Unit	1	1	1	1
No. of itinerant teams	2	2	2	2

PUBLIC HEALTH

Considerable improvement was marked in the Public Health Organisation of the Council during the year 1960-61. From the administrative point of view, the entire territory had been divided into three regions for supervision of public health works. One Health Officer with headquarters at Agartala, looked after the Sadar Sub-division, and two Regional Health Officers, one in the Northern Zone comprising four Sub-divisions and the other in the Southern Zone comprising five Sub-divisions looked after the public health administration. One Sanitary Inspector posted in each of the Sub-divisions also worked as Food Inspector, in addition to their normal duties. Four more Sanitary Inspectors were attached to four Primary Health Centres. The Sanitary Inspectors were assisted by Health Assistants. One Inspector of Vaccination supervised the work of vaccinators conducted by wholetime and seasonal vaccinators.

The other activities of the Department have been dealt with in details in chapter XVI.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The Principal Officer, Engineering was the Head of the Engineering Department of the Territorial Council. The Department practically started functioning on August 20, 1958. The Department was entrusted with (i) construction (under Plan as well as non-Plan programmes), improvement and maintenance of major district roads, excluding those roads specially retained by the Administration, all sub-divisional town roads except those of Agartala town, all village roads and foot-tracks; (ii) construction (under Plan and non-Plan programmes) improvement and maintenance of buildings under Education and

Medical Deptts. (except those specially retained by the Administration) and Animal Husbandry Deptt; (iii) maintenance of tube-wells, ring-wells etc. originally constructed by the Relief & Rehabilitation Department; (iv) works of tube-wells, ring-wells etc. pertaining to Tribal Welfare and Rural Water Supply Schemes; (v) improvement of markets in the sub-divisional towns.

Executive Units: There was only one Division with four Sub-divisions under the control of Principal Officer, Engineering, during the period 1958-59 to 1959-60. One Sub-Division was added during the year 1960-61. The Engineering Department was strengthened further during the period 1961-62 to 1962-63 and two divisions with eight Sub-divisions remained under the control of the P.O. Engineering. One more Executive Engineer was posted at the fag-end of the year 1962-63, thus raising the total number to two. The total number of Assistant Engineers was raised to ten during the year 1961-62 to cope with the increased volume of works, namely maintenance and repairs of roads, buildings, embankment, tube-wells and also construction of roads. Under the head of repairs and maintenance an expenditure Rs. 13,27,354 was made in 1960-61 which progressively rose to Rs. 18,21,377 in 1962-63. On the original works of roads and buildings an expenditure of Rs. 43,09,503 was incurred in 1960-61 which registered a steady increase to Rs. 62,85,949 in 1962-63.

EDUCATION

As in other Departments viz., Medical, Engineering, a dual system of administration prevailed in the sphere of Education also since February 1, 1958. Under the head 'Functions of Territorial Councils', Section VI of clause 28 of the Tripura Territorial Council Act, the following items of Education were to be dealt with by the Education Department of the Council: the establishment, maintenance, management of primary and secondary schools and the construction and repair of all buildings connected with these institutions, training of teachers and establishment of scholarships. Accordingly all primary and secondary schools, except five Senior Basic Schools, were transferred to the Council.

On the other hand, the Education Department of the Administration looked after pre-primary education, collegiate education, teacher education, technical education, social education etc. Thus two separate units of educational administration were formed for the territory. Of the two, the Education Department of the Council shared the main burden of educational activities — and naturally spent more

money than its parent body. While the Education Department of the Administration spent Rs. 38,98,505 in 1960-61, the expenditure made by the Education Department under the Council amounted to Rs. 93,56,489/-.

The Principal Officer, (Education) was the Head of the Education Department of the Tripura Territorial Council. Under the Tripura Territorial Council Act, Sub-sec. (3) Sec. 32 the Principal Officer was appointed by the Council with the approval of the Administrator. He was directly responsible to the Chief Executive Officer of the Council. He was assisted by one Deputy Principal Officer, nine Inspectors of Schools, one Special Officer for Pilot Project (Free and Universal Primary Education) and one Rehabilitation Officer (Education).

There was an inspectorate under the Education Department of the Council. Nine Education Zones were created out of ten sub-divisions and for each zone there was a Zonal Inspector of Schools, who virtually took up the work of control and supervision of education in sub-divisions from the S.D.O.s, who previously used to maintain a small section (Education Section) in his office. Thus, at least the dual control over educational work in sub-divisions, which often created a deadlock, was dissolved. The Zonal Inspectors were assisted by Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

As in the case of sister Departments, there was a Standing Committee for the Education Department also. The Committee consisted of four members of the Council in 1960-61. The Standing Committee was a recommendatory body, and obviously, had no executive power.

The following table indicating the number of various categories of institutions will show the expansion of education at least at the primary stage during a period of ten years.

TABLE — III
No. of Schools

Year	Primary (Basic & Non-Basic)	Middle (Basic & Non-Basic)	High & Higher Secondary
1	2	3	4
1953-54	765	59	31
1954-55	907	64	28

1	2	3	4
1955-56	1,001	88	29
1956-57	994	87	30
1957-58	1,041	87	31
1958-59	1,067	83	31
1959-60	1,069	73	32
1960-61	1,074	83	34
1961-62	1,257	96	35
1962-63	1,310	106	44

TABLE — IV

Enrolment in Schools*

Year	Primary (Basic & Non-Basic)	Middle (Basic & Non-Basic)	High & Higher Secondary
1	2	3	4
1953-54	39,814	5,445	9,138
1954-55	48,495	5,657	8,610
1955-56	54,053	10,406	8,958
1956-57	59,445	10,902	9,281
1957-58	64,777	11,181	9,391
1958-59	68,453	10,433	10,252
1959-60	72,146	10,015	11,349
1960-61	81,358	10,795	15,100
1961-62	93,693	12,815	17,162
1962-63	1,05,802	13,470	19,621

Secondary Education

Tripura's secondary institutions, formerly affiliated to the University of Calcutta, West Bengal, are now affiliated to the Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal and consequently Board's rules are in force regarding recognition and management of private secondary schools in Tripura.

A remarkable step was taken in Tripura's educational administra-

* Statistical Dept., Statistical Abstract, Tripura 1964, Pp. 95, 98-99.

tion in respect of pay and allowances of teachers working in private schools in pursuance of the instructions of the Government of India. It was ordered that the scale of pay of Government school teachers and dearness allowances will be applicable to teachers of recognised aided High, Junior High and Higher Secondary Schools with effect from April 1, 1959.

Grant-in-aid

The work of the scheme for payment of grant-in-aid to recognised institutions introduced by the Education Directorate in April, 1960 was, however, transferred to the Council with effect from August, 1960 and it was decided that the Tripura Territorial Council shall henceforth inspect these schools, 'subject to the overall power of inspection by the Tripura Administration'. In Tripura the system of deficit grant was followed with a view to equalising educational opportunity in all parts of the territory.

Expenditure

Besides the Plan Schemes, the total expenditure incurred by the Department included expendture on direction and inspection as well as scholarships and stipends under Non-Plan Schemes. Usually stipends ranging from Rs. 7/- to Rs. 10/- and book grants ranging from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 25/- are given to deserving students. Besides, the scheme for the award of attendance scholarships to girl students in primary stage in rural areas is also in vogue. As many as nine hundred and seven girl students were awarded such scholarships during the year 1962-63 involving an expenditure of Rs. 21,882/-. Among other incentive measures, the programme for supply of mid-day meals in the primary schools in rural areas on a subsidised basis introduced in the year 1959-60 is still being continued.

Other activities of the Department have already been dealt with in the Chapter on Education.

The Tripura Territorial Council ceased to function with effect from July 1, 1963 when the Government of Union Territories Act, (1963) came into force and the Departments working under the Council came directly under the control of the Administration. The Education Department, under the Tripura Territorial Council also, merged with the Education Directorate of the Government of Tripura.

VILLAGE PANCHAYETS

In accordance with the all India policy of associating village panchayets with the work of Community Development, the Uttar Pradesh *Panchayet Rāj* Act (Act XXVI of 1947) was extended to Tripurā and Tripurā *Panchayet Rāj* Rules were framed thereunder in 1961.

The Uttar Pradesh *Panchayet Rāj* Act, 1947 as in force in this territory, provides for constitution of *Gāon* Panchayets only at the village level without any provision for Block level bodies with composition similar to that of *Panchayet Samities* or *Zilla Parishads.*

The programme of establishment of *Panchayets* was started in Tripurā during the Third Plan period in those Community Development Blocks, which have seen community process of work for the last six or eight years. But Panchayet elections could be conducted only in four Community Development Blocks during 1962-63 due to national emergency arising out of Chinese aggression. The temporary ban imposed on the conduct of elections was lifted by the middle of 1963-64 and *Gāon Panchayets* were established in four more Community Development Blocks during the remaining period of the year. Two more Blocks were brought under the fold of panchayets during 1964-65. Thus during the Third Plan period three hundred and six *Gāon Panchayets* and eightyone *Nayā Panchayets* were started in eleven Community Development Blocks. These *Gāon Panchayets* served useful purpose in organising village volunteer forces at the time of national emergency in nine Development Blocks. "Besides, 1,10,811 man-days had been donated to the Defence Labour Banks and utlised mainly to step up agricultural production by digging compost pits, excavation of field channels, construction of village roads, embankments, reclamation of waste land etc. The financial target achieved during the Third Plan was Rs. 17,189 lakhs, as against the approved plan outlay of Rs. 28.000 lakhs".

Panchayet elections in six Development Blocks were completed during the period from April, 1966 to April, 1967 establishing one hundred and fortytwo *Gāon Panchayets* and fiftythree *Nāya Pānchayets,* thus bringing the total number of *Gāon Panchayets* and *Nāya Panchayets* to four hundred and fortyeight and one hundred and thirtyfour respectively spread over seventeen Development Blocks and covering the entire territory. One *Panchayet Rāj* Training Institute has been opened for imparting training to Pānchayet Secretaries and non-official members associated to the Panchayets.[1]

[1] Source : Tripura on the March, op. cit, 1968, Pp. 39-40.

CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION & CULTURE

Historical Background

The territory of Tripura has had a very long continued history dating almost from pre-historic times but strangely no information is available on the administration of education in the territory upto the mediaeval times. It is only towards the last quarter of the nineteenth century that we get some information about the state of education prevalent in the territory, but that too helps to form a very poor idea about this affair. The report about the education in Tripura as found in the Bengal Administration Report for the year 1874-75 shows that the prospect of education in Tripura was far from bright and very little attention was paid to its improvement. The Report observes that "With an estimated population in the plains and in the hills of nearly 75,000 souls, there are about 103 boys undergoing instruction at the two existing schools. The school at Agartala has been in difficulty for the want of funds, which, however, were supplied by the Rajah, at the close of the year."[1] During the next year, two more schools were opened and in all 173 boys were on the rolls but 'only one-half' were regular in their attendance.[2] Obviously, opening of two schools in a year does not indicate any good prospect.

The number of schools on 31st March, 1879 was 25 against 18 on the same date in 1878 and six in 1877; the number of pupils attending schools was 700 against 430 in 1878, and 186 in 1877. With the exception of the schools at Agartala all the institutions are Elementary Vernacular *pathsalas*. Of the 700 pupils, 30 are the sons of Thakurs, 52 Tipperahs, 232 Manipuris, and the remainder (388) Bengali Hindus and Mussalmans. Of 57 girls attending schools, three were Tipperahs and 54 Manipuris."[3] The number of students, as revealed in the above-mentioned Report shows that of all communities, the Manipuris were most eager to get their children educated, and the Muslims followed their trail. And it happened so that during the next year all the 64 pupils attending the existing four girls schools were Manipuris. But as no real interest was evinced by the State Officials in education, the number of pupils began to decrease from 700 in 1878-79 to 668 in 1879-80 and further to 647 in 1880-81, though the number of schools was raised from 28 to 31 at the end of the year 1880-81. This was due to the fact that the teachers were most irregularly paid and there was hardly any supervision of schools which was left with an officer on a salary of Rs. 20 per month.[1]

1 Bengal Administration Report, 1874-75, Pp. 31-32.
2 Ibid, 1876-77, Pp. 17-18.
3 Ibid. 1880-81. p. 15.

Due to this lack of interest the number of schools came down to 27 and number of pupils to 609 during the next year. "The caste question had also an unfortunate effect on education as in consequence of the dispute the headmaster of Agurtollah school, the most important institution of the kind in the State, gave up his appointment and his place was still vacant at the close of the year."[2] During the next two years the state of education further deteriorated; the number of schools came down from 28 in 1882-83 to 15 in 1883-84 and of these for girls from 6 to 2. The number of pupils decreased from 692 to 441. The Report states that " the reasons assigned is that these institutions are indifferently looked after and irregularly supported."[2]

The state of education, prevalent in the State during this period, would be more evident from the fact that "with the exception of the schools at the sub-divisions, all the rest are mere *Pathshalas*" and there was not even a single school in the State raised to the standard of an Entrance School.[3] During the next year it was again observed that the highest standard of education imparted in the English and/ vernacular schools of the State correspond to those fixed for the minor and vernacular scholarships examinations under the Government rules."[4]

Upto the year 1889-90 mismanagement of schools continued and some arrangements for the betterment of educational institutions were made during the year 1890-91. The number of schools was raised from 16 to 19 and number of pupils also increased. Another important step for the improvement of educational facilities was taken by upgrading the standard of examination of the English school at Agartala upto the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University.[5]

From proceeding No. 19 of 1302 T.E. corresponding to 1892 A.D. it is learnt that in view of the status and economic condition of the

1 Ibid. 1881-82. p. 16.
2 Ibid. 1883-84. p. 13.
3 Ibid. 1885-86. p. 7.
4 Ibid. 1884-85. p. 7.
5 Ibid. 1890-91. p. 7.

common people of the State, residing in places other than the capital, it was taken for granted that only primary education would be helpful to them and hence to man the *Pathsalas*, it was decided to hold a special class in the vernacular school of the capital to train the teachers of *Pathsalas*. It was also stated that the teachers should sit for an examination after completion of training. The successful teachers should then start such *Pathsalas* in their respective villages. The prospective teachers were to be selected by the villagers themselves. The minimum qualification fixed for such teachers was ability to understand the text of *Bodhodaya*, a Bengali Primer introduced in primary schools. They were also supposed to be trained upto the standard of class III with special knowledge about agriculture and health-keeping. It was further mentioned in the said proceedings that out of 8 trainees, there must be two each from Manipuris, Tripuris and Bengalee communities and two from Kuki and Halam communities.

The salary for these trained teachers was proposed to be as such: They would continue to receive Rs. 5/- each as stipend and in addition they would get whatever might be available in the way of income from tuition fees of the students. The proceedings also stressed that to start a *Pathsala*, there must be a probability of getting at least 20 students. It was also proposed to appoint one additional *pandit* at the vernacular school at *Nutan Haveli* for training of above-mentioned teachers at a monthly salary not exceeding Rs. 20.[1]

During the rule of Maharaja Radhakishoremanikya (1896-1909) a new high school, one girls' school, a few primary schools, one *tol* and a free boarding school for the children of the royal family and Thakur boys were established. A free second grade college was also started at Agartala in 1901. The college soon acquired first grade status but it had to be closed down within a few years because the policy of the authorities of the University of Calcutta was against the establishment of such institutions in small towns in the mofussil.[2]

But inspite of these attempts made by the ruler the position did not improve much during the next few years as will be evident from the following account.

"Education is very backward, and in 1901 only 2.3 per cent of the population could read and write. In 1903, the number of pupils under instruction was 3,125 (boys 3,008 and girls 117). The number

---

1 *Niyam Sangrahabali;* 1302 T.E.
2 Bhattacharyay, A.C.; Progressive Tripura; 1930. p. 47.

of schools in the same year was 103, including an arts college, a secondary school, 99 primary schools, and two special schools.[1]

The Mahārājā, however, took keen interest in the advancement of education, particularly among the backward communities and provided cash reward to each tribal child attending school. A Reward Examination was also held in winter at several centres. The successful candidates as well as the teachers used to receive monetary rewards immediately after the examination. Besides the hill scholarship, a good number of stipends were also provided to the deserving students for higher education. In this connection it may also be mentioned that education in all stages had been free in Tripura upto 1915-16 and "with a view to encourage self-help and also to make provision for the various needs of students", a scale of fees was introduced only in three existing high English schools from the beginning of the year 1916-17. It may be pointed out that except the high English schools all other kinds of schools were free and even in high schools the indigenous inhabitants of the State, e.g. the Thākurs, the Tripuris, the Manipuris and other hill people were exempted from paying fees.[2]

During 1916-17 some principles were laid down in regard to the medium of instruction. It was stated, "In the M.E. and other lower schools teaching English, the medium of instruction shall be the vernacular language except in the case of Arithmetic, Geography and English where Anglo-Vernacular textbooks would be of greater help to students, English being taught as a second language. And from class VII upwards in the H.E. Schools all instructions to be given through the medium of English language."[3]

But still the enrolment in primary schools did not come up appreciably. The administration took it as an apathy on the part of the parents who were not at all interested in schooling of their children. A circular was, however, issued in 1920 from the Department of Education, urging upon the *Darogas, Nayabs* and *Tehsildars* to take special interest in the matter of increasing the number of students and helping the teachers and inspecting staff in meeting the requirements of the schools.[4]

A circular was issued by the Education Department in 1931 fixing admission fees and tuition fees for children reading upto class II. The

---

1 Hunter, W.W.; Imperial Gazetteer of India; Vol. XIII. p. 122.
2 Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1326 T.E. (1916-17) Ch. VII, Pp. 23-28.
3 Ibid, 1917-18.
4 Tripura State Gazette, 1330 T.E. Vol. XIX, No. 12.

circular stated that free studentship seemed to be the cause of drop-out among the students. The Tripuris, Manipuris, Thākur boys and princes were, however, exempted from paying such fees. Next year, it was decided that annas four will be charged as admission fees in *Pathsalas* and Lower Vernacular Schools and annas eight will be charged as admission fees in Minor and High school from class III to V and annas four for classes below III.

Compulsory Primary Education

A very bold step seemed to have been taken by the administration in 1931-32 when compulsory primary education was introduced in the State capital, Agartala, under the State Act 2 of 1932.[1] But as the scope of the Act was confined only to the municipal area of the town covering the students of only four primary schools for all practical purposes, it is doubtful whether the Act served any real purpose. After five years it was decided to expand its scope upto the valley of Howrah and to the linked areas of the Sub-divisional town.[2]

But from the table[3] given below it will be evident that the educational facilities even at the primary stage did not increase in proportion to the increase in population.

TABLE — I

Year	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Percentage of primary children to total school going children
1	2	3	4
1907-08	137	4,011	18.5
1916-17	125	4,842	16.5
1926-27	139	4,215	10.6
1936-37	111	5,110	7.9
1943-46	123	5,115	7.9

The anomaly between the increase in number of pupils and decrease in the percentage may be due to exaggeration of figures upto the twenties but that does not disprove that educational facilities remained almost static during this long period.

1 Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1932-33, P. 35.
2 Tripura State Gazette, 1348 T.E., Vol. XXXVII, No. 12.
3 Reports on the General Administration of the Tripura State for the years 1907-08 to 1943-46.

Secondary Education

The picture at the secondary stage was also not very bright. Agartala High School which was established in 1890 and renamed as Umakanta Academy in 1904 after the name of Rai Bahadur Umakanta Das, the late Minister of Tripura, remained the only high school in the State upon the year 1916 with two feeder institutions at Bilonia and Kailasahar, running upto the eighth grade. Besides, there were 4 Middle English Schools and two High Vernacular Schools for boys and one Middle English School (converted from High Vernacular School since the beginning of the year 1915-16) for girls, namely Mahārāni Tulshibati Girls' School during the same period. The B. K. Institution at Bilonia and the R. K. Institution at Kailasahar were raised to the standard of High English School during the next year.[1] The number of High English School in the State rose to five in 1925-26 as two other schools, one each at Dharmanagar and Sonamura were opened.[2]

That there had not been any appreciable expansion of secondary education in the State during the next two decades is evident from the fact that during 1935-36 the number of high school remained 5 as before with addition of only one branch school upto the ninth grade at Udaipur.[3]

The number of Middle School for boys, however, rose from four to ten only during this period. The position did not improve much during the next decade and as a result, "till 1943 the State had not a single girls' high school. At the time of accession, the State had nine secondary schools in all with an enrolment of 2397 pupils."[4] Unlike at the primary stage, no privately managed schools existed at the middle and secondary stages of education.

Supervision of Schools

The supervisory arrangement also remained unorganised for a long time. The only high school at Agartala was first inspected by the Government Inspector of Schools of the Chittagong Division on being deputed by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University in 1908-09.[5] There was hardly any proper supervisory agency prior to 1914-15 when a

1 Ibid. 1915-16. p. 23.
2 Ibid. 1925-26.
3 Ibid. 1935-36.
4 Banerjee. Dr. J.C.; Administration of Education in India; 31, Tripura, 1962, Baroda, P. 595.
5 Tripura State Administration Report, 1908-09, p. 27.

Deputy Inspector of Schools was appointed and the Headmaster of U. K. Academy was invested with the power of an Inspector of School to inspect branch High Schools. An Inspector of Schools appointed during 1915-16 as the Headmaster, U. K. Academy, failed to perform the inspection duty due to ill health. Prior to these appointments, the schools were used to be inspected by the Minister-in-Charge, Chief Dewan, the Officer-in-Charge of the Revenue Department and sometimes even by the Political Agent while on tour. The Headmaster of U. K. Academy was empowered to inspect other schools of lower standard.

In the year 1925, a new post of Sub-Inspector of Schools was created in addition to the existing two posts, for inspection of primary schools situated in hill areas. The Sub-Inspector was instructed to encourage the hill people to start new schools and to see that village boys attend the schools regularly and that the guardians provide the teachers with food and take interest in the improvement of their schools. Another post of Sub-Inspector of Schools was created in 1919 to take over the charge of schools under Sadar Sub-division and services of the Sub-Inspector-in-charge of hill schools was placed under him.

Teacher Education

The first report of professional examination for the teachers of primary schools was noticed in 1912-13 when a competitive examination was introduced and "success in the examination was made a condition for increment of pay and promotion." According to the report, only 20 candidates were examined 'in literature, arithmetic and art of teaching and class management, there being a practical examination in the last mentioned subject. Only 4 out of 20 candidates are reported to have come out successfully in the first division while the rest passed in the second division. But as no arrangement of in-service training for the teachers was made, they did not feel tempted to sit for the examination, which had to be discontinued ultimately.

Annual Expenditure on Education

An annual average expenditure on primary education, which seemed to be the main item of expenditure in the budget, education hardly exceeded 11 per cent of the total education budget.[1] "A study of the provision of finance, different sources of income and the methods of its expenditure enables one to have an unerring insight into the

[1] Census Report, Government of Tripura, 1931, p. 41.

very nature of the administrative process that controls education at a given time. Viewed in this line one is led to believe that there existed a great imbalance in the allocation of funds for different stages of education, which in its turn reflects not only a lack of correct appraisal of the vital needs and interests but also the practice of lopsided expenditure for those items of education which covered only a selected section of the population."[1]

Administration

In the wake of a constitutional reform ushered in the administration of Tripura by constituting a *Mantri Parishad* in 1939, the portfolio of education was placed under the charge of a minister who as Head of the department was responsible only to the Mahārājā. The Minister was assisted in his work by the Education Secretary. But no specific order was issued defining the functions of the Secretary and the Director of Public Instructions.[2]

Post-Independence Era

Tripura acceeded to the Indian Union on August 13, 1947 but it took two years for its final integration which was effected on October 15, 1949. A new chapter in the history of educational administration in Tripura seems to have started from this period.

For the first time in the history of Tripura a representative of the people was associated with the affairs of educational administration in the capacity of an Adviser during this period. A separate Directorate of Education was created on April 1, 1953 under the orders of the Government of India to implement the developmental activities under the First Five Year Plan. Consequently respective functions of the Department and the Directorate were specifically defined and the Directorate no longer remained an appendage of the Department. An Inspectorate was also set up during this period to strengthen the work of co-ordination and control and supervision.

The Adviser-in-charge of the Department used to dispose the business of the department almost in the same manner as a Minister in Part C States was expected to perform, though he did not enjoy the same status and powers which Minister of a Part C States possessed.

The regime of the Advisers continued upto August 14, 1957 when

[1] J. C. Banerji *op. cit*, p. 598.
[2] Ibid. p. 600.

it was replaced by a statutary body of Territorial Council. The formation of the Tripura Territorial Council on the basis of universal adult franchise not only laid the foundation of a democratic organisation, but also ushered in another change in the administrative set-up. The administrative change in the sphere of education was effected on February, 1958 by transferring all primary and secondary schools of Tripura (excluding five senior basic schools) to the Council. A further discussion has been made under TTC in Chapter XIV.

It has already been pointed out that the posts of the Education Secretary and Director of Education were held by separate Officers since 1953. During the regime of the Tripura Territorial Council the Director of Education became the ex-officio Secretary of the Education Department. The Director of Education was assisted by two Deputy Directors (Youth and Women's programmes), one Social Welfare Officer (for children's home and infirmaries), one Special Officer for Technical Education, one Inspector of Schools, one Special Officer for Primary and Basic Education and one Inspector of Social Education.

Progress under the new set-up

Tripura made rapid strides in different fields of public life after its accession to the Indian Union. Her achievements in the field of education have indeed been very rapid and remarkable during the decennium 1950-60 as will be evident from the following statements.

Growth of Literacy

In 1951 the literacy was 15.5 per cent, the total number of literates being 1,00,084. According to the Census of 1961, the total number of literates (including educated) was 231,188 of which 175,060 were males and 56,128 females, the percentage being 20.2[1] There were 155 literates for every 1,000 of the population according to the Census of 1951. In 1961 there were 202 literates for every 1,000 of the population. The sex ratio of literates were as follows: 296 out of every 1000 males and 102 out of every 1000 females were literate.[2]

The following table[3] gives the number of persons in the territory

[1] Census of India, Paper No. 1 of 1962, 1961 Census, Final Population Totals, Pp. 326-327.
[2] Ibid. Pp. 358-359.
[3] Statistical Abstract, Tripura, Statistical Dept. Govt. of Tripura, 1961, p. 101.

who had passed any academic, vocational or technical examination during 1960-61.

TABLE — II

Educational Standard	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Matriculation or equivalent examination	831	657	174
Higher Secondary	267	207	60
Intermediate Arts & Science	467	373	94
B.A. & B.Sc. (including Honours)	183	155	28
B.Com. (including Honours)	38	38	—
Post-graduate & under-graduate Teachers' Training Diploma Course (Basic & Non-Basic)	177	156	21
Diploma Course in Indian Music	8(15)	4(7)	4(8)

(Figures within brackets indicate the students of other Institutions)

General Education

Shishu Bihar, a pre-primary Nursery school was set up at Agartala by the Directorate of Education in June 1954 on an experimental basis. Gradually with the increase of its popularity, the enrolment began to rise and the school was then shifted to a newly constructed buildings and provisions for additional equipment, furniture and books were made. In addition to nursery, a preparatory section consisting five classes from I to V has also been started since January, 1962. The enrolment of children in the nursery class was 101 in 1965. The school has its own conveyance arrangement for the children. The number of Nursery schools rose to 2 in 1959-60 and in 1960-61 the number became 268 including 266 Balwadi Centres.

Primary & Basic Education

The progress in the field of general education has all the more been remarkable. It has already been stated that little attention was paid towards the growth of primary education during the time of the Maharajas. Even in 1945-46, there were only 123 primary schools, mostly with classes I and II in Tripura. The total enrolment was about 5,115, thus covering only 7.9 per cent of the school-going children of primary stage age-group. But even this number does not give the real picture of the condition of education prevailing at that time. Because, it is not gainsaid that "the primary schools, whatever their numbers, functioned more in name and as emblems of royal dispensations than as any stable foundation for educational growth and this

state of affairs continued upto the merger of this princely State with the Union of India in October, 1949 and even for quite some time after merger."[1]

From the table given below, it will be evident that proper action towards the systemetic development of education in the territory was first taken during the First Five Year Plan period and since then it gained such a momentum year by year that the percentage of average of school-going children of the age-group 6-11 years rose to 80.8 during the year 1964-65.

TABLE — III

Year	*Number of Institutions (Primary, Basic & non-Basic)*	*Students*	*Percentage coverage (6-11 Yrs.)*
1950-51	404	19,155	24.8
1955-56	1,001	54,053	54.1
1960-61	1,074	81,358	60.7
1964-65	1,359	1,20,304	80.8

By the end of the year 1964 there were altogether 1,333 primary schools including 600 Junior Basic Schools in this territory and of these 1,317 were under management of the administration and the rest under private management. The total enrolment at the primary stage of all types of schools was 1,15,369, the number of girl students being 42,087, forming over 36 per cent of the total. The total number of teachers was 3,411 and of them 1,072 happened to be trained.

The total expenditure on primary education during the year 1960-61 was Rs. 47.27 lakhs forming about 35 per cent of the total expenditure on education in this territory during the year. The per capita cost was Rs. 47.83 (direct expenditure only) and the teacher-pupil ratio in general was 1:35. By the end of 1964-65 only the direct total expenditure on primary education rose to Rs. 53,91,878 and the per capita cost amounted to Rs. 45. The teacher-pupil ratio became 1:33 during the same period.

Senior Basic School

The senior basic schools run classes upto VIII standard and their distinctive features as also of all other basic schools consist in their

[1] Chatterji, G. N., An Unrehearsed Monologue, Educational Miscellany, Vol. II No. 1 & 2, June-September, 1965.

greater stress on craft (activity-centered) and correlated teaching than on bookish knowledge. All the senior basic schools are co-educational and impart free tuition. During the year 1963-64 there were altogether 102 senior basic schools in this territory.

Full-scale conversion of all the primary schools into basic pattern is not practicable till adequate numbers of suitably trained teachers are available and the schools are provided with suitable site, premises and equipments. The accepted programme, therefore, seeks to give basic orientation to all the schools and convert the maximum possible number of them every year. An area of about 65 sq. km. round the Basic Training College at Agartala has been selected as the 'intensive' basic education area, aiming at full-fledged conversion of all the primary and middle schools within the area into basic schools. It has also been decided that all primary schools to be started during the Fourth Plan period will be of basic type and by the end of the same period all the schools at the primary stage are expected to be full-fledged basic schools. Besides, 150 new senior basic schools are expected to be started during the Fourth Plan period.

A very wholesome change is noticeable in the attitude of teachers as a result of the training of a large number of them every year in the training colleges, and also through seminars and short training courses held throughout the territory from time to time.

Secondary Education — High Schools

An idea of rapid expansion of education at the secondary stage in Tripura may also be had from the fact that even as late as 1947, there were only 9 High Schools including one for girls in the whole territory and the total enrolment was about 500, girls forming a very low percentage of the total. During the year 1953-54 there were in all 31 high schools including 8 for girls in this territory. By the end of the year 1963-64 Tripura has come to have 23 Multipurpose Higher Secondary and 26 class X High schools ; 8 of the former and 7 of the latter being solely for girl students. Eleven other Higher Secondary and 15 class X High Schools have co-education and the rest are for boys only. Besides, there are 34 Junior High Schools, including 2 for girls, teaching upto class VIII standard. Agartala town has as many as 9 Multipurpose Higher Secondary Schools, 5 class X High Schools and 3 Junior High Schools. Of the Sub-divisions, Amarpur, Sabrum, Kamalpur and Sonamura have each a class X High School at their headquarters. Bilonia has two boys' Higher Secondary Schools and 1 girls' High School in town and 1 Higher Secondary

and 1 High School in the rural area. Udaipur Sub-division has 1 boys' Higher Secondary, 1 boys' and 1 girls' High School at the headquarters town and 1 Higher Secondary School in rural area. Sonamura has 1 High School and 1 girls' Junior High School in the town and another Higher Secondary School in rural area. Besides those at Agartala town mentioned above, the Sadar Sub-division has 5 High Schools, 1 Higher Secondary and 11 Junior High Schools in rural area. In the Khowai Sub-division there are 1 Higher Secondary, 2 High Schools in the town and 1 Higher Secondary and 2 Junior High Schools in mofussil area. In addition to 1 Higher Secondary School and 1 High School in the town, Kamalpur Sub-division has 2 Junior High and 1 High School in rural area. Kailasahar has 2 Multipurpose Higher Secondary and 1 High School in the town and 1 High School in rural area and there are 2 Multipurpose Higher Secondary Schools and 1 High School in Dharmanagar town area and 6 Junior High and 2 High Schools in the hills of the sub-division.

The total enrolment at the secondary stage by the end of the Third Plan period (1965-66) is expected to be about 11,000 (7,900 boys and 3,100 girls). By the end of the same period about 15 per cent of the total student population of the age-group 14-17 is expected to be at school in the secondary stage. The total expenditure on high & higher secondary school education during the year 1963-64 exceeded Rs. 61 lakhs.

The existing Multipurpose Higher Secondary Schools at present provide 23 courses in Humanities, 17 in Science, 15 in Commerce, 4 in Technology and 2 in Home Science and 1 in Fine Arts. During the Fourth Plan 25 more Higher Secondary Schools will be started and 5 existing class X High Schools will be converted into Higher Secondary School, thus bringing the total number of such schools in the territory to 102 by the end of the year 1970-71.

Private Schools

Prior to 1947 all the schools in this territory were under management of the State Government. After independence and the resultant partition of the country there was a heavy influx of displaced families from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) into Tripura, and privately managed schools began to come into existence through the initiative of displaced teachers. These so-called schools had started from a scratch hardly with any land, houses or equipment worth having. The Relief and Rehabilitation Department of the Administration paid tuition fees of most of the students of these schools and also gave

large grants to many schools for construction and improvement of the school buildings. The Education Department has also been giving liberal capital grants to these schools for construction and extension of schools buildings, purchase of library books, teaching aids etc. and also providing recurring grant-in-aid for maintenance, meeting 90 per cent of their deficits. The power of giving grants to these schools was transferred to the Territorial Council since its formation. The Grant-in-Aid Rules as approved by the Government of India entitled teachers of the privately managed schools the same pay and allowances as for teachers with similar qualifications in Government schools of corresponding status in the territory, till 30th June, 1963 under the management of the Territorial Council. After the dissolution of Tripura Territorial Council its function is being conducted by the Education Directorate. This progressive step placed Tripura at the level of some of the most advanced States in India.

Education upto class VIII standard is free for all students in all types of schools of Tripura. Besides the stipends awarded by the Directorate of Education (as stated above), the school management under usual rule also grant fee studentship to a certain percentage of the enrolment. Only a small number of students thus have to pay tuition fees at school and rates of such fees also are much lower than in other parts of the country. Taking these factors into consideration, it may be claimed that by the end of the Second Plan period Tripura almost reached the stage of providing education free upto the end of high school stage.

Colleges

Prior to 1947 Tripura had no facilities within her borders for imparting collegiate education. It has already been stated how the attempts of Maharaja Radhakishoremanikya to start a college at Agartala met with failure in the year 1901. The Mahārājā maintained a boarding house at Comilla, (now under Bangladesh) for scions of the royal family prosecuting studies in the college there. Occasionally some princes were sent to the Prince's College at Raipur and Ajmere and sometimes at Santiniketan in West Bengal. During the period just preceding the State's merger in India, the M.B.B. College at Agartala came to be started. During the year 1963-64 there were three Degree Colleges in Tripura viz., the Government-managed M.B.B. College at Agartala and the Government-aided R. K. Mahavidyalaya at Kailasahar and another aided Degree College at Bilonia. The M.B.B. College has rapidly grown into status and have teachers in almost all of the usual subjects in Arts & Science upto the honours

standard, while the college at Kailasahar is qualified to teach the Pre-University Courses in Arts & Science and the B.A. (Pass) course. The college at Bilonia has very recently been opened.

The total enrolment of the M.B.B. College during 1963-64 was about 1,541 while that of the R. K. Mahāvidyālaya was about 236. Both the colleges are co-educational, girls students forming about 25 per cent of the total. In both the colleges, the Three-Years Degree Course has been introduced to accommodate students passing out of the Higher Secondary Schools and seeking university education and at the same time arrangements for pre-university classes for School Final Examination passed students of class X schools have also been made. The government college at Agartala is very well-housed and well-equipped and the staff position also compares favourably with those of the first-grade college of other States. The condition of the R. K. Mahāvidyālaya, however, was not quite happy in respect of housing, equipment etc. With a view to helping them in the construction of new buildings, a sum of Rs. 3.20 lakhs was given as capital grants to the college during the year 1963-64.

The examination results of both the colleges have been uniformly good for the last few years and both have been comparatively free from the students' indiscipline, so rampant in some colleges and universities elsewhere in India.

Measures have been taken for starting Post-Graduate teaching in some Arts subject viz. History, Economics and Mathematics in the M.B.B. College at Agartala at the earliest. Besides, liberal financial provision has been made for improvement of the colleges under the Third Five Year Plan.

Spread of Education among Women

In the year 1946, prior to the State's accession to the Indian Union, there were only 5 Lower Primary, 6 Middle and one High English School for girls in the whole territory. Besides, 4 Free Primary Schools were run on a co-educational basis at Agartala. The total enrolment of girl students in all the schools during the period was 1,026 only. Since then there has been a very large-scale increase of enrolment of girl students at all levels, particularly at the primary stage. By the end of the year 1963-64 the total number of students at the primary stage of all types of schools went well over 40,004. Facilities for girls' education have also been largely extended. All the Primary and Middle Schools in this territory are mixed schools. Of the High Schools, 3 Multipurpose Higher Secondary Schools, 7

class X High Schools and 3 Junior High Schools are exclusively meant for girls, while 11 other Multipurpose Higher Secondary Schools, 15 class X High Schools and 31 Junior High Schools run co-educational classes.

Both the colleges of this territory are also co-educational. The girls' unit of M.B.B. College opened in 1963-64 was subsequently turned to a full-fledged Women's College.

Special scholarships are awarded to girls students on the basis of scholarship examinations at the primary and middle stages. Education of girls is free in all schools of the territory. Girl students of scheduled tribe and scheduled caste and other backward communities are not charged tuition fee in the Government College which also offers adequate hostel facilities to girl students of all communities. School stipends are awarded on the basis of the results of a Scholarship Examination at the end of the course in class VIII. Fifty per cent of the total number of stipends is reserved for students belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other backward classes. Out of the remaining 50 per cent one-third is reserved for girl students. Special stipends have been instituted for girl students undergoing higher education.

Spread of Education among Backward Classes & Tribes

That in all types of educational institutions there was a steady increase of enrolment of students of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other backward classes will be evident from the table at page 328.

The number of pupils included enrolment of students in all types of institution. The increase of enrolment may be attributed to normal increase in the number of schools under the Plans and provision for free tuition and other facilities for such students in educational institutions. As secondary schools are not generally within easy reach of the tribal communities, mostly inhabiting the hilly and rural areas of the territory, extension of hostel facilities has been made on a large scale.

By the end of the Second Plan period free accommodation for about 400 tribal students has been provided at hostels attached to different secondary schools. Fifty per cent of the total number of stipends i.e. 300, is reserved for students belonging to scheduled castes, tribes and backward classes. Besides, Merit Scholarships are awarded at the post-primary stage on the basis of the results of Primary Scholarship

TABLE — IV

Years	No. of institutions specially meant for B. Class	No. of pupils (1)			No. of pupils getting scholarships and stipends		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1956-57	—	32,808	7,621	40,429	1,728	622	2,350
1957-58	1	36,067 (86)	11,289(77)	47,356(167)	1,857	748	2,605
1958-59	1	42,143(163)	12,822(80)	54,965(243)	3,426	1,294	4,720
1959-60	1	39,286(149)	13,485(38)	52,771(187)	3,453	1,002	4,455
1960-61	1	44,076(359)	18,299(48)	62,375(407)	4,004	1,295	5,299

Source: — Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, p. 104.

Examination. At the post-Matric stage also they are given special stipends from the Government of India funds. The examination fees paid by scheduled tribe and scheduled caste students of schools and colleges are re-imbursed by the State Government, while liberal financial assistance is also given to deserving students for purchase of books.

Technical Education

Prior to merger into the Indian Union there was no institution worth its name in Tripura for technical education. The existing small training centre at Agartala for turning out artisans in trades like carpentry, smithy etc. was more or less in a moribund condition and made hardly any tangible contribution to the purpose for which it was created.

After independence the Relief & Rehabilitation Department of the Administration started same Industrial Centres for training displaced persons in weaving, dying, tailoring, basketry and umbrella-making etc. at Agartala and some other places of this territory. Some of these Centres are still running under management of the Industries Department.

A full-fledged Polytechnic Institute for matriculates started functioning in 1958 at Narsingarh, about 6 miles from Agartala, providing three-years-course in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, with an annual in-take of 120 students. The Institute stands affiliated to the State Council of Technical Education, West Bengal. The proposal for extension of the Institute so as to increase its annual in-take to 180 students per session was under consideration. This Institute has been of great benefit to the local people as the students can have technical education upto the licentiate standard at much lesser cost than before. Previously students of this territory had to go to other States for such training. A good number of stipends has been instituted in it for poor and meritorious students, and a large number of such stipends are ear-marked for scheduled tribe and scheduled caste students. Recently post-diploma course in Automobiles Engineering has been introduced in the Polytechnic Institute and additional equipment, machineries etc. have been purchased and buildings have been constructed.

Engineering College

To provide further facilities for technical education, Tripura Engineering College, the first degree college in technical education in Tripura, started functioning from 1st September, 1965 with 31 students in Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering courses. The sanctioned annual intake capacity of the college was 120.

The college was temporarily housed in the buildings of the Polytechnic Institute, Narsingarh, pending construction of buildings for the college. It was proposed to provide the college with buildings and equipment etc. during the Fourth Plan period.

Industrial Training Institute

The Industries Department started Industrial Training Institutes one each at Agartala in Sadar, Bogafa in Bilonia and Kailasahar in Kailasahar Sub-division to provide training to educated youngmen of the territory including non-matriculates in trades like Turning, Fitting, Motor Mechanism etc.

Training College

There are three basic training colleges, one at Agartala in Sadar, one at Kakraban in Udaipur Sub-division and the third at Panisagar in Dharmanagar Sub-division for imparting in-service training to teachers of primary and basic schools. The college at Agartala had two sections, one for graduates and the other for under-graduates. Post-graduate wings for graduates have also been started both at Kakraban and Panisagar Basic Training Colleges, so long imparting training to under-graduates only. The intake of the existing three colleges during a session was about 316 teacher-trainees. The colleges having one year course are expected to be switched over to a two-years course as soon as practicable.

Training College for Secondary School Teachers

A College for the training of secondary school teachers of the territory has started functioning in its newly constructed buildings at College Tilla, Agartala. A hostel for the students has also been constructed. This arrangement has obviated the much-felt necessity of deputing teachers of high schools for B.T. and B.Ed. training outside. The B.T. College is affiliated to the Calcutta University.

Craft Teachers' Training Institute

The Craft Teachers' Training Institute started during the Second Plan period to turn out trained craft-teachers for basic and other schools of this territory as craft came to occupy an important place in the curricula of both basic and non-basic schools in the reformed pattern of primary and secondary education all over India. The Institute trains about sixty teachers in a session.

Propagation of Hindi

Prior to 1947, the number of Hindi knowing people in Tripura was negligible. It was only in 1952 when a number of Hindi teachers were appointed in some selected secondary schools for the first time. Practically the scheme to propagate Hindi in Tripura was launched towards the end of the First Plan. As a result, some 'Hindi Teachers' Centres came into being and a Hindi Teachers' Training Institute was opened at Agartala in 1956. To provide teachers with sound grounding in both content and methods, the Institute was consequently raised to the status of a training college in 1960. Voluntary organisations have started Hindi *Prachar* and teaching centres in Tripura under the encouragement of the Government. They are provided with liberal grants by the Education Department. Candidates prepared by such organisations appear at 'Prabesh', 'Parichaya', 'Kovid', & 'Ratna' examinations conducted by the Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti, Wardha. Cash prizes are awarded to candidates securing 60 per cent of marks or above in different examinations in Hindi. Facilities have also been extended to the Government employees of the territory to learn Hindi. To feed the *Prachar* and teaching centres with suitable books and literature a mobile library service has also been created. Hindi remains a compulsory subject of study in classes III to VI.

A Hindi Education Officer in the Education Directorate supervises the propagation of Hindi. Starting from the scratch, the propagation of Hindi has made leeway during the period under review.

Commerce School

No recognised institution for imparting regular training in such subjects as book-keeping, type-writing, stenography etc. has yet been started in Tripura. There are a few unrecognised concerns running such classes at Agartala and have been useful to local boys and girls in securing clerical jobs after having training in such concerns.

Nursing & Midwifery

The Medical Department of the Government opened training classes in the V. M. Hospital at Agartala in nursing and local girls with some education are given training to qualify themselves as nurses. The trainees are given stipends during training and absorbed in service in the increasing number of hospitals under the Government.

College and School of Music and Fine Arts

A music college was started in Tripura as early as in 1951 under the patronage of the then Chief Commissioner of Tripura and after a few months the institution was renamed as the College of Music and Fine Arts, Agartala. The college had its own Managing Committee and received financial assistance from the Government. In the year 1956 the college was affiliated to the "Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith", Lucknow. With a view to further its improvements and development, the college was taken over by the Education Department in June, 1964. At present it imparts training in music, vocal and instrumental and holds classes in dancing of different styles.

There are also a few other smaller institutions at Agartala for the same purpose which receive liberal grants from the Education Department.

Schools for Oriental Studies, Sanskrit Tols, Muktabs and Madrassas

The rulers of Tripura used to patronise Sanskrit scholars and learning liberally by granting them stipends and also in many cases rent-free lands, both in the State and their extensive Zamindaries in the contiguous districts of Tipperah, Noakhali and Sylhet in British India. Prior to independence, the State Government conducted four *Chatuspathis* located at different places in the State and these institutions prepared pupils for different Sanskrit Examinations viz., *Addya* (primary) *Madhya* (middle) and *Upadhi* (Final). After the merger about 15 Sanskrit Tols were started by displaced Sanskrit scholars and a majority of these are in receipt of monthly grant-in-aid from the Education Directorate. The Tripura Territorial Council took steps to start a bigger Sanskrit Institution of the nature of a Sanskrit College at Agartala by amalgamating the four *Chatuspathis* in existence since the days of the Maharajas and some preliminaries have already been completed.

There are also some special institutions (*Muktabs* and *Madrassas*) at different places of this territory, imparting religious instructions and teaching Arabic to Muslim boys and girls and most of these institutions receive monthly maintenance grants from the Education Directorate.

Education of the handicapped

For a small territory like Tripura it had not been found feasible to establish specialised institutions for handicapped children. Arrangements, however, were made to send such students to institutions in other States for their education and several stipends were instituted for the purpose.

The Education Directorate under its Social Welfare Section runs one Infirmary, one *Mahila Ashram* and two Children's Home, one for boys and the other for girls. Apart from general education, the inmates of these Homes are provided with training in crafts, home-science, agriculture and poultry.

Social Education

The object of the social education schemes is social upliftment of the rural folk through guided programmes and to take initiative in the work of their own welfare through financial help, advice and all other possible help in this direction. The main planks of social education schemes are the Social Education Centres organised throughout the territory. The main activities of these Centres are (a) running of *Balwadi* classes for children of the age-group, 3-6, who are not eligible for admission into primary schools; (b) holding of adult literacy classes both for men and women; (c) conducting craft classes for women; (d) organising community organisations viz., *Mahila Samity*, Youth Club, Childrens' Club etc.; (e) training of Social Education Workers. These programmes were conducted through 458 Social Education and Adult Literacy Centres during the year 1964-65.

A total number of 7,208 persons were declared as neo-literates after the completion of two literacy tests held during the same year. During the same period 12,458 children received pre-primary education in 420 *Balwadi* Centres. Provision was made to supply mid-day meals in these Centres and starting of kitchen-garden and orchards was encouraged in every Centre for the sustenance of the supply of mid-day meals. Montessori system was introduced in 56 *Balwadi* Centres.

An intregrated project for welfare of the children was started under the Social Education Scheme at Kamalpur Block in March, 1964. Under the said Scheme the first Cub-masters and Bulbul (Flock leader) training camps were organised in March-April '64 with the active co-operation of Bharat Scouts and Guides. The Cub-masters & Flock leaders thus trained are expected to raise troops in their respective villages.

As many as 55 *Mahila Samities* and 70 Youth Clubs were organised during the same period.

Training Course

During the year 1963-64 the fourth short-course training of lady education workers and the first specialised training course in tribal welfare were organised at Janata College, Panisagar and 88 lady workers and 18 social workers and two Tribal Inspectors and Supervisors underwent training in the respective courses. Besides, arrangements were made to depute social workers for job course outside the territory.

Two Social Education Organisers completed job course from Ramkrishna Math and two Gramsevikas received training at Jorhat Gramsevak Training Centre during 1963-64.

Literature for neo-literates

Under the scheme of publishing reading matters for the neo-literates books are being published every year and distributed free of cost to the villagers. New books are also purchased every year and distributed among the Centres for the use of neo-literates. The Mobile Library of the Directorate feeds 108 rural libraries run by different C.D. Blocks. A monthly journal in Bengali is published from the Social Education Section for the neo-literates and social education workers.

Audio-Visual Aids

A State film library has been developed with a good number of educative films. Inter-departmental loan of films has also been introduced for the benefit of the people.

Under the scheme of audio-visual aids for use in Social Education Centres mobile film shows and puppet shows are generally organised in interior villages.

For the repair of audio-visual equipments of the Directorate the existing audio-visual workshop has further been equipped with spare parts and a Technical Supervisor has been provided for this unit.

Recently an Art Unit has been opened to prepare visual aids. There is also one Photography Unit for taking photographs for display in exhibition and information centres.

Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance

The guidance movement in Tripura is of recent origin. Only in 1965 towards the end of the First Five Year Plan a Psychological Service came into being with one Psychologist and a Statistical Assistant. Its functions and areas of operation were very limited. The Service aimed at providing curricular guidance for a selected few Higher Secondary Schools. The guidance work was attempted in the matter of: (a) allocating pupils to diversified courses of study according to 3A's — age, ability and aptitude; (b) developing educational and occupational Information Service; and (c) assisting the school authorities in regulating new admissions by means of testing tools.

With the opening of more high/higher schools and concomitant rise in the enrolment of pupils during the Second Five Year Plan, the Psychological Service was found too inadequate to render any effective guidance and counselling services to such a widen sphere and consequently a full-fledged State Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance was established in 1962.

The programmes of the Bureau are as follows: (a) training; (b) development of guidance tools; (c) dissemination of information regarding careers and courses; (d) assisting the school authorities in the allocation of pupils in different streams; (e) organising conferences and seminars; (f) research; and (g) publication.

Training course: The Bureau conducts a six-weeks training course for the Career Masters.

Development of Guidance Tools (Testing): Three psychological tests, one each in the area of intelligence, interest and personality, have been developed in the Bureau.

Dissemination of information: Curricular and occupational information collected from various sources are disseminated to persons approaching the Bureau through its Information Units and also by sending leaflets/booklets to schools.

Conferences and Seminars: The Bureau organises conferences and seminars of the Headmasters in connection with the workings of the School Guidance Service.

Research: During the period under review a study on the problems of college students in Tripura has been conducted with the help of

the All-India Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance. The Bureau has built up a good reference library on guidance.

Publication : To popularise the principles and practices of guidance and counselling among students and teachers in particular and the public in general and also to assist guidance workers at fields a few guidance literature have been brought out by the Bureau.

Physical Education

Under the schemes of physical education arrangements are made every year for the development and improvement of physical education in this territory. Several coaching camps in foot-ball, aquatic, cricket, athletic, *Bratachari* and gymnastics were conducted with a view to impart advanced training to the sportsmen. Besides, short-course training in physical education for teachers are also organised. During the year 1963-64, 75 teachers were deputed for full-course training in National Discipline Scheme and 2 students for Degree Course in physical education. One orientation training course of National Physical Efficiency and one Scout Masters' training camp were organised during the same period. Young swimmers of this territory are encouraged by allowing them to participate in the Bhagirathi Swimming Competition held at Murshidabad, West Bengal. Two swimmers of this territory scored highest position in the last competition organised by Murshidabad Swimming Association. Among other activities of this Unit, mention may be made of arrangement of inter-school competitions, Republic Day Sports (Winter Sports), Aquatic Sports and participation in National Championship Competition.

National Cadet Corps & Auxiliary Cadet Corps Organisation

N.C.C. training has been made compulsory for all able-bodied students. There were four N.C.C. Rifle units for boys. 13 Junior Division Army troops for boys, two Junior Division Army troops for girls and 12 A.C.C. platoons for boys upto the end of March, 1964.

Cultural and Literary Societies

Shri Pravatkumar Mukherjee wrote in *Rabindra Jiban*,[1] a biography of Rabindranath, that Rabindranath exhorted long ago for the establishment of zonal literary societies, but till the end of the nineteenth century nowhere it took any shape. At the instance of Rabindranath,

[1] Provat Kumar Mukherjee, Rabindra Jibani, Vol. II, p. 120.

a literary conference (*Tripura Sahitya Sammelan*) was organised at Agartala by Mahārājā Radhakishoremāṇikya in the year 1902 and the poet was requested to inaugurate the conference. The poet came to Agartala on the occasion and delivered his famous address in Bengali on Native States which was subsequently printed under the title *Deshiya Rajya.*

The first literary society patronised by Maharaja Birendrakishoremāṇikya was organised at Agartala in the year 1911 and it was named as *Birendrakishore Sahitya Samaj.* A resolution was passed in the meeting for publishing a monthly organ of the society. According to the convention the proceedings of the meeting were placed before the Mahārājā who disliked the idea of directly associating his name with the organisation and suggested *Kishore Sahitya Samaj* as an alternative. The society was renamed as *Kishore Sahitya Samaj* at its meeting held next year. But on sudden demise of the Mahārājā, the main patron, the society resolved to publish the journal quarterly instead of monthly as stipulated earlier. Accordingly *Rabi,* the quarterly journal of the society, was first published in 1921 under the editorship of Narendrakishore Deb Barma. The journal was continued till 1927 when the first phase of its publication ended. A local group of promising writers used to contribute interesting and thoughtful articles in this journal. Occasionally poems of Rabindranath and of other young writers outside the State had also been published. Thus the journal attracted the notice of the literateur outside the State.

Another literary society, *Sahitya Basar* was organised in the year 1946 but after a few years the society came to a moribund state and it was re-organised in 1958. The newly constituted committee resolved to re-publish *Rabi* as the organ of the society. Of late a good many literary journals are being published from Agartala. Among the literary societies of Agartala mention may be made of *Loka-Silpi Sangsad, Tripura Rabindra Parishad,* Aurobindo Society, Tripura, etc. *Loka-Silpi Sangsad* is mainly interested in staging dramas. *Rabinda Parishad* has been organised mainly for cultivation of art and literature of Rabindranath. The society organises cultural functions, symposia, musical soiree and occasionally theatrical performance. The Aurobindo Society of Tripura, a branch of the Sri Aurobindo Society of Pondichery, was founded in December, 1961. Sri Aurobindo Study Circle was organised as an unit of the society in the year 1963. This unit conducts talks on works and life of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and undertakes cultural functions. It also runs a small library at Agartala. Recently the local branch of Sri Aurobindo Society has started a primary school at Arabindanagar in Bishalgarh.

LIBRARIES

Palace Library

The palace library of the rulers of Tripura was started about seventy-five years back in the royal palace. But after a few years, a public library named Birchandra Public Library was formed consisting of the whole of Bengali and Sanskrit and some of English collections of the royal library and it was housed outside the palace compound. All the valuable English books were naturally kept in the palace library. The Rājās of Tripura have a fairly good collection of books on classical literature, art, painting, history, travels, political and social sciences. Some of the books are highly valuable and of rare type.

Public Libraries

The Directorate of Education has a net-work of public libraries throughout the territory. At the district level there is one Central Library, named Birchandra Public Library and at the sub-division level there were 9 Sub-divisional Public Libraries, one each at sub-divisional headquarters. Besides, there is one Central Mobile Library feeding 110 rural libraries situated in Community Development Blocks.

Birchandra Public Library was established in the year 1896. There were five Librarians under the control of one Head Librarian who was also the Controlling Officer of all the Sub-divisional Public Libraries. The Library had a reading room and a special section for the children. The library had in its stock a total number of 34,505 books of which 24,116 were in Bengali and the rest in English. The total number of registered borrowers was about 1,681 in 1965 and the lending section of the library issued, on an average, 186 books per day. On an average, 176 readers attended the reading room of the library every day.

At the beginning all the Sub-divisional Libraries except those at Sabrum and Amarpur Sub-divisions respectively were housed in local high school buildings and were managed by the librarians of the respective schools. Gradually buildings for the libraries were constructed in all the sub-divisions. The number of books in stock of the libraries varies from 2071 to 6081.

LITERATURE

Bengali Literature

No description of Tripura would be complete without a mention of

the place of pride she occupied in the realm of Bengali language and literature. It is very difficult to ascertain the exact date since when Bengali became the State language. It may, however, be pointed that Mahārājā Dharmamāṇikya, (1431-1462) the great king of Tripura, is said to have inaugurated the Rājamālā, a verse chronicle of the royal house. But historians have expressed doubts in regard to the date of its compilation. Some have even opined that the first part of the Rājamālā appears to have been drafted not earlier than the middle of the 18th century.[1] The Hinduisation of the Tipras, a Bodo tribe, however, is reported to have started as early as in the 15th century. "The first great king of the Tipras was Dharmamanikya (1431-1462). He was a patron of learning i.e. learning in Bengali and Sanskrit, although he himself was a Bodo speaker."[2] The next king Dhanyamānikya (1490-1515) is said to have encouraged translations into Bengali of Sanskrit texts viz. *Jyotish Ratnākar* and *Utkal Khanda Pānchali*. But these books are not available now. He was also a great patron of art, literature, and a supporter of Hindi faith and religion.[3] The oldest coin that has so far been found of this ruling family has its letters in Bengali. The use of Bengali has also been found in old *sanads* and inscriptions. Mr. J. G. Cumming has quoted some *sanads* of the Tripurā Kings with their English translations in the Appendix of his report on Survey and Settlement of the Chāklā Roshnābād Estate in the District of Tipperah and Noākhāli (1892-99). Among these mention may be made of one *Ayma Sanad* issued by King Kalyanamāṇikya (1625-1660) in the year 1659 and another *Brahmotter Sanad* on copper-plate issued by king Govindamāṇikya (1660) and (1666-1669) in the year 1669. Mss. of books translated at the instance of Govindamāṇikya and his brother Jagatmanikya have also been found. These *sanads* and books prove beyond doubt that at least from the second half of the seventeeth century, if not earlier, Bengali had been used as the State language in Tripura.

Apart from the Rājamālā incomplete copies of two other old verse narratives of Tripura viz. *Krishṇamālā, Champakvijaya* have also been found a *Krishnamālā* was composed by Ramganga Bisharad at the instance of Rajdharmanikya, the then king in between the period 1785-1804 A.D. Krishṇamāṇikya ruled over Tripura for a long time from 1760-1783 but before the investiture, he had to fight hard against Balaramamāṇikya, taking shelter in the hills and forests of Tripura. These incidents have been vividly depicted in the *Krishṇamālā*. It

---

1 Copper-Plate Inscription of King Vijayamanikya, Dr. D. C. Sarkar, J.A.S.B. Vol. XVII, No. 2.
2 Kirat-Jana-Krti, S. K. Chatterjee, J.O.A.S.B. Letters, Vol. XVI 1950, No. 2.
3 Ibid.

contains a valuable historical account of the period under mention. *Champakvijaya* was composed by a Muslim poet at the instance of Mir Khan, who being a very powerful army personnel helped Champak Roy, the Dewan of Ratnamāṇikya II (1685-1712), the ruler of Tripura to re-instate the king to the throne. Mention of many unheard of fortress of Tripura has been made in Champakvijaya. Besides, the period of events being limited by a decade or so, the account seems to be more dependable compared to other chronicles. Though no mention of date has been made anywhere in the manuscript, on the basis of some other facts, it has been assumed that the chronicle was composed prior to the year 1706.[1]

The late Mahārājās of Tripura are said to have also introduced revenue stamps in Bengali. A study of *Robakaris* or royal proclamations issued by different rulers proves that Bengali as State language of Tripura have had gathered a force and extactness by liberal borrowing of appropriate words from the vocabularies of English, Persian, etc.

Modern period

The modern period in the literary history of Tripura dates back to the time of Mahārājā Birchandramāṇikya who ascended the throne in 1870, a landmark in the history of Tripura. Tripura, a neighbouring State, have had a spiritual contact with Bengal for well over a few centuries and this contact became all the more significant during this period due to Tagore's continued association with the rulers and his benign influence over them.

It may be mentioned that Birchandra was the first ruler in Tripura, who advocated the cause of western education and made an arrangement for English education of the princes. He had also set up a free vernacular school at Agartala to facilitate the spread of education in Tripura. Besides, he made an arrangement for teaching Bengali to the tribals, particularly Kukis, who took inspiration from him in the cultivation of Bengali literature.

The Mahārājā himself a connoisseur of music and author of six books of which four are poetical works namely, *Uchhvas, Akalkusum. Sohag* and *Prem-Marichika*, was a great patron of art and literature.

While giving reply to an address of welcome accorded to the poet

[1] S. Banerjee, *Itihasasrita Bangla Kavita : Katharambha*, p. 28.

by *Kishore Sahitya Samaj*, a literary society, at Agartala on February 27, 1925, Rabindranath spoke eloquently of the qualities of head and heart of the Maharajas of Tripura. Birchandramanikya sent his emissary from Tripura with the specific purpose of communicating to the poet that it was the desire of the Mahārājā to felicitate young Rabindranath as a poet. In the words of Rabindranath, "His discerning eyes could divine an image of the future even in that immature start of my writings and had prompted him to honour me as a poet."[1]

Birchandra's patronage enthused not only members of the royal house and Thakur people, but also common folk to cultivate Bengali literature. Among the members of the royal family mention may be made particularly of Maharajkumari Anangamohini Debi and Mahārajkumār Samarendra Deb Barman, the daughter and son of Birchandramāṇikya. Aangamohini Debi was the author of three books of poems namely, *Kanika, Sokagatha* and *Priti*. Samarendra was the author of six books. The first one *Bharatiya Smriti*, is a historical anthology. The second *Tripurar Smriti* is a book on social and ancient history of Tripura. The third, *Mohammed Sirajuddin Abu Jaffar Bahadur Shah*, consists of some poems of the Mogul emperor Bāhādur Shāh translated from Urdu into Bengali. The fourth book entitled *Jebunissa* is a short sketch. The last but one is the Parsian rendering of his *Tripurar Smriti*. The last one named, *Agar Chithi*, is a travalogue.

Rādhākishoremāṇikya

"Rādhākishoremāṇikya", in the words of Rabindranath, "the son of Birchandra, kept up the stream of loving care that passed into him from his father... To him I was more than a poet — a friend and a brother." Rādhākishoremāṇikya was a great lover of Bengali language and always upheld the convention of conducting official correspondences in Bengali whenever any attempt was made to introduce English in place of Bengali for official purposes.

Of a few cases of financial help which Radhakishore granted to the National Council of Education at Jadavpur and particularly to Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose at the most crying hours and in the face of many odds and limitations proves that the Mahārājā had identified himself with the great causes for which he was ready to sacrifice even his personal comforts. The Mahārājā also extended liberal help and support to the poet's school at Santiniketan. Referring to this act of benevolence, the poet said that for a long time Rādhākishore was the

[1] Tripura's Ties with Tagore, Directorate of Education, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala, 1969, p. 17.

only person among his countrymen to give it regular support.[1] The Mahārājā had sanctioned annual grants and sent students from Tripura on scholarships to Santiniketan.

Birendrakishoremāṇikya

Birendrakishoremāṇikya, the worthy descendant of Rādhākishore, was also a patron of art and literature and had also a high regard for Rabindranath. He not only continued the annual grant sanctioned by his father to Santiniketan but in addition to it, sanctioned an ad-hoc grant for the construction of a hospital over there.

Birbikramkishoremāṇikya

Birendrakishore was succeeded by Birbikramkishoremāṇikya who took great interest in upholding the tradition of literary patronage in the State The Mahārājā himself wrote a historical drama *'Jayabati'* which was staged at Agartala. He composed many songs but a few of his poems and songs were collected in printed form. On the occasion of 80th birthday of Tagore, the Maharaja held a special *Darbar* and conferred the honorific title *Bharat-Bhaskar* to the poet.

Among the literary persons mention may be made of the following: Kailash Chandra Singha wrote *Rājamālā* in prose. It contains a history of Tripura, Cachar and Noakhali. It was published from Comilla. Thākur Mahim Chandra Deb Barman wrote a number of articles on Native States in different journals and these were collected and printed in a book by his son. He also wrote a booklet on *Ria* i.e. breast-cover of the tribal woman. Pyari Mohan Deb Barman wrote a book entitled *Unokoti Tirtha*, Kailash Chandra Roy wrote a book of poems on Tripura entitled *Tripurar Rahasyatatwa*. It was published perhaps in the year 1889. Dr. Sambhu Chandra Mukherjee, the renowned editor of *Mukherjee's Magazine* and author of *Reis* and *Rayyet*, was appointed Minister of Tripura during the rule of Birchandramanikya. In the year 1887 he published a book named *Travels in Bengal: Calcutta to Independent Tipperah*. The book was a sort of diary and bears testimony of some first hand information about the then social and political condition of this princely State. Sital Chandra Chakravorty was the author of five books in Bengali viz. *Tripurar Prachin Itihas-O-Patikara-Meherkul* (ancient history of Tripura and Patikara-Meherkul), *Dharma Soroshi*, *Adi-O-Arya Bhumi*, *Hindur Bhougalik Jnan* and *Mystery of the Bible*. Brojendra Chandra Dutta wrote handbook on Udaipur Division entitled

[1] Reply to an address of welcome given to the poet by Kishore Sahitya Samaj at Agartala on Falgoon 12, 1332 B.S.

Udaipur Bibaran or Thirty years in Tripura State. It is an authoritative account of Udaipur and perhaps the first work in the line of gazetteers. Pandit Kaliprasanna Sen wrote *Panch Manikya*, a biography of the five rulers of Tripura. Priyanath Banerjee wrote some religious books and composed some lyrics viz. *Sree Sree Krishna Janma Lila*, *Bhramar Gitika* and *Bilap Gitika*. Mohit Kumar Banerjee wrote a religious book entitled *Arghya*. Tripur Chandra Sen, a local pleader wrote three books viz. *Gojen Lama*, *Sristi Pathyanam* transition in Tripura and edited *Tripura-Buranji*. Birendranath Bhattacharyay wrote a book of poems on Tripura entitled *Tripuri*. The book was published in West Bengal in 1935. Dr. Sarat Kumar Dutta compiled his articles on sleep in a book entitled *Nidra*. Anil Krishna Thakur published *Nad-lipi*, the first volume of his works on music. Apurba Chandra Bhattacharyay, editor of *Chunta Prakash*, a Bengali journal, wrote *Progressive Tripura*, a chronological history of Tripura House in English in 1930. Pandit Babudhan Singha of Kamalpur wrote two pamphlets on the *Vishnupuri* community of the Manipuris. Bhupendranath Chakraborty made an abridged edition of the Rājamālā for the children. Sitikantha Sen wrote a number of books of which special mention may be made of *Patheo*, a book on religious thoughts. Mohit Purakayestha wrote *Tripurar Banglabhasa-O-Sahitya*, a book on Bengali language and literature of Tripura.

Tripuri, being a dialect, had no scripts of its own. Some books, however, have been published in Bengali script for teaching this dialect. *Kak-Barakma*, a grammar on Tripuri was first published by Thakur Radhamohan Deb Barman a long ago. Recently, it has been re-printed by the Education Directorate. The Education Directorate has also published abridged Tripuri version of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* and some Tripuri folk tales. There is also another Tripuri grammar written by Sudhir Krishna Deb Barman. The Directorate of Education has also published Tripuri primers and an Anglo-Tripuri Dictionary compiled by Ajit Bandhu Deb Barman.

Music

Maharaja Dhanyamāṇikya is said to have brought teachers from Mithila[1] for the spread of music.

Most of the modern members of the ruling family of Tripura excelled in the art of singing and playing musical instruments. Though Tripura has not developed any particular style (*gharana*) of vocal

[1] K. C. Singha, Op. cit, p. 57.

music, yet it cultivated the famous *gharanas* demonstrated by famous singers of India who visited Agartala from time to time. Mahārājā Birchandramāṇikya, who composed many songs, was an expert musician himself. Rabindranath Tagore mentioned that Birchandra was a great connoisseur of music.[1] Many famous singers and musicians of both the sexes used to assemble at his court. Jadu Bhatta, the famous stylist of Bankura in *Marga Sangeet* (*Dhrupad*), is said to have come to Agartala from the court of Raja Digambar Mitra of Calcutta and adorned the court of Maharaja Birchandra, who is reported to have given him the title *Tan Raj*. Obviously, the influence of this great singer on the local singers was very great but strangely enough no notation made by him at Agartala is now found. Among many others who graced the musical soirees arranged by the Maharaja mention may be made of Ostad Kasemali Khan, the famous musician of Lucknow (Rudrabin player) and his wife; Haider Khan of Gowaliar (Esraj player), Nissad Hussain of Uttar Pradesh (Setar and Bin player), Panchanan Mitra of Chandernagar, West Bengal, (Pakhowaj player), Khetramohan Basu (*Dhrupadia*), Keshab Chandra Mittra of Calcutta (Pakhowaj player)) Bholanath Chakraborthy (Kheyal and Tappa singer), Nabin Chandra Goswami (Setar player), Harish Chandra Bardhan (Violin player), Protap Chandra Mukherjee (*Monoharshahi Kirtan* singer), Hun-sur-Ostad of Dacca (*Tabla* player), Imam Baiji of Rampur (Songster), Chanda Baiji of Benaras (Songster), Ostad Kulandar Box of Kashmir and many others. The Maharaja used to organise musical functions on the occasions of *Holi*, *Jhulan*, *Rasa* and Spring Festival and thus the cultivation of music and song received great patronage during his time.

The tradition created by Mahārājā Birchandra was upheld by his descendants like Rādhākishore, Birendrakishore and Birbikramkishore. The Spring Festival was observed even upto the time of Birendrakishoremāṇikya. Songs were used to be composed by expert singers like Anil Thakur, Lebu Karta, Arun Karta, etc. on the occasion of *Holi* and the youngmen used to go round the town singing those songs. The famous singer Kumar Sachin Deb Barman, alias Sachin Karta, one of the princes, is also reported to have given notation to such *Fagua* Songs.

Mahārājā Birendrakishore, himself an expert bamboo flute player, recorded some of his playings but he was so shy of his achievements that he did not allow the Gramophone Company to sell his records inspite of their requests. The flute made of *Muli* bamboo of Tripura

[1] Tripura's Ties with Tagore, Op. cit. p. 17.

was very famous. Many members of the royal family and Thākur family were also expert in flute playing. Many musicians of Agartala attained perfection in the art of *Esraj* or *Tabla* playing and helped in creating a local tradition.

Among the members of the royal family Mahārājkumār Samarendrachandra, Tripurendrachandra, Mahendrachandra, Brajabehari achieved great success in music. Among the outsiders the names of Ramchandra Thākur, Prasanna Thākur, Ram Govind Thākur, Ramkanai Seal and Ramdhan Seal (Violin player), Maniklal Goswami, Amar Chakraborty, Thakur Anil Krishna Deb Barman, Rohini Joria, Suresh Krishna Deb Barman are some of the well-known singers and musicians. Thakur Anil Krishna Deb Barman, one of the most talented musicians of Tripura, organised a ballet on *Radha-Krishna-Lila* which became very popular. He also organised Tripura Orchestra party with local articles. Mahārājā Birbikramkishore, not so known as a patron of music like his predecessors, also used to spend a few hours after dinner over the orchestra or setar played by Anilkrishna. Anil Thakur founded a music school which is still functioning as *Anil Sangeet Vidyalaya*. There are some other musical institutions viz., *Sangeet Bharati, Nad-Pith,* etc. which are teaching classical music, vocal as well as instrumental.

Tribal Song and Musical Instruments

The tribals are very fond of music. They sing with the accompaniment of their own improvised musical instruments viz., *Sarinda, Chougpreng*, and *Sumu* (flute) etc. made of bamboo and strings. The songs are mostly related to their day's work and different songs are sung on different occasions viz. before and after setting fire to *Jhoom*, at the time of guarding their *Jhoom* produces etc. The latter type of songs are highly interesting. These songs called *Baltaima* are in the form of questions and replies and resembles Bengali love narratives. They have also festival song, marriage song and songs associated with other rituals.

Dancing

Dancing in Tripura has always been in complimentary lines with music and it had always been a very popular aspect of cultural functions with the people of Tripura, irrespective of community. We have already noticed that the rulers of Tripura encouraged dancing with music and female dancers who enjoyed liberal patronage from them.

The rulers used to engage dance-tutor for the members of the royal family. Rabindranath, during his visit to Agartala, had been much impressed to see the Manipuri dance and at his requests Mahārājā Birbikramkishore had sent Basanta Singha (tutor of royal family) to Santiniketan for coaching the artists selected for the dance-drama *Chitrangada*.

Among the various communities, the Manipuris have a great contribution to the field of music and dancing and it was prevalent in Tripura in its pure form for a long time. The Manipuris of Radhanagar at Agartala have had been organising dancing programmes on the occasion of *Rash* Festival. Besides, all Vaishnab festivals are associated with a programme of joint dance by both male and female members of this community.

Dancing is vitally connected with the tribal life in Tripura. They dance and sing not only in joy but also in sorrow. They dance and sing when they work or observe some rituals and festivals. The *Garia* dance is very popular among the Tripuris and Reangs. It is arranged on the occasion of *Garia* festival and young men and women dance in a body. The Reangs dance at the time of observing post-funeral rituals.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH

Short History

The development of Medical and Public Health activities in Tripura is rather late. The reasons are more than one. Difficult communications in the State and the general ignorance of the people along with age-old social customs and prejudices in addition to the lack of proper incentive from the rulers staged unsurmountable handicaps towards improvement of health condition of the people and it remained such for a pretty long time. The people adopted and relied more on their own crude and unscientific mode of treatment of ailments.

A hospital was opened at Agartala in May, 1873 and the total number of outdoor patients treated in the hospital during the year 1873-74 was 3,034. There was also a dispensary at Kailasahar, for which subscriptions were raised locally, besides the monthly aid of Rs. 15/- extended by the then ruler. A native doctor was in charge of the dispensary at a monthly salary of Rs. 20/-. But nothing spectacular is heard about the practice of medical ethics and science of healing in the State of Tripura till the last century and a half when the modern scientific treatment got its way during the rule of Maharaja Birchandramanikya Deb Barma.

During his rule the capital was established at Old Agartala, five miles away from the present headquarters and a small allopathic dispensary was opened there under the charge of a native doctor. But the public in general did not get much benefit of its services.

The administration of medical relief to the distant interior places had to be done either on elephants or on ponies, being the only means of transport and conveyance in hilly parts of the State. The capital town of Agartala was then a hot-bed of Malaria, epidemics of cholera and other diseases and the existing small indoor hospital with its out-door branch accommodated in a small hut, could not cope with the spread of these diseases as the population was also increasing. The capital was shifted to its present headquarters during the rule of Maharaja Radhakishoremanikya, who was very keen to alleviate the sufferings

of his people in various ways. The lack of proper medical relief to the people attracted his special care.

With a view to creating a suitable memorial to the benevolent ruler Queen Victoria, the Government of India approached the native rulers for donations therefor. Maharaja Radhakishore rose to the occasion and in response to that appeal informed the Government of India that he would himself erect a grand memorial in his State in the name of the illustrious Queen. The spacious beautiful structure which was almost complete for the State administration, was occupied forthwith and turned into a hospital over-night. This hospital was named the Victoria Memorial Hospital by the Maharaja in commemoration of the benevolent rule of Queen Victoria and thus the only general hospital in the State came into being in the year 1904.

The hospital was placed under the charge of an efficient Administrator and qualified staff. A Medical Institute was also opened in the year 1910-11 which was named the King Edward Medical Institute in commemoration of the King. The school owned spacious class-rooms and hostel to the munificence of the Maharani. This institute was abolished with the close of the year 1914-15 in view of the prevailing Government rules. With the growth of divisional and sub-divisional towns, charitable out-door dispensaries were opened in each divisional headquarters, besides one attached to the V. M. Hospital. There were altogether ten charitable dispensaries and hospitals maintained by the State in the year 1905-06, of which two were in Sadar Division, two in Kailashahar Division and one at the headquarters of the other five Divisions. The increasing number of out-door patients and surgical operations performed during the same year indicate the increasing popularity of these medical institutions by and by. During the year 1905-06, Maharani Tulsibati Mahadevi generously added a wing to the V. M. Hospital at her own expense for the exclusive use of female patients. The new ward was provided with ten beds and arrangements had also been made for separate accommodation for the Hindus and the Muslims. The ward was named the Tulsibati Female Ward after her name.

Thus within a span of fifty years since the creation of the new capital at Agartala as many as twentythree dispensaries were opened. Of these, one discontinued to function after some time. Besides the allopathic, arrangements were also made to develop Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and some other indigenous systems of medicine. Homeopathic dispensaries were maintained by the State. The Kavirajas appointed by the State treated the public in the dispesaries owned by themselves. It is learnt that a Hakim was also practising in Unani system of medicine

in the court of Birchandramanikya while the capital was at Old Agartala. Among other indigenous systems, patronage of Chandsi may also be mentioned.

There were practically no public health activities in the State prior to its merger with the Indian Union. The public health activities consisted of only giving vaccinations against Cholera and Small-pox by temporarily appointed season vaccinators and spraying of D.D.T. in some areas of the capital headquarters. There were no anti-malarial activities, notwithstanding the fact that malaria was endemic in many parts of the State. There were also no arrangements of water supplies, though there was acute shortage of drinking water in every part of the State. The facilities for hospitalization were also very limited. The Victoria Memorial Hospital had only thirtyeight regular beds and twelve beds for infectious diseases in temporary huts, thus there was provision of one bed for every 12,780 of the population.

Gradual improvement in the sphere of public health and further expansion of medical facilities have been marked since the integration of the State with the Indian Union. The whole medical and public health administration was re-organised particularly keeping in view the problem of imparting medical relief to its rural masses.

First Five Year Plan Period

During the First Five Year Plan period services of Victoria Memorial Hospital considerably expanded and its bed strength increased to one hundred fortythree. The number of dispensaries was raised to sixtynine in all. Besides, three Sub-divisional Hospitals having twenty beds each and one Primary Health Centre having six beds only were started during the same period.

Second Plan Period

The Second Plan envisaged expansion of the Victoria Memorial Hospital, construction of a fifty-bed T. B. Ward and a Leprosy Clinic, opening of the Principal Laboratory and a Chest Clinic at Victoria Memorial Hospital, opening of six twenty-bed hospitals in sub-divisional towns, upgrading of seventeen dispensaries into six-bed Primary Health Centres and several other schemes such as, improvement of rural sanitation and supply of drinking water in rural areas, education and training of medical and ancillary health personnel, continuance of B.C.G. Vaccination Programme and Malaria Eradication Programme etc.

TABLE — I

	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63 V.M.	1962-63 G.B.	1963-64 V.M.	1963-64 G.B.	1964-65 V.M.	1964-65 G.B.	1965-66 V.M.	1965-66 G.B.
Total number of Indoor patients treated	86,113	92,647	92,726	88,130	32,146	94,668	48,718	91,201	81,419	56,800	1,30,219
Total number of outdoor patients treated	1,44,721	1,90,676	1,99,033	2,14,723	—	2,89,715	—	2,90,288	6,917	2,24,459	1,43 415
1. *Dental Clinic.*											
Number of patients treated	13,458	14,667	15,702	15,246	—	16,466	—	16,519	—	12,497	—
Daily average	42.78	47.77	51.15	49.7	—	53.6	—	53.8	—	40.7	—
2. *Eye clinic.*											
Number of patients treated	12,411	17,921	21,904	20,990	—	22,210	—	22,527	—	17,841	—
Daily average	40.0	58.37	71.49	68.4	—	72.3	—	73.37	—	58.1	—
3. *Skin clinic.*											
Number of patients treated	8,219	11,251	41,328	15,853	—	17,586	—	21,205	—	28,047	—
Daily average	26.7	36.64	49.76	57.6	—	59.3	—	69.0	—	91.4	—
4. *Veneral Disease clinic.*											
Number of patients treated	1,371	12,101	922	1,098	—	2,848	—	4,349	—	4,820	—
Daily average	4.4	6.84	3	3.58	—	9.27	—	14.16	—	15.7	—
5. *Leprosy clinic.*											
No. of patient treated	1,006	1,014	1,430	1,640	—	1,772	—	1,188	—	1,213	—
Daily average	3.2	3.53	4.44	5.34	—	5.77	—	3.87	—	13.95	—
No. of operation conducted											
Major —	327	398	430	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,388	—
Minor —	587	502	593	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.822	—
6. *Chest clinic.*											
No. of patients treated	—	—	12,247	16,263	—	12,441	—	14,207	—	21,222	—
Daily average	—	—	39.89	53	—	59	—	49	—	69.6	—

In view of the influx of refugees and increase of population, the Victoria Memorial Hospital was considered insufficient to cope with the increasing demand for medical relief and the establishment of a new twohundred fifty-bed hospital at Kunjaban area was decided upon. The construction work, started in 1958-59, had to be carried over to the Third Plan period.

The Victoria Memorial Hospital

The Victoria Memorial Hospital is now fully equipped with technical staff including specialists viz. Surgeons, Physicians, Gynaecologist, Dermatologist, T. B. Specialist, Anaesthecist, Pediatrics, Opthalmologist and an Officer qualified in tropical diseases. All the doctors have undergone Post-Graduate training at Government expense.

The Superintendent of Hospital is assisted by one Bacteriologists, one Resident Physician and other Medical Officers including one lady doctor besides one Opthalmic Surgeon, and one Radiologist in running the hospital. The hospital is also provided with staff nurses, midwives, trained dhais, and auxiliary nurses etc. There were no nursing services in the hospital previously. The Government of India sanctioned eight junior nurses and one staff for the hospital (including three nurses for the Infectious Diseases Ward).

The total bed strength of the hospital is only one hundred forty three but on an average two hundred fortyone indoor patients are treated in the hospital per day. The cases treated in different branches of the hospital during the period from 1959-60 to 1961-62 were as follows:—

A temporary Chest Clinic was opened in the V. M. Hospital in the year 1959 and the construction of a permanent Chest Clinic has been completed.

A fifty-bed T. B. Ward was under construction and a sum of Rs. 1 lakh was provided in the budget for 1961-62. Refugee T. B. patients continued to receive treatment outside the territory against thirtytwo-bed reserved by the administration for this purpose in different sanatoria and hospitals outside the territory.

A temporary T. B. Chest Clinic started in the Victoria Memorial Hospital in the year 1959 for providing necessary facilities for diognosis and outdoor treatment free of cost to the T. B. patients is continuing its work.

Work under Tripura Territorial Council

After the formation of Tripura Territorial Council in 1957 the administration of Medical and Public Health Department excluding the headquarters hospitals was handed over to the Council by the Tripura Administration in 1958-59.

The Principal Officer, Health Services, became the Head of the Medical and Public Health Department of the Council and medical services were being rendered throughout the territory through Sub-divisional Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, State Dispensaries, Mobile Dispensaries and itinerant teams.

The Principal Officer, Health Services, was assisted by one Health Officer, one Malaria Officer, one B.C.G. Team Leader, one Civil Assistant Surgeon, Grade-I in-charge of Medical Stores and three School Health Officers. With the enforcement of the Union Territory Act, 1963 the Medical and Public Health Organisation of the Tripura Territorial Council was integrated with the Medical and Public Health Department of the Government of Tripura and the Director of Health Services became the Head of the Office.

The Council started its work of medical services with four Sub-divisional Hospitals in the sub-divisional headquarters at Kailasahar, Khowai, Udaipur, Dharmanagar, each having a strength of twenty beds. One more Sub-divisional Hospital with twenty beds was opened at Bilonia during the year 1959-60.

Besides, there were six Primary Health Centres, ninetythree Allopathic Dispensaries (outdoor), five Homeopathic Dispensaries (outdoor) one Ayurvedic Dispensary, two itinerant teams, four mobile Medical Units and one Leprosy Unit.

Sub-divisional Hospitals

The number of Sub-divisional Hospitals rose from five to seven during the year 1961-62 with the addition of two more twenty-bed hospitals at Kamalpur and Sabrum. In the next year one twenty-bed and one ten-bed hospital were opened at Melaghar and Amarpur respectively. The number of beds of three hospitals were also increased from twenty to thirty. Besides, expansion work of one hospital at Dharmanagar had been undertaken during the year 1963-64.

One X-Ray Unit has been installed at Kaliasahar under the Third Plan Programme.

The construction of staff quarters and other minor works continued during the last two years of the Third Plan.

Primary Health Centres

The Council started its work of rural health services with six Primary Health Centres at Jirania, Mohanpur, Bishalgarh, Teliamura, Fatikroy and Panisagar, of which five were six bedded and one at Jirania was ten bedded. The construction of four more six bedded Centres at Manubazar, Kulai, Narsingarh and Takerjala was completed during the year 1960-61. But due to shortage of technical staff, these centres were formally opened during the next year, thus raising the total number of Primary Health Centres to twelve, of which three are of ten beds and nine are of six beds. Expansion work of the health centres at Mohanpur, Teliamura and Bishalgarh was completed. Besides, construction of three more Health Centres taken up during the year was nearing completion.

The Third Plan envisaged opening of fifteen new Primary Health Centres in each of the fifteen Community Development Blocks of this territory.

Each Primary Health Centre has three sub-centres under the charge of a trained Dhai or Assistant Nurse-cum-Midwife who gives domicillary assistance in ante-natal, natal and post-natal cases. The second Medical Officer attached to each Primary Health Centre supervises all such sub-centres and one Sanitary Inspector looks after environmental sanitation and takes preventive measures and supervises the work of Sanitary Assistants posted within the jurisdiction of respective Primary Health Centres.

Dispensaries

There were 59 Allopathic Dispensaries under the administration of the Tripura Territorial Council. The number had been increased to 85 as a result of transfer of 23 Dispensaries proviously under the Rehabilitation Department and the opening of 3 new Dispensaries during the year 1959-60. The number of dispensaries were 91 in 1963, 92 in 1964 and 94 in 1965 and 100 in the year 1966. One out-door Dispensary is attached to each Hospital and Primary Health Centre. Each of these Dispensaries is staffed with one Medical Officer, one Compounder and one Class IV staff. All these Dispensaries are kept open both in the morning and evening.

Mobile Units

With a view to render medical relief to the people of remote areas four Mobile Medical Dispensaries are functioning in different localities and rendering both curative and preventive services. Each Unit is under the charge of a Medical Officer who is assisted by one Compounder, one Attendant and one Driver for the mobile van. Besides, there are two Mobile Eye-units.

There are also two itinerant teams engaged in tribal areas of the hilly region of this territory, one in southern zone and the other in northern zone. These teams are to survey the prevalence of diseases among the tribals and to arouse health consciousness among them and also to give medical assistance as and when needed.

There is a Leprosy Unit under the charge of a Civil Assistant Surgeon, Grade-II. The main function of this Unit is to survey the incidence of the disease and also to distribute medicine to the lepers. Upto the year 1960-61 this Unit examined, 1,90,680 cases out of which 589 cases were detected.

There are also three units of School Health Services functioning in the Central, North and Sourth Zone of the territory.

Laboratories

There are one Principal Public Health Laboratory at Agartala and two Regional Laboratories — one at Udaipur and the other at Kailashahar, each under the charge of a Medical Graduate, trained in the subject.

Medical Section of the Rehabilitation Department

The Medical Section of the Relief & Rehabilitation Department was transferred to the Tripura Territorial Council on 1st September, 1959. As stated earlier, 23 Dispensaries were in existence at the time of transfer and the remaining 16 sanctioned by the R. R. Department had been opened afterwards. The Central Medical Store of the R. R. Department was also transferred on the same date.

Children's Hospital

During the year 1950, the International Committee of the Red Cross opened a Children Hospital at the capital headquarters to take care of

the displaced children patients. The hospital with accommodation of 40 beds rendered yeomen services to the suffering people. It was taken over by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department when the delegates of the Society left the place. Ultimately it came under the control of the Tripura Administration and was annexed to the Victoria Memorial Hospital.

Missionary Hospital

There is also a small hospital with 12 beds at Arundhatinagar, Agartala, maintained by the Newzealand Baptist Mission. The Mission also maintains 4 outdoor dispensaries which are functioning in remote places of the State. The Mission receives an annual grant of Rs. 500.00 from the Government of Tripura for this purpose.

Govinda Ballav Hospital

As envisaged in the Third Five Year Plan, a new hospital named Govinda Ballav Hospital at Kunjaban, Agartala was opened in October, 1961. The hospital was started with only 80 beds. Eighty more beds were provided in the year 1962-63 and 90 more in the year 1963-64. Thus the hospital has fulfilled its target bed-strength of 250.

Blood Bank

One Blood Bank has been opened in this hospital during the year 1965.

Homeopathic Dispensaries

There are five Homeopathic Dispensaries situated at Agartala, Model Village, Arundhatinagar (Sadar), Kakraban (Udaipur) and Jolaibari (Bilonia). The State Homeopath is in-charge of the Homeopathic Dispensary at Agartala. During the days of the Council, he also assisted the Principal Officer, Health Services, in the administration of the Homeopathic Dispensaries of this territory. With the change over his services has been placed under the Medical and Public Health Department.

Ayurvedic Dispensaries

There is one Ayurvedic Dispensary at Agartala under one Kaviraj. The manufacturing of Ayurvedic medicines started on an experimental basis during the year 1959-60, is now regularly arranged locally under

the supervision of the Kaviraj. Besides the normal medical activities, emergency medical activities, emergency medical relief is also arranged as and when necessary to cope with the situation created due to outbreak of epidemics. Supply of medicines including antibiotics to all medical units has considerably been increased in addition to the gifts received from the International Organisations like UNICEF and Red Cross etc.

Treatment for Mental Diseases

The number of beds kept reserved for treatment of non-criminal lunatics from Tripura has been increased from 13 in 1959-60 to 19 in 1961-62.

The table below will give an idea about the progress made in this line.

TABLE — II

Years	No. of patients attended clinics for taking advice		No. of operations made	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1957	—	80	—	4
1958	2	68	2	12
1959	1	79	1	43
1960	—	52	—	41
1961	8	81	8	23
1962	201	1,354	9	23
1963	559	2,426	13	25
1964	NA	NA	NA	NA
1965	NA	NA	NA	NA
1966	1,180	768	137	79

Family Planning

With a view to popularise Family Planning Programme a District Family Planning Bureau has been set up in addition to opening of urban and rural Family Planning Clinics. In 1964 there were 5 urban and 8 rural Family Planning Clinics in the territory. Couples are encouraged to visit these Clinics for taking advice and conventional

contraceptives free of cost. Besides, a drive for sterilization has been launched with the help of all the doctors available throughout the territory. The following table shows the number of persons attending the Clinics for advice and sterilization from 1957 to 1966.

TABLE — III

Years	No. of persons attended the clinics for taking advice		No. of operations made	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1957	—	80	—	4
1958	—	68	—	3
1959	—	78	—	46
1960	—	52	1	20
1961	70	25	6	23
1962	201	1,186	.2	7
1963	578	2,548	16	25
1964	251	1,794	75	54
1965	1,435 (both male & female)		145 (both male & female)	
1966	2,455 (-do-		) 109 (-do-	)

Source:—Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Statistical Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, p. 30.

Education & Training

Besides the existing training course in auxiliary Nurse-cum-Midwifery and Dhai training course for tribal and non-tribal girls, a Senior Nursing Course, and a Lady Health Visitors Course were started at the V. M. Hospital, Agartala, in the year 1962.

Besides, candidates are sponsored for studies and training in M. D. Course, M.B.B.S. Course, Pre-Medical Course, Nursing Course, and such other courses outside the territory every year.

Public Health

The Principal Officer, Health Services, had been the administrative head of this branch since the formation of Tripura Territorial Council. The entire territory was divided into three regions for supervision of Public Health work under the over-all supervision and guidance of the Principal Officer, Health Services. Besides the post of one Health Officer with headquarters at Agartala and jurisdiction over the whole territory in Public Health matter, two posts of Regional Health Officers, one for the Northern Zone comprising the four Sub-divisions of Khowai, Kamalpur, Kailasahar and Dharmanagar and another for the Southern Zone comprising the five Sub-divisions of Sonamura, Udaipur, Amarpur, Bilonia and Sabrum were created. With the enforcement of the Union Territories Act, 1963, the Public Health branch of the Tripura Territorial Council was integrated with the Medical Department of the Government of Tripura with effect from July 1, 1963.

There are 14 Sanitary Inspectors, of whom 10 are posted in 10 sub-divisional headquarters and the remaining 4 are attached to 4 Primary Health Centres. They are assisted by 37 Health Assistants and 16 Vaccinators are also appointed each year during the epidemic seasons (from November to February) for mass inocculation and vaccination. They work under the supervision of one Inspector of Vaccination. The collection of vital statistics and looking after the enviornmental sanitation also fall under the purview of this organisation.

The School Health Services are functioning in the Central, North and South Zones. Each unit is functioning under one Civil Assistant Surgeon, Grade—I. Under the scheme some special medical facilities including X-Ray have been provided for the treatment of school children.

Intensive spraying operation of insecticides in every human habitation and cattle-shed continued during the period.

B.C.G. Programme

The B. C. G. Programme is also being continued according to the Plan programme. The number of persons who were tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated during the period from 1959 to 1966 were as follows:—

TABLE — IV

	No. of persons Tuberculin tested	No. of persons B.C.G. vaccinated
1959	47,661	17,605
1960	50,285	13,865
1961	31,188	10,347
1962	24,443	8,000
1963	46,386	17,440
1964	25,843	13,479
1965	24,244	13,620
1966	Direct vaccinated	24,367

Small-pox Eradication

For centuries Small-pox has been a great public health menace in this territory. Small-pox has one of the major causes of blindness in India. Though vaccination was discovered more than a century ago and legislation was passed, the disease continued to take a great toll of human life. Many Western countries have successfully eradicated or efficiently controlled the Small-pox in their countries with the help of regular vaccination programme. Inspired by this, World Health Organisation had proposed to launch a world-wide programme to completely eradicate Small-pox. Thus National Small-pox Eradication Programme was started in India after some Pilot Projects in selected places. This programme was started during 1962 with the aim to completely vaccinate the entire population in the country within two to three years and to follow up regular primary vaccination and re-vaccination under maintenance programme.

Tripura also joined in this great adventure along with the rest of the country and Small-pox Eradication Programme was started during September, 1962 with the following staff:—

1. Supervising Medical Officer	—	1
2. Para Medical Assistant	—	1
3. Sanitary Inspector	—	3
4. Enumerator	—	6
5. Vaccinator	—	30

Inspite of many difficulties like poor communication, continued influx of refugees from Bangladesh and refusal by tribal population, the Programme had made considerable progress and had covered a large percentage of the population. A total of 1,99,998 Primary and 9,91,169 re-vaccination was done from September, 1962 to March, 1965.

Rural Sanitation

In accordance with the scheme of distribution of squatting slabs among the ruralfolk for the construction of Dug-well type of latrine for safe disposal of night-soil in the villages, the construction of 800 squatting plates was completed in 1961-62 and another 800 in 1963-64.

Rural Water Supply

Besides the scheme of rural water supply by the Engineering Department, rural water supply under Tribal Welfare Scheme had been transferred to the Council and accordingly tube-wells and masonry wells were constructed in different rural areas under the Second Five-Year Plan. Under the Urban Water Supply Scheme preliminaries have been completed for providing pure drinking water in four sub-divisional towns during 1965-66.

Leprosy

As no full health survey work was conducted in the past, the general health condition of the people, specially living in the hill areas of the State, could not be assessed accurately. A small sample Leprosy survey was carried out in 1933 under the auspices of 'Hind Kustha Nivaran Sangha', Bengal Branch. Obviously this survey was limited to some parts of the capital town of Agartala and a Sub-divisional town Khowai. The report showed that only 59 cases were detected. It is also gathered from other reliable sources that Leprosy was prevalent to a limited extent amongst certain hill tribes and the figure was negligible.

The total number of new and old Leprosy cases treated at the Leprosy Clinic of the V. M. Hospital is shown in the table below:—

1949	106 with 5 new cases.
1950	151 with 5 new cases.
1951	190 with 7 new cases.

But it will be evident from the table below that the number of Leprosy patients gradually increased at a later stage.

TABLE — V

No. of patients treated

	Old cases	New cases	Total
1959	962	44	1006
1960	1023	48	1071
1961	1339	42	1381
1962	1578	63	1641
1963	1716	56	1772
1964	1151	37	1188
1965	1161	52	1213
1966	985	113	1098

Malaria

The capital town Agartala was at one time notorious for Malaria. There were marshy land all round with thick jungles and with no system of drainage. The condition slightly improved as a result of adoptation of some Anti-Malaria measures. But no planned programme was undertaken in the past in absence of any Malaria survey. It is only recently that a sample survey work in a limited scale was undertaken in March 1952 under the guidance of the Assistant Director, Malaria Institute of India. Extract from the report of the Survey Party is quoted below:—

"Agartala town itself did not seem to be malarious and that there was every evidence to show that the rural areas on the periphery are highly malarious. The incidence is on the increase as one moves away from the town to the north or the east. Evidence of high incidence of malaria is determined by the spleen and parasite survey in view of the malarigenic factors existent in the State, general health and poverty of the people. It is essential that adequate malaria control measures should be taken up at an early date. Hyper-epidemic conditions were noted in the Tea Estates surveyed".

With regard to the recommendation of the Malaria Survey Party, arrangements for malaria control measures were adopted in the State

according to the scheme advocated by the Assistant Director, Malaria Institute of India, and subsequently National Malaria Eradication Programme was introduced in this territory.

The work on National Malaria Eradication Programme was undertaken under the direction of the Government of India and was extended throughout the territory. As Tripura is one of the twentyfive problem and difficult area units, it was decided to continue spraying here without surveillance till 1964-65 to avoid risk of infiltration of malaria from adjoining countries where there was either no eradication programme operating yet or the programme had been started recently.

The following table will show the incidence of Malaria during the period under review:—

TABLE—VI

	Treated	Deaths (in-door)
1958	32,342	19
1959	36,107	21
1960	34,501	9
1961	17,082	3
1962	13,232	11
1963	5,784	8
1964	5,171	17
1965	258	1
1966	504	3

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965, Statistical Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, p. 25.

Kala-azar

About four decades ago the disease caused a havoc among the rural populace of the State. The spread of the disease was checked by adopting special measures such as appointment of special staff who carried out survey work at the headquarters and adopted vigorous specific treatment of the disease. After the strenuous attempts for several years, the Kala-azar cases have been reduced to a negligible figure. Besides the V. M. Hospital, there were Kala-azar treatment centres attached to the dispensaries in *two divisional headquarters*. The number of cases treated both new and old during the years were as follows:—

TABLE—VII

1949	66	1962	20	(new cases)
1950	73	1963	29	„
1951	93	1964	31	„
1952-61	N.A.	1965	9	„
		1966	12	„

Tuberculosis

No data about the prevalence of T.B. was collected in the past but from the reports available in the hospital there is ground to suspect that the disease had been increasing in the rural and urban areas as well. As there was an arrangement only for free, clinical examinations, T.B. patients were usually sent to different sanatorium and hospitals outside the State.

One T.B. Ward has been opened in the G. B. Hospital during the year 1963-64.

TABLE—VIII

	Tubercle of the lungs		Other Tubercular diseases	
	Treated	Deaths	Treated	Deaths
1958	560	5	23	—
1959	642	9	71	—
1960	284	2	1,638	1
1961	490	18	32	—
1962	451	23	47	3
1963	807	32	261	6
1964	944	52	205	4
1965	424	46	22	1
1966	572	45	11	10

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965—p. 26.

Other Diseases

It is not possible to assess accurately the prevalence of other diseases for want of necessary data, but so far known, it appears that a large number of people suffer from disturbances of digestive system and other diseases of the ailmentary canal. The main cause of infection is generally attributed to the want of supply of pure drinking water. The prevalence of the incidence of the disease is known as under.

TABLE—IX

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Diarrhoea	29,902	17,011	51,017	—	—
Dysentery	40,318	42,416	74,255	72,192	76,273
Dyspepsia	13,686	8,945	18,290	—	—

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, '65—Pp. 25 and 27.

Among other diseases the Rheumatism diseases of the nervous system, animal parasities and other diseases are to be mentioned. The following table will give an idea about the number of patients suffering from such diseases in the State during the period under review:—

TABLE—X

	Rheumatism	Diseases of Nervous system	Animal Parasitics	Syphilis Pry. & Sec.	All other diseases of lever excluding abscess
1958	10,731	5,962	334	179	2,250
1959	17,308	8,975	180	130	4,687
1960	19,746	13,430	1,006	171	4,804
1961	25,188	10,547	521	119	6,188
1962	26,238	11,142	659	184	6,147
1963	20,927	13,169	532	186	2,336
1964	33,859	16,132	1,045	261	6,628
1965	31,366	17,334	2,756	1,285	4,076
1966	19,872	17,561	1,104	1,282	1,133

Source: Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965—Pp. 25, 26 and 28.

Epidemics

Seasonal out-break of epidemics sometimes occur in more or less intensity, specially in rural areas where people are not so health-conscious. Unhygienic living condition and contamination of drinking water, sometimes the only source of drinking water available, are the main factors for the spread of the diseases. Epidemics also occur during the occasion of annual fair or festival.

During the early months of 1950, there was a great influx of refugees in this territory from Bangladesh. A severe epidemic broke out at Agartala and in some other places. The administration had to face the situation with its limited resources. However, special measures like mass inocculation and reservation of tanks for providing pure drinking water and various other sanitary measures were adopted and the situation was brought under control within a short time. There was also an out-break of small-pox in moderate intensity in rural areas under Khowai and Kamalpur Divisions in 1952. The spread of the disease was checked by taking immediate preventive measures.

An account of epidemic diseases and inoculation and vaccination work during the period 1958 to 1962 were as follows:—

TABLE — XI

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Total No. of attacks from Cholera	24	7	51	—	2	—	—	—	—
Total No. of deaths from Cholera (in-door)	1	—	1	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total No. of attacks from Small-pox	99	18	2	16	13	—	—	104	40
Total No. of deaths from Small-pox (in-door)	14	1	1	1	—	—	—	29	20
Total No. of A/C inoculation	67400	54333	91873	47103	83458	240904	383591	245683	247003
Total No. of vaccination	425096	392775	393613	322246	570547	367454	263513	186603	113230

Vital Statistics

There was no arrangement for systematic maintenance of vital statistics in the past and the figures enumerated were mainly collected in the general hospital. However, statistics as are available are given below:—

TABLE—XII

	Population	Birth	Death
1911	2,29,613 *	1,259	1,332
1915-16	2,29,613	1,144	1,419
1925-26	3,04,437	2,361	2,274
1931	3,82,450 *	N.A.	N.A.
1941	5,13,010 *	N.A.	N.A.
1950	—	1,295	2,055
1951	6,39,029 *	851	1,050
1954	—	5,288 ?	2,330
1955	—	1,616	3,155
1956	—	3,376	3,422
1957	—	758	255
1958	—	763	39
1959	—	10,914	2,917
1960	—	4,614	1,188
1961	11,42,005 *	7,227	1,778
1962	—	6,542	1,347
1963	—	7,394	1,738
1964	—	7,864	1,853
1965	—	9,455	2,799
1966	—	8,475	2,595

* Census population.
? The figures are approximate.
N.A. Not available.

CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Labour Welfare

Prior to the Second Five Year Plan period, there was no scheme of development for the welfare of the labour population in Tripura. Provision was first made in the Second Five Year Plan for better amenities for tea-garden labourers. The Labour Officer is the Head of the administrative machinery responsible for the implementation of all labour laws in this territory. He functions in various other capacities, such as Conciliation Officer, Registrar of Trade Unions, Chief Inspector of Plantation, Inspector of Payment of Wages & Minimum Wages Act, Secretary, Evaluation Committee etc. He is assisted by four Labour Inspectors. The Director of Industries also functions as the Chief Inspector of Factories. There is one Labour Inspectorate at Kailāsahar and one Inspector is posted there for better implementation of labour laws, particularly those relating to tea plantation labour at Kailasahar and Dharmanagar Sub-divisions.

Administration of Labour Laws

The following Labour Laws are in force in this territory: Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; Plantation Labour Act, 1951; Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Industrial Employment (S.O.) Act, 1946; Bengal Shops & Establishments Act, 1940 as extended to Tripura; Working Journalists Amendment Act, 1961; Motor Transport Works Act, 1961; Factories Act, 1948; Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952; Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948; Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925.

The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, which provides safeguard for old age and sickness insurance, has been enforced to a limited number of industries which can be covered by this Act.

Minimum Wages Act

Under this Act, minimum wages had first been fixed in tea and agriculture industries on 31st March, 1952 and 30th December, 1953

and subsequently revised on 16th November, 1955 and 26th September, 1961 respectively. In the case of bidi industries minimum wages have been fixed on 31st December, 1952.

Employees' Provident Fund Scheme

The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme has been introduced in tea industry, cinemas, rice and oil mills, confectioneries (Biscuit), transport agencies, saw mills, automobile service and repairing shops, tobacco manufacture and soap and chemical industries.

The workers derive benefit of education and get medical help as provided in the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and Factories Act, 1948.

The employers, only in three cases, have donated lands for construction of Labour Welfare Centres by the Administration.

Welfare Centres

The object of the scheme of Labour Welfare Centre is to offer recreational, educational and vocational facilities (such as arrangement of indoor and outdoor games, sewing, knitting, basket making etc.) to the tea plantation labourers. It aims at removing the prevailing social vices by helping them to lead a temperate and disciplined life. The first labour welfare centre in Tripurā was opened at Manu Valley Tea Estate in 1957. Two other centres were opened in 1961 at Huplongchara and Rāmdurlavpur Tea Estates respectively. Two more centres were opened in Fatikcharā and Kālācharā in 1966-67. Necessary equipments and materials for recreation and arrangements for adult education and vocational training have been provided in these centres.

Bālwaḍi Centres

Under the *Bālwaḍi* Scheme, amenities for the development of education and improvement of health and sanitation of the children of tea plantation labourers upto the age of six are provided. Two pre-primary schools (*Bālwaḍis*), one at Mantalā Tea Estate and the other at Harendranagar Tea Estate were opened in December, 1961. The average daily attendance of children in each centre is forty. Two more *Bālwaḍis* were opened in 1966-67.

Prohibition

Prohibition Laws have not been enforced in this territory, but attempts are made to make the labourers conscious of the evil effects

of indulgence in liquor and other intoxicants and the benefit of leading a temperate and disciplined life.

Tribal Welfare

The population of Tripurā, according to 1961 census, is 11,42,005 of which 3,60,070 belongs to the scheduled tribes, thus constituting 31.52 per cent of the total population. The members of scheduled tribes belong to as many as 19 different sects of which Tripuri, Reang, Noātiā, Hālām, Jamatia and Chakma form the major ones.

Tribal Advisory Committee

A Tribal Advisory Committee was first constituted in the year 1956 with the Chief Commissioner as Chairman and four officials and four non-officials as members to advice the Administration in conducting welfare activities. The Advisory Committee was reconstituted in 1959 to include two more non-official members. The term of this committee expired in June 1962. This has again been reconstituted on 23rd September, 1963.

Organizational Set-up

The Development Commissioner is in overall charge of the Tribal Welfare Department. The Additional District Magistrate (Development) looks after the Tribal Welfare Programme in addition to his own duties and is assisted by the Cultural Research Officer at headquarters. The whole territory has been divided into four zones and placed under the charge of four Assistant Tribal Welfare Officers. There are ten Inspectors who look after the work at the sub-divisional level. Besides, there are fortythree Supervisors posted in tribal colonies, thirteen *Amins* posted in sub-divisions and one Surveyor posted at the headquarters.

Activities and Progress of Work

Development schemes have had been formulated and implemented under the 3rd Five Year Plan for the welfare of scheduled castes and tribes. The schemes are broadly classified under the following heads: Economic Development, Education, Culture, Health, Housing and other welfare schemes. The schemes under the First Plan included economic rehabilitation of the *Jhoomiās* by settling them on land permanently instead of shifting cultivation, setting up demonstration farms, excavation of tanks and construction of *bundhs* for

irrigation and pisciculture, organization of co-operative societies, cottage industries, distribution of improved seed, pedigree birds and animals etc. During the Second Plan period, in addition to the continuance of the previous schemes, some new schemes viz., land reclamation, terrace cultivation, contour bunding, soil conservation and settlement of non-*jhoomiā* landless tribals were undertaken. Besides, in Amarpur, predominantly a tribal area, one Tribal Development Block was opened. The Third Plan Programme follows broadly the previous pattern, the provisions for this period had been increased to Rs. 135.00 lakhs out of which a sum of Rs. 72.15 lakhs has been spent upto March 1965.

The most notable achievement has been made in the field of settlement of *Jhoomiās*. Out of 27,000 *Jhoomiā* families, about 18,000 have been settled on land as permanent cultivators. Under the scheme of land reclamation and terrace cultivation about 564 acres of land has been reclaimed and six demonstration farms and five model orchards have been established during the first four years of the Third Plan. As many as fifteen Co-operative Societies have been converted into Service Co-operative Societies and similar number of Co-operative Societies have also been formed by the end of the year 1963-64. The Bombay Money Lenders Act has been extended to this territory and a Land Mortgage Bank has been established. Two Development Blocks at Kāñchanpur and Sābrum have been converted into Tribal Development Blocks and two more T.D. Blocks at Chāumanu & Dumburnagar have been started. Besides, Training-cum-Production Centres and Tribal Mahilā Samities have been organised and subsidy for renovation of houses have been provided. About 192 miles of link and internal roads have been constructed in areas predominantly inhabited by the tribals. One Senior Basic School at Bagafa has been converted into an Āśram School for the benefit of the tribals. As many as seventeen boarding houses have been constructed for tribal students and two more big boarding houses, one for boys and another for girls, are being constructed at Āgartalā. Provision has been made in the Third Plan for giving grants to non-official organisations carrying on welfare activities among the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes.

Tripura State Social Welfare Advisory Board

The State unit of the Central Social Welfare Board, named the Tripura State Social Welfare Advisory Board was constituted in October, 1953 with 50 per cent members nominated by the State Government and 50 per cent by the Central Social Welfare Board.

The functions of the Board are:

(i) To act as media for exchange of information between the field and the centre and vice-versa ;

(ii) to invite, receive and recommend to Central Social Welfare Board applications for grants-in-aid from voluntary welfare institutions ;

(iii) to supervise generally and report on the working of the aided institutions ;

(iv) to advise and assist the Central Board in sponsoring new welfare programmes and activities wherever needed within the State ;

(v) to co-ordinate the welfare and development activities undertaken by the different Departments of the State Government ;

(vi) to undertake such other activities as may be conducive to the fulfilment of these objectives.

Activities :—The Board started three welfare extension projects of original pattern at Bāmutiā, Chandrapur and Arundhatinagar, each having five welfare centres catering to the needs of the rural people covering seventyfive villages. The project activities viz. balwadi, maternity services, mahila mandal and craft training to rural women were handed over to voluntary rural organisations on grant-in-aid basis in 1961-62. During the First Plan period, three voluntary welfare organisations received grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 11,000 only.

During the Second Plan period, the activities of the Board expanded and six institutions received grants amounting to Rs. 80,000. The Board started one co-ordinated welfare extension project in Sabrum Stage I Block during this period. The project has got eight multi-purpose centres, managed by a project implementing committee.

Further progress was achieved during the Third Plan period and thirteen institutions received grants amounting to Rs. 1,09,250. The Board also sanctioned grants to two voluntary organisations under the socio-economic programme, one for a handicrafts production unit and the other for a handloom unit. The Board also sanctioned grants for children's Holiday Homes and for condensed courses of education for adult women. During the first year of the Fourth

Plan, the Board organised border area camps for women in order to strengthen the morale of the border people.

The present number of voluntary welfare organisations aided by the Board is sixteen. The expenditure on the co-ordinated welfare extension projects is borne by the Central Social Welfare Board and the State Government through the C.D. Blocks in a fixed ratio.

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND UNION LEGISLATURES

Political Parties

Political parties in the district vis-a-vis the territory are of all-India character and it is not necessary to say much in their case. The three major political parties namely Congress, Communist Party of India and Praja Socialist Party have their affiliations with the all-India bodies and only their branches exist in Tripura. There were two local tribal parties, namely Tripura Tribal Union and Eastern India Tribal Union, who participated in the General Election held in the year 1957. Of these two, the latter only participated in the last General Election. It is a local unrecognized political party. The number of members on roll of these parties is not known, as it keeps changing.

Territorial Council (now Legislative Assembly)

Prior to the introduction of the Government of Union Territory Act, 1963, which came into force on and from July 1, 1963, Tripura was a centrally-administered territory and the legislative authority of this territory vested in the Parliament of India. The Tripura Territorial Council was constituted on August 15, 1957 under the Territorial Council Act, 1956, and Territorial Councils (Election of Members) Rules, 1957. In the General Elections of 1957, there were, for the Tripura Territorial Council, 30 seats in the Council from which 30 members in all were to be elected. The Parliamentary Constituency in Tripura was a double-membered Constituency and the Council of States Constituency was a single-membered Constituency.

In the election of 1957 the territory had a total of 4,32,902 votes of which 2,81,348 were valid. In the general election of 1962, the number of seats in the Territorial Council remained the same as 30.

In the election of 1962 the number of electors rose to 4,80,609, the valid votes polled being 3,06,126. Given below is a statement indicating the total number of votes polled in favour of candidates set up by different political parties for Assembly seats in 1957 and 1962 elections respectively.

State Assembly

Name of Party	No. of valid votes polled in 1957	No. of valid votes polled in 1962
(a) Congress	1,13,416	1,36,997
(b) Communist Party of India	95,886	1,41,068
(c) Proja Socialist Party	6,513	6,077
(d) Tripura Ganatantric Sangha	12,368	×
(e) Janasangha	×	1,285
(f) Independent	46,180	30,769

From the statement above it appears that the percentage of votes polled in Council election by the different parties were as follows :—

Congress — 43.32 per cent. Communist — 44.62 per cent. Proja Socialist — 1.92 per cent. Independent — 9.73 per cent and Janasangh — 0.41 per cent.

With the enforcement of Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, Tripura Territorial Council has been dissolved and a Legislative Assembly has been set up for the Union Territory of Tripura. The Assembly has also thirty members. A bye-election was held in March 1964 to fill up the seat in Birganj Assembly Constituency which fell vacant due to the death of the sitting member Shri Lareya Choudhury.

House of People

In 1957 the Parliamentary Constituency in Tripura was a double-membered constituency with a seat reserved for scheduled tribes. Tripura Parliamentary double-membered Constituency was bifurcated under the Two-Member Constituency (Abolition) Act, 1961 and delimited into two single-membered Constituencies namely, Tripura West

and Tripura East. Tripura West Parliamentary Constituency comprises four Sub-divisions viz. Sadar, Sonamura, Udaipur and Bilonia while Tripura East constituency comprises six sub-divisions viz. Sabrum, Amarpur, Khowai, Kamalpur, Kailasahar and Dharmanagar. The population in the Tripura East Parliamentary Constituency being predominantly tribal, the seat in the Constituency has been reserved for the scheduled tribes.

In 1957 election, Communist candidates were returned for both the seats and in 1962 also both the seats went to the Communist. Given below is a statement, indicating the total number of votes polled in favour of candidates set up by different political parties for the Parliamentary Constituencies in 1957 and 1962 elections respectively.

House of People

Name of Party	No. of valid votes polled in 1957	No. of valid votes polled in 1962
1. Congress	2,53,241	1,36,586
2. Communist Party of India	2,48,422	1,63,623
3. Proja Socialist Party	—	6,302
4. Independent	48,675	12,574

The percentage of votes polled were as follows :—

Congress — 42.81 per cent, Communist — 51.27 per cent, Proja Socialist — 1.98 per cent, and Independents — 3.94 per cent respectively.

Rajya Sabha

One Congress candidate has all along been nominated to the Rajya Sabha seat.

NEWS PAPERS AND PERIODICALS

News papers

The two daily and several weeklies are published from Agartala town. These are all in Bengali. The daily papers are Jāgaran and Ganarāj. Among the weeklies, mention may be made of the following :—

'Sevak', Samāchār', 'Tripurā', 'Mānush', 'Nagarik', 'Vivek', 'Nayadanda', 'Rudra-Vīnā', 'Agragati', 'Darshan', 'Navodaya', 'Swastikā', 'Samabāy-Bārtā', etc. The only weekly paper in English published from Agartala is 'Tripura Times', previously named as 'Spark'.

All these papers have their local importance and to some extent they influence the general public. The papers published at Agartala are also in circulation in the Sub-divisions. Besides, one Bengali weekly entitled 'Sandhāni' is published from Dharmanagar Sub-division.

Generally three Bengali, three English and one Hindi Calcutta dailies viz. the 'Ananda Bazar Patrika', the 'Jugantar', the 'Dainik Basumati', the 'Stateman', the 'Hindusthan Standard', the 'Amrita Bazar Patrika' and the 'Viswamitra' are in circulation in the Sub-divisions of this territory.

A few Bengali periodicals are also published from Agartala.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

Voluntary Social service organisations functioning in Tripura may be classified under three broad heads namely (a) Community Organisations for Youths and Adults, (b) Welfare Organisations for Women and Children and (c) Welfare Organisations for Harijans and Backward Classes.

Community Organisations

The common objects of such organisations is to organise youth clubs, balwadis, training-cum-production centres, camps, and conduct other constructive programmes viz. construction of village roads, jungle clearing etc.

Bharat Sevak Samaj

It is an all India organisation having branches in almost all the Sub-divisions of the territory. Like all other State units, it organises youth clubs and training camps, participates in local developmental work and inculcates a sense of discipline and voluntary services among the youths.

Social Welfare Association

The Association started in 1958-59, runs one Infirmary at Badharghat.

Gramodyog Samity

The Samity runs one Balwadi, one Mahila Mandal and three Maternity and two Craft Training Centres for women.

Milan Sangha

The Sangh runs one *Balwadi,* one Craft Training Centre for women, one *Mahila Mandal,* and one Training-cum-Production Centre of handicrafts at Bardowali under Welfare Extension Project and socio-economic programme of Tripura Social Welfare Advisory Board and receives grants for these works.

Milan Sangha (Kanchanpur)

Among the activities of this organisation, mention may be made of *Sramadān* or voluntary labour in building and repair of village roads and drains. The organization has also started four clubs at villages. It organises sports and games for youths of the village.

Chebri Youth Society (Khowai)

During the year 1964-65, the members of the Society contributed voluntary labour for the construction of its own house and for the fund of village volunteer organization. The Society takes keen interest in all developmental work undertaken in the villages viz., grow more food campaign, volunteer services, co-operative movement, village sanitation, flood relief etc.

Sevak Sangha Shri Shri Ramkrishna Sadhana Kutir

The Sangha runs one Children's Home, one Tol and one Charitable Dispensary for the destitutes.

Praktan Sainik Sarbartha Sadhak Samabaya Samity Ltd.

The Samity runs one Maternity, one *Balwadi* and one *Mahila Mandal.*

Mahilā Samity

Mahilā Samity is an organisation which exclusively caters to the needs of women and welfare of children. Besides the *Mahilā Samities* organised in the Blocks, by the Social Education Section of the Directorate of Education, there are some voluntary organisations working among the women. Mention may be made of a few of such organisations.

All India Women's Food Council

The Tripura State Centre of the Council conducts one *Balwadi,* one *Mahila Mandal* and one Craft Training Centre and one Maternity Centre.

Gurukul Vidyashram

The Vidyashram at Mohanpur conducts one condensed course of education for adult women.

Mahila Sangha Samabaya Samity

The Samity conducts three *Balwadis* and one Maternity and one *Mahila Mandal* at M. B. Tilla, Arundhatinagar, Agartala.

Tripura Mahila Samity

The *Samity* runs three *Balwadis,* one *Mahila Mandal,* one Craft Training Centre for women and one Training-cum-Production Centre and organises Holiday Home for children.

Matrimangal Seva Sadan

There is a Maternity Centre at Birendranagar with five beds.

Daluchara Youth Club (Salema)

The Club has built its own Club-cum-Balwadi Centre. The actual strength of members was twentyfive in 1964-65.

Vanghmun Youth Club (Jampui)

The Club was established in 1943. The membership stood at one hundred and fifty during 1964-65. The Club usually organises social services on the occasion of the Republic Day, the Independence Day and such other Days.

All Tripura Women's Association

The Association runs six Balwadis.

Nagichara Mahila Mandal

Runs one *Balwadi* at Malayanagar and conducts one Training-cum-Production Centre at Kunjaban for *Jowan* families. Besides, *Ramnagar Mahila Samity* runs two *Balwadis*, Shri Shri Ramkrishna Ashram runs one *Balniketan, Vivekananda Byamagar* runs one *Balwadi, Gokulnagar Mahila Sangsad* runs one *Balniketan, Shri Ramkrishna Math* at *Konaban* runs one *Balniketan* and *Araksha Mahila Samity* at Agartala runs one *Balwadi* centre for the police personnel.

Tripura Council for Child Welfare

At Agartala runs *Balwadi* and organises Holiday Homes for children and *Balsevika* training course. All these organisations receive grants-in-aid from Tripura Social Welfare Advisory Board for these projects and sponsored schemes.

Harijan Sevak Sangha

The Tripura branch of *Harijan Sevak Sangha*, an all India organization, was started in August, 1955 and a committee, approved by the all India body, was formed in February 1956. The Tripura Harijan Sangha has a branch functioning at Kailasahar. The Sangha is conducting eight *Balwadis*, four Adult Literacy Centres, sixteen Clubs, four Co-operative Societies, four *Sansker kendras*, two recreation centres, five *Bhajan Mandalis* at Dharmanagar, Kailasahar and Khowai Sub-divisions of Tripura. The *Sangha* has provided musical instruments to *Bhajan Mandirs* and made arrangements for indoor and outdoor games in clubs and offered financial assistance to poor students belonging to the backward classes. One Radio set has been installed at Noagao Recreation Club. At the persuasion of the *Sangha* a good number of *Bhangis* gave up drinking and as a result ten such persons could purchase land and build their own houses. It has established two landless labourers' colonies at Thakker Bapanagar and Rishidas Palli and rehabilitated sixtyseven landless agricultural labourers and sixtysix landless cobblers in the said colonies respectively.

The *Sangha* started work for Prohibition among the *Bhangis* and cobblers and other scheduled caste communities since its origin. An all-out campaign for Prohibition was, however, launched in the year 1963 and conducted through voluntary organisations like Tripura Adimjati Sevak Sangha, Tripura Prohibition Council and with the help of the Government machinery and Managers of local tea gardens. Besides, the *Sangha* has organised twentyfour Prohibition Committees and launched a Prohibition pledge campaign and as a result, more than seven hundred pledges were obtained up to March, '65. The

Sangha also conducted Prohibition survey in some villages in Sadar and Kailasahar Sub-divisions. The workers of *Sansker Kenra* help in grow more food campaigns and village development work. During the year 1964-65, as many as two hundred fortythree compost pits were dug at Mohanpur, Khowai, Kumarghat and Dewanpasa *Sansker Kendras* under the initiative of its workers.

Adimjati Sevak Sangha

The Tripura Branch of Adimjati Sevak Sangha was founded in 1961. It carries on welfare work for the Scheduled Tribes in Sadar and Kailasahar Sub-divisions only. Two Balwadis at Barkkathal and Chakmapara and one Primary School at Jirania were started by the *Sangha* during the year 1962-63 and 1963-64 respectively. Tribal cultural functions and handicrafts classes are organised at these *Balwadis*. One Ayurvedic Charitable Dispensary was also started by the Sangha at Barkkathal during the year 1962. As may as five thousand one hundred ninety patients were treated in the dispensary during the year 1963-64. Medicines are supplied to the patients free of cost. According to a scheme submitted by the *Sangha* to the Government, lands have been allotted to the landless tribals at Barkkathal and allotment at *Chini Bagan* were under progress. The *Sangha* receives grant from the Government of Tripura for the dispensary and *Balwadis*.

VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY

In Tripura there are two such organisations viz. Shanti Rani Church at Mariamnagar and Tripura Baptist Christian Mission at Arundhatinagar. The activities of the said two organisations are given below in short.

Shantirani Church

As a Roman Catholic Organisation, it has been rendering various social services since its inception in 1930. It runs a school and a first-aid centre. It also renders some services towards the co-operative movements in rural areas. The financial liabilities are met by manual labour and Christian charity.

Tripura Baptist Christian Mission

Originally it was started by the Newzealand Missionary Baptist Society in 1937. Since 1938 the Tripura Baptist Christian Mission took its charge. It is a Protestant organisation. The organisation renders the following categories of social services.

(I) *Medical*

The Mission started a dispensary in 1940 and a small hospital in 1946 at Arundhatinagar. There are at present thirtyfive beds in the hospital. The Mission also runs two other charitable dispensaries at Kanchanpur in Kamalpur Sub-division and Hachupara in Udaipur Sub-division. Village nurses render social service under the same establishment to three villages of the Jampui Range viz. Darchoy, Sakhan Serhmun and Phuldungsei.

(II) *Educational Institutions*

The Mission established some Primary Schools in remote hilly villages of Tripura since its inception.

Senior Basic Schools and Hostels

Tripura Baptist Christian Union established a Middle English School in 1943 and upgraded it to a Senior Basic School in 1961. The strength of the students rose to 210 in 1964. The attached hostels provided boarding to 8 boys and 5 girls attending high schools in addition to 134 students of its own institution.

The Christian Union has provided a circulatory loan fund for granting of loan-stipends for some high school and college students, who ultimately have either to refund four-fifth of the total amount received or to serve in the institutions run by the Baptist Christian Union.

A fund created in 1940 is being operated by the Tripura Christian Welfare Society for providing loans not exceeding Rs. 600.00 per family for the purchase of land, clearing of mortgages and purchase of bullocks etc.

The gifts donated from abroad and received from the National Christian Council of India, are distributed locally by worker of the T.B.C.U. Gifts like milk are supplied to the hospitals and school hostels while wheat, flour and ghee etc. are supplied to *Mahila Sangha Samabai Samity*, Arundhatinagar, Sarvadharma Social Welfare Centre, Arundhatinagar, and Narayana Khamar Social Welfare Centre, Sekerkote.

The financial liabilities of the Union are generally met by fees and sale of medicine, donation of the villagers for running the schools and the balance received from Newzealand Baptist Missionary Society as grants.

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

AGARTALA (SADAR SUB-DIVISION)

The capital of Tripura was shifted from Old Agartala to the present site by Maharaja Krishnakishoremanikya (1830-1850). The place which was previously a good hunting ground gradually grew up to a new town and at present it is a seat of many commanding edifices. Of them a few places of interest are mentioned below.

Ujjayanta Palace

At the heart of the town, within a compound covering an area of half a square mile, stands Ujjayanta Palace, the modern edifice of the royal house of Tripura. The construction of this well-balanced and beautiful palace had to be undertaken in 1899 inspite of the then stringent financial condition of the State because the old palace which was built in 1862 suffered very badly from a severe earthquake in 1898 and became unfit for habitation. It was completed in 1901 at a cost of little over Rs. 10 lakhs. The palace is a two-storied mansion having a mixed type of architecture with three high domes, the central one being 86 feet high. It had well-laid garden parks all around it and two large tanks on two sides, with the leading road in between them. The watercourses and fountains were laid in the pattern of the Moghul garden. The main block covers 800 acres and contains many public halls viz., the Throne Room, Durbar Hall, Library, Study, Receiption Hall etc., all furnished with objects of art, curio, chandeliers, etc. Besides, specimens of old armouries, *Nimcha*, the historical sword which was presented to Govindamanikya by Sultan Shuja, musical instruments, old manuscripts and books, artistic handicrafts etc. were some of the thousands of collections that once were in display in different rooms of the palace. Some more blocks such as *Svet Mahal (the guest-house)*, Nijtahabil building, Banquet Hall, Lal Mahal etc. were subsequently constructed for official purpose. After the merger of Tripura with the Union of India, the royal palace which was once full of life and brisk activity, now stands forlorn, being regarded as only a personal property of the ex-ruler. It has, as if, assumed a somber look being stripped off its all valuable belongings. In fact, the

process started a few years earlier during the World War II when Agartala became vulnerable to air strike by the Japanese and was completed with its annexation to the Union of India. Though not properly maintained, it still stands erect as a pretty feat of modern architecture that once had a grandeur of its own, maintained over half a century.

Kunjaban Palace

A picturesque hillock known as Kunjaban for its scenic beauty stands to the north of Agartala town and within a mile from the royal palace (Ujjayanta Palace) with tracts of some more low-lying hillocks. Though not far away yet being a countryside, this place came to be regarded as ideal for relaxation and pleasure strolls in the past for its green beauty, fine gardens, orchards and a small zoo opened by the then Government.

It was Maharaja Birendrakishoremanikya who selected this beautiful place for construction of suburban palace to be used for retreats. The construction of the palace was completed in 1917 when it was named 'Pushpavanta Palace'. The Maharaja being a good artist is said to have prepared himself the plan of the palace and the adjoining gardens. The palace was subsequently extended and the approach road and the gardens re-aligned in accordance with the desire and requirements of the later rulers. This royal residence had the credit of accommodating royal guests occasionally. It may be interesting to add that Rabindranath stayed in the eastern apartment of this palace during his seventh and last visit in 1926. A round verandah attached to this eastern part, named as *Gol Verandah*, was the most favourite place for its distant view of the Baramura Hills on the eastern horizon. This verandah had been the mute witness of many a dear moment when the poet composed popular songs, not less then five in number and all incorporated in Vaikali series, or remained absorbed in silence.

Malanchabas

The bungalow adjacent to the palace was originally a kutcha house where also the poet stayed during his previous visit in 1919. The pucca buildings which still assumes the name Malanchabas, was subsequently built.

The Kunjaban palace was taken over by the Government of India after the accession of Tripura to the Indian Union and was used as official residence of the highest officials deputed to Tripura viz., Dewan and the Chief Commissioners.

Among other places of visit, mention may be made of Maharaja Birbikram College Campus, as if garlanded by a number of lakes, the Government Museum where many old archaeological findings in Tripura have been placed, the lake at Kunjaban and the Craft Teachers' Training Institute etc.

Jagannath Temple

Jagannath Temple at Agartala, though a structure of late 19th century, is not only attractive to the devotees of Lord Jagannatha but also to the visitors for its peculiar structure, being 'octagonal at the basement' and having a nice *pradakshinapatha* round the sanctum. Every pillar of the octagon is crowned by a square pyramidal cone rising above a multifoil niche which comes at the level of the terrace. The *sikhara* "is a stepped octagonal pyramid rising in four storeys above the vertical portion over the terrace. An elevation like this reminds of a steeple which would throw down snow whenever it fell. A construction like this would perhaps suggest a snowy Himalayan origin, as in these parts it would have no meaning in the physical environment".[1]

Bishalgarh

Situated on the bank of rivulet Burima, Bisalgarh is about 20 Km. from Agartala town. As the name suggests, there was once a big fortress here. Mention of the place is found in the Rajamala from the time of Raja Ratnamanikya of Tripura. No relic of any fortress is now found in the vicinity. It was originally within the Sadar Division. In 1920 it was converted to a sub-division comprising Bisalgarh, Golaghati, Charilam and Kamalasagar tehsils. After about three years it was again taken within Sadar Division. Now it is within Sadar Sub-division of Tripura. It has come to be a growing trading centre of paddy, rice and cotton. The place has now been provided with higher secondary school, post-office, dispensary, police station and public library.

Bishramganj

Bishramganj is an important trading centre on the main road from Agartala to Udaipur and Sonamura. A silk-rearing centre has also been set up here under the auspices of the Government. Jute cultivation is gaining importance around this place, and on market days

1. Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology, Govt. of Tripura, 1952, p. 3.

jute is sold in large quantities to merchants from Agartala. There is also a higher secondary school in the place.

Jirania

Jirania is a growing market place about twelve-miles from Agartala. Community development work in Tripura started first in this place. The place is situated right on the Assam-Agartala highway and its importance has further increased owing to the founding of Tripura's first engineering college near this place.

Champaknagar

Champaknagar is located on the Assam-Agartala Highway, about 28 Kilometres away from Agartala. The Tripura Lokasikshālaya, a pioneer institution on the tribal education, stands picturesquely at a small hillock of the Baramura. Sericulture and Sāl Plantation Centres have been set up here under the auspices of the Government. Champaknagar is gaining importance as a local mart for the jhoom products of the neighbouring tribal belts.

Gandhigrām

The Government Poultry Farm has been established during the Second Five Year Plan at Gandhigrām, about 10 Kilometres off Agartala. Alongwith poultry, other allied units such as duckery, piggery and goatery have subsequently been added for popularising bird and animal rearing in the rural areas of Tripura as a means of subsisting income and of meeting protein shortage in average diets. Not insignificantly the Gandhigrām Farm contributes to stabilize the prices of egg and meat chronically in short supply at Agartala.

Lembuchharā

Lembuchharā has become a commonplace name to be associated with agriculture in Tripura. It stands besides the Agartala-Simna Road, about 12 Kilometres off Agartala. The basic Agricultural School, started at Lembuchhara in 1957-58 regularly imparts basic agricultural training to the Village Level Workers and Agricultural Assistants and occasionally to farmers on new techniques in agriculture and its allied branches. There is a model agricultural farm at Lembuchharā where, besides the production of different crops, a nursery is also maintained for fruit plants.

Mariamanagar

Sambhu Ch. Mookerjee, the Ex-Minister of Maharaja Birchandra-manikya described Mariamnagar, a Christian village at Agartala, as an interesting 'find' during his first residence in Tripura in 1877. In his words, 'Situated between the Old Town and the New Town, it is properly speaking, the native Christian quarter of Agartala. It is inhabited exclusively by Indo-Protuguese". The hamlet, called Mariam-nagar is hardly three miles from the new town or *Nutun Haveli,* now simply called Agartala.

The Portuguese who had settled in the neighbourhood of Satgaon in the second quarter of the sixteenth century and had exercised considerable authority on the eastern and north eastern coasts, sided with the Mughs when they attacked Tripura during the reign of Maharaja Amaramanikya (1877-1885). To counteract the attack of the Mughs, Amaramanikya had also raised a Portuguese artillery and it was in this capacity they first settled at Udaipur, the then capital of Tripura. They were very loyal to the Tripura Raj unlike the Pathans who were also employed in their infantry. 'They followed the fortunes of the Raja' and when the capital was shifted to Old Agartala during the reign of Maharaja Krishnakishoremanikya, they also moved with the court and settled at Mariamnagar, or Mairumnagar as it is locally called.

They, no doubt, occupied a high position in the military service of Tripura Raj and maintained a very honourable position till the later half of the nineteenth century. Being gradually replaced by Tipperahs, Gurkhas etc. they afterwards settled in the land and took to agriculture. But when Sambhu Ch. Mookerjee came to Tripura in 1876, he found them turned to a few struggling families decided to leave Agartala 'for good'.

Sambhu Ch. Mookerjee who came in close contact with the Portuguese settlers at Mariamnagar observed: "As found at Agartala, the Ferengis are, I believe, the descendants of the Indian converts of the Catholic Church under Portuguese auspices converted *enmasse* by force rather than persuasion. They are a miserable-looking and truly miserable, undistinguished from the rest of the masses, unless by a more sooty black colour and a lower stature, and perhaps a worse mental darkness. Marrying within their own body, they have, by the degeneracy of an originally low type, brought themselves to their present physical and moral degradation".

"They are Christians in their way, and are proud of it. They are proud likewise of their origin".[1]

Mookerjee after being appointed a Minister, had 'introduced the able-bodied who offered themselves into the military and maintained them in it....."[1]

There is a Catholic Church at Mariamnagar where old records of these Portuguese settlers have been preserved.

Old Agartala

Puran Agartala or Puran Haveli as it is called, had been the capital of Tripura since the time of Maharaja Krishnamanikya who had shifted the capital from Udaipur to old Agartala on the bank of the Haora in the face of his continued skirmishes with Samsher Gazi who had attacked Udaipur in 1748. It continued to be the capital of the Rajas till it was shifted to the present site, a few miles off Old Agartala by Maharaja Krishnakishoremanikya who ascended the throne in 1830.

Old Agartala is still visited by a good number of pilgrims every year on the occasion of Kharchi Puja in the month of Ashara at the temple of Chaturdasa Devata which was built there when the 14 deities were removed from Udaipur. The temple is situated at a distance of 5 miles from Agartala town. The fourteen god-heads who have been identified with Siva, Durga, Hari or Vishnu, Ma or Sri or Lakshmi, Vani or Saraswati, Kumar or Kartikeya, Ganapa or Ganesa, Vidhi or Brahma, Kshma or Prithive, Abhdi or Samudra, Ganga, Sikhi or Agni, Kamdeva and Himadri, installed at the temple of old Agartala and regarded as the presiding deities of the royal house, are worshipped by the *Cantais*, the priests of the Tripuras. Beside the temple still stands the old palace of the rajas though in a ruineous condition. And on the other side of the river are seen some *Mathas* erected on the pyres of the members of the royal family.

AMARPUR SUB-DIVISION

Amarpur, now the headquarters of the sub-division, is reported to have been founded by Maharaja Amaramanikya who ascended the throne in 1577 A.D. There are two big old tanks named Fatiksagar and Amarsagar. On the eastern bank of Amarsagar the ruin of the

1. Sambhu Ch. Mookerjee, Travels & Voyages Between Calcutta & Independent Tipperah, Calcutta, 1857, pp. 213-217.

palace of Amaramanikya is still found. The Dak-bungalaw is situated on the bank of another big tank named Fatiksagar. The stone image of the eight handed goddess, locally called Mangalchandi, installed on the southern bank of Amarsagar is worth seeing. The image seems to have been installed by Amaramanikya as one of his coins also bears the same image. The goddess carved on a black stone is seated on Garuda. The goddess Lakshmi and Saraswati are found seated on lotus and swan respectively on eight side of the presiding deity. Two standing female figures called *naikas* are found by their side. The presiding deity is said to have been the *Vaishnavi* manifestation of the goddess Chandi. A fair is held here every year on the occasion of *Shri Panchami*.

Deotamura

The peak of the gods or Deotamura, as it is called, is an extensive range of hills situated in between Udaipur and Amarpur Sub-divisions. This has become a place of tourist interest owing to a panel of images found carved on the hills facing the river Gumti. It is really astonishing to see such a good number of images carved high up on the steep rocky wall of the hill covered with thick jungles. The images are, no doubt, crude in conception like those at Udaipur, but may not be so antique.

Nutanbazar

Nutanbazar is the important road terminus in Amarpur Sub-division about six miles from Tirthamukh. The village is situated on the right bank of the Gumti. There is a fairly big market here. Pilgrims on their way to Tirthamukh generally assemble here first and then start for the pilgrims' spot either on foot or by boat. There are quite a few public houses here for government officials on tour.

Tirthamukha

As the name suggests, Tirthamukha is a place near a falls named Dumbur, the source of the Gumti, one of the principal rivers of Tripura. It is about six miles away from Nutan Bazar, a road terminus in Amarpur Sub-division and a place of business. Dumbur, about 73 miles away from Agartala is mainly a pilgrimage for the tribals who flock the place every year on the occasion of *Uttarayan Sankranti* to have a holy dip at Tirthamukh. The *mela* which is held here every year on this occasion is of great significance to the tribal population who used to make annual purchases for their families. The first hydro-electric project of Tripura is being built up at this place.

BILONIA SUB-DIVISION

Pilak Pathar & Lungthung

Pilak Pathar and Lungthung, the two extensive plains of Bilonia, one of the southern sub-divisions of Tripura, have already attracted the notice of the historians for a good number of old stone images found in these areas, some of which still lie buried in the ground. The plainland is surrounded by a hill range and a hilly stream, name *Pilakcherra* which once flowed across it. The village adjacent to this stream is also called Pilak Pathar and is divided into two parts viz., Purba Pilak (East Pilak) and Paschim Pilak (West Pilak). A colossal stone image of Avolokitesvara found at Pilak Pathar has recently been placed in Agartala Museum along with an image of Narasinha also found there. A number of terracotta temple plaques and sealings with depiction of *Stupa* and Buddhist creed have also been collected from Pilak Pathar. Of them the *Kinnara* and the charging boar deserve special mention as they are stylistically related to the terracotta plaques found at Mynamati of Bangladesh, not too far from Pilak. Incidentally it may be mentioned here that the sub-division Bilonia was contiguous to the southern part of Chakla Roshnabad viz. Khandal, Bagasair, Chauddagram, Jagatpur, which were all very richly populated areas in the past. Bilonia is still regarded as a place of concentration of the Mughs who are Buddhist by religion. Among other images found at Pilak Pathar, mention should also be made of an image of Sakti having eight hands found at Thakuranitilla of Pilak Pathar. According to the Rajamala, Balibhimnarayana, the brother-in-law of Ramamanikyadeva, became the *defacto* king when Ratnamanikya, the minor son of Ramamanikya ascended the throne. But the oppressive measures of Balibhimnarayana made him so unpopular after some time that he had to leave the capital and settle at Pilak Pathar where he had built many temples and installed images therein. Balibhimnarayana lived during the latter half of the seventeenth century. But the images of Buddha and Narasinha, Mahisasuramardini etc. may be dated much earlier. The mound still found at Pilak, if excavated, may unearth many more images to help reconstruct the religious history of this ancient place.

Two bronze statuette divinities from Buddhist pantheon have also been found at Rishyamukha, in the neighbourhood of Pilak.

Joliabari

In recent years Jolaibari has earned a name for its own owing to record potato production in the whole of Tripura. The village is situated in Bilonia Sub-division right on the Udaipur-Sabrum highway. Taking Tripura as a whole, the yield of potato per acre is the highest in Jolaibari. When electricity is made available at Jolaibari. as it may shortly come from Bagafa power house, the growers will get further incentive in that they will have better facilities for storage. Now they keep their potatoes in the cold storage in Agartala.

DHARMANAGAR SUB-DIVISION

Dharmanagar is the headquarters of the sub-division by the same name. It is the northernmost town in Tripura. It stands on the bank of the river Juri, a rivulet flowing to Bangladesh. The town is situated on small hillocks and plain land. The old town grew up around a big tank and is now being extended on all sides with the increase in population.

As in other sub-divisional headquarters there is here S.D.M.'s Court, Sub-Treasury, Munsiff Court etc. The office of the Executive Engineer, Assam-Agartala Road, is also at Dharmanagar. The importance of the town has greatly increased recently as a result of the railhead that connects Tripura with Assam. The only 19 mile long railway line in Tripura terminates near Dharmanagar. The town has grown in status as a trading centre following the completion of the railway track.

Jampui Hill

Jampui is conspicuous among the six principal hill ranges of Tripura for its highest peak Belting Sib. "To the north it is joined by small tilas (hillocks), with a low ridge which runs into Sylhet (now in Bangladesh), and to the south with the Langten range of Chittagong." Jampui range stands as the natural boundary between the two adjoining States, Tripura and Mizoram.

Nestled in the lap of thick green undulations, Jampui is widely known for its charming landscape and bracing climate. It is endearingly called the abode of eternal spring due to its climatic characteristics. The distance between the foothill and Agartala is about 208 k.m. From Dasda Bazar, a prominent market-place of the area, the foothill is about 10 k.m.

Mizos, the inhabitants of the hill, have settled there in ten villages, namely Fuldang Sai, Chhabwal, Tlang Sang, Bangla Bari, Behliang Chhip, Vanghmun, Tlakshi, Hmunpui, Hmung Chuang and Bhai Sum,

situated at different heights. They are mostly Christians. They are graceful and hospitable. The spread of education among them is moderately high compared to other tribes.

Jampui hill is one of the few tourist spots of Tripura. From the summit of the hill the view of the country is exceedingly charming. The inimitable flower and bamboo dance breaks, no doubt, the monotony of the verdant nature and lends warmth and colour to the life.

Jampui is plotted in the map of Tripura as a good orange growing area. Oranges of Jampui are in high demand for their juice and taste. Kanchanpur and Dasda Bazar are the two important markets for the produces of the area.

Pacharthal

Located at a distance of about 128 kilometres off Agartala on the Assam-Agartala highway, Pacharthal is developing as an important local mart for the jhoom produces, particularly of mesta, oilseeds, cotton and banana. This foothill mart wakes up with booming business when the 'Jampui oranges' are marketed via Pacharthal to different parts of Tripura.

Installation of a big-sized brass image of Lord Buddha in sitting posture in not very distant past lends a special attraction to the place for visitors.

KAILASAHAR SUB-DIVISION

Unakoti Tirtha

"With a grand panoroma of picturesque hills at the background and an enending spell of luxuriant green vegetation around, nature seems to be at the peak of her ever-green glory at Unakoti, a holy shrine reckoned as one of the most sacred pilgrimages in eastern India." This hilly *tirtha* is situated at a distance of four or five miles from Kailāsahar, sub-divisional headquarters of North Tripura District and about 110 miles from Agartala. According to the archaeological report, "the site has been sacred to the worship of Siva at least from the 8-9th centuries, if not some centuries earlier."[1]

Numerous rock-cut images are still found on the rocky walls of the hill, which is only about 150 feet high, and scattered on either side

[1] Unakoti, published by the Directorate of Education, Govt. of Tripura.

of the hill track and the streamlet Unakoti *chara* which flows down the hill-top and forms three *kundas* or pools when comes down.

The images found at Unakoti are of two types viz. (i) the rock carved figures and (ii) the stone images. Among the rock-cut figures, the central Siva head and the gigantic Ganesa figures deserve special mention. The central Siva head, known as *Unakotisvara Kal Bhairava* is about 30 feet high including the embroidered head-dress, being 10 feet in height. Three enormous images of bull are found half-buried in the ground. On each side of the head-dress of the central Siva, there were two full-sized female figures, one of which is still found. The figure of Durga standing on lion and another female figure are found carved on the rocky wall above. Two other gigantic heads of Siva and Durga attract notice if one stands on the terminus of the new road leading to Unakoti. Among the images particular mention of two Chaturmukha and one Trimukha *lingas*, the former found on the bank of the stream and the latter at some height of the hill, may be made for their fine execution. At the top of the hill images of Vishnu, Panchamukha, Ravana, Hara-Gouri, Narasingha, seated Ganesa, Hanumana etc. are found. According to the archaeological report, these collections "could scarcely be placed earlier than about 11-12th century".[1] There are many other images which have not yet been identified. But images having stamp of many known and obscure religious cults tend to prove that though initially started as a centre of Saiva pilgrimage, "other religious sects like Sakta, *Tantric, Bajrayani* and *Natha Yogis* etc. did not lag behind in the art of rock carving at Unakoti in view of its outstanding religious importance."[2]

KAMALPUR SUB-DIVISION

Kamalpur now a Sub-divisional headquarters had passed through vicissitudes before it finally emerged out as a sub-division in 1951. For reasons of administration and area development the sub-division was created in 1920 A.D. (1330 T.E.) sliced out of Khowai and Kailasahar Sub-divisions. After a short run of three years, it was wound up in 1923 A.D. (1333 T.E.) and it seems that only in the post-integration period Kamalpur has come to stay as a separate sub-division in 1951.

Geographically the hill Longtarai stands as a natural boundary between Kamalpur and Kailasahar. There is only one river namely

[1] Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India, 1921-22.
[2] Unakati, op, cit.

Dhalai which flows through the very heart of this sub-division dividing it almost in two equal parts. The Dhalai valley along with the northern part of the Sub-division is fertile. Besides the Dhalai, the sub-division is watered by many rivulets. There are many big old tanks and *Jhils* of which Nalichera tank, Lalcheri tank, Kachuachera jhil, Marachera jhil, Alahanga jhil, Manikkantar jhil, Halhali jhil, etc. are worth mentioning.

Paddy, jute, cotton are grown in abundance in this sub-division. The important markets of the sub-division are: Kamalpur Bazar, Pirkaibazar, Halhalibazar, Salemabazar and Kulaibazar. Manikbhandar is one of the important business centres of the sub-division.

Kamalpur is a land-locked sub-division. Besides the Ambasa-Kamalpur Road, the sub-division is connected with an air-strip for passenger and cargo traffic.

Sālemā

Located at a distance of about fifteen k.m. off Kamalpur, Salema came into limelight with the programme of Community Development Block launched in 1956. Originally a village mart almost unheard beyond its immediate surroundings, Sālemā has formed a nucleus for community uplift in Kamalpur Sub-division. There is an agricultural farm and a social education centre also.

KHOWAI SUB-DIVISION

The Sub-divisional headquarters of Khowai is situated on the bank of the river Khowai. Its population began to increase after the partition of the country and is still increasing. Khowai, being situated between the hill ranges of Baramura and Atharamura, exports its produces outside. This is one of the major marketing centres of the district. There is an air-strip at Khowai.

Kalyaṇpur palace

Khās Kalyaṇpur, as the name suggests, once the seat of administration of Mahārājā Kalyaṇamāṇikya, still bears the relics of the royal palace which was erected on the bank of a big tank also named after the king. A temple of the goddess Kali, seems to have been installed by Kalyāṇamāṇikya, still stands near the tank. About a mile away from Khās Kalyaṇpur is situated Kunjaban, a village where Maharaja Kalyāṇamāṇikya is reported to have erected a pleasure mansion.

Teliamura

Teliamura is an important marketing centre at a distance of about 48 Km. from Agartala and is gradually growing in importance. Formerly it was a small hill market and exports and imports had to be made through the Khowai river. But with increased transport facility merchants from different places have come to this place and settled in business. Now it turns into an important trade centre.

SABRUM SUB-DIVISION

Sabrum formed a part of Bilonia Division till the year 1907. In the year 1908 a separate Division named Sabrum was formed with a portion of Bilonia Division for administrative purposes. It was subsequently converted to a sub-division consisting of five tehsils.

Āmlighāt is one of the important places of Sabrum Sub-division. It was previously called Killāghāt. Ruins of the habitation of Shamser Gazi who once occupied the throne of Tripura, were found near the place. It is also said that Chand Sadagar, the hero of Manasā Puraṇa lived near Āmlighāt. This sub-division is full of valuable trees of excellent growth fetching a good deal of revenue to the exchequer. There are four big markets in this sub-division viz. Sabrum bāzār, Sātakhil bāzār, Manubāzar and Bankulbazar. Besides the Phenni, several rivulets and Chherās like Manu, Kālāpania, Silāchari, Bidyāchariā, Patichari, Rupaidāri, Kukichari, Sabrum Cherā, Harina Cherā etc. are worth mentioning. Tulashyā and Tulamurā are the two hills ranges of this sub-divisions. Among the tribals mostly Mughs and Chakmas live in this sub-division.

SOṆĀMURĀ SUB-DIVISION

The place was previously named as Sāvārmurā after the name of a tila or a peak of a hill. It was named Soṇāmurā after the name of an old *Mouja* of Udaipur called Soṇāmurā. Thākur Dhananjoy Deb Barman, the then Officer-in-Charge of Udaipur Division cleared the jungles of the adjoining tilas in 1877 A.D. with a view to shift the seat of administration there. He named the tila as *Saṇa Chura* but by that time the Division became known as Sonamura. The tila on which the divisional office was situated provided a grand panorama of the Lālmāi hills and the famous Sateroratna temple of Comilla.

Sonamura, the sub-divisional town is situated on the bank of the Gumti which divided the Sonamura Division into almost two equal

parts, north and south. This division was previously an ideal hunting ground and many renowned European hunters came to this place for hunting tiger, deer, wild boar etc. Places like Rudijala was famous for deer which were found in abundance. Comilla town is only five or six miles from Soṇāmurā town. Many old relics are found in Bhogjor *mouza* under Sonamura P.S. Ruins of a palace, a highway and old tanks namely Nach Puskarini, Dudh Puskarini, Jaltungi etc. as are found in Fenkhauni *mouza* indicate that it might have been an important place sometime in the past. But no detail record can now be traced out. The water of the tank, Dudh Puskarini was very clear. The rumour goes that the water was milk white and so it was called *Dudh Puskarini*. People from far off places used to carry its water with the belief that the water can cure leprosy.

Chandigarh

Eight or nine kilometres to the east of Sonamura there is a place known as Chandigarh. As its name suggests there was a garh or fortress here of the Rajas of Tripura. According to the Rajamala, this fort was valiantly defended by the forces of the Raja when the forces of the Sultan of Bengal attacked for the second time under the generalship of Gauri Mallik. Relics of the fort such as bricks, broken part, debris etc. are still found lying scattered all over the area. It is believed that during the attack of Shamser Gazi a strategic outpost was erected here against possible invasion. This fort is reported to have again been occupied by the Muslims during the reign of Raja Yasomanikya in the early part of seventeenth century.

Gazir Kot or Ail

There is a historical place named Gāzir Kot about two Km. away from Soṇāmurā in the west. Shamser Gāzi, the adventurist who attacked Udaipur and annexed the throne from Indramānikya is said to have erected a high and spacious embankment on the Gumti and also built a *kutcha* fort made of clay on his march towards Udaipur from Sonamura. Since then the fort is called *Gazir Kot* and the embankment has been named after him as *Gazir Ail*.

Mugh Puskarini

There is another tank named Mugh Puskarini at a distance of about 2 kilometres from Dudh Puskarini. The name suggests that it was excavated by Mughs who imigrated from Arakan and Chittagong Hill Tracts and settled in Sonamura at sometime.

Rudrasagar & Nirmahal

Rudrasāgar or *Rudi-jala* as it is locally called, is a deep and extensive lake situated about 53 Km. from Agartala town and about 8 Km. from Sonamura town. The scenic beauty of this lake was so attractive that Birbikramkishoremāṇikya (1927-1947), the late Maharaja of Tripura built a spectacular edifice on an island in the centre of the lake and named it as *Nirmahal* or palace in the water. The palace was provided with electricity and had a small well-laid garden at the courtyard. There is a staircase at one end of the palace which previously led the royal personages to a stream-boat for going out of the palace. *Nirmahal* is, no doubt, one of the finest beauty-spot in Tripura and though now stands in a dilapideted condition, stripped of its past glory, still casts its spell on the mind of the people who visit this place in moonlit night. The lake, itself very beautiful, affords good sports for rowing and rears a good stock of delicious fishes.

UDAIPUR SUB-DIVISION

Tripurasundari Temple

The temple considered to be one of the oldest *pithasthan*, "consists of a square type sanctum of the typical Bengali-hut-type about which rises a conical dome with a continuous series of low niches at the base simulating lotus leaves. On this rises the *amalaka* which has been made elongated in order to conform to the shape of a cone. The gardroons are prominent. The *Stupi* above the *amalaka* consists of four *Karandas* with a long spike at the top whereon stood a brass flag, which was blown off by a cyclone".[1]

From the inscription of the temple it is known that the temple was first constructed by Mahārājā Dhanyamāṇikya in Saka 1423 (*"Vahny-aksi-ved homukhadharaniyute sake"*) i.e. in 1501 A.D. It was repaired by Mahārājā Rāmamāṇikya in 1681 A.D. when it was damaged by lightning and again by Maharaja Rādhākishoremānikya in the begining of this century.

According to an inscription note on the monuments in the Tripura State visited by the Director General of Archaeology in India on February 19, 1952, there are two images of the same deity i.e. *Tripurasundari* inside the temple. One is called *Chhotima* which 'appears to be the original one and measures about 2′ in height', while the other called *Tripurasundari* is about 5′. The image of *Chhotima*

[1] Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology, Govt. of Tripura, 1952, p. 3.

"being much worn out it is difficult to date it accurately. Moreover the attributes in her hands are either too much blurred or lost. The lower right shows an inward bend of the palm as though it held something, but the thing held is no longer there. Similarly, the lower left hand, which would have held a *munda* is also gone."

About the date of installation of the deities, the inspection note observes, the goddess *Tripurasundari*, being the tutelary deity of the Tripura Rāj, seems to have been brought by these very rulers and may perhaps be dated to the 15th century A.D. even on grounds of style. The halo in the case of *Chhotima* is different from the halo that we see round the *Tripurasundari* where it is multifoil."

Though both the images are standing static on the image of Mahādeva and more or less like yet the "high *kiritamukuta* and the calm composure" of the *Tripurasundari* "add to her dignity and confidence to her prowess". She holds a *pāsa* in her upper left hand, an *ankusa* in the upper right hand. In her lower left hand, she holds a *munda* while the lower right hand is held in *varamudra*. The image of Mahadeva appears to be much shorter in stature than the image of the goddess who tramples him. The inspection note further states, "it is probable that this image was installed when the image of *Chhotima* had become much blurred, by Mahārājā Dhanyamāṇikya in 1501 A.D.... At this time the shrine from inside appears to have been turned from a square into a rotunda. The other shrines of this dynasty... such as Guṇavati group have square porches and sancta."

Jagannāth Temple

On the south-west bank of the famous Jagannāth *Dighi* (tank) in the heart of Udaipur town, is found the ruins of a temple called the Jagannāth temple, a rare specimen of temple architecture in Tripura. According to *Udaipur Bibaran*[1], Daityanarayana, the General-in-Chief of Mahārājā Vijayamāṇikya (1529-1560 A.D.) had brought the image of lord Jagannāth from Puri and placed in this temple built of stone.[2] The image was afterwards removed from this temple and installed at Comilla. But according to the author of *Silalipi-Samgraha*, this temple was built and dedicated to Vishṇu jointly by Mahārājā Govindamāṇikya and his young brother Jagannāth Deva in the year 1583 saka (1661 A.D.). This opinion is formed on the basis of the inscription that was laid on this temple.

[1] *Udaipur Bibarana;* Brojendra Ch. Datta, Agartala, 1340 T.E. (1930) A.D.), Pp. 16-17.
[2] *Silalipi Samgraha;* compiled by C. Vidyabinod, 2nd edition, Education Department, Tripura Pp. 25-26.

A new image of Jagannāth is reported to have been installed at this temple at a later period. Rare specimen of stone images are also reported to have been erected on the walls of this temple but none are found now. The author of *Udaipur Bibarana* found one of those images in a shrine at Soṇāmurā. While giving a description of the Jagannāth temple, the inspection note states, "Though typical of the brick temples, it is built entirely of stone so far as the vertical portion is concerned. The lower dome as well as the upper dome, are, however, made of brickwork but the facing of the upper dome, like the rest of the structure, is of stone... Internally, it is square at the base, the square has been converted into a circle over which the spherical dome is carried but by introducing a continuous series of eight arches the figure is turned into circle. The arches occur one in the centre of each side and one at each corner above the heads of the arches." The tank seems to have been named after the temple. The car festival of Jagannāth is being held here every year since 1904 A.D.

The Mahadeva Group of Temples at East Udaipur: The three temples, two to the north and one to the east constituting the Mahadeva group of temples erected in a well-defined enclosure, is popularly called *Mahadever Bari*. Inscriptions laid on all the three temples are now preserved in the Govt. Museum at Agartala. "There is an inscription over the entrance to the compound and a standstone Vyala flanking it on either side. Of the former, the temple to the east is the largest, and according to the inscription found about the arched entrance of its porch it was dedicated to Gopinātha and constructed by Kalyāṇamāṇikya in the month of Ashadha in the year 1572 Saka (1650 A.D.". Like Dutiya group of temples, its remarkable feature "is the monolithic arched entrance to the porch behind the multifoil arch in brick and stone." The sanctum of the temple is circular from the base and in that respect differs from the temples of the Guṇavati group and neighbouring shrines.

The inscription laid on the east wall of the adjacent temple to the west refers to Mahārāja Rāmamāṇikya in whose time the temple was built in 1595 Saka (1672 A.D.). "The inscription does not give the dedication to the deity enshrined inside but refers to *Parijata Haraṇa*, from which it may be inferred that this was a Vaishnava shrine either of *Lakshminārāyana* or *Vishnu* as *Krishṇa*."

"The third temple in this group", says the inspection note, "which stands to the east, as of Sankara as given in the inscribed stone, which was found on the wall of the temple. This was built by Dhanyamanikya and later reconstructed by Kalyāṇamāṇikya in the year 1573

Saka. (1651 A.D.)" The 14 gods of the Tipras, called *Chaturdasa Devata* are reported to have been enshrined inside this temple.[1]

Dutiya Group of Temples

Ruins of two shrines with a common entrance to the platform are found to the east of the Gopinātha, 'each with a monolithic entrance to the porch behind the multifoil brick arch'. These two temples are called *Dutiyar bari* as they are said to have been built by Dutiya Devi, the second daughter of Balibhimnārāyaṇa, the maternal uncle of Mahārājā Ratnamāṇikya in 1700 A.D. According to Dr. D. C. Sarkar the temples were built in 1621 Saka i.e. 1699 A.D.[2]

Hari Temple

This temple is situated on the east bank of the *Jagannāth dighi*. The construction is of 'late 17th century' but it is being called Hari temple since the placement of photograph of Sri Rādhākrishṇa in 1901 A.D.

Govindamanikya's Palace

On the right bank of Gumti is found the ruins of a big palace built by Mahārājā Govindamāṇikya (1660-1675 A.D.). "The palace proper is L-shaped in plan, the longer axis being from north to south and the shorter one, which takes on by a slight recession of the front or south side, to the east."

Gunavati Group of Temples

There are three brick temples adjacent to each other in East *Rādhākrishorepur* (*Udaipur*). "The one to the north was built by queen Gunavati, wife of Govindamāṇikya in the month of *Vaisakha* in the year 1690 Saka (1668 A.D.). The other two have no dated inscriptions now, but on stylistic grounds appear to be contemporary. Of the latter, the one to the south, again, has a porch facing west, but that of the Guṇavati temple faces south. The middle one had a porch on the west, but this has completely disappeared." All the three temples now stand ruined.

Durga Temple

To the south of Guṇavati group of temples is found another group

[1] *Udaipur Bibarana*, Ibid, Pp. 15-16.
[2] The Indian Historical Quarterly Vol. XXXIII, No. 2, June 1957

of two temples. The southernmost of them is called Durga temple. The other temple has no name now. "Both of them stood on a well defined platform of which traces of the wall survive on the west and south. To their west is a small pavillion with a rectangular chamber in the centre surrounded by an arched verandah on all sides, and on the second storey there is only a pavillion with the bamboo-hut-type of roof. This is locally known as *luk palani* (hide and seek) or *Jhulan* temple. Since its centre comes exactly opposite the entrance to the northern shrine, it is possible that this was built in connection with that alone, and in that case the Durga temple would have sprung up slightly later."

"Between the Guṇavati group of temples and the *Jhulan* group," says the Inspection Note, there is a third group which forms the apex of the triangle to east between them. This group consists of three temples to south and the palace to north, all standing on the left or west bank of the river Gumti. The palace is in complete ruins, but the multifoil *Shahjahani* arches which fit in with the date of Nakshatrarāi (Chhatramāṇikya) to whose reign these buildings are ascribed, show a little elaboration over the two groups of temples referred to above".[1]

Bhuvanesvari Temple

The temple of Bhuvanesvari also stands on the right bank of the Gumti river. It was built by Mahārājā Govindamāṇikya, 'who was regarded as *Rajarshi* and held in great esteem by the poet' Rabindranath Tagore.

Mughal Masjid

The Mughal *Masjid*, now completely ruined, is said to have been built overnight to commemorate the Mughal victory over Yaśodharamāṇikya (1600-1618 A.D.).

Badar Mokām

Badar *Sahib*, a famous Muslim asectic of Chittagong, is said to have come also in Udaipur at sometime. Two barber brothers, Ataram and Budhiram, being highly impressed with his mystic activities became his disciples. They were appointed *Khadim* or attendant of

[1] Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology, 1952, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala.

the *Mokam* or halting place of the *Fakir*. Since then the place came to be regarded as a holy place to the Muslims and Hindus alike.

Temple ruin of Hirapur

It is locally called *Dhaner Kuthi* or the seat of hidden wealth as buried coins are said to have been found under this temple. The main entrance gate has been made out of a single block of stone. There are inscriptions on both the sides of the entrance and on the arch above. The language of the inscriptions is Sanskrit but they are in Bengali script. From a few words that could be read out of these inscriptions it appears that the temple built by Vijayamāṇikya at Lakshmipura in Saka 1470 (1548 A.D.) was dedicated to Vishṇu.

There are some big old tanks at Udaipur excavated by the rulers of Tripura at different times. Of these the following are worth mentioning.

Vijay Sagar

Situated near *Mahadeva Bari*, this big tank (500 × 200 mts in area) was excavated by Mahārājā Vijayamāṇkya and was named after him.

Amar Sagar

Situated near the present sub-divisional office, this tank (1118 × 275 metres in area) was excavated by Mahārājā Amarmāṇikya (1577-1586).

Mātār Bari Dighi

It is also called *Kalyāna Dighi* as it was excavated by Mahārājā Kalyanamāṇikya. Its area is 200 × 200 metres.

Bagabasa

Standing at a distance of about 13 km. away from Udaipur on the Udaipur-Agartala Road, Bagabasa lends historical hoariness to the place. The extensive mounds which have been found out here become eloquent with large-sized bricks, some having stamped and traces of regular walls to throw new light upon the history of Tripura.

Kakraban

Situated on the left bank of the Gumti, Kakraban though a village under Udaipur Sub-division, has already earned a name for its large

scale production of pine-apples and jack-fruits. It is also a riverian trade centre. With the establishment of a post-graduate basic training college in 1953, Kakraban has assumed some importance. The scenic beauty of the place is also charming.

Patichari

Situated at about 13 Kms off Udaipur Patichari has earned a name in rubber plantation and opened up a new horizon of economy in the territory. As one of the important exotic, rubber plantation was first raised at Patichari of the Udaipur Forest Division in the year 1963. The plants are till now absolutely disease-free which is not even the case where rubber is indigenous. The tapping of rubber is very encouraging. The yield of latex is higher than the yield in Kerala which is supposed to be the home of rubber in India and the dry rubber content of Tripura latex is the highest in India. Patichari in its rubber plantation shows one of the surest steps to economic rejuvenation for Tripura.

CONTENTS OF TABLES

		Page
TABLE I	Area, Population and Density of Population	406
TABLE II	Population according to Language, 1961 Census ...	407
TABLE III	Population according to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, 1961	410
TABLE IV	Revenue Receipts of Tripura Territorial Council ...	411
	Revenue Expenditure of Tripura Territorial Council ...	412
	Revenue Receipts of Tripura Administration	413
	Revenue and Capital Expenditure of Tripura Administration	414
	Income and Expenditure of Agartala Municipality ...	418
TABLE V	Literacy and Education, 1964-65	427
TABLE VI	Economic Classification of the population—1961 Census ...	428
TABLE VII	List of Fairs, 1961	431
TABLE VIII	Census of Livestock and Poultry, 1961	442
TABLE IX	List of Dak Bangalows and Rest Houses/Camp Huts etc. ...	443

TABLE—I

AREA, POPULATION AND DENSITY OF POPULATION

Territory/Sub-division	AREA IN		POPULATION				Density of population (per Sq.Kms)
	Square miles	Square Kilometres	Male	Female	Total	Rural	Urban	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1951 Census	4,116	10,066	3,39,038	3,06,669	6,45,707	6,03,112	42,595	60.6
1961 Census	4,116	10,066	5,91,237	5,50,768	11,42,005	10,39,008	1,02,997	107.1
By Sub-division :								
Amarpur	527	1,365	29,440	26,925	56,365	56,365	—	41
Bilonia	394	1,021	43,936	40,891	84,827	76,083	8,744	83
Dharmanagar	662	1,766	66,478	61,070	1,27,548	1,14,308	13,240	74
Kailasahar	464	1,171	54,533	49,593	1,04,126	95,551	8,575	87
Kamalpur	240	601	32,017	29,658	61,675	61,675	—	99
Khowai	538	1,393	67,188	62,760	1,29,948	1,21,166	8,782	93
Sabrum	238	616	22,541	20,856	43,397	43,397	—	70
Sadar	602	1,559	1,88,799	1,77,277	3,66,076	3,11,198	54,878	235
Sonamura	205	531	40,354	37,615	77,969	77,969	—	147
Udaipur	246	637	45,951	44,123	90,074	81,296	8,778	141

Note :—Figures for 1961 Census are provisional.

TABLE—II

POPULATION ACCORDING TO LANGUAGES—1961 CENSUS

Mother tongue	Total		
	Person	Male	Female
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. ABOR/ADI	3	3	—
2. *AFGANI/KABULI/PAKHTO/PASHTO/PATHANI*	3	3	—
3. ANGAMI	9	5	4
4. AO	2	2	—
5. ASSAMESE	123	74	49
6. *+ BANSHI	69	38	31
7. BENGALI	722,442	374,565	347,877
8. *BENJUA	229	112	117
9. *BHIM	229	117	112
10. *+ BHIMCHAURA	129	71	58
11. BHOTIA-UNSPECIFIED	3	1	2
12. *+ BHUIYA/BHUYAN	10	6	4
13. BHUMIJ	20	11	9
14. BIHARI	13	3	10
15. + BISHNUPURIYA	13	13	—
16. *+ BONGCHER	6	4	2
17. *BURMESE*	230	107	123
18. *CEYLONESE/SIMELU/SINGHALESE*	1	1	—
19. CHAKMA	22,361	11,608	10,753
20. CHANG-NAGA	1	1	—
21. *+ CHARI CHONG	213	114	99
22. *+ DARLONG	817	357	460
23. DESWALI	2	1	1
24. DEVANAGARI	11	2	9
25. *ENGLISH*	22	11	11
26. *FRENCH*	2	2	—
27. *FULMALI	10	6	4
28. *FULNAGRI	2	2	—
29. *GANJU	19	14	5
30. GARHWALI	101	77	24
31. GARO	5,458	2,767	2,691
32. *GHASI	124	28	96
33. *GHATWAL	5	3	2
34. GONDI	116	59	57
35. GORKHALI	14	10	4
36. *GOWALA	16	14	2
37. GUJARATI	40	24	16
38. *GUR	192	106	86
39. GURMUKHI	33	25	8
40. GURUNG	5	2	3
41. HALAM	5,481	2,723	2,758
42. HINDI	18,451	10,790	7,661
43. HINDUSTANI	349	228	121
44. *+ JAINTIA	1	1	—
45. JAMATIA	14,522	7,310	7,212
46. *JHARA	91	49	42
47. KABUI	1	1	—
48. KACHARI	3	2	1
49. *+ KAIPANG	1,977	979	998
50. *+ KALAI	2,050	1,107	943
51. KANNADA	5	3	2
52. *+KARBONG	72	48	24
53. KASHMIRI	3	2	1
54. KHARIA	237	124	113
55. KHASI	332	184	148

TABLE—II (*Contd.*)

Mother-tongue	Total		
	Person	Male	Female
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
56. *KHATTAI	4	1	3
57. KOCH	334	173	161
58. *+ KOK-BARAK	3	—	3
59. KOL	4	2	2
60. + KONDA	220	118	102
61. KUKI-UNSPECIFIED	1,902	1,033	869
62. *KULI	138	47	91
63. KUMAUNI	18	18	—
64. KURMI	11	10	1
65. KURUKH/ORAON	1,811	952	859
66. *KUTAL	2	1	1
67. *+ LARKA	32	17	15
68. LOTHA	2	1	1
69. LUSHAI/MIZO	2,941	1,465	1,476
70. MADRASI	65	38	27
71. MALAYALAM	34	27	7
72. *MANAKI	13	5	8
73. MANIPURI/MEITHEI	27,940	14,280	13,660
74. MARARI	5	5	—
75. MARATHI	20	14	6
76. MARWARI	8	6	2
77. MOGH	10,304	5,350	4,954
78. *MUCHI	18	8	10
79. *+ MULSOM	289	153	136
80. MUNDA-UNSPECIFIED	2,961	1,510	1,451
81. MUNDARI	185	100	85
82. *+ MURA	512	308	204
83. *+ MURASING	22	13	9
84. *+ MURSUM	4,486	2,356	2,130
85. NAGARI-HINDI	138	80	58
86. NEPALI	1,682	1,126	556
87. *+ NOATIA	4,468	2,343	2,125
88. ORIYA	11,582	6,075	5,507
89. + PAHARI/BIRJIA/BRIJIA/BINJHIA	4	2	2
90. *PAIK	8	3	5
91. *PERSIAN*	418	227	191
92. PUNJABI	78	49	29
93. RAJASTHANI	33	21	12
94. *RAJBHAR	16	12	4
95. *RANCHI	78	38	40
96. RANGKHOL	550	277	273
97. REANG	52,993	27,162	25,831
98. *+ RUPINI	2,028	1,011	1,017
99. *+ SAIMAL	41	10	31
100. SANTALI	1,634	887	747
101. SAVARA	818	407	411
102. SINDHI	21	16	5
103. TAMIL	49	34	15
104. *TANTI	16	9	7
105. TELUGU	1,713	936	777
106. TEBETAN	4	4	—
107. TRIPURI	211,883	108,167	103,716
108. TURI	2	1	1
109. *UCHAI	768	392	376
110. URDU	21	15	6

TABLE—II (*Contd.*)

Mother-tongue	Total		
	Person	Male	Female
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
111. UTKALI	1	1	—
112. VAIPHEI	1	1	—

NOTES : (i) Mother tongues printed in italics belong to countries outside the Indian Sub-Continent.
(ii) Names occuring after hyphen (-) have been introduced by the Linguist to indicate groupings.
(iii) Asterisk (*) means that the mother tongue is unclassified in Linguistic Survey of India.
(iv) Plus (+) denotes that the mother tongue though classfied in Linguistic Survey of India is either tentatively reclassified or considered unclassifiable by the Linguist.
(v) Asterisk and plus (*+) denote that the mother tongue is unclassified by Grierson but is tentatively classified by the Linguist.

TABLE—III

POPULATION BY SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES & OTHERS

Total S.C., S.T. and others	1961			1951		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	1,142,005 (100.00)	591,237 (100.00)	550,768 (100.00)	639,029 (100.00)	335,589 (100.00)	303,440 (100.00)
Scheduled castes	119,725 (10.48)	62,069 (10.50)	57,656 (10.47)	46,371 (7.26)	22,924 (6.83)	23,447 (7.73)
Scheduled tribes	360,070 (31.53)	184,174 (31.15)	175,896 (31.94)	192,293 (30.09)	96,828 (28.85)	95,465 (31.46)
Others	662,210 (57.99)	344,994 (58.35)	317,216 (57.59)	400,365 (62.65)	215,837 (64.32)	184,528 (60.81)

TALLE—IV

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF TRIPURA TERRITORIAL COUNCIL

(In 000 rupees)

Heads of Revenue	1957-58 (Actuals)	1958-59 (Actuals)	1959-60 (Actuals)	1960-61 (Actuals)	1961-62 (Revised Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Education	—	63	62	37	22
2. Medical and Public Health	—	5	6	5	18
3. Engineering	—	—	6	6	15
4. Fees for Services rendered :—					
(a) Market	—	9	13	20	52
(b) Ponds	—	2	1	—	2
(c) Ferries	—	6	6	7	18
(d) Tanks	—	1	1	—	1
5. Animal Husbandry	—	—	—	—	1,18
6. Interest on Loans & Advances	—	—	—	—	—
7. Contribution from Government :—					
(a) Net proceeds of Entertainment Tax	84	1,35	1,35	1,99	1,99
(b) Shares of net proceeds of Land Revenue	43	69	69	1,30	1,30
(c) Tax on motor vehicles	57	90	92	1,47	1,30
8. Miscellaneous	—	1	73	88	15
9. Grants likely to be made by Central Govt.	15,00	90,58	1,20,87	1,84,43	2,35,65
(a) Further grants to be received from Central Govt.	—	—	—	—	52,44
10. Contribution for pension gratuities	—	—	—	—	—
11. Deposits & Advances :—					
(a) Provident Funds	—	—	—	—	—
(b) General Provident Fund	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Contributory Provident Fund	—	—	—	—	—
12. (a) Deposits not bearing interest	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Security deposit	—	—	2,23	4,88	1,00
(c) Earnest money	—	1,24	3,40	3,79	—
(d) Caution money	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Miscellaneous P.W. Deposit	—	—	—	6	—
13. Advance bearing interest : Other conveyance advances	—	—	—	6	6
14. Advance not bearing interest :					
(a) Festival Advances	—	—	23	1,47	2,00
(b) Permanent Advance	—	—	—	—	30
(c) Objection Book Advance	—	—	—	—	77
(d) Cyclone Advance	—	—	—	—	3,76
TOTAL	16,84	95,63	1,31,37	2,01,08	3,03,18

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

REVENUE EXPENDITURE OF TRIPURA TERRITORIAL COUNCIL

(In 000 rupees)

Heads of Expenditure	1957-58 (Actuals)	1958-59 (Actuals)	1959-60 (Actuals)	1960-61 (Actuals)	1961-62 (Revised Estimates)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. General Administration	99	2,54	5,52	3,41	4,68
2. Education	—	50,71	66,53	92,17	1,10,62
3. Medical & Public Health	—	13,03	21,98	25,45	39,26
4. Engineering	—	14,18	43,92	62,47	1,04,94
5. Animal Husbandry	—	1,99	4,10	5,36	12,31
6. Superannuation allowances and pension	—	—	—	—	5
7. Debt Deposits and Advances	—	—	—	—	—
8. (a) General Provident Fund	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Contributory Provident Fund	—	—	—	—	—
9. Deposits not bearing interest					
(a) Security Deposit	—	—	—	1,57	1,00
(b) Earnest money	—	67	2,93	3,07	—
(c) Caution money	—	—	—	1	—
10. Advances bearing interest:					
(a) Other conveyance advance	—	—	12	10	10
11. Advances not bearing interest :					
(a) Festival Advance	—	89	1,57	1,51	2,00
(b) Permanent Advance	—	—	—	2	30
(c) Objection Book Advance	—	—	—	—	77
(d) Cyclone Advance	—	—	—	—	5,64
TOTAL	99	84,02	1,46,67	1,95,14	2,81,67

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF TRIPURA ADMINISTRATION

(In 000 Rupees)

Sl. No.	HEADS OF REVENUE	ACTUAL						
		1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax	1,40	1,04	—	—	1,05	2,03	1,40
2.	Land Revenue	12,32	13,56	15,21	14,52	12,87	11,96	9,17
3.	State Excise Duties	1,37	1,91	1,64	2,23	2,97	3,33	2,70
4.	Taxes on Vehicles	1,68	1,46	1,36	1,51	1,67	2,09	1,58
5.	Other taxes and Duties	1,52	1,76	2,00	2,34	2,90	2,89	2,21
6.	Stamps	4,00	3,94	4,04	4,48	5,24	5,46	7,20
7.	Registration fees	1,85	1,98	2,29	2,05	1,80	1,72	1,34
8.	Interests	11	18	47	1,24	68	46	44
9.	Administration of Justice	27	38	62	45	54	46	46
10.	Jail	11	8	13	12	18	16	15
11.	Police	11	11	20	53	52	48	34
12.	Miscellaneous Departments	14	7	9	(—) 75	—	(—) 51	(—) 5
13.	Education	2,31	2,04	1,88	1,98	9,71	1,96	3,08
14.	Medical and Public Health	19	15	13	16	1,27	53	39
15.	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	82	1,06	1,76	1,66	1,75	2,29	4,44
16.	Co-operation	2	2	1	1	—	3	5
17.	Industries	18	19	96	1,65	1,01	1,37	57
18.	Miscellaneous, Social & Development Organisation	—	—	—	—	—10	10	13
19.	Electricity schemes	(—) 21	(—) 97	43	75	9,13	4,51	3
20.	Public Works	—	—	—	2,97	81	76	2,65
21.	Pension and other Retirement benefit	—	—	—	—	—	7	1
22.	Civil Works	1,83	49	3,17	—	—	—	—
23.	Receipt in aid superannuation	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
24.	Stationery and Printing	5	6	16	20	22	21	16
25.	Forest	8,75	8.67	8,44	9,93	—	9,67	8,03
26.	Miscellaneous	1,06	1,41	8,85	1,65	7,42	1,86	1,56
27.	Opium	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
28.	Civil Defence	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
29.	Receipt on account of Community Project	—	—	17	—	—	—	31
	TOTAL	39,88	39,59	54,08	49,68	61,84	53,96	48,39

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF TRIPURA ADMINISTRATION

(In 000 Rupees)

Sl. No.	HEADS OF REVENUE	ACTUAL						
		1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I.	DIRECT DEMANDS ON REVENUE							
	(a) Agricultural Income Tax	5	8	7	6	7	7	4
	(b) Land Revenue	19,33	21,71	23,13	29,51	33,60	33,45	23,89
	(c) State Excise	56	50	61	63	70	68	48
	(d) Stamps	26	24	26	29	29	29	6
	(e) Forests	9,94	9,19	10,25	11,04	18,05	19,04	17,65
	(f) Registration	79	79	84	92	1,02	97	71
	(g) Taxes on Vehicles	64	98	1,21	1,57	25	18	15
	(h) Other Taxes & Duties	86	1,35	1,49	1,99	2	4	—
	TOTAL—I	32,43	34,84	37,86	46,01	54,00	35,68	25,33
II.	OTHER REVENUE EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY REVENUE							
	(a) Other expenditure met from ordinary Revenue	3,30	2,69	2,77	3,00	—	—	—
	TOTAL—II	3,30	2,69	2,77	3,00	—	—	—

TABLE—IV (*contd.*)

REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF TRIPURA ADMINISTRATION (*contd.*)

(In 000 Rupees)

Sl. No.	HEADS OF EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL						
		1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64(a)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
III.	CIVIL ADMINISTRATION							
	(a) General Administration	17,16	17,21	17,59	19,59	30,48	36,93	29,32
	(b) Administration of Justice	2,47	2,45	2,58	2,79	3,06	3,19	2,57
	(c) Jails	2,61	2,98	3,16	3,62	4,12	4,62	3,35
	(d) Police	47,83	28,02	37,44	44,18	60,86	82,19	49,49
	(e) Education	72,94	32,27	37,20	41,24	51,88	52,81	1,38,68
	(f) Medical	12,78	7,45	7,45	11,79	12,87	17,14	26,31
	(g) Public Health	10,41	6,60	4,81	8,02	6,75	5,24	8,94
	(h) Agriculture	11,24	9,85	12,30	18,78	18,79	24,79	18,53
	(i) Animal Husbandry	1,52	39	—	—	—	—	8,94
	(j) Co-operation	1,20	1,47	1,99	3,71	4,96	6,41	4,68
	(k) Industries	9,23	10,23	14,92	18,26	15,49	22,53	12,61
	(l) MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT							
	(i) Labour scheme	41	45	49	3,12	5,07	4,85	4,38
	(ii) Statistics	43	46	56	78	1,91	2,75	5,98
	(iii) Fire service	48	65	76	1,09	1,31	—	—
	(iv) Procurement of Rice and Paddy	2,60	2,80	2,84	3,09	3,69	3,90	3,26
	(v) Civil Supply Deptt.	69	63	38	28	30	—	—
	(vi) Export Trade Controller	2	3	2	2	1	1	2
	Total : Miscellaneous Deptt.	4,63	5,02	5,08	8,38	12,29	11,51	13,64
	TOTAL—III	1,94,02	1,23,94	1,44,52	1,80,36	2,21,55	2,78,87	3,30,50

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF TRIPURA ADMINISTRATION (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	HEADS OF EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL						
		1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IV.	CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS							
	(a) Working expense : Electricity Scheme	3,31	5,32	4,43	6,65	12,90	14,82	2,22
	TOTAL—IV	3,31	5,32	4,43	6,65	12,90	14,82	2,22
V.	MISCELLANEOUS HEADS							
	(a) Famine relief	1,73	3,27	3,26	5,90	3,62	1,15	8,73
	(b) Stationery & Printings	1,03	1,70	1,09	1,10	1,63	1,99	1,40
	(c) Contribution	72	94,10	1,35,94	1,89,52	2,46,65	—	—
	(d) Unforeseen charges (Publicity & Propaganda)	1,02	2,24	2,76	3,28	3,73	—	—
	(e) Relief	57	23	—	—	—	—	—
	(f) Development of schedule tribes	3,58	15	91	2	—	—	—
	(g) Welfare of Backward Classes	15	15	15	4,73	4,47	—	—
	(h) Coverage of employment service and collection of employment market information	—	—	26	—	—	—	—
	(i) Training of Craftsman	—	—	89	—	—	—	—
	(j) Village Panchayat	—	—	3	37	98	—	—
	(k) Rent, Rates and Taxes	—	66	—	5	9	—	—
	TOTAL—V	25,80	1,02,50	1,45,29	2,04,97	2,61,17	3,14	10,13

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF TRIPURA ADMINISTRATION (*Contd.*)

Sl. No.	HEADS OF EXPENDITURE	ACTUAL						
		1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VI.	EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS							
	(a) Community Development, Local Deptt. Works & National Extension Service	12,37	11,23	16,24	19,06	17,08	21,45	19,68
	TOTAL—VI	12,37	11,23	16,24	19,06	17,08	21,45	19,68
VII.	EXPENDITURE IN OTHER DEMANDS							
	(a) Privy Purse and allowance to the members of the Ruling Family	5,36	5,30	5,28	5,37	5,32	5,29	7,18
	(b) Superannuation allowances and Pensions etc.	3,01	3,52	3,22	3,42	3,76	4,50	4,58
	(c) Communication (including national highways)	21,07	16,81	—	—	22,94	31,18	45,29
	(d) Capital Outlay on :—							
	(i) Buildings	—	31,16	31,44	43,10	45,12	44,11	64,25
	(ii) Roads	98,79	67,49	56,62	64,40	59,70	90,27	81,87
	(iii) Irrigation & Power	10,95	76	7,86	11,11	9,99	27,16	35,50
	(e) Loans to Agriculturist	4,00	—	4,90	1,90	40	1,90	85
	(f) Distressed people	2,00	—	5,45	1,50	2,89	1,30	2,21
	(g) Road development from Central road fund	61	45	80	26	37	21	23
	(h) Original Works	86,05	90,71	1,07,69	1,45,90	1,58,10	2,15,75	2,55,87
	(i) Election	1,06	66	73	76	2,46	98	86
	TOTAL—VII	2,32,90	2,16,86	2,23,99	2,77,72	3,11,05	4,22,65	4,98,69
	GRAND TOTAL	5,04,13	4,97,38	5,75,10	7,37,77	8,77,75	7,76,61	8,86,55

(a) Figure shown for 9 months from 1.7.63 to 31.3.64 due to introduction of the Union Territories Act, 1963.
Sources : Finance Department, Revenue Department, P.W.D., Election Department, Govt. of Tripura & Accountant General, Assam.

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1956-57)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	13,424.00	1.	Administration	45,456.00
2.	Latrine tax	5,582.00	2.	Conservancy	81,529.00
3.	Licence fees	22,600.00	3.	Public Health	53,252.00
4.	Jote rent	807.00	4.	Public works	21,985.00
5.	Taluque rent (misc.)	635.00	5.	Others	1,79,362.00
6.	Ijara rent	1,919.00			
7.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	27,213.00		TOTAL	3,81,584.00
8.	House rent of Maharajganj bazar	16,482.00			
9.	Bachari rent (Road side)	8,164.00			
10.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	3,740.00			
11.	Income from Nagarjala land	362.00			
12.	Miscellaneous income	4,018.00			
13.	Income from Battala bazar	5,645.00			
	Goverment Grant ;				
14.	Government grant (recurring)	20,000.00			
15.	Additional Government grant	1,00,000.00			
16.	Grant from Government under Second Five Year Plan for improvement of Boards	1,00,000.00			
17.	Amount of loan for Market Scheme under Second Five Year Plan	1,20,000.00			
	TOTAL	4,50,591.00			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1957-58)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	11,786.25	1.	Administration	52,342.67
2.	Latrine tax	7,640.12	2.	Conservancy	98,229.35
3.	Licence fees	21,409.00	3.	Public Health	61,941.86
4.	Bachari rent	6,587.39	4.	Public Works	29,282.48
5.	Jote rent	797.19	5.	Others	30,945.39
6.	Taluque rent	486.53	6.	Construction of Sanitary Latrin	3,027.50
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	1,974.00			
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	21,302.50		TOTAL	2,75,769.25
9.	Ijara rent of Battala bazar	7,407.00			
10.	House rent	2,936.81			
11.	House rent & Bachari rent from Maharajganj bazar	17,823.19			
12.	Miscellaneous	4,266.03			
13.	Additional grant from Government	1,00,000.00			
	TOTAL	2,04,416.01			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1958-59)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	18,972.42	1.	Administration	53,614.60
2.	Latrine tax	6,617.93	2.	Conservancy	96,508.70
3.	Licence fees	18,713.25	3.	Public Health	65,210.26
4.	Bachari rent	5,529.23	4.	Public Works	15,560.33
5.	Jote rent	585.38	5.	Others	13,224.19
6.	Taluque rent	674.53			
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	3,565.00		TOTAL	2,44,118.08
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	26,270.00			
9.	Ijara rent of Battala bazar	5,225.00			
10.	Khas collection from Battala bazar	266.04			
11.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	3,215.00			
12.	House rent & Bachari rent from Maharajganj bazar	15,969.37			
13.	Miscellaneous	1,724.38			
14.	Deposited money with the Agartala Treasury	9,639.76			
15.	Recurring grant	20,000.00			
16.	Additional grant	1,95,000.00			
	TOTAL	3,31,967.29			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1959-60)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	17,820.84	1.	Administration	55,047.24
2.	Latrine tax	5,012.00	2.	Conservancy	1,10,899.93
3.	Licence fees	22,729.25	3.	Public Health	60,419.48
4.	Bachari rent	9,095.29	4.	Public Works	25,764.16
5.	Jote rent	551.05	5.	Others	45,650.97
6.	Taluk rent	407.56			
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	3,845.01		TOTAL	2,97,781.78
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	25,387.50			
9.	Ijara rent of Battala bazar	7,203.00			
10.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	3,135.00			
11.	House rent & Bachari rent	15,674.04			
12.	Miscellaneous	7,755.58			
13.	Recurring grant from Government	20,000.00			
14.	Additional grant from Government	1,50,000.00			
15.	Grant from Government for construction of Town Hall	1,00,000.00			
	TOTAL	3,88,616.12			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1960-61)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal Tax	21,567.74	1.	Administration	57,887.04
2.	Latrine Tax	7,694.72	2.	Conservancy	98,248.78
3.	Licence fees	23,371.75	3.	Public Health	61,282.74
4.	Bachari rent	7,092.52	4.	Public Works	46,369.74
5.	Jote rent	949·65	5.	Others	93,031.32
6.	Taluque rent	550.16	6.	Cost for construction of Town Hall	27,275.63
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	3,602.00			
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	18,227.50		TOTAL	3,84,095.25
9.	Ijara rent of Battalabazar	6,469.00			
10.	Khas collection from Battala bazar	150.92			
11.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	5,297.50			
12.	House rent & Bachari rent of Maharajganj bazar	16,116.88			
13.	Recurring grant from Government	20,000.00			
14.	Additional Government grant	3,64,000.00			
15.	Miscellaneous	41,892.50			
	TOTAL	5,36,982.84			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1961-62)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	18,394.52	1.	Administration	64,668.61
2.	Latrine tax	5,188.67	2.	Conservancy	1,07,300.68
3.	Licence fees	23,891.25	3.	Public Health	69,242.02
4.	Bachari rent	7,198.61	4.	Public Works	81,574.67
5.	Jote rent	651.72	5.	Purchase of motor vehicles	99,191.66
6.	Taluque rent	127.07	6.	Others	83,460.83
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	5,604.50	7.	Payment of special compensatory allowance	14,288.67
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajganj bazar	34,627.50			
9.	Ijara rent of Battala bazar	5,212.00		TOTAL	5,19,727.14
10.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	7,096.56			
11.	House rent & Bachari rent of Maharajganj bazar	15,872.77			
12.	Miscellaneous Income	25,313.90			
13.	Recurring grant from Govt	20,000.00			
14.	Additional grant from Govt	3,00,000.00			
	TOTAL	4,69,179.07			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1962-63)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	18,973.92	1.	Administration M	84,974.06
2.	Latrine tax	6,058.06	2.	Conservancy	1,12,576.72
3.	Licence fees	24,530.75	3.	Public Health	98,911.43
4.	Bachari rent	8,580.85	4.	Public Works	61,268.81
5.	Jote rent	1,447.16	5.	Others	1,14,939.09
6.	Taluque rent	5.72			
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	8,764.50		TOTAL	4,72,670.11
8.	Ijara rent of Maharajgang bazar	28,920.00			
9.	Ijara rent of Battala Bazar	5,255.17			
10.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	6,125.00			
11.	House rent of Ishanganj bazar	6,125.00			
12.	House rent & Bachari rent of Maharajganj bazar	18,633.17			
13.	Miscellaneous	6,236.26			
14.	Income from compost	5,000.00			
15.	Najarana	2,000.00			
	TOTAL	1,40,529.56			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1963-64)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Municipal tax	4,835.88	1.	Administration	87,640.31
2.	Holding tax	70,206.89	2.	Conservancy	1,19,440.48
3.	Bachari rent, House rent etc.	40,506.08	3.	Public Health	83,023.24
4.	Jote rent	222.16	4.	Public Works	76,716.96
5.	Taluque rent	11.23	5.	Others	1,01,079.79
6.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	11,995.00			
7.	Ijara rent of bazars	41,146.11		TOTAL	4,67,900.78
8.	Najarana	1,250.00			
9.	Interest from bank	41.47			
10.	Licence fees	30,819.50			
11.	Miscellaneous	3,221.73			
12.	Income under Compost Scheme from Agriculture Department	5,000.00			
13.	Recurring grant from Govt	20,000.00			
14.	Additional grant from Government	2,00,000.00			
	TOTAL	4,29,255.05			

TABLE—IV (*Contd.*)

INCOME EXPENDITURE OF THE AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

(1964-65)

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Sl. No.	Head	Amount	Sl. No.	Head	Amount
		Rs. P.			Rs. P.
1.	Holding tax	1,50,861.19	1.	Administration	94,478.74
2.	Arrear Municipal tax	12.50	2.	Conservancy	1,14,992.17
3.	Latrine tax	43.00	3.	Public Health	73,289.28
4.	Licence fees	29,020.95	4.	Public Works	1,00,103.20
5.	Bachari rent	7,287.32	5.	Others	88,719.79
6.	Jote rent	46.33			
7.	Miscellaneous Ijara rent	11,705.00		TOTAL	4,71,513,18
8.	Bazar Ijara rent	49,375.00			
9.	Ishanganj bazar House rent	4,820.00			
10.	House rent & Bachari rent of Maharajganj Bazar & Durga Choumohani bazar	49,936.36			
11.	Rent of Hawkers' Market	5,776.00			
12.	Miscellaneous	7,518.81			
13.	Bank's interest	937.50			
14.	Nazar	20,137.00			
15.	Income under Compost scheme from Agriculture Department	4,812.00			
16.	Realisation of dues under certificate cases etc.	2,316.80			
17.	Recurring grant from Govt	20,000.00			
18.	Additional grant from Govt	2,00,000.00			
	TOTAL	5,64,604.76			

TABLE—V

LITERACY AND EDUCATION, 1964-65

Educational Standard	No. of Schools & Colleges	Number of Scholars	
		Males	Females
Literate		1,75,060	56,128
Primary School/Junior Basic School	1,359	75,820	44,484
Middle School { Jr. High School	24	2,104	1,056
Middle School { Sr. Basic School	106	6,261	2,577
High School	9	1,361	1,949
Higher Secondary School	61	18,151	7,421
B.T. (Secondary Teachers' Trg.) College	1	42	21
Post-Graduate Basic Trg. College	1	83	43
Under-Graduate Basic Trg. College	2	206	—
Hindi Teachers' Trg. College	1	73	19
Craft Teachers' Trg. Institute	1	55	—
Colleges for General Education	4	1,793	593
Polytechnic Institute	1	257	—
Oriental School	24	456	161

TABLE—VI

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE POPULATION—1961 CENSUS

Sl. No.	NAME OF SUB-DIVISIONS		POPULATION			TOTAL WORKERS		
			Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8
	Tripura	Total	11,42,005	5,91,237	5,50,768	4,37,229	3,22,043	1,15,186
		Rural	10,39,008	5,36,580	5,02,428	4,08,993	2,96,444	1,12,549
		Urban	1,02,997	54,657	48,340	28,236	25,599	2,637
	Amarpur	Rural	56,365	29,440	26,925	27,639	16,945	10,694
	Bilonia	Total	84,827	43,936	40,891	32,761	24,480	8,281
		Rural	76,083	39,378	36,705	30,309	22,303	8,006
		Urban	8,744	4,558	4,186	2,452	2,177	275
	Dharmanagar	Total	1,27,548	66,478	61,070	47,919	37,063	10,856
		Rural	1,14,308	59,548	54,760	44,372	33,754	10,618
		Urban	13,240	6,930	6,310	3,547	3,309	238
	Kailasahar	Total	1,04,126	54,533	49,593	43,943	31,569	12,374
		Rural	95,551	49,911	45,640	41,440	29,267	12,173
		Urban	8,575	4,622	3,953	2,503	2,302	201
	Kamalpur	Rural	61,675	32,017	29,658	25,481	18,027	7,454
	Khowai	Total	1,29,948	67,188	62,760	56,327	37,263	19,064
		Rural	1,21,166	62,588	58,578	54,073	35,197	18,876
		Urban	8,782	4,600	4,182	2,254	2,066	188
		Urban	8,782	4,600	4,182	2,254	2,066	188
	Sabrum	Rural	43,397	22,541	20,856	18,306	12,559	5,747
	Sadar	Total	3,66,076	1,88,799	1,77,277	1,27,253	96,709	30,544
		Rural	3,11,198	1,59,518	1,51,680	1,12,260	83,213	29,047
		Urban	54,878	29,281	25,597	14,993	13,496	1,497
	Sonamura	Rural	77,969	40,354	37,615	26,257	22,344	3,913
	Udaipur	Total	90,074	45,951	44,123	31,343	25,084	6,259
		Rural	81,296	41,285	40,011	28,856	22,835	6,021
		Urban	8,778	4,666	4,112	2,487	2,249	238

TABLE—VI (*Contd.*)

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE POPULATION—1961 CENSUS—(*Contd.*)

NAME OF SUB-DIVISIONS		AS CULTIVATOR			AS AGRICULTURAL LABOURER			IN MINING, QUARRYING, LIVE STOCK, FORESTRY, FISHING AND HUNTING		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tripura	Total	2,80,881	1,99,308	81,573	32,912	29,037	3,605	12,193	7,773	4,420
	Rural	2,78,747	1,97,287	81,460	32,279	28,699	3,580	11,777	7,359	4,418
	Urban	2,134	2,021	113	633	608	25	416	414	2
Amarpur	Rural	23,609	13,885	9,724	1,068	980	88	88	86	2
Bilonia	Total	22,653	16,277	6,376	2,385	2,133	252	345	322	23
	Rural	22,354	16,000	6,354	2,328	2,076	252	257	234	23
	Urban	299	277	22	57	57	—	88	88	—
Dharmanagar	Total	32,401	25,094	7,307	3,257	3,095	162	2,183	1,264	919
	Rural	31,632	24,381	7,251	3,009	2,862	147	2,170	1,251	919
	Urban	769	713	56	248	233	15	13	13	—
Kailasahar	Total	29,623	21,787	7,836	2,400	2,165	235	3,025	1,681	1,344
	Rural	29,133	21,318	7,815	2,242	2,007	235	3,000	1,656	1,344
	Urban	490	469	21	158	158	—	25	25	—
Kamalpur	Rural	16,929	12,534	4,395	1,347	1,184	163	762	414	348
Khowai	Total	41,466	26,185	15,281	3,761	2,905	856	588	383	205
	Rural	41,251	25,978	15,273	3,741	2,886	855	560	355	205
	Urban	215	207	8	20	19	1	28	28	—
Sabrum	Rural	11,358	7,672	3,686	2,484	1,811	673	234	181	53
Sadar	Total	66,728	46,658	20,070	8,579	7,643	936	4,067	2,559	1,508
	Rural	66,613	46,547	20,066	8,536	7,600	936	3,851	2,345	1,506
	Urban	115	111	4	43	43	—	216	214	2
Sonamura	Rural	16,388	14,516	1,872	3,320	3,249	71	619	608	11
Udaipur	Total	19,726	14,700	5,026	4,311	4,142	169	282	275	7
	Rural	19,480	14,456	5,024	4,204	4,044	160	236	229	7
	Urban	246	244	2	107	98	9	46	46	—

TABLE—VI (*Contd.*)

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE POPULATION—1961 CENSUS—(*Contd.*)

NAME OF SUB-DIVISIONS		AT HOUSEHOLD INDUSTRY			IN MANUFACTURING OTHER THAN INDUSTRY			IN CONSTRUCTION		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Tripura	Total	25,153	7,011	18,142	10,839	9,039	1,800	4,100	3,998	102
	Rural	23,971	6,328	17,643	8,034	6,325	1,709	2,646	2,552	94
	Urban	1,182	683	499	2,805	2,714	91	1,454	1,446	8
Amarpur	Rural	915	149	766	205	180	25	65	65	—
Bilonia	Total	1,475	449	1,026	581	474	107	282	271	11
	Rural	1,338	371	967	362	263	99	188	177	11
	Urban	137	78	59	219	211	8	94	94	—
Dharmanagar	Total	2,805	794	2,011	752	668	84	471	471	—
	Rural	2,589	627	1,962	512	428	84	299	299	—
	Urban	216	167	49	240	240	—	172	172	—
Kailasahar	Total	2,947	445	2,502	742	660	82	349	346	3
	Rural	2,786	357	2,429	589	515	74	252	249	3
	Urban	161	88	73	153	145	8	97	97	—
Kamalpur	Rural	2,484	316	2,168	371	301	70	193	189	4
Khowai	Total	2,471	589	1,873	941	734	207	165	165	—
	Rural	2,367	552	1,815	745	543	202	133	133	—
	Urban	104	46	58	196	191	5	32	32	—
Sabrum	Rural	1,225	227	998	243	126	117	40	40	—
Sadar	Total	7,421	2,873	4,548	5,661	4,813	848	2,158	2,106	52
	Rural	7,080	2,681	4,399	3,928	3,145	783	1,212	1,168	44
	Urban	341	192	149	1,733	1,668	65	946	938	8
Sonamura	Rural	2,061	444	1,617	520	371	149	46	46	—
Udaipur	Total	1,349	716	633	823	712	111	331	299	32
	Rural	1,126	604	522	559	453	06	218	186	32
	Urban	223	112	111	264	259	5	113	113	—

TABLE — VII

LIST OF FAIRS, 1961

Sl. No.	Name of place where fair is held	Time (English month) when fair is held	Local Religious or other occasion of the fair and any other special attraction of the fairs	Duration of fairs (number of days)	Average total attendance
1	2	3	4	5	6
Name of Sub-division :— AMARPUR			Name of Tehsil :— *Ampi*		
1.	Agunlal Para	Jan.	Sri Panchami Mela	7	800
2.	Baji Raj Bari	Jan.	"	7	800
3.	Garjan Khola Bari	April	Dumbur fair	2	8,000
4.	Lakti Kaipang Para	Jan.	Sri Panchami Mela	7	800
5.	Lodhai Bangashi Para	Feb.	Ampinagar mela (on the occasion of Saraswati Puja)	5	2,000
6.	Taichakma Bari	Jan.	Sri Panchami Mela	7	800
7.	Tirtha Mukha Bari (Thaithai)	Dec.	Poush Sankranti Mela	3	2,000
			Name of Tehsil :— *Birgang*		
8.	Burbaria	April	Chaitra Sankranti Mela	7	5,000
			Name of Tehsil :— *Dumburnagar*		
9.	Aranya Kanti Dewan Para	May	Buddha Mela	1	600
Name of Sub-division :—BILONIA Name of Tehsil :—*Bilonia*					
1.	Bharat Chandra Nagar	March	Baruni Snan	1	300
2.	Mahamani Para	April-May	Chaitra Sankranti Mela	7	1,500
			Name of Tehsil :— *Muhuripur*		
3.	Baikhora	March-April	Buddha Mela	3	600

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Dulachara	,,	,,	2	1,000
5.	Laxmichara	Jan.-Feb.	Buddha Mela (on the occasion of the birth day of Lord Buddha)	2	1,000
6.	Madhya Pilak	April	Bengali New Year's day Mela	1	1,000
7.	Maniram Para	Feb.-March	Mahadevo Mela (on the occasion of Shib Chaturdashi)	1	500
8.	Muhuripur	May	Chaitra Sankranti Mela	1	2,000
9.	Uttar Hichachara	June-July	Rathajatra Mela	1	2,000
		March-April	Buddha Mela (on the ground of Uttar Hichachara Bazar in Falgun Purnima)	1	300
Name of Sub-division:— BILONIA			Name of Tehsil:— *Rajnagar*		
10.	Prakashnagar	April-May	Baishakhi Mela	1	150-200
Name of Sub-division:— DHARMANAGAR			Name of Tehsil:— *Brajendranagar*		
1.	Lalchara	March-April	Chaitra Sankranti mela	1	2,000
2.	Madhya Amtila	,,	,, ,,	1	600
3.	Purāna Gārad	Jan.-Feb.	Baruni Mela	1	600
4.	Ranibari Tea Estate	July	Baruni ,,	1	400
			Name of Tehsil:— *Dharmanagar*		
5.	Baghapur	July-Aug.	Jhulan Mela (in the premises of Suravi Ashram)	5	300
6.	Bilthai	Jan.-Feb.	Baruni	1	150
7.	Dula Kandi	N. A.	Hari Kirtan	3	175
8.	Kutar Pasha	April	Charak Puja	1	300

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Name of Tehsil:— *Gorakappa*		
3.	Shilchari	May	Buddha Mela at the time of Buddha Purnima	1	200
4.	Doang Mog Para	March	At the time of Chaitra Sankranti	1	550
5.	Gordhang Satchand	,,	,,	1	500
6.	Manu	March-April	At the time of Bengali New Year's Day	1	400
			Name of Tehsil:— *Sabrum*		
7.	Bijoynagar	May	,,	1	300
8.	Chatakhi	March	Chaitra Sankranti Mela (at the time of Chaitra Sankranti)	2	600
9.	Sabrum	March	,, ,,	2	500
			Name of Tehsil:— *Samarendraganj*		
10.	Mahadevnagar	March	At the time of Chaitra Sankranti	1	500
Name of Sub-division:— SADAR			Name of Tehsil:— *Bamutia*		
1.	Guche Mura	Feb.-March	Siva Chaturdashi Mela	1	500
2.	Harendranagar Tea Estate	,,	,,	1	1,000
3.	Kalkalia	April-May	Sitaramkunda Mela	1	1,000
4.	Noagaon	Feb.-March	Siva Chaturdashi Mela	1	400-500
			Name of Tehsil:— *Bishalgarh*		
5.	Ishanganj Bazar	April May	Baishaki Mela	3	10,000

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
				Name of Tehsil:— *Kulaihour*	
12.	Dakshin Nilichara	March	Buddha Mela (Buddha Purnima)	1	200
13.	Pubra Duluchara	March-April	Charak Mela	3	775
14.	Singninala	March	Charak Mela	1	300
Name of Sub-division:— KHOWAI				Name of Tehsil:— *Asharam Bari*	
1.	Jiten Akhra	June-July	Rathajatra Mela	1	300
2.	Joyram Basti	March	Sivaratri Mela	1	400
				Name of Tehsil:— *Kalyanpur*	
3.	Dwarikapur	Feb.	Sri Panchami Mela	1	1,000
4.	Gopalnagar	April	Charak Mela	1	500
				Name of Tehsil:— *Khowai*	
5.	Charganki	Aug.-Sept.	Janmastami Mela (on the occasion of Krishna Janmastami)	1	1,000
6.	Dakshin Chebri	April	Charak Puja	1	700
7.	Khowai Tea Estate	Jan.-Feb.	Baruni Snan (Baruni Mela)	1	5,000
8.	Mahadev Tilla	April	Charak Puja (Mela)	2	2,000
9.	Purba Sonatala	Jan.-Feb.	Baruni Mela	1	5,000
10.	Singichara	March	Sivaratri Mela	1	500
Name of Sub-division:— SABRUM				Name of Tehsil:— *Amlighat*	
1.	Amlighat	March	At the time of Chaitra Sankranti	1	350
2.	Krishnanagar	,,		1	300

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Madhya & Dakshin Panisagar	Feb-March	Siva Chaturadashi	2	2,500
		June-July	Ratha Jatra	1	2,000
		26th Jan.	Exhibition	7	5,000
10.	Panisagar	26th Jan.	Exhibition	7	1,000
		Jan.	Maghi Mela	1	200
		June-July	Ratha Jatra	1	400
		July-Aug.	Jhulan	1	300
11.	Pratyek Roy	Dec.-Jan.	Poush Sankranti Mela	1	500
12.	Radhanagar	June-July	Ratha Jatra	3	400
13.	Radhapur	April	Charak Puja	1	250
14.	Rajnagar	June-July	Ratha Mela	1	400
15.	Ramnagar	26th Jan.	Exhibition	7	1,000
Name of Sub-division:— DHARMANAGAR				Name of Tehsil:— *Kanchanpur*	
16.	Bhati Machmara	May	Buddha Purnima	1	300
17.	Kanchanpur	,,	Buddha Mela	3	500
18.	Makhanchara	Oct.-Nov.	Durga Puja	3	500
19.	Nilmani Karbari Para	Feb.-March	Buddha Purnima	5	1,000
20.	Petcharthal	May	Buddha Mela	3	450
21.	Radhamadhab Para	Dec.-Jan.	Poush Sankranti	1	2,000
22.	Satnala Bazar	Jan.	Poush Sankranti	1	1,000
23.	Sukhanchara	March-April	Baruni Snan	1	300
				Name of Tehsil:— *Kurti*	
24.	Kadamtala	June-July	Ratha Jatra Mela	1	500

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Mohan Taki	Jan.	Bhairab Mela	1	250
		,,	Poush Sankranti	1	250
Name of Sub-division:— KAILASAHAR			Name of Tehsil:— *Kailasahar*		
1.	Bhagabannagar	March-April	Astami Mela (Basanti Mela)	1	500
2.	Goldharpur	,,	Chaitra Sankranti	1	500
			Shiba Baruni Mela	1	500
3.	Hari Charan Chowdhury Para	Feb.-March	Unakoti Mela (Siva Chaturdashi Astami)	1	600
Name of Sub-division:— KAMALPUR			Name of Tehsil:— *Kamalpur*		
1.	Bara Surma	Oct.-Nov.	Rash Jatra	1	200
2.	Darichara Siva Bari	Feb.-March	Sivaratri Mela	1	1,000
3.	Dorichara	,,	Sivaratri	1	500
		March-April	Astami (Basanti)	1	200
		,,	Baruni	1	300
		,,	Chaitra Sankranti	1	350
4.	Ganganagar	Oct.-Nov.	Rash Jatra	1	100
5.	Kamalanagar	N.A.	Agricultural Exahibition	15	1,000
6.	Kamalpur	16th Jan.	Exhibition	7	5,000
7.	Manik Bhander	16th-30th Jan.	Agricultural & Industrial Mela	15	5,000
8.	Marachara	March-April	Charak Puja	1	100
9.	Mohanpur	April	Basanti Puja	1	150
10.	Paschim Debichara	June-July	Ratha Mela	1	300
		March-April	Charak Mela	1	250
11.	Rupashpur	Oct.-Nov.	Rash Jatra	1	100

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Name of Tehsil:— *Charailam*		
6.	Bishranganj Colloney	March April	Mela (Year ending)	1	5,000
7.	Brinndaban Thakur Para	,,	,,	1	4,000
8.	Chandi Thakur Para	,,	,,	1	20
9.	Debendra Choudhury	,,	,,	1	4,000
10.	Gangan Sardar Para	,,	,,	1	20
11.	Jagoi Bari	,,	,,	1	5,000
12.	Mohan Kobra	,,	,,	1	5,000
13.	Nidan Choudhury Para	,,	,,	1	4,000
Name of Sub-division:— SABRUM			Name of Tehsil:— *Ishanchandranagar*		
14.	Durgapur	Jan.-Feb.	Narayan Khamar Mela (on the occasion of Sripanchami)	5	10,000
15.	Kanchanmala	Dec.-Jan.	Kanchanmala Mela (on the occassion of Poush Sankranti)	1	2,000
16.	Madhavpur	April-May	(Mela on the occassion of Bengali Nababarsa)	1	500
17.	Dhaniram Chow. Para	N.A.	Nehal Chandranagar Mela	1	400-500
Name of Sub-division:— SADAR			Name of Tehsil:— *Kamalasagar*		
18.	Kamalsagar Kalibari	Oct.	Kalibari Mela	1	500
19.	Purathal Rajnagar	N.A.	Purathal Rajnagar Mela	1	200-300
			Name of Tehsil:— *Mohanpur*		
20.	Bijoynagar	March	Siva Mela	1	2,000
21.	Dakshin Taranagar	April-May	Chitra Mela (on the occasion of Chaitra Sankranti)	1	5,000

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Fatikchara	Feb.-March	Gopalnagar Malaitaler Mela (on the occasion of Sivaratri)	1	600
23.	Gopalnagar	,,	,,	1	600
24.	Kalachara	April	Kalachara Mela	1	2,000
25.	Mohanpur Bazar	March	Baruni Mela (Sacred bath of Chaitra)	1	10,000
			Name of Tehsil:— *Old Agartala*		
26.	Old Agartala	June-July	Kharchi Mela (on the occasion of Kharchi Puja)	3	50,000
		Feb.-March	Shiba Chaturdashi Mela (on the occasion of Siva-chaturdasi Puja)	3	500
27.	Ranir Bazar	Oct.-Nov.	In the month of Kartik during Kalipuja	2	600-800
		April-May	Kalibari Mela (on the occasion of Bengali New Year's Day)	2	150
			Name of Tehsil:— *Sadar*		
28.	Badharghat	Oct.-Nov.	Rashmela (on the occassion of Rashpurnima)	1	200
29.	Bardwali (Uttar & Dakshin)	Dec.-Jan.	Push Sankranti	1	350
30.	Dakshin Mahiskhola	,,	,,	1	200
	Name of Sub-division:— SADAR				
			Name of Tehsil:— *Sadar*		
31.	Damadamia Colony	April-May	Naba Barsa	1	300
32.	Dukli (Purba & Parchim)	March-April	Chaitra Sankranti	1	500

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Gazaria	Dec.-Jan.	Darger Mela (on the occassion of Push Sankranti)	1	300
34.	Laxmipur	July-Aug.	Birth Day ceremony of Srimath Swami Nitya Krisnananda Abadhut Maharaj at (Yogi Bari) on the occasion of Srabani Purnima)	3	700
35.	Lembu Chera	April-May	Naba Barsa	1	250
36.	Naba Gram	April	Chaitra Sankranti	1	500
37.	Narayanpur (Purba & Parchim)	Dec.-Jan.	Push Sankranti	1	550
38.	Tebbaria	April-May	Naba Barsa	1	300
39.	Ujan Abhaynagar	Oct.-Nov.	Rash Mela	1	500
40.	Uttar Ramnagar	April-May	Naba Barsa	1	325
			Name of Tehsil:— *Simna*		
41.	Sonaram Master Palli	Jan.-Feb.	Saraswati Mela (on the occasion of Saraswati Puja)	1	1,000
			Name of Tehsil:— *Takarjala*		
42.	Takarjala	April-May	Baisakhi Mela	1	500
	Name of Sub-division:— SONAMURA		Name of Tehsil:— *Boxanagar*		
1.	Kalanchara	April	Baishaki Mela 1st day of Baishak	1	300

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
				Name of Tehsil:— *Kathalia*	
2.	Maheshpur	April	Baishaki Mela	1	300
3.	Manaipathar	„	„	1	300
				Name of Tehsil:— *Sonamura*	
4.	Bardwal	Dec.-Jan.	Push Sankranti (Bat-tala mela)	2	1,000
5.	Bejimara	Feb.	Agricultural & industrial Exhibition Mela	15	2,000
6.	Chowmohani	April	Chaitra Sankranti	1	500
Name of Sub-division:— SONAMURA				Name of Tehsil:— *Sonamura*	
7.	Durgapur	Feb.	Industrial Fair and Mela	15	2,000
8.	Garur Band	„	Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Mela	15	1,000
9.	Khedabari	Jan.-Feb.	Darga Mela (name of which is Thakurmura Darga)	3	500-600
10.	Melaghar	April	Baishakhi Mela	1	200
		„	Charak Mela	1	200
		June-July	Ratha Jatra	1	200
11.	Rabindranagar	Feb.	Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition and Mela	15	3,000
12.	Shrimantapur	Feb.	„	15	1,500
13.	Sonamura Town	„	„	15	2,000
14.	Subhapur	„	„	15	2,000
15.	Sunapur (Chakbasta)	„	„	15	1,500

TABLE — VII (*Contd.*)

1	2	3	4	5	6
Name of Sub-division:— UDAIPUR				Name of Tehsil:— *Radhakishorepur*	
1.	Mata & Taluk Colony	Feb.	Siva Chaturdashi mela	15	500
		April-May	Chaitra Sankranti	15	5,000
		Oct.-Nov.	Dewali	1	3,000
2.	Basanta Nagar	June-July	Ratha Jatra Mela	1	2,000
				Name of Tehsil:— *Salgara*	600
3.	Bipinagar Colony	April	Baishakhi Mela	1	300
4.	Kamalasagar	Dec.-Jan.	Poush Sankranti	1	500
5.	Kishoregonj	23th to 28th Feb.	Siva Chaturdashi		
6.	Mirja Math	Dec.-Jan.	Poush Sankranti	1	500
7.	Tulamurah	Dec.-Jan.	Poush Sankranti (Poush Sankranti)	1	600

TABLE—VIII

CENSUS OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY IN TRIPURA

	LIVESTOCK										POULTRY	
Years	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Horses & Ponies	Mules	Donkeys	Camels	Pigs	Total Livestock	Fowls	Ducks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1951 Census	1,90,708	27,603	1,183	34,493	475	...	...	...	73,513	3,27,975	6,37,730	1,24,849
1956 Census	3,02,865	40,477	6,774	1,01,332	746	3	11	5	40,095	4,92,308	3,51,341	41,189
1961 Census	4,94,960	42,564	3,351	1,57,815	1,097	...	...	..	35,218	7,35,005	6,75,643	81,652

TABLE — IX

LIST OF DAK BUNGLOWS & REST HOUSES/CAMP HUTS ETC.

Sl No.	Place	Type	Sub-division	Management
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Agartala	Dak Bunglow	Sadar	Public Works Deptt.
2.	Agartala	Circuit House	,,	District Magistrate.
3.	Amarpur	Dak Bunglow	Amarpur	,, ,,
4.	Amarpur	Tribal Rest House	,,	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
5.	Ambasa	Rest House/Camp Hut	Kamalpur	Forest Department.
6.	Ashabari	-do-	Sonamura	-do-
7.	Abhoya	-do-	Bilonia	-do-
8.	Anandapur	-do-	-do-	-do-
9.	Arundhatinagar	Tribal Rest House	Sadar	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
10.	Bilonia	Dak Bunglow	Bilonia	District Magistrate.
11.	Bilonia (Muhurighat)	Rest House/Camp Hut	-do	Forest Deptt.
12.	Bilonia	Tribal Rest House	-do	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
13.	Bagbasha	Rest House/Camp Hut	Udaipur	Forest Deptt.
14.	Chawmanu	Dak Bunglow	Kailasahar	Distt. Magistrate.
15.	Charilam	Rest House/Camp Hut	Sadar	Forest Department.
16.	Churaibari	Rest House/Camp Hut	Dharmanagar	-do-
17.	Chalitachera	-do-	Udaipur	-do-
18.	Dharmanagar	Dak Bunglow	Dharnanagar	Dist. Magistrate.
19.	Dharmanagar	Rest House/Camp Hut	-do-	Forest Deptt.

TABLE — IX (Contd)
LIST OF DAK BUNGLOWS & REST HOUSES/CAMP HUTS ETC.

Sl No.	Place	Type	Sub-division	Management
1	2	3	4	5
20.	Dharmanagar	Tribal Rest House	-do-	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
21.	Dhanpur	Rest House/Camp Hut	Sonamura	Forest Department.
22.	Dumbur	-do-	Amarpur	-do-
23.	Fatikroy	-do-	Kailasahar	-do-
24.	Gandachara	Inspection Bunglow	Amarpur	Distt. Magistrate.
25.	Golaghati	Rest House/Camp Hut	Sadar	Forest Department.
26.	Garjee	-do-	Udaipur	-do-
27.	Jampui	-do-	Dharmanagar	-do-
28.	Jatrapur	-do-	Sonamura	-do-
29.	Kailasahar	Dak Bunglow	Kailasahar	Distt. Magistrate.
30.	Kailasahar	Rest House/Camp Hut	Kailasahar	Forest Department.
31.	Kanchanpur	Inspection Bunglow	Dharmanagar	District Magistrate.
32.	Khowai	Dak Bunglow	Khowai	-do-
33.	Khowai	Rest House/Camp Hut	-do-	Forest Department
34.	Kakri	-do-	Sonamura	-do-
35.	Kalamchoura	-do-	-do-	Forest Department.
36.	Kumarghat	Tribal Rest House	Kailasahar	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
37.	Kamalpur	Dak Bunglow	Kamalpur	District Magistrate.
38.	Longthorai	Rest House/Camp Hut	Kailasahar	Forest Department
39.	Melaghar	-do-	Sonamura	-do-
40.	Manu Crossing	-do-	Kailasahar	-do-
42.	Muhuripur	Rest House/Camp Hut	Bilonia	Forest Department
43.	Manu	-do-	Sabrum	-do-
44.	Nidaya	-do-	Sonamura	-do-
45.	Pacharthal	-do-	Dharmanagar	-do-
46.	Paratia	Rest House/Camp Hut.	Udaipur	Forest Department.
47.	Ramchandraghat	-do-	Khowai	-do-
48.	Sonamura	Dak Bunglow	Sonamura	District Magistrate.
49.	Sabrum	-do-	Sabrum	-do-
50.	Sabrum	Tribal Rest House	-do-	Tribal Welfare Deptt.
51.	Salema	Rest House/Camp Hut	Kamalpur	Forest Department.
52.	Sepahijala	-do-	Sadar	Forest Department.
53.	Teliamura	-do-	Khowai	Forest Department.
54.	Udaipur	Dak Bunglow	Udaipur	District Magistrate.
55.	Vaughnum	Inspection Bunglow	Dharmanagar,	Dist. Magistrate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chapter — I

Books

Aitchison, C. U. — A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, Vol. I, 1862.

Bhattacharyaya, A. C. — Progressive Tripura, 1930, Agartala.

Champion, H. G. — A Preliminery Survey of the Forest type in India and Burma, Indian Forest Rec. N.S. 1(1).

Chibbar, H. L. — The Geology of Burma, 1934.

Deb, D. B. — 1. On the occurence of Ramvoltia Serpentina Benth in Tripura, Socio—
2. New record of plants for India from Tripura Territory. Bot. Survey of India, 1961.
3. Bibliographical Survey on Botanical studies in Tripura.

Deb Barma, N. C. — Udaipur Bibaran, 1911.

Deb Barma, B. K. — Udaipur Bibaran, 1915.

Dutta, B. C. — Udaipur Bibaran, 1930.

Dutta, S. K. — The Forest of Tripura, 1952.

Hunter, W. W. — 1. Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah, Vol. VI, 1876.
2. Hill Tipperah, Gazette of India (New ed) 1908.

Lewin, Capt. T. H. — Hill Tracts of Chittagong and Dewelles Therein, 1869, Calcutta.

Mackenzie, Alexandar — History of the Relations of the Government with Hill Tribes of the North-Eastern Frontiers of Bengal, 1884.

Phillip, J. — Taverniers' Travels in India (in 1676). Chapter XVI, Of the Kingdom of Tipra.

Sen, Kaliprasanna — Rajmala, Vols I to III, 1919-1924.

Singh, Kailash Chandra — Rajmala, 1896, Comilla.

Journals.

Dasgupta, H. C. — Geological Notes on Hill Tipperah, 1908, Journal of the Asiatic Society, N.S. 4.

Dasgupta, P. K. — Journal of the Asiatic Society, 1916.

Sanyal, G. M. — Tea cultivation in Tripura — Chunta Prakash. Extraordinary issue, January 16, 1930.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Das, K. L. — Notes on the Geology of Tripura state, Bengal, quart. J. Geol. Min. Met. Soc. Ind. II(3), 1939.

Directorate General of observations (Climatology and Geophysies) — A Note on the work in 1953-54-climatological summaries.

Gupta, A. C. — Report on the Administration of Tripura State, 1908-09.

— — Proclamation made by the Regent Maharani Kanchan Prava Debi, dated Nov. 11, 1947.

Govt. of Tripura — Progess Report for the field, 1951-52 Summary report of Tripura Structure, 1952.

Sen, S. N. — Tripura State Memorandum for the Indian State Enquiry Committee (financial) No. 2, 1932.

— — Tripura State consolidated Administration Report for 1937-1948.

Chatterjee, R. M. — Report on the Adminitration of the Tripura state for the year 1315 T.E. Agartala, 1906.

Chaudhury, D. C. — First working plan for the Forest of Tripura, Agartala, 1958.

— Report on the Adminstration of the Tipperah State for the year 1913-14.

Hooter, T. D. — Imperial Gazetteer of India, The Indian Empire I (Descipline) 1909.

Chapter — II

Books.

Aichinson, C. U. — A collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads, Vol. I, 1862.

Bhattacharyay, A. C. — Progressive Tripura, 1930, Agartala.

Banerjee, R. D. — Bangalir Itihas, vol. II.

Banerji, S. — Itihasasrita Bangla Kavita, 1954, Calcutta.

Banerji, Adris — Temples of Tripura, 1968, Varanasi.

Bhuyan, S. K. — Tripura Buranji, ed., Assam, 1938.

Basak, R. G. — History of North Eastern Frontier, 1917, Calcutta.

Buckland, C. E. — The History of India, vol. I.

Chaudhury, Achhutcharan — Srihatter Itibritta, vol. II, Part I.
Srihatter Itibritta, vol. II, Part III.
Chittagong Records, vol. I

Cumming, J. G. — Survey and settlement of the Chakla Roshnabad Estate in the District of Tippera & Noakhali (Shillong, 1907) Appendix-IV).

Chakraborty, B. C. — Mr. J. D. Gordon's report and judicial Proceedings, Nov., 1860, No. 245-47 as quoted in British Relations with
— Hill Tribes of Assam since 1858.
— Firma, K. L. Mukhopadhyay, Calcutta, 1964.

Dani, A. H. — Pre-History and proto-History of Eastern India, 1960, Calcutta.

Deb Barma, Colonel Thakur Mahim Chandra — Desiya Rajya, Agartala, 1922.

Deb Barma, Samarendrachandra — Tripurar Smriti.

Education Directorate, Govt. of Tripura — Rajamala.

Gupta, P. L. — India — The Land and People : coins (Delhi, 1969).

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of the State of Hill Tipperah, 1876.

Jarret & Sarkar — History of Bengal, vol. II, tr., A.S.B. Calcutta, 1942.

Lewin, T. H. — The Hill Tracts of Chittagong and the Dwellers Therein, 1869, Calcutta.

Majumder, R. C. — Bangladesher Itihas, Calcutta, 1373 B.S. Prachin Yuga.

Majumder, R. C. — History of Ancient Bengal.
— History of Bengal. ed.
— History of the Freedom Movement in India, Vol. II, (Calcutta, 1967).

Mukherjee, Sukhamoy — Quoted N. K. Bhatasali in his Bangaler Itihaser Duso Bachhar: Swadhin Sultaner Amal, 2nd Edition, Calcutta, 1966.

Medhi, Kalirama — Assamese Grammar & Origin of Assamese Language ; Preface.

Mackenzie, Alexandar — History of the Relations of the Government with the Hill Tribes of the North East Frontier of Bengal, Calcutta, 1884.

Phillip, John — Traverniers' Travel in India, Bangabashi office edition, (Calcutta, 1905).

Rahim, M. A. — Parganah, Amil, Shiqdar, Krosi, Amin in Nalinikanta Bhattasali Commemoration volume (Dacca).

Sen, Kaliprasanna — Sri Rajmala, ed. Vol. II, III & IV, (Agartala, 1927).

Sen, T. C. — Tripura in Transition (1923-1957). Agartala, 1970.

Sarkar, Jadunath — History of Bengal, ed. Vol. II.

Singha, Kailashchandra — Rajmala, Part II.

Stewart, C. — History of Bengal.

Sandys, E. E. — History of Tripura, Calcutta, 1915.

Vidyabinede, Chandradoya — Silalipi-Sangraha, Compilation, Education Department, Govt. of Tripura, 2nd edition, 1968.
— The History and Cuture of Indian People: The Delhi sultanate, Vol. VI.
— Vereslt in Chittagong, Bengal, Past and Present, Vol. XVII.
— Grants' view of the Revenue of Bengal, Fifth Report, reprint of 1917, Vol. II.

Journals.

Bhattacharyay, D. C. — Deed of selling oneself—Chunta Prakash, vol. XII, No. Chaitra, 1345 as quoted in Amader Tripura, vol. III, No. 7, April-May, 1972.
Swadhin Tripura Rajmala—Prabashi, Falgoon, 1345 B.S.

Bose, Satyaranjan — Tripurar Biplobider Smriti, Tripurar Katha, vol. VII, No. XIII, August, 1957, Agartala.

Bechert, Dr. Heinz — Contemporary Buddhism in Bengal and Tripura,—Educational Miscellany, Agartala, vol. IV, Dec. 1967—March, 1968, No. 3 & 4.

Chaudhury, Vasanta; Roy, Parimal — Articles in Ananda Bazar Patrika, June, 1970.

— Articles in Ananda Bazar Patrika, Paus 19, 1345 B.S.

Chatterjee, Dr. S. K. — Kirata-Jano-Kriti—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, vol. XVI, No. 1, 1950.

Chaudhury, S. B. — 1857 and Tripura—Parichay, vol. I (Sepoy Mutiny number).

Dasgupta, Taritmohan — Tripurai Ganatantrik Andolaner Itikatha—Nagarik, vol. V, No. 23, July 1, 1963.

Dutta, Biren — Tripura Janatar Ganatantrik Andolaner Rup-o-Nirbachanottar Tripura—Tripurar Katha, 1359 B.S., Agartala.

Gupta, Kamalakanta — Copper plates of Sylhet, vol. I, Sylhet, (Bangladesh), 1967.

Sarkar, Dr. D. C. — Two Inscriptions from Tripura State—Indian Historical Quarterly, vol. XIII, No. 2, Calcutta, June, 1957.

Sen, Dr. S. N. — Rulers of Tripura—Chunta Prakash (Extraordinary issue), January 6, 1929.

— — Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society, vol. IV, Part II, 1956.

— — Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Letters, vol. XVII, 1951.

— — Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, vol. XIX, 1923, Numismatic Supplement XXXVII, P.N. 47.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Archaeological Survey of India, (Annual Report, 1921-22), 1924, Calcutta.

A cronicle about the reign of Krishnamanikya; (unpublished manuscript).

Bhattacharjee, A.K., Director, Indian Museum — a note on the sketch of deity (unpublished).

Inspection Note of Director General of Archaeology — Education Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, 1952.

Mainamati; A preliminary Report on the Recent Archaeological Excavations in East Pakistan by Dr. F.A. Khan, Deptt. of Archaeology, Govt. of Pakistan, 1964.

Eastern Bengal District Gazetteers (Tipperah), 1910 by Mr. J.E. Webster.

The works of Nabinchandra Sen, vol. II — Bangiya Sahitya Parishad (Calcutta, 1959).

Bengal Administration Report, 1881-82.

Bengal Administration Report, 1878-79.

Jawaharlal Nehru's letter to the Maharaja of Tripura, dated December 9, 1945 and Maharaja's reply dated December 14, 1945 (unpublished).

Notifiication No. 1-16-C dated 6.9.1942, Tripura State

Letter from Chief Minister, Tripura to the Political Agent, Bengal States, Agartala, Nov. 29, 1943, (unpublished).

Letter from Political Agent, Bengal States to the Dy. Commissioner Chittagong, Mill Tracts, No. D. 327/D. 7-1143, December, 1947 (unpublished).

Proclamation made by Kanchanprava Devi, Regent Maharani, dated November 11, 1947.

White Paper on Indian States, Govt. of India, Ministry of States.

Letter from the Chief Dewan, Political Deptt., Tripura State to Mr. J. Bartly, I.C.S., Camp — Darjeeling, dated 30.9.16. (D.O. No. 215) (unpublished).

Letter No. $\frac{566}{1\text{-}16}$ to the Political Agent. Agartala, dated 11th June, 1921 (unpublished).

Letter No. $\frac{877\text{-}P}{VII\text{-}II}$ of Lt. Colonel B.A. Corbett, Political Agent Tripura to the Minister of Tripura, dated, 11th June, 1921 (unpublished).

Report of the Superintendent of Police, Tripura No. $\frac{680}{1\text{-}16}$ dated 20th June, 1921 (unpublished).

Records in Q.K.M.K. Vigilance Deptt., Govt. of Tripura, 1938 (unpublished).

Letter No. F. 20-P(S)/32 dated January 4, 1932 (unpublished).

Chapter — III

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of India — Census of India, 1961, Paper No. 1 of 1962. New Delhi.

— Census of India, 1961, Vol. I New Delhi.

Publicity Department Tripura — Tripura on the March, 1966, Agartala.
— Tripura on the March, 1968, Agartala.

Statistical Department Tripura — Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1964, Agartala.
— Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965 Agartala.

Tripura State — Census Report, Tripura, 1340 T.E.

Chapter — IV

Books.

Hunter, W. W. — A statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of India — Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Part I, New Delhi, 1955.

National Council of Applied Economic Research — Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, New Delhi, 1961.

Publicity Department Tripura — Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1964.
— Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1968.
Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1969.

Rehabilition Department, Tripura Administration — Rehabilitation in Tripura, Agartala, 1958.

Statistical Department Govt. of Tripura — A Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1961 and 1965, Agartala.

Tripura State — Memorandum and Statistics relating to Agriculture, Forests, Exports and Imports, (1937-38), Agartala.

Chapter — V

Books.

Bhattacharyay, A. C. — Progresive Tripura, Calcutta, 1948.

Phillip, John — Taverniers' Travels in India (in 1676), Chapter XVI, Of the Kingdom of Tripura, the third book, Bangabasi Office, Calcutta, 1905.

Sen, Kaliprasanna — Rajmala, vol. I & II.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Directorate of Industries Tripura — Census of Small Industries in Tripura 1965-66, Agartala 1966.
— Handicrafts in Tripura, Agartala, 1959.
— Industrial Survey Report, 1955-56, Agartala, 1956.

Govt. of Tripura — Bulletin of Tea Statistics, 1966, Agartala, 1968.

National Council of Applied Economic Research — Techno-Economic Survey of Tripura, New Delhi, 1961.

Publicity Department Tripura — Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1967.
— Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1968.
— Tavernier's Travels in India, the third book, Bangabasi Office, Calcutta, 1905.
— The Stateman, Calcutta, January 1, 1964.

Tea Board of India — Tea Statistics, 1966-67, Calcutta, 1967.

Chapter — VI

Books.

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI Statistical Account of the State of Hill Tipperah, 1876.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Directorate of Small Savings Schemes, Assam — Step by step : A souvenir on Small Saving in Assam, 1969.
— Accounts relating to the Inland (Rail and river borne), 1964.

Publicity Deptt. Govt. of Tripura — Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1965.

Chapter — VII

Books.

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah, 1876.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Tripura — Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1964.
— Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965.

Chapter — VIII

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of India — Census of India, 1961, paper No. 1 of 1962 (final population).
Govt. of Tripura — Report of the Labour Directorate, Agartala, 1968.
— Bulletin of Economics and Statistics Vol. I Nos. 1-4 Agartala.

Chapter — IX

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Tripura (Statistical Deptt.) — Quarterly Bulletin of Economics and Statistics Vol. XIV No. 4 Agartala.
— Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1964.
— Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965.

Chapter — XI

Books.

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI (Statistical Account of Tipperah), London, 1876.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Thornton, E. — Gazetteer of the Territories under the Government of the East India Company and of Native States, 1857.

Tripura State — Administration Report, Tripura State, 1935-36, Agartala, 1936.
— Rajaswa Sambandhiya Niyamabali, Agartala, 1290 T.E. (1880 A.D.)
— Report on the general Administration of the Tripura State for the year 1335 T.E.
— Report on the general Administration of the Tripura State for the year 1345 T.E.
— Tripura code, Part I.
— Tripura code, Part II
— Tripura State Gazette, extraordinary issue, Aswin, 1353 T.E.
— Consolidated Administration Report, Tripura State (1943-46 A.D.), Agartala, 1947.

Chapter — XII

Books.

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of the state of Hill Tipperah, 1876.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Bengal — Bengal Jail Code, Vol. I Calcutta.
Statistical Deptt.
Govt. of Tripura — Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965.
Tripura State — Tripura State consolidated Administration Report for 1943-1946.
— Niyam Sangraha of 1322 T.E.

Chapter — XIII

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Tripura (Publicity Deptt.) — Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1968

Chapter — XIV

Books.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. Tripura — Tripura Code, Part II, 1962 Agartala.

Hunter, W. W. — Statistical Account of Bengal, Vol. VI (Statistical Account of Hill Tipperah), London, 1876.

Publicity Department Tripura — Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1966.
— Tripura on the March, Agartala, 1968.

Statistical Department Tripura — Statistical Abstract, Tripura, 1965.
Tripura State — Administration Report, 1915-16 Tipperah State, Agartala.
— Administration Report, 1935-36 Tipperah State, Agartala.

Chapter — XV

Books.

Banerjee, Dr. J. C. — Administration of Education in India.
Banerjee, S. — Itihasasrita Bangla Kavita, 1954, Calcutta.
Bhattacherjee, A. C. — Progressive Tripura, Calcutta, 1930.
Hunter, W. W. — Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. XIII.
Mukherjee, P. K. — Rabindra Jibani, Vol. II Visvabharati, 1961.
Singha, K. C. — Rajmala, 1896, Comilla.

Journals.

Chatterjee, Dr. G. N. — An unheard Monologue-Educational Miscellany. Vol. II, No. 1 & 2, 1965 Agartala.
Chatterjee, Dr. S. K. — Kirat-Jana-Kriti-Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XVI, Calcutta, 1950.
Sarkar, Dr. D. C. — Copper plate Inscription of king Vijay-Manikya, Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. XVII, No. 2, Calcutta.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Bengal — Bengal Adminsitrative Report 1874-75
— Bengal Administrative report 1876-77 Calcutta.
— Bengal Administrative Report 1880-81

— Bengal Administrative Report 1881-82
— Bengal Adminstrative Report 1883-84
— Bengal Administrative Report 1884-85
— Bengal Administrative Report 1885-86
— Bengla Administrative Report 1890-91
—

Govt. of Tripura (Education Deptt.) — Census of India 1961 New Delhi 1962.
Govt. of India — Statistical Abstract : Tripura, Agartala, 1961.
Govt. of Tripura — Statistical Abstract : Tripura Agartala, 1965.

Tripura State — Census-Report of 1931.
— Report of the General Administration of the Tripura State for the year 1907-08 to 1943-46 Agartala.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1915-16.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1916-17.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1917-18.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1925-26.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1932-33.
— Report on the General Administration of the Tripura State for 1935-36.
— Niyam Sangrahabali, Agartala, 1302 T.E.
— Tripura State Gezette 1330 T.E. Vol. XIX No. 12 Agartala 1330 T.E.
— Tripura State Gazette, 1348 T.E. Vol. XXXVII No. 12 Agartala 1330 T.E.
— Tripura State Administration Report, 1908-09.

Chapter — XIX

Books.

Dutta, Brajendra Chandra — Udaipur Bibarani, Agartala. 1340 T.E.

Mookerjee, Sambhu Ch. — Travels & Voyages Between Calcutta & Independent Tipperah, Calcutta 1857.
Vidyabinode, Chandraday — Silalipi Sangraha — compilation, 2nd edition, Education Deptt. Tripura.

Gazetteers, Bulletins, Reports, Memorandums etc.

Govt. of Tripura, Education Deptt. — Unokoti.
Govt. of Tripura — Inspection Note of Director General of Archacology, 1952.
Govt. of India — Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India, 1921-22.

GLOSSARY

Ābkāri — Tax on liquor and other intoxicants.
Āddākar Āin — It is an Act for realisation of taxes on the holding of the tribals outside the municipal areas. It is a tax other than land revenue and 'Gharchukti Kar'.
Āthāramurā — In Bengali murā means peak. Hence the hill consisting of 18 peaks is called Athāramurā.
Bara Thākur — The Prince in-Chief. The post was created by Mahārājā Ramadevamānikya, the successor of Maharaja Govindamānikya.
Bara Pujā — The most important festival of the Hāllām Community.
Binandiā — The carrier of royal message.
Brahmattar — Grant of rent-free land for religious purposes.
Brindābanchandra — An image of Lord Krishna made of alloys.
Chākma — The fourth largest tribal community in Tripura.
Chāklādār — The Collector of revenue from the Chākla consisting of Parganās.
Champrê — A tribal flute made of bamboo.
Changā — Clod breaking instruments used by the tribals.
Chandravaṁsa — The lunar dynasty.
Charā or Cherā — A local name of small hill stream.
Chaturdasa Devatā — The Fourteen Gods of the tribals.
Dafās — Sub-groups among the tribals.
Darbār — Royal court.
Devtāmurā — A peak where the Gods live.
Droṇe — Unit of land measurement. One drone= 16 Kanis.
Fasli — Agricultural year starting from July to the end of next June.
Foorāi — Royal insignia made of iron.
Gharchukti Kar — The tax paid by the Jhoomiā's irrespective of caste and creed. This tax was used to be fixed for each tribe as mark of allegiance to the Rajā.
Hasambhojana — A great banquet held in honour of the soldiers every year on the night of the *Vijaya Dasami* or the day of immersion of the Goddess Durga.

Ijārāh — A farm auctioned or let for a fixed sum of revenue.

Jamā — The assessed land revenue.

Jamātiās — The third largest group of the tribal community.

Jhoom — Literally means 'to burn'. A system of cultivation.

Kāṇi — Linear measures, one Kaṇi = 17,280 Sq. Feet.

Kāziāmahāl — A department for collection of licence fees for licences issued to Mahammedan Kazis for the registration of marriages within a village or group of villages.

Kāyemi Taluk — Estates settled permanently.

Khās Ādālat — Chief Court or High Court.

Kulāchār — Custom of succession in vogue in the reigning family.

Kukis — One of the tribal communities dwelling in the hills of Tripura. They are divided into 14 classes. Of them only five viz., 1) Paitu, 2) Balathat, 3) Thangulka, 4) Lalifang, and 5) Bangkhai are found in Tripura.

Khārchi Pujā — The worship is held on the ninth day of the full moon in June or July every year in the temple of Chaturdasa Devatas or fourteen gods at Old Agartala, about 8 K.M. to the east of Agartala. The celebration continues for a week. The priest of the Tripuri's called the Chantai presides over the ceremony. The Tripuris and other tribals pay their homage to these deities on this occasion and this ceremony occupy the foremost place of all celebrations among the Tripuris. The Puja stands as an interesting mixture of tribal and Hindu traditions.

Ker Pujā — This is the name of the traditional tribal religious festival held at Agartala after fifteen days of Kharchi Puja. This puja is performed within a previously notified boundary. Neither anybody is permitted to enter or come out of the said boundary nor any birth or death is allowed within the said boundary while performing the puja. Ker Puja is also performed by the tribals again during the months of Falgun or Chaitra (corresponding February/March/April) in their own villages. This Puja is performed for the welfare of the village and its people.

Lahar — The system of setting some tribal families by the road side at some points. They had to maintain the roads and carry baggage of the Government officials on tour.

Loongā — Local name of low-lying lands.

Mānikya — The distinguished title of the Rājās of Tripura.

Nal — One Nal=8 hath (Cubit)=4 yards.

Nānkār — A subsistence given to the collectors of revenue in term of service.

Nazar or Nazrānā — Nazar or cash money was realised from the subjects on some occasions. It was a custom of the Rajas of Tripura to offer *Nazar* of gold mohurs to the Viceroy during investiture.

Natun Tripurās — They were called so because they came later than the Purān Tripurās.

Navānna — New crop.

Noātiā — New comer.

Nyeb Dārogā — Deputy Daroga.

Faguā — Song composed and sung on the occasion of the 'Holi' festival.

Purā — A measure equivalent to two seers.

Praja-Bhumadhyikāri Āin — Law pertaining to landlord and tenant.

Kuki Rājā — A title conferred to the Kuki chieftains by the rulers of Tripura. Similar titles were conferred to the Lushai chieftains also.

Rihā or Risā — A breast-garment of the tribal women. They generally weave their Rihas in their *loin-looms*.

Robkāri — Royal proclamation.

Sanad — A grant or charter.

Sarkār — A sub-division of the Subah or district in pre-British days.

Sariāt — Internal transit duties and cesses carried by Zamindars on 'Ghāts'.

Taitun — The tribal subjects who were used to be engaged by the Govt. officers while on official tour, for carrying loads from one village to another or for acting as guide, are called *'Taitun'*.

Talukdār — Jotedar.

Takshichi taluk — The tāluk which is settled permanently but

its revenues are increased at the expiry of every twenty years.

Tong — A plank house called 'Tong-ghar' by the tribals. These are usually built on raised platform made of split bamboos, laid on bamboo frame. The platform is about four to five feet high from the ground, supported by bamboo poles fixed to the ground cross-wise. A fairly big hutment may be constructed out of split bamboo and sungrass. Such houses generally have only two doors but no windows, as a measure of security against visit of ghost etc. The trunk of tree, 6″ to 9″ in diametre and five to six feet in height is fixed in slanting position against the front platform with steps cut thereon.

Tilā — High land.

Thākur — A title of the princes of Tripura Rāj family. The title was first conferred by Mahārājā Kalyanamānikya.

Tripurā erā — It is an era of the State. It comes three years ahead of the Bengali *san*. B.S. So 1382 *san* of Bengali will be 1385 *Tripurabda*.

Yuvaraj — The Crown-prince.

INDEX

A

Abdul Karim, 84
Abdul Rajjak, 100
Abdul Mutaher Majumder, 123
Abhaya, 41, 42
Achlong, 153
Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, 341
Addakar Ain, 283
Adimjati Sevak Sangha, 381
Adityasena (Magadha), 72
Admiral Bahadur Khan, 86
Administrator, 244, 260, 262, 300
Admission fee, 315
Adris Banerji, 68
Advisers, 319
Agar,
Agar Chithi, 341
Agartala, 7, 13, 14, 17, 18, 39, 42, 45, 57, 59, 63, 65, 105, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 131, 134, 135, 181, 182, 187, 188, 190, 192, 198, 199, 206, 207, 208, 213, 214, 216, 218, 220, 221, 222, 223, 227, 230, 232, 233, 245, 253, 259, 263, 265, 274, 278, 279, 281, 283, 290, 291, 292, 293, 300, 306, 312, 313, 314, 317, 321, 323, 324, 325, 329, 330, 341, 342, 343, 345, 346, 249, 355, 361, 365 , 383, 385, 387, 388
Agartala Bar, 228
Agartala Museum, 63, 66, 78, 385
Agartala High School, 317
Agartala Milk Supply, 198
Agreement of Merger, 118
Agriculture Deptt, 174, 175, 177, 183, 237, 289
Agriculture farm, 368
Ain-i-Akbari, 80
Aitchinson, 111
Ajit Bandhu Deb Barma, 343
Ajmere, 134
Akalkusum, 340
Akbar, 80, 82
Akbarnama, 84
Akhaura, 121, 122, 123, 206, 218
Along, 127
All Indian Womens' Food Council, 379
All India State People Conference, 126
All Tripura Women's Association, 379
Amalaka, 397
Aman, 167, 168
Amarmanikya, 83, 84, 85, 95
Amar Sudha, 124
Amarabati, 83
Ampi, 213
Amatya Sabha, 115
Amar-Sagar, 52, 388, 389
Amarpur, 12, 14, 21, 39, 68, 128, 130, 132, 133, 134, 140, 141, 142, 145, 149 166, 190, 213, 232, 245, 264, 267, 292, 323, 338, 371, 376
Ambar Charka Centre, 190
Ambar Spinning,
Amar Chakrabarty, 345
Amader Katha, 227
Amin, 370
Anangamohini Debi, 341
Ananda Bazar (Patrika), 41
Anandapur, 41
Anandaram Medhi, 94
Anantamanikya, 82
Andamans, 125
Andharchara, 8, 9
Animal Husbandry (Deptt.), 289
Anil Thakur, 344
Anil Sangeet Vidyalaya, 345
Anjuman-e-Islamia, 129
Anusilan Samiti, 120, 121, 123
Apet, 145
Apex Marketing Society, 214
Aqua Sadiqe,
Arakan, 1, 66, 80, 83, 84, 86, 89, 90, 153
Arabic, 141
Archaeological Survey of India, 63, 67
Archaeological Report, 67
Ardhanarisvara, 80, 85
Arjuna Dasa, 95
Arms Act, 115
Aryans, 7
Arundhatinagar, 164, 197, 198, 277
Arun Karta, 344
Assembly, 129
Aspers of Turkey, 90
Assam-Agartala Highway, 386
Assam, 2, 24, 37, 38, 42, 45, 51, 62, 63 64, 68, 70, 88, 106, 123, 140, 158, 187, 200 202, 209, 236, 254, 266
Assam Agartala Road, 45, 220
Assam Railway,

Associated Bank of Tripura Ltd., 206
Association of Govt. Employees, 227
Ataram, 401
Athara Mura, 5, 8, 39, 40, 45
Atubari, 14
August Movement, 127
Aurangzeb, 186
Aurobindo Society, 377
Aus, 167, 168
Austic, 63
Automobile Engineering, 329
Avalokitesvara, 66
Ayodhya, 7
Ayma Saud, 339
Ayurvedic, 348, 355

B

Babu Dhirendra Nath Datta, 121
Backergang, 209
Badarpur, 8
Badar-Mokam, 401
Badkamta, 65, 71, 81
Bagpasa, 10, 18, 65
Bagafa, 128, 190, 192, 197, 198, 330
Bakla, 83
Bahaistan-i-Ghaybi, 86
Bajrayani, 393
Balaichara, 8, 9
Balwadi, 333, 369
Baltaima, 345
Balaram Hazari, 106
Balagnag, 123
Bamboo dance, 392
Baltaima, 345
Balaram Hazari, 106
Balagang, 123
Balinarayandighi, 13
Balivimnarayan, 92
Balaramманikya, 102, 339
Balte, 155
Bangalore, 189
Banganj, 7
Bangkhai, 155
Bank, 206, 207, 208
Banquet Hal, 383
Bangladesh, 2, 5, 7, 20, 37, 38, 43,49, 52, 53, 60, 62, 65, 71, 129, 132, 134, 136, 137, 142, 182, 183, 188, 206, 209, 213, 228, 230, 236, 237, 270, 271, 324, 325, 365
Bar Association, 287, 288
Bar library, 288
Bar Mura, 5, 6, 8, 16, 39, 45, 384, 386, 394
Bara Thakur, 92, 103
Bara Puja, 151
Barisal Conspiracy Case, 119
Barga, 253
Barak, 71
Basic Trg. College, 323
Basanta Singha, 346
Bazar, 121, 299
Bay of Bengal, 1, 6, 60
Belathat, 155
Belung Dangihara, 10
Bengal, 71, 82, 143, 275
Bengal Public Demand Recovery Act, 253
Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 267
Bengal Jail Code, 282
Bengal Municipal Act, 284
Bengal Excise Act, 284
Bengal Shops & Establishments Act, 368
Bengal Sultan, 75
Bengali, 127, 139, 140, 275
Belting Sib, peak, 6
Betaga-Ludhua, 28
Bhil, 141, 143, 157
Bharat Sevak Samaj, 377
Bharat Bhasker, 342
Bharatiya Samiti, 341
Bhagchash, 253
Bharati Sangha, 123
Bibi Bazar, 6
Bidhiram, 401
Bihar, 62, 68, 134, 140
Bikrampur, 84, 112
Bilonia, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 38, 39, 42, 60, 66, 122, 128, 132, 133, 135, 141, 145, 149, 166, 176, 183, 192, 208, 213, 223, 232, 245, 264, 267, 287, 317, 330, 376
Binindia, 219
Bindaptilla, 18, 19
Bipin Behari Goswami, 106
Birendrakishore Sahitya Samaj, 337
Birchandra Public Library, 338
Birchandra/Birchandramaniakya, 2, 109, 110, 111, 113, 114, 340, 341, 342, 344, 347, 349, 387
Birbikramkishoremanikya, 3, 111, 137, 253, 342, 344, 345, 346
Birendrakishoremanikya, 115, 187, 200, 337, 344, 384
Biradharadeva, 73
Bishalgarh, 14, 15, 18, 71, 187, 274, 337
Bishalgarh Clay, 12, 13
Bisramganj, 385
Bhuvaneswari, 70, 401
Board of Secondary Education, 309
Bodo 64, 159, 167, 168
Bodhisattva, 66
Bogra, 84
Bogachatal, 18
Boiragitika, 12
Bomang, 154
Bombay, 19, 134, 216
Bombay Money Lender's Act,284

Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 284
Border, 270, 275
Buddha, 66, 153, 390
Bujharat, 255
Bureau of Educational and vocational Guidance, 335
Burdo, 11
Burima, 385
Burma, 16, 27, 45, 63, 104, 140, 249
Burmirao, 146
Burmese, 20, 153
Brahmottar Sanad, 337
Brajabehari, 345
Brahmaputra, 62, 64
Brajamohan Tiprabari, 9
Brojendra Chandra Dutta, 342
Brahmanbaria, 2, 3
British Company, 3
British District, 3, 119, 125, 218, 249, 275
British Govt., 23, 110, 111, 119, 283
British India Govt., 2, 3
British Museum, 63
British Resident, 110

C

Cachar, 2, 20, 64, 70, 73, 80, 110, 132, 249, 342
Calcolithie Age, 63
Calcutta, 101, 114, 137, 177, 184, 192, 198, 206, 209, 213, 220, 223
Calcutta High Court, 206
Captain Lewin, 1, 90
Captain Jaipal, 42
Captain Blackwood, 106
Captain Dharanidhar Singha, 108
Caste movement, 112
Catholic Church, 387, 388
Central Jail, 279, 281
Central Warehouse, 264
Ceylon, 66
Chailengta, 28, 38
Chaimal, 141, 143, 158
Chakla Bozhnabad, 71, 98, 99, 100, 105, 110, 126, 339, 390
Chakraddhaya, 109
Chakma, 133, 140, 141, 142, 143, 149, 150, 370, 395
Champakvijaya, 339, 340
Champakaraya, 93, 94
Champak Roy, 340
Chamber of Princes, 111, 117
Champung, 145
Chandraipara, 8
Changong, 12
Champamura, 13, 17, 20
Champaknagar, 28, 189, 386
Chandina, 64
Chaudsadagar, 395
Cantali Pargana, 72
Chandda Devatas, 78
Chandi, 82, 389
Chantai, 89
Chandranath Temple, 91
Chandramaui Thakur, 98
Chandpur, 121, 137
Changar, 172
Chandigarh, 97
Chantai, 388
Chapia Khan, 145
Charmichael Bridge, 115
Charkhas, 188
Chara, 162, 165
Charilam, 13, 16, 18, 385
Chatuspathis, 332
Chaturdasa, Devata, 69, 388, 400
Chatya, 155
Chaturmukh, 393
Chaudhury, 128, 154
Cheongpha, 73
Cheongpha, 73
Chetungpha, 73, 74
Chhamanu, 41, 190
Chhaikaria, 77
Chhatramanikya, 88, 89, 95, 96
Chhagalneyah, 108, 112
Chhatra Sangha, 123
Chhotima, 397, 398
Children's Home, 333
Children's Club, 333
Children's Hospital, 354
Chittagong, 2, 4, 20, 27, 62, 65, 73, 80, 82, 84, 90, 91, 100, 101, 106, 107, 123, 124, 133, 137, 206, 249, 254, 317
Chittagong Hill tracts, 2, 37, 42, 127, 140, 142, 144, 150, 254, 401
Chittagong District 5, 63, 77, 78
Chieftain, 105
Chief Dewan, 119
Chief Commissioner, 110, 244, 267, 284, 285, 332, 384
China, 90, 186
Chinese, 157
Chinese invasion, 270
Christian Missionary, 381
Chhidangchara, 8
Civil Disobedience Movement, 124
Civil procedure Code, 274
Chotakheil, 11
Chong Preng, 345
Co-education, 326, 327
Co-operative, Society, 291, 371
Service, 214
Consumers, 215, 371
Banks, 207, 208, 371
Climate, 391
Cocoa, 176
College of Music and Fine Art, 332

Colleges, 314, 325, 332
Comilla, 2, 4, 62, 64, 65, 66, 72, 73, 81, 89, 91, 106, 107, 110, 111, 120, 125, 137, 206, 209, 325, 342
Comilla Bar, 228
Communist Party of India, 374, 376
Communication, 257
Compensation assessment, 262, 263
Community Development Block, 237, 311
Community Development Projects, 239
Constituent Assembly, 129
Council of Rulers, 117
Congress, 374, 376
Council of Ministers, 244
Cotton, 250, 394
Cotton Grinding and Pressing Factories Act, 368
Courts of Hill Tipperah, 282
Court, 277, 282, 283, 288
— District & Session Judges, 287
— High, 284, 288
— Judicial Commissioner's 228, 245 266, 284, 287
— District, 228, 284
— Munsiff, 228, 284
— Magisterial, 283, 284
Craft Teacher's Trg. Institute, 330
Crime, 270, 271, 273
Criminal Procedure, 270, 274, 282, 285, 286
Cultural Organisation, 337
Cultivation, 259, 385
Cyprinus Carpio, 184

D

Dacca, 75, 83, 89, 90, 93, 94, 97, 98, 120, 127, 137, 187, 206, 209
Dacca Museum, 63, 78
Dacca Police Trg. College, 274
Dacoity, 270
Dadan, 213
Dafas, 150
Daitya, 70, 79, 81
Dak-Bungalow, 221
Dakshin Mohanpur, 65
Dakshinsik Pargana, 99, 100
Daluchara Youth Club, 379
Damchara, 28
Dumbur, 6, 42, 200
Dumbur Hydel Project, 7, 8
Damodaradeva, 73
Dangerous Drugs Act, 265
Dao Chukti, 126
Daroga, 274, 315
Darjeeling, 51, 202
Darlong Kukis, 155
Darrang Raj Vamsavali, 81
Dasarathadeva, 73
Dasda Bazar, 391
Daud Khan, 79
Davidians, 63
Devbadi, 65
Deo, 6, 27, 28, 41
Deota Mura, 5, 8, 16, 68, 389
Deota Mura Gorge, 9
Deo River, 8, 9
Deputy Governor of Bengal, 3, 105
Devas, 71
Devagrama, 101
Devaparvata, 64
Devamanikya, 78, 79, 81
Dewan, 95, 101, 106, 110, 118, 149
Dhaleswari, 2
Dhaner Kutir, 402
Dhanesh, 46
Dhananjaya, 104
Dhanyamanikya, 77, 78, 79, 81, 148, 339, 343
Dharmanagar, 9, 10, 17, 18, 20, 28, 60, 65, 71, 92, 96, 122, 132, 133, 135, 141, 148, 156, 158, 166, 179, 190, 192, 197, 199, 202, 207, 208, 213, 220, 223, 232, 244, 264, 267, 278, 287, 296, 324, 368, 376, 391
Dharma Sabha, 123
Dharmasagar, 76
Dharmanikya, 74, 75, 77, 96, 97, 98, 339
Dharmamanikya II, 96, 97, 99
Dhumacnara, 41, 213
Dhvajaghat, 187
Dhawjamanikya, 78, 187
Dinesh Chandra Bhattachaaryay, 97
District Employment Exchange, 237, 238, 239
Dispensary, 347, 353, 385
Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong, 105
Dolajari peak, 6
Dotai, 6
Dr. S. N. Sen, 114
Dr. Sambhu Chandra Mukherjee, 355
Dr. Dani, 63, 75
Dr. N. K. Bhattasali, 75
Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji, 78
Dr. D. C. Sarkar, 81, 400
Drones, 160
Duchari Stream, 9, 10, 17
Dud Puskarini, 396
Dumburnagar, 190
Durbar, 88, 95, 110, 119, 121, 123, 157, 342, 383
Durga temples 400
Durgapur, 101
Durgamani Thakur, 102
Durga, 65, 66, 69, 80
Dntiya, 399

Dutiyabari, 400
Duty, 263
Dwarika Thakur, 93

E

East Bengal, 45, 64, 155
East Bengal Railway, 218
East Pakistan, 2
East Radhakisorepur, 69
East India Company, 105, 110
East India, 62, 64
Education Department, 307, 308, 325
Elephant, 219
Elementary Vernacular Pathsala, 312
Election, 374
Embankment, 307
Emperor Aurgangzeb, 89, 90
Employee's Provident Fund Act, 368
Employee's State Insurance Act, 368
Engineering College, 329, 386
English Office, 110
English, 141
Epidemics, 365
Eri, 189
Eshurah, 13
Evidence Act, 282
Examination, 313, 329
Excise revenue, 264, 265
Expendition, 250

F

Factories Act, 368
Fairs, 213
Family Planning, 356
Faizabad, 278
Fakir, 402
Family Tax, 250
Faridpur, 209
Fatikroy, 213
Fatiksager, 388
Faujdar, 97
Fauna, 37
Feing Pui, 5
Fenny, 2, 6, 15, 112
Fenny River, 12
Fenny Valley, 9, 11, 18
Festival, 249
Film library, 334
Fire Brigade, 278
Fire service, 278
Flora, 20
Flute, 344
Foorai, 219
Foothill, 391,
Forest Deptt. 23, 42, 290
Forest Rest Houses, 221
Fossil Wood, 10
Freedom movement,

G

Gajalia, 8, 9
Gajalia Range, 9, 10, 17, 19
Ganganagar, 122
Ganges, 53, 62, 94
Gamair, 23
Gandhigram, 182, 183, 386
Ganesh, 66, 67, 393
Gangasagar, 7, 206
Gangagovinda Bardhan, 102
Ganja, 265
Garh or Fortres 396
Garjan, 24, 28, 250
Garji, 39, 42
Garo, 141, 155
Garo Hills, 1, 155,
Gauhati, 206
Gaurai Mallick, 77
Gazipur Opium Factory, 265
Gazir Kot or Ail, 396
General Manager, 207
Gerjan, 153
Ghani, 191
Ghar Chukti, 125, 180, 220, 249, 283
Ghasuri, 125, 126
Ghanashyam Bara Thakur, 94, 96
Girish Bank Ltd., 206
Gograchara, 8, 19
Gol Verandah, 384
Gondachara, 41
Gopiprasada, 82
Gopinatha, 69, 88, 400
Gorrea, Goria, 17, 346
Gour, 73
Govt. of East Bengal, 2
Governor General, 105
Govindakesava, 73, 74
Govindamanikya, 69, 70, 88, 89, 90, 91, 95, 339, 383, 398, 400
Govinda Ballav Hospital, 355
Govt. of India, 2, 110, 111, 114, 117, 216, 278, 310, 329
Govt. of Union Territories Act, 244
Gramsevak Trg. Centre, 334
Grama Mandali, 116
Gramodyog Samity, 378
Gumti, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 16, 19, 52, 54, 55, 62, 70, 77, 87, 96, 200, 400
Gumti Power Project, 200, 293, 296
Gumti Sandstone, 9, 10, 12, 16
Gumti Valley, 9, 14
Guna Gazi, 108
Gunavati, 69, 308, 399, 400, 401
Gur, 169, 190, 191
Guru, 106
Gurukul Vidyashram, 379

H

Haichek, 2
Haitan Khan, 77
Haider Khan, 344
Hakim, 348
Halam, 10, 103, 140, 143, 150, 151, 152, 153, 260, 370
Half-long, 8
Half-long Chara, 9
Hamid Khan, 78
Hamja Khan, 79
Haora, 6, 129
Happin, 109
Hara-Gouri, 393
Haridhan Thakur, 100
Harijan Sevak Sangham, 380
Harimani Thakur, 99
Harijans, 126
Harinachara, 395
Harish Chandra Bardhan, 344
Harry Verelst, 102
Hartal, 121
Hasam Bhojan, 152
Hazari, 109
Heruka, 65
Hrishyamuk, 7, 9, 10, 17, 19, 213, 274
Hevajra, 75
Hrishyamuk sandstone, 10, 11, 16
Hichachara, 176
Hill Tipperah, 4, 120, 218, 219, 250, 252
Hill Tripura, 62, 220
Himalayan, 385
Hindi Teachers' Trg. Institute, 331
Hindu Marriage Laws, 286
Hirabati, 70
Hirimba, 70
Hitasadhini Sabha, 126
Home (Police) Deptt., 278
Homeopathic, 348, 355
Hospitals, 279, 247, 248, 355, 367
Hukka, 189
Hunter, 107, 213, 259, 274, 279, 298
Hun-sur-Ostad, 344
Hussain Shah,
Hussain Shahi, 77, 78, 148
Hyderabad, 124
Hydro-electric Project, 389

I

Ibrahim Khan Fate-Jang, 86, 94
Imam Baiji, 344
Indian Stamp Act, 266
Indian Company Act, 206
Indian Union, 117, 129
Indian Navy, 129
Indra, 78
Indra Manikya II, 99
Indo-Chinese, 63
Indo-Mongoloids, 63, 64
Indo-Portuguese, 387
Income Tax Department, 247
Inner Circle, 120
Inner Line, 110
Industries Deptt., 290
Industrial Estate, 197, 199
Industries Cottage, 209
Industrial Disput Act, 368
Industrial Employment (S.O.) Act, 368
Industrial Training Institute, 291, 330
Infirmary,
Information Centre, 334
Instrument of Accession, 4, 117
Inspection Bungalow, 221
Integration, 319
Interim Govt., 129
Isanchandramanikya, 106
Isanadeva, 73
Isa Khan, 83, 84
Islamabad, 101

J

Jack-fruit, 167, 176
Jadu Bhatta, 344
Jadunath Sarkar, Dr., 84
Jagannath, 101, 385, 398, 399, 400
Jagannath Dighi, 398
Jagannathpur, 102
Jagatram, 96, 97
Jahnabidevi, 102
Jagatmanikya, 97, 98, 339
Jain, 142
Jainysm, 141
Jagatmanikya II, 98
Jail Panchayat, 281
Jaigeer, 94
Jalal-ud-din Mahammad Shah, 75
Jalaibari, 14, 390
Jalaya, 28
Jalafa, 38
Jam Jaree, 12
Jamu Peak, 13
Jampui (range, hills), 2, 5, 6, 8, 20, 40, 176, 391
Jamirkhan, 76
Jamayet, 148
Jamatia, 109, 143, 148, 149, 260, 370
Jamabandi, 256
Jamirchara, 41
Jamjuri, 213
Jangtei, 155
Janata College, 334
J. G. Cumming, 339
Jari Mura, 5
Jarip-o-Bandobasta Sambandhiya Niyamabali 1309 T.E., 254

Jarul, 23
Jayabati, 342
Jayadevi, 98
Jayantia, 80
Jayamanikya, 82, 83, 99
Jayadevaraya, 102
Jabunissa, 341
Jean Baptist Tavernier, 186
Jhil, 394
Jhoom/Jhooming, 4, 20, 24, 25, 38, 42, 136, 139, 145, 155, 156, 160, 167, 168, 177, 178, 179, 180, 213, 220, 232, 250, 259, 290, 345, 370, 371, 386
Jhoomia, 125, 136, 139, 162, 177, 179, 180, 256, 259
Jhulan temple, 401
Jiban Smriti, 114
Jivadharanarata, 64
Jogesh Chakraborty, 120
Joteland, 254
Jotedar, 136, 257
Jugantar, 123
Jujarpha, 71
Juri, 5, 28, 71
Jute, 168, 169, 385
Jyotish Ratnakar, 339

K

Kabuliat Patta, 98
Kacharichara, 8
Kadamtala, 166
Kahoisib Peak, 6
Kailan, 64
Kailash Chandra Roy, 342
Kailash Chandra Singha, 78, 87, 88, 107, 342
Kailasahar, 7, 20, 39, 44, 66, 57, 92, 120, 122, 123, 131, 133, 134, 135, 140, 141, 142, 148, 149, 156, 158, 164, 166, 179, 192, 199, 202, 207, 208, 213, 218, 232, 245, 254, 264, 267, 279, 283, 287, 291, 296, 317, 324, 326, 330, 348, 368, 376
Kailabagh, 85
Kakraban, 12, 18, 39, 213, 330
Kali, 69, 394
Kalapur, 72
Kalajhari, 39, 41
Kalagang, 10
Kalashi, 176
Kaladhepa, 176
Kalbas, 184
Kalai, 150
Kalkalighat, 220
Kala-azar, 363
Kaliram Medhi, 76
Kaliprasanna Sen, 76, 78, 88, 96
Kalyanmanikya, 69, 87, 88, 95, 339, 399
Kalyanpur, 160
Kaluri, 166
Kaolin, 13
Kamalasagar Kalibari Mela, 213, 385
Kamalafruebari, 12
Kamalpur, 20, 39, 131, 133, 141, 148, 156, 158, 166, 179, 190, 213, 232, 245, 262, 264, 267, 323, 324, 333, 365, 376
Kamrupa, 74
Kanika, 341
Kanchanprava Devi, 117
Kanchanpur, 190, 198, 213
Kapili, 70
Kaplobe Village, 18
Kanchana Pha, 94
Karkoon, 95
Karamahara, 189
Karrani Dynesty, 82
Kashichandramanikya, 104
Kashewnut, 176
Kashari, 42
Karandas, 397
Kashigang, 60
Kassalong river, 90
Kathliachara, 183
Katla, 184
Kaur, 141
Kaviraj, 348
Kayemi Taluk, 252
Kazia Mahal, 251
Ker (Puja), 147, 151
Kerala, 239
Keshab Chandra Mitra, 344
Khadi & Village Industries, 291
Khadim, 401
Khanapuri, 255
Khadga dynesty, 65, 71
Khadi Gramodyog, 190
Khalichu, 153
Khandal, 77, 96, 108
Khandsari, 190, 191
Khas Adatat, 283
Khas Appeal Adalat, 113, 283
Khasia, 80, 140, 143, 158
Kherchipuja/mela, 213, 388
Khetramohan Basu, 344
Kheroari, 140
Kholongma, 71
Khorongma, 71
Khilafat, 121, 123
Khowai, 5, 6, 28, 131, 133, 135, 140, 141, 144, 160, 166, 190, 198, 199, 207, 213, 232, 262, 264, 267, 287, 296, 234, 365, 376
Khoreng, 155
Khorpintabhim, 150
Khulungma, 146
Khwaja Usman, 84
Khulna, 138
Khuskki Mahal, 209

King Edward Medical Institute, 348
Kingdom of Recon and Rama, 80
Kinnar, 390
Kirat, 7, 155
Kiritbikramkishoremanikya, 117
Kiritmukut, 398
Kirti, 106
Kurti, 213
Kistwar, 255
Kshore Sahitya Samaj, 337, 341
Kochabari, 15, 106
Kotwal, 95
Kooa, 153
Konda, 187
Korfa, 253
Kriajogasara, 97
Krishnakishoremanikya, 105, 106, 108, 109, 383
Kramadiswara, 78
Krishnamanikya, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 339, 387, 388
Krishna, 92, 399
Krishnamala, 102, 339
Krishnapada Chakraborty, 124
Kshatriya, 143, 153
Kudamhata, 6
Kuki, 3, 103, 104, 106, 108, 109, 141, 142, 143, 145, 149, 150, 157, 218
Kulasar, 96
Kuch Bihar, 80
Kulai, 213
Kumarghat, 190, 197, 198
Kunda, 143, 392
Kunjaban, 297, 385
Kunjaban Palace, 115, 384, 385
Kunteri, 155
Kushira, 104
Kutch fort, 396

L

Labour Welfare, 386
Labanchara, 12
Laban Stream, 9
Lakshmi, 147, 389
Lakshmipur, 69
Lakshminarayan, 69, 92, 101, 115, 399
Lakshmanmanikya, 99, 100
Lakshya, 79
Lalchara, 10, 41, 166
Lal Chokla, 106, 157
Lal Mahal. 383
Lalmai Mainamati Hill, 62, 395
Lalifang, 155
Lamachara, 14
Lampra, 146
Landscape, 391
Langtarai, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 38, 41
Land Custom
Land Reforms, 255
Land Reform Bill, 243
Land Revenue, 249, 259, 261, 263
Labu Karta, 344
Leprosy, 360
Large sized brick, 402
Laroo, 157
Lembuchara, 39, 176, 184, 386
Library, 337, 338, 383, 385
Lingas, 393
Literature, 338, 339
Liquor, 263, 265
Limitation Act, 274
Lentai, 155
Literacy, 320
Lepcha, 143
Lichi, 167, 176
Lohagarh, 96
Loko-Silpi Sansad, 337
Loin-loom, 186
Lokanatha, 64, 72
Loom, 188
Lomagar, 96
Loonga, 159, 164
Longai, 2, 6, 110
Lord Ampthill, 111
Lord Jagannatha, 114
Lower Gumti Group, 8
Lt. Mathew, 101
Lt. Fisher, 104
Lukpalani, 401
Lumding, 8
Lungtung, 13, 390
Lushai, 109, 110, 140, 141, 142, 143, 156
Lushai, Hills, 2
Lushai-Kuki, 155, 156

M

M. A. Rahim, 77
M.B.B College, 42, 325, 326, 327, 385
Madhabnagar, 274
Mackenzie' 104
Madhava Kandali, 75
Machmara, 38
Madrassa, 332
Madhya Pradesh, 134
Mahajans, 213
Maharaja, 3, 110
Maharaja Dhanyamanikya, 1, 68, 69
Maharaja Vijaymanikya, 69
Maharajadhirj Veinyagupta,
Maharaja Match Factory, 199
Maharaj Kumar Brajendrakishore, 115
Maharajajoang, 153
Maharani, 9, 12, 69
Maharani Sumitradevi, 102
Maharani Tulshibati Mahadevi, 348
Mahimchandra Das, 122

Mahals, 303
Maharani Bhanumati, 114
Mahendramanikya, 88, 95, 96
Mahamanikya, 74, 75
Mahadeva, 398
Mahadevabari, 69, 393, 400
Mahajana Sthavira, 66, 390
Mahabharata, 64, 102, 343
Mahisasura Mardini, 68, 69
Mahammed Khan, 79
Mahammad Sirajuddin Abu Jaffar Bahadur Shah, 341
Mahammed Reja Khan, 101
Mahatma Gandhi, 137
Mahendramanikya, 95
Mahendrachandra, 345
Mahim Chandra Dev Barma, 342
Mahila Ashram, 333
Mahila Samity, 333, 378
Mahila Sangha Samabayh Samity, 379
Mailekohara, 6
Mainamati, 63, 66, 71
Malanchabas, 384
Malaria, 361
Malbhasha, 12
Maldharchar, 41
Malikanda, 127
Malchai, 145
Management, 322
Mandal, 96
Mangalchandi, 389
Mantri Parisad (Executive Council), 113, 319
Manikbhandar, 122
Maniklal Goswami, 245
Manipur, 80, 102, 106, 150
Manipuris, 140, 157, 167, 186, 315, 316, 346
Mantrana Sabha (Advisory Council), 116
Manu, 6, 7, 27, 41, 84, 213
Manugang,
Mariamnagar, 387
Market, 300, 385, 392
Masha, 145
Matri Sangha, 123
Marachara, 8, 9
Matai Katar, 146
Maulvi Bazar, 72
Maujas, 257, 258
Mr. Ralph Leak, 101
Mechka, 145
Medical Deptt., 305, 331
Meghna, 5, 52, 53, 62
Meherkul, 73, 96, 101
Melas, 213
Melaghar, 120, 190, 198
Memoy Stream, 10
Mesta, 169
Milan Sangha, 123, 378
Microwave Link, 223
Minlongma, 146
Minimum Wage Act, 368
Miriumla, 90
Ministry of Rehab. 138
Mir Habib, 96, 97, 98
Mirzapur, 96
Mir Khan, 93
Mirza Nurulla, 87
Mizel, 155
Mizo District, 2, 20
Mizoram, 2
Mogra, 121
Mokbul Hussai, 79
Moghs, 85, 97, 133, 140, 141, 142, 143, 153, 154, 155, 395
Moghul, 79, 82, 85, 86, 87, 92, 95, 94, 97, 99
Money-lenders, 207
Monkhamer Khasi, 63
Morkosa, 187
Morachara, 8
Mortgage, 260
Motor Transport Works Act, 368
Mrigel, 184
Mugh Puskarini, 396
Mughol Masjid. 401
Mukutmanikya, 75, 76, 77
Muktail, 122
Mukunda, 97
Mukundamanikya, 97, 98, 99
Muhari, 6, 13, 14, 28
Muhari, Valley, 12
Muktabs, 332
Muli. 27
Munda, 141, 398
Munia, 45
Municipality, 296, 298, 299, 300, 301
Murad Beg, 98
Muradnagar, 98
Murchhai, 109
Mursid-Quli Khan, 98
Musa Khan, 83
Mueum, 385
Muslim League, 137
Music College, 332
Mynah, 44
Myanee, 90
Mymensingh, 83, 98
Mysore, 124

N

Nabin Chandra Goswami, 344
Nabin Chandra Sen, 112
Nabinhampara, 41
Nad-Pith, 345
Nagachandrapur, 8
Naib, 110, 315

Naib Daroga, 274, 275
Naik, 389
Najir, 95
Nakshatra Rai (Chhatramanikya), 10, 401
Namtu, 155
Nandannagar, 63
Narasingha, 66, 393
Narayanbari, 14
Narendramanikya, 93, 95
Narendra Kishore Deb Barma, 337
Nasarat Shah,
Nasiruddin Mahammed, 74
Naranarayan, 80, 81
Nardinganj, 209
National Congress, 127, 128
National Cadet Corps, 336
Natun Bazar, 190
Native Infantry, 34 in, 107
Nath Yogis, 393
Navadwipchandra, 115
Navanna, 147
Nawab of Dacca, 97, 100
Nawab of Murshidabad, 99, 100
Nazar, 254
Nazarana, 110, 111
N. B. Roy, 75
New Zealand Baptist Mission, 355
Nepal, 134
Newspapers and periodicals, 376
Nilakrishna, 109
Nimcha, 383
Niri-Kachi, 172
Nirmahal, 396, 397
Nishikanta Ghosh, 119
Nissad Hussain, 344
Niz Tahabil 207, 383
Noakhali, 2, 4, 23, 64, 73, 98, 100, 110, 121, 122, 133, 134, 137, 209, 254, 332, 339, 342
Noatia, 143, 153, 260, 370
North-Bengal, 64
North Cachar Hills, 70
North-Eastern India, 64
Nowgong, 64, 70
Nurnagar, 87, 98, 99
Nusut Sing, 153
Nutan bazar, 13, 389
Nutan Tripura, 143

O

Officers, 246
Old Agartala, 13, 387
Ompi, 8
Opium, 265
Orange, 143
Orauge, 392
Organisation, Employees, 229
  Workers, 229
Orissa, 68, 80, 134, 140
Oriya, 140
Ostad Kasemali Khan, 344
Outer Circle, 120
Outpost, 274
Overseer, 274

P

Pabiachara, 9, 10, 18
Pabitra Paul, 124
Pabna, 84
Pachwai, 265
Padma, 53, 80
Paitu, 155
Paitu Kukis, 105
Pakistan, 62
Panchamukh, 393
Panchanan Mitra, 344
Panchayat, 280, 311
Panchkouri, 99
Panisagar, 9, 190, 197
Panisagar Basic Training College, 330
Parasuram, 112
Parganah, 94
Para (Hamlet), 220
Parijata Harana, 399
Parikshit, 106, 109
Parsee, 142
Parsian, 141
Patichar, 403
Pathsalas, 316
Patpasar, 96
Patna, 89
Pathanagarh, 112
Patta, 253
Pecharthal, 8, 38
People, 397
Penal Code Amendment Act, 115
Permit Mahal, 209
Pha, 95
Phangchara, 8
Phatiksagar, 52
Photamati Village, 10
Phun, 155
Physical Education, 336
Pine-apple, 167, 176, 177, 199, 209
Pilak-pather, 66, 390
Pilgrims, 389
Pitraganj, 6
Pithasthan, 397
Plantation Labour Act, 368
Pleistocene Age, 15
Pliocene Age, 16
Plywood Corporation, 199
Police, 271, 274, 275, 276
Police Deptt, 274, 275
Police Deptt. of Bengal, 275
Police Guide, 274

Police Guide and Limitation Act, 282
Police Stations, 271, 274
Police Training College, 278
Political Agent, 110, 122, 123, 249, 252, 259, 263, 289, 318
Polytechnic Institute, 329, 330
Population, 224, 270, 347, 370, 391
Porebunder, 19
Polygamy, 148, 158
Post-diploma, 329
Postal Division, 221
Post Offices, 221, 222, 385
Post Office Savings Bank, 208
Post Master, 221, 223
Potato, 169
Poultry Farm,386
Prachir (Prison Magazine), 281
Praja Bhumyadhikari Ain, 253
Praja Mandal Act, 126
Praja Sammelan, 126
Praja Socialist Party, 374
Prasanna Thakur, 345
Pratap Chandra Mukherjee, 344
Pratapgarh, 106
Pratyekroy Chara, 8, 18
Pravatkumar Mukherjee, 336
Pre-Davidians, 63
Prem-Marichika, 340
Primary Health Centres, 305, 353
Primary Marketing Society, 214
Princes College, 325
Prisoner, 281, 282
Priti, 341
Priyanath Banerjee, 120
Privy Council, 109, 283
Probation of Offenders Act, 281
Probodh Dasgupta, 120
Prohibition, 369
Propagation of Hindi, 337
Public Administration, 224
Public Call Office, 223
Public Health, 358
Public Service Commission, 117
Public Works Deptt, 221, 291, 295, 297
Pulses, 169
Punjab, 134, 187
Punyabati, 81
Puran Agartala, 388
Puran Haveli, 384
Puran Tripura, 143, 260
Pushpavanta Palace, 384
Pyari Mohan Deb Barma, 342

Q

Queen Victoria, 348
Qullu Khan, 84

R

Rabindra Jiban, 336
Rabindra Parisad, 337
Rabindranath (Tagore), 114, 336, 340, 341, 342, 346, 384, 401
Radhakishoremanikya, 114, 314, 325, 337, 341, 342, 344, 347, 348, 397
Radhakeshorepur, 400
Radhamohan, 101
Radha Krishnapur, 181
Raghunandan Parvat, 7
Raghunatha Das Brajabasi, 101
Rai, 128, 145
Raichak, 145
Railways — 391
  A & B, 206
  Assam, 218
  East Bengal, 218
  North-East Frontier, 220
Raima Sarma, 6, 41
Raiyat, 253, 261
Raja, 3, 156, 396
Raja of Assam, 94
Raja Chilaraya, 81
Raja Man Singh, 83
Raja Mukunda Deva, 80
Rajdharchara, 41
Rajdharmanikya, 83, 85, 102, 339
Raja Pratita, 71
Rajdhani Agartala Sahar Bondobasta Sambandhiya Bidhan, 259
Raj Family, 115
Rajaswa Sambandhiya Niyamabali, 252
Rajasthan, 216
Rajanagar, 197
Rajarshi, 401
Rajmala, 70, 75, 76, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84 85, 86, 88, 92, 96, 97, 100, 102, 114, 39
Ramgangamanikya, 102, 103
Ramganga Bisharad, 339
Ramayana, 102, 343
Ramchandra Thakur, 102, 345
Ram Govinda Thakur, 345
Ramdhan Seal, 345
Ramkanai Seal, 345
Ramadev, 89
Ramamanikya, 92, 94, 95, 397
Ramdevmanikya, 91, 93
Ranavankamalla, 73
Rangamati, 71, 76, 82
Ras Festival, 346
Rangpur, 84
Ratanmani Noatia, 129
Ratnapha, 74
Ratnabati, 82, 92
Ratnamanikya, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 93, 94, 95, 145, 385, 400
Ratnamanikya II, 93, 102, 340
Ratna Kandali, 95
Ravana, 393
Royal family, 388

Ratnapur
Red Cross, 355
Refugee, 256
Regent Maharani, 4, 117
Regency Council, 117
Relief & Rzhabilitation Deptt, 237, 325, 329
Relph Fitch, 80
Revanta, 65
Resham Bagan, 187
Revenue, 25, 254, 257, 260, 263, 265
Reward Examination, 315
Ria, 342
Riaj-us-salatin, 96
Riang, 108, 127, 128, 143, 144, 146, 147, 147, 148, 153, 157, 260, 346, 370
Risha, 144, 186
River Dhaleswari, 110
River-route mahal, 209
R. R. Institution, 317
R. K. Mahavidyalaya, 325, 326
Robert Dyson, 63
Robkari, 340
Rohee, 184
Rohini Goria, 345
Rudijala, 395
Rubber plantation, 403
Rudrasagar, 49, 52, 183, 396
Rukund-din-Barbak, Shah 76
Rupini, 150
Rural Water Supply, 360
Rutton Poiya, 108, 109
Ryot, 112

S

Sabrum, 18, 19, 20, 39, 133, 141, 142, 149, 166, 176, 213, 232, 264, 267, 287, 323, 338, 376, 385
Sachindra Dutta, 124
Sabrum-Magrum, 274
Sachin Dev Barman, 344
Sadar, 19, 20, 21, 130, 131, 133, 140, 141, 144, 156, 157, 166, 190, 197, 198, 202, 232, 245, 254, 264, 267, 287, 330, 376
Sahity Bazar, 337
Sakhan, 5, 8
Sakhan Tlang Range, 6
Sakta, 146, 150, 153, 393
Sal, 21, 26, 28, 386
Salami, 254
Salema, 45, 190
Samarendra Dev Burman, 341
Sambhu Chandar Thakur/Sambhu/ Samchu Chandra/Sambhu Thakur, 102, 104
Samatata Mandala, 71, 73
Samanta Lokanath, 72
Samanta Marundanatha, 72
Sanad, 339
Sonamura, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 49, 60, 63, 132, 133, 141, 142, 166, 183, 213, 232, 244, 262, 264, 267, 287, 317, 323, 323, 324, 376, 385
Sangeet Bharati, 345
Sangit Samaj, 114
Sankara, 399
Sanskrit College, 332
Sandys, 104
Santhali, 140
Sangrama, 146
Santirbazar, 213
Santiniketan, 325, 341, 342
Sarasima, 390
Sardar, 105, 286
Sardeng Range, 2,
Sarma, 6
Sarju, 7
Sarail, 83, 84
Sarnachura, 395
Sarahis, 189
Saraswati, 389
Sarvani, 65
Sateroratna temple, 395
Satyabati, 85, 92, 93
Satero Ratan (Seventeen jewels), 102
Sat-gope, 181
Satishchandra Choudhury, 123
Satchand, 190, 198
Sebayat, 101
Secunderabad, 278
Security Prisoner, Rules, 282
Sepoy, Mutiny, 106
Sericulture, 386
Scholarship, 327
Schools—
Primary & Jr. Basic,—303, 307, 310, 316, 320 322, 323, 326
Middle, 303, 326
Junior High, 310, 324, 327
Sr. Basic, 307, 320, 322, 323
High, 310, 316, 317, 318, 323, 324, 326, 327
Higher Secondary, 310, 323, 324, 326, 327
Secondary, 307, 309, 320
Shamsernagar, 122
Shamser Gazi, 99, 100,102
Shah Suja, 89
Sheikh Mahiud-din, 93
Shillong, 62, 221, 222, 223
Sib Peak, 2
Shuja-ud-din, 97
Sibani, 18
Sikh, 142
Sikhara, 385
Sikandar Shah, 83, 84

Sikhism, 141
Silalipi-Sangraha, 114
Silchara, 8, 223
Silchar, Exchange, 239
Sima, 213
Sind, 16
Sindhukumarpara, 8, 9, 18
Sir Lancelot, 115
Sital Chandra Chakraborty, 342
Sitakunda, 63
Siva/Saiva, 67, 156, 393
Sivachaturdasi Mela, 213
Shamser gazi, 396
S. K. Saraswati, 65
Sokagatha, 341
Sonag, 340
Sonarampara, 11
Sonargaon, 74, 77
Sonal, 23
South-East Bengal, 62
Sri Panchami, 389
Sri Rajmala, 68
Srimangal, 72
Srinath, 72
Sri Harikaladeva, 73
Srihatra, 73
Sri Vasudeva, 73
Sridam, 106
State Bank, 206
State Bank of India, 208
State Social Welfare Board, 237
State Veterinary Deptt., 39
Stamp Act, 266
Statistical Deptt., 230, 237
Sthaviravada or Theravada, 66
Subhadra Debi, 83
Subarai, 186
Sudhir Krishna Deb Barma, 343
Sugarcane, 169
Sulaiman Karrari, 82
Sultan of Gour, 73, 76, 95
Sultan Giasuddin Youez Shah of Bengal, 74
Sultan Shuja
Sumu, 345
Suresh Krishna Deb Barman, 345
Surma valley, 62, 63
Survey of India, 254
Survey & settlement Operation, 257, 263
Svet Mahal, 383
Swargodeva Rudra Singha, 94
Sylhet, 2, 4, 5, 23, 62, 64, 72, 74, 80, 83, 87, 92, 98, 99, 104, 106, 121, 122, 125, 132, 133, 137, 209, 218, 249, 332

T

Tahsil, 257
Tahasildar, 153
Taibaichara, 8
Taichung native, 172
Taitun, 125, 218
Talukdar, 136, 257, 259
Taluk, 99, 252, 254, 257
Tan Raj, 344
Taradevi, 103
Taraf, 83
Tarikh-i-Bangla, 96
Tasar, 187, 189
Taskhichi Taluk, 252, 254
Tavernier, 89, 90
Tea Board, 205
Tea Industry, 232
Tea Garden, 254
Teachers' Training College, 227
Teeya, 47
Telaiya, 84
Tenancy reforms, 261
Telegraph sub-division, 223
Tenants, 261
Telephone Exchange, 221, 222
Terliary Hills, 62
Teliamura, 20, 190, 197, 208, 213
Territorial Counci, 118, 214, 228, 290, 302, 303, 308, 310, 320, 325, 332, 352
Thangulus, 155
Thakur, 143, 207, 315, 316, 341
Thana, 97
Thornton, 249
Tibeto-Burman, 64
Til, 250
Tilas, 7, 101, 162
Tinochori Stream, 11, 18
Tipai Mukh, 110
Tipra, 1, 64
Tipperah, 2, 3, 22, 62, 64, 65, 75, 80, 81, 81, 86, 87, 89, 90, 94, 101, 104, 110, 111, 120, 121, 134, 209, 249, 312, 332, 339
Tirthamukh, 7, 213
Tisna, 96
Tlang, 5
Tongteai, 153
Town Hall, 301
Trade Union Act, 229
Transport, 236
Tribeg, 70
Tripur Kshatriyas, 126
Tripur Sangha, 129
Trilochan, 7
Tribal Reserve, 260
Tripura, 1, 2, 3, 15, 18, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 149, 150, 153
Tripura Modern Bank Ltd., 206
Tripura Era. 160
Tripura State Bank, 206, 207
Tripura Sundari, 1, 68, 69, 78, 89, 92, 147
Tripura State Co-operative Bank Ltd., 207

Tripura Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Ltd., 208
Tripura Durbar, 2, 3
Tripura High Court, 206
Tripura Courts Order, 285
Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 255, 257, 258, 260, 261, 284
Tripura Registration Rules, 1954
Tripura Orchestra, 345
Tripura Mahila Samity, 379
Tripura Council for Child Welfare, 380
Tripura Rajya Gana Parisad, 125, 374
Tripura Rajya Janamangal Samiti, 126, 127
Tripura Rajya Praja Mandal, 128
Tripura State Congress, 128
Tripura Buranji, 88
Tripurar Smriti, 341
Tripurar Rahasyatatva, 342
Tripurendrachandra, 345
Tripuri, 1, 152, 315, 316, 346
Trishna, 28
Tughral Khan, 74
Tuima, 146
Tuipra, 1
Tuition fee, 315
Tulamura Range, 9
Tulatalikona, 28

U

Uchai, 143
Uchhvas, 340
Udaimanikya, 82, 99
Udaipur, 9, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 38, 68, 69, 78, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 92, 100, 107, 109, 126, 128, 132, 133, 134, 135, 141, 142, 149, 156, 166, 190, 192, 197, 198, 199, 207, 213, 232, 259, 264, 267, 278, 279, 283, 287, 296, 324, 330, 342, 376
Udaipur Bibaran, 343
Ujan Thangang, 18
Ujan Machmara, 28
Ujir, 95
Ukil Sabha, 288
Umakanta Academy, 317, 318
Umakanta Das, Rai Bahadur, 317
Umium Hydro-electric Project, 200, 296
Unani, 348
Under-raiyati (Korfa), 253
UNICEF, 356
Union Public Service Commission, 303
Union Territory, 4, 118, 216, 217
Union Territories Laws Act, 284
Union Territory Act, 267
United Bank of India Ltd., 208
United Commercial Bank Ltd., 208
University, 281
University of Calcutta, 309, 314, 317
Unokoti, 7, 8, 28, 66, 67, 213
Unokoti Tirtha, 342
U.P. Panchayet Raj Act,
Upper Gumti Group, 8, 10
Utkal Khanda Panchali, 339
Uttar Pradesh, 134

V

Vaishakhi Mela, 213
Vaishnavism, 146, 150, 153
Vajrahumkara, 65
Vakachai, 96
Vanghmun Youth Club, 379
Verelst, 101
Veterinary Hosital, 290
Veterinary Dispensary, 290
Victoria Memorial, 114
Vidyapattan, 117
Vijaymanik, 76
Vijaymanikya, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 95, 187, 339
Vijaymanikya II, 99
Vijoya Dashami, 152
Vikramaditya, 114
Visarjan, 114
Vishnu, 67, 82, 85, 92, 95
V. M. Hospital, 244, 331, 348, 350, 351
Vocational Guidance, 335
Voluntary Social Service Organisations, 377

W

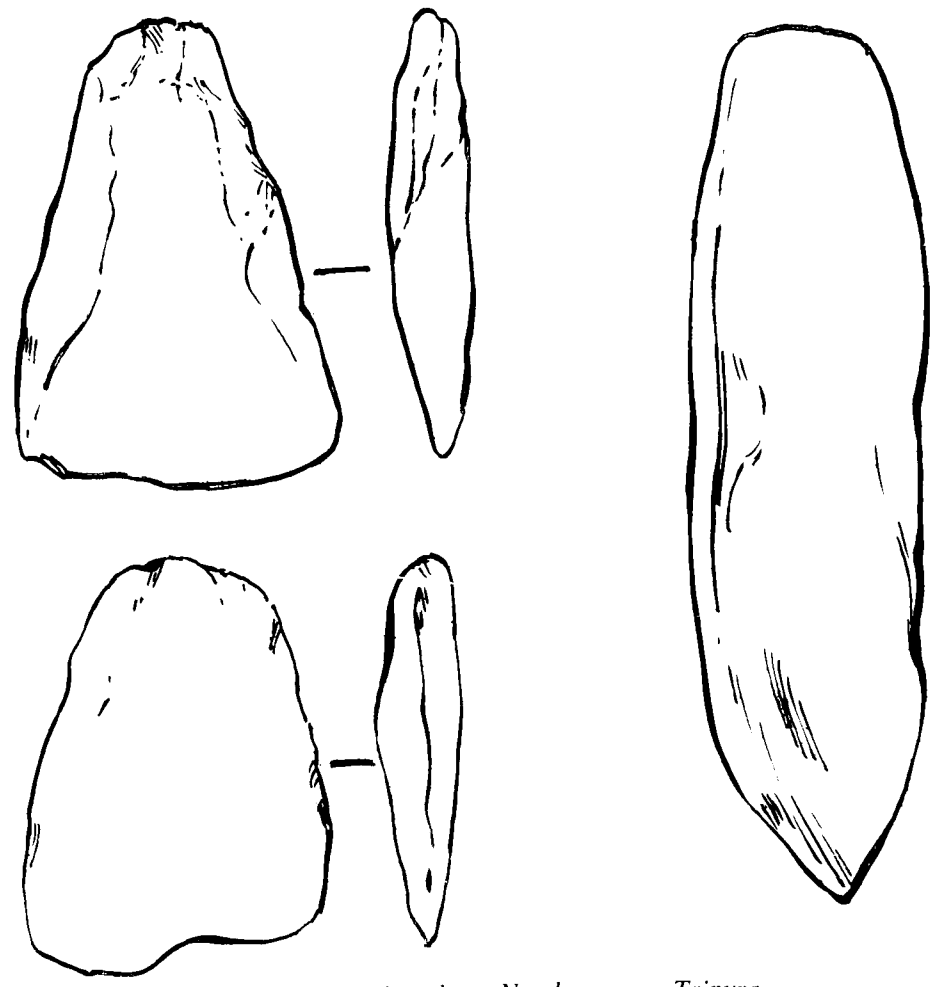
Warren Hastings, 102
Waterfowls, 112
Webster, 107
West Bengal, 68, 131, 278, 325
Weights and Measures, 215
West Bengal Security Act, 271
West Bengal Land Development & Planning Act, 284
West Bengal Evacuee Property Act, 284
Womens' College, 327
Works & Buildings Deptt., 291
Working Journalists Amendment Act, 368
Workmens' Compensation Act, 368
W. W. Hunter, 187, 210, 218

Y

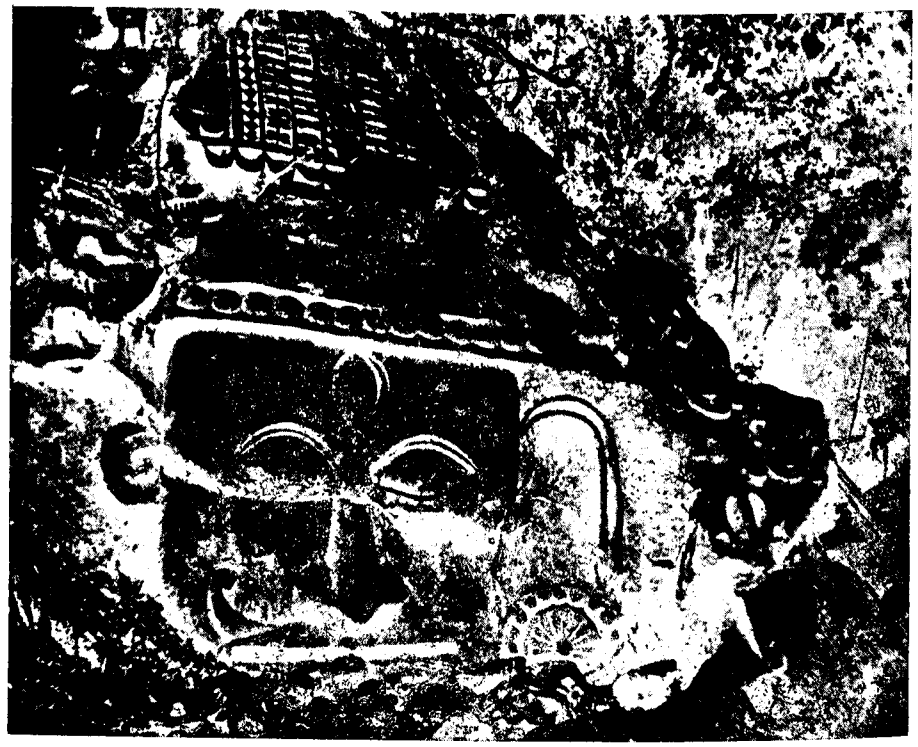
Yasodharman, 64
Yasodharmanikya, 85
Yasomanikya, 85, 86, 95
Yayati, 70
Youth Club, 333
Yujarpha, 70
Yunnan, 51, 63
Yuvaraja, 102, 103, 106

Z

Zilla Parisad, 311



Neolithic tools found at Nandannagar, Tripura



Unakotesvara Kalabhairava — Central Sivaheads, carved on the rocky wall of Unakoti hill.

Stone image of Hara-Gouri on Sukhasana pose, found at the top of Unakoti hill (Details at p.)

Flying monkey, Terracotta (Pilak)

Charging boar, terracotta (Pilak)

Avalokitesvara (Pilak)

Bronze Devi, Rishyamukha.

Vajrahuṃkara, Stone (Agartala palace).

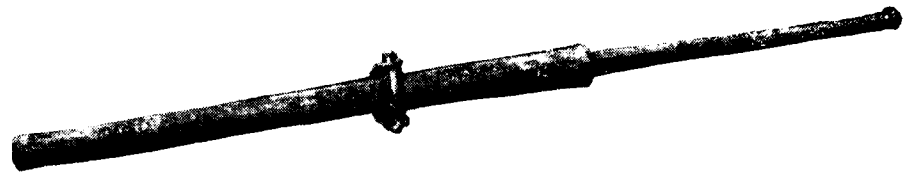
Left :
Ten-handed Vishṇu, (Noāgāon)

Right :
Four-handed Vishṇu, (Udaipur)

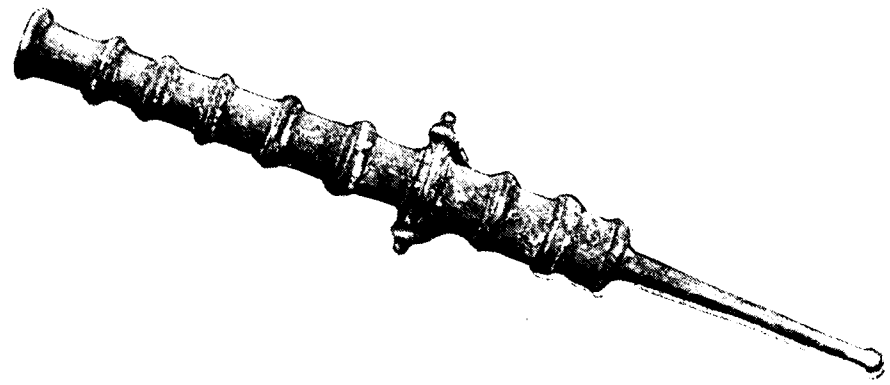
Bronze : Avalokitesvara, (Pilak)

Venugopal, (Udaipur)

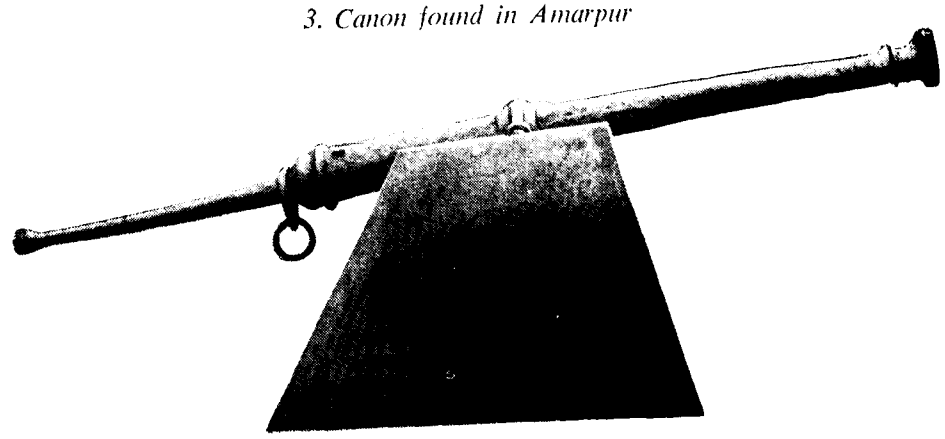
Bronze : Hevajra, (Dharmanagar)

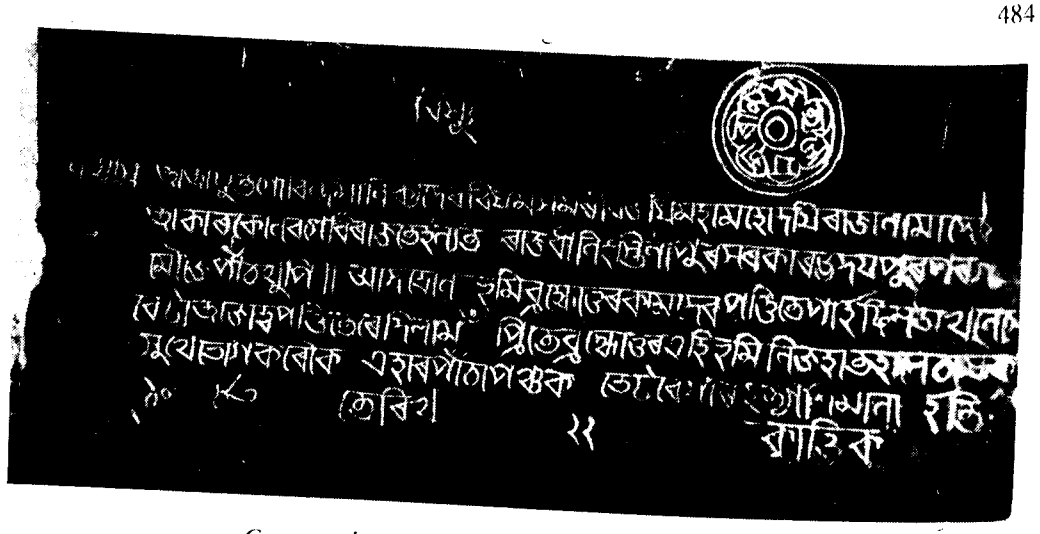


1 & 2 Canons found at Gandācherā (Amarpur)



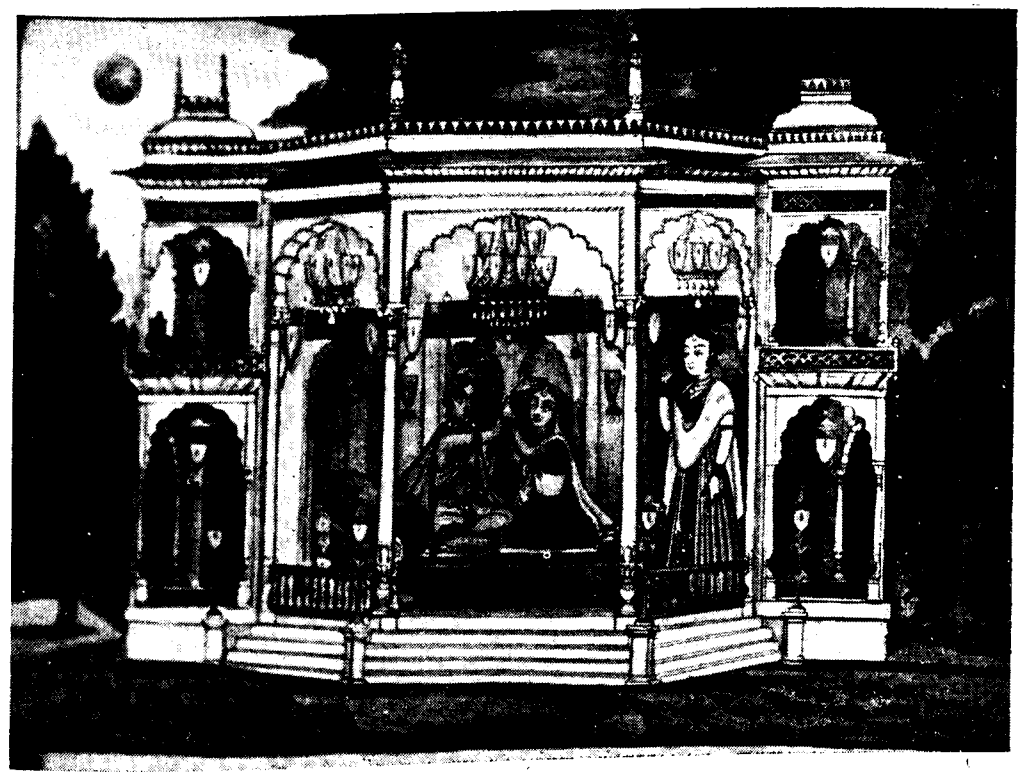
3. Canon found in Amarpur





Copper-plate inscription of Gavindamāṇikya

A fine specimen of Kāthāsilpa of Bengal, preserved in Government Museum, Agartala



A bright piece of colourful illustration of the manuscript of Padakalpataru. A number of such illustrations drawn by Alam Fakir, the state artist, enhanced the importance of the manuscript.

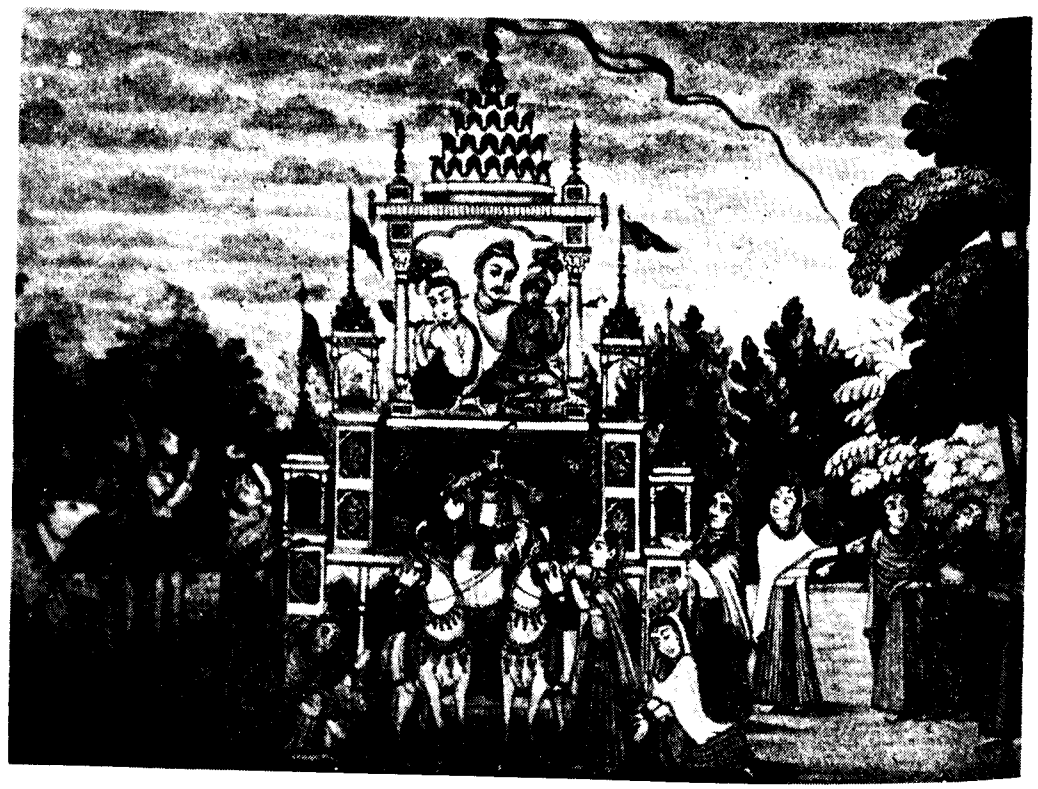
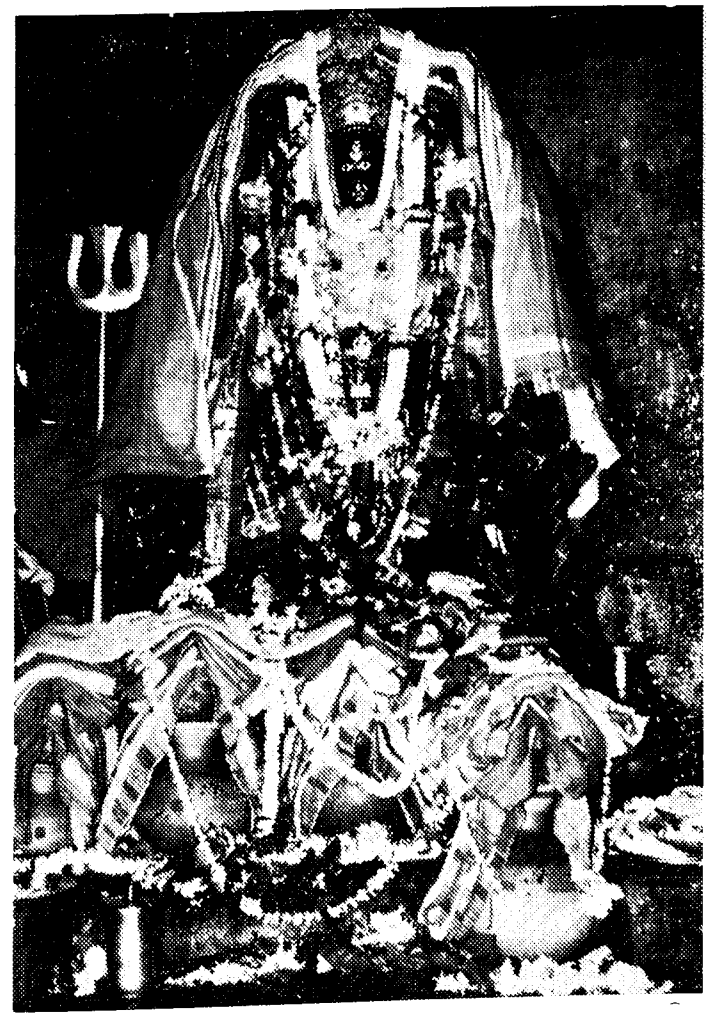


Illustration of Padakalpataru

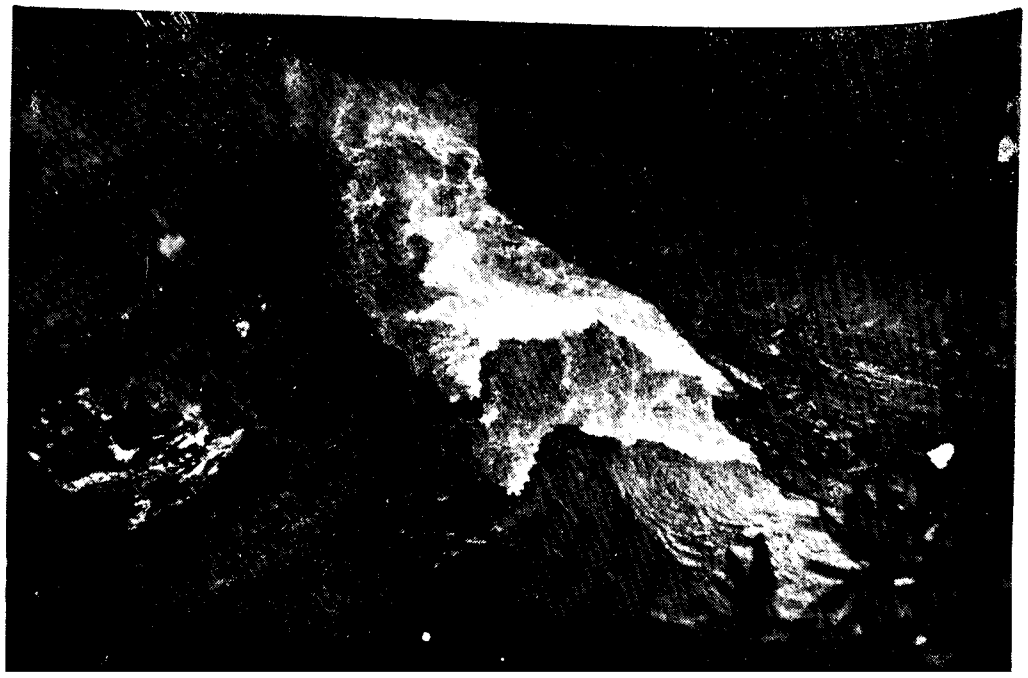
Above : Gunabati group of temples (Udaipur)

Temple of Bhūbanesvari, (Udaipur)

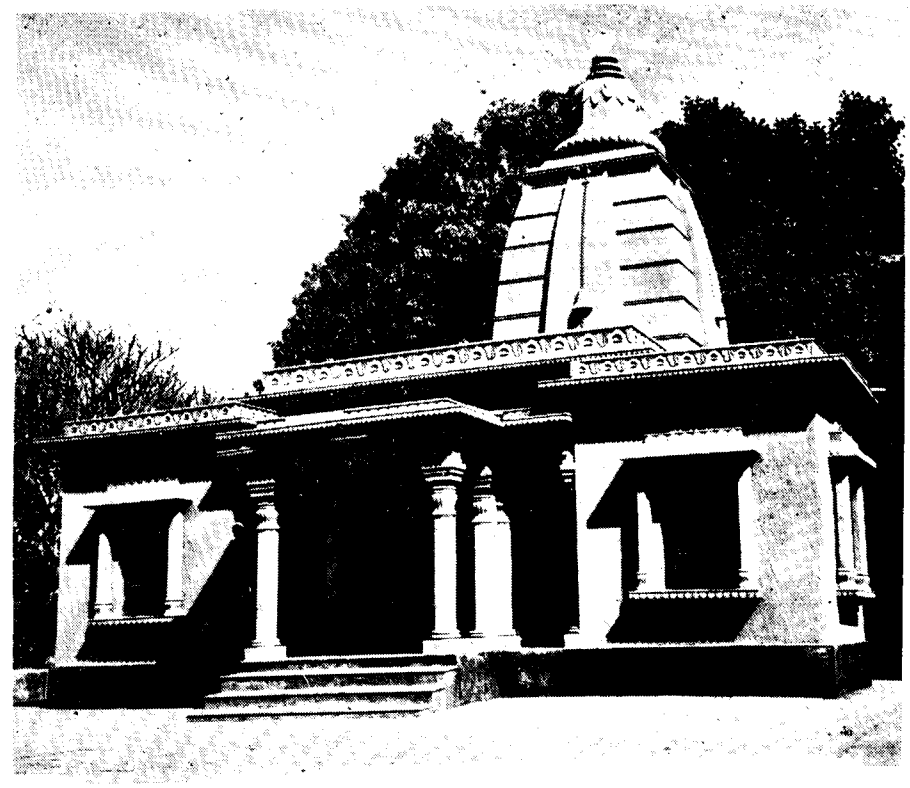


Tripureswari, the presiding deity of Tripura

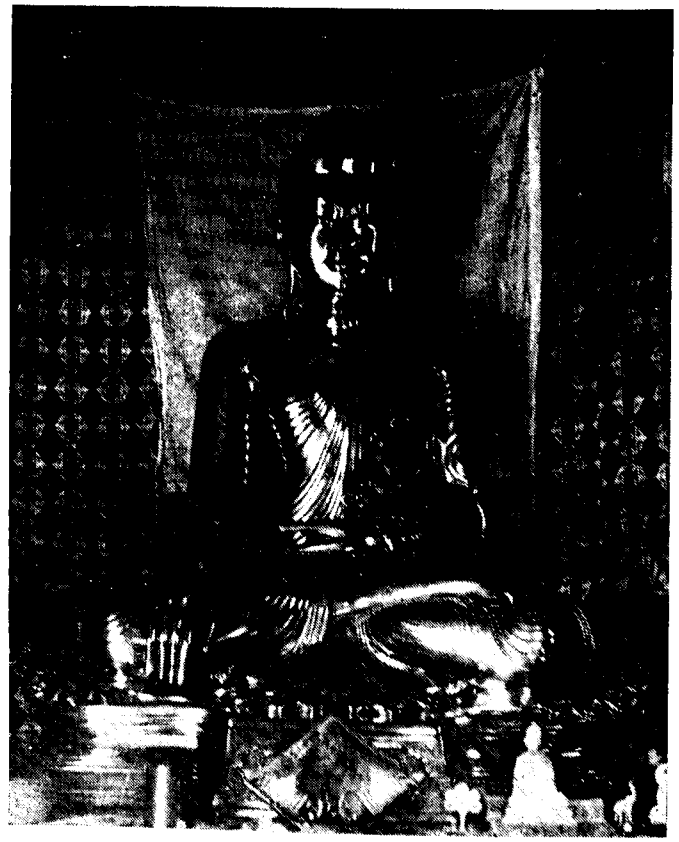
Ujjayanta Palace, Agartala.



Dumboor falls in Amarpur



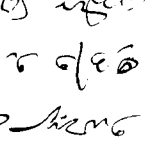
Buddha temple, Agartala.



Brass Buddha image (Fechrthal).

At Kunjaban Palace.

Born — May 8, 1861 Died — 7th August, 1941



Facsimile of Rādhākishoremāṇikya's letter.

1. *Tripuri*
2. *Jamātiā*
3. *Naḷshum*
4. *Lushai*

Tribals of Tripura.

5

8

5. *Mog*
6. *Noatia*
7. *Chakmā*

6

7

9

8. *Uchhuii*
9. *Riang*

Handicrafts of Tripura

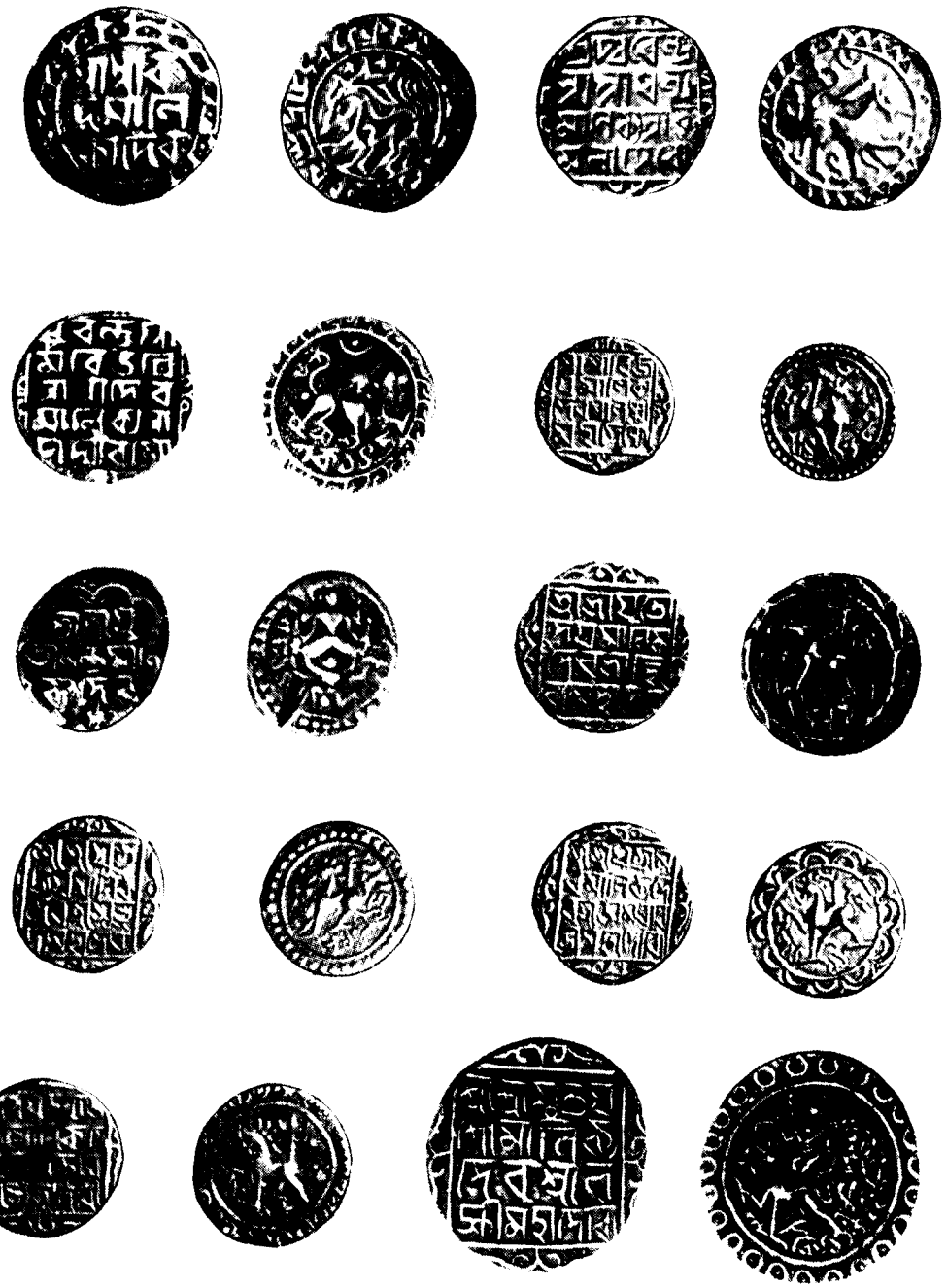
Mahārāja Rādhakishore Māṇikya

Born — July, 1856 Died March 12, 1909

Oilpainting of Maharaja Birbikramkishoremāṇikya drawn by Shymacharan Chakravarty.

Mural painting by Ramendranath Chakravarty

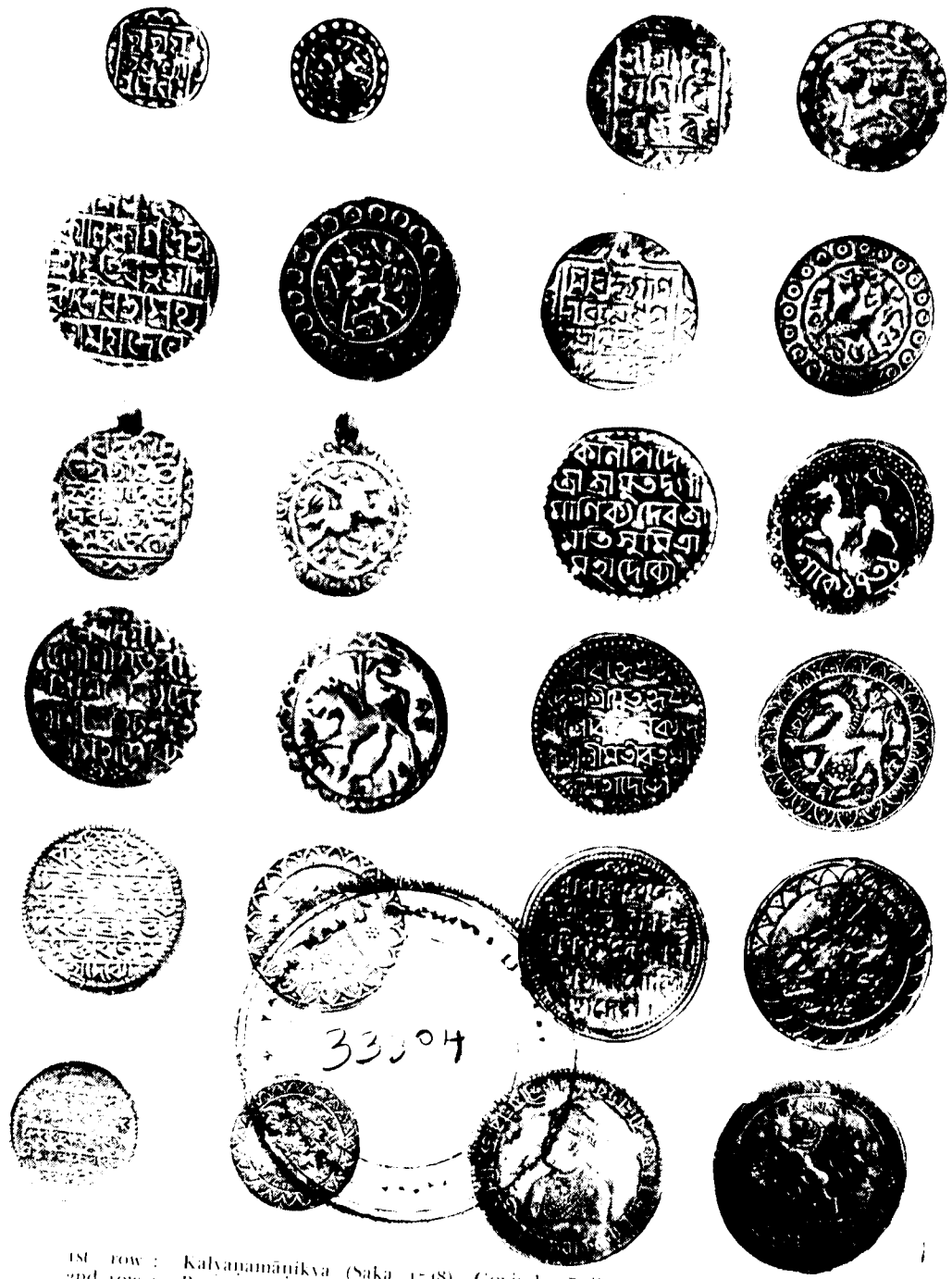
A sketch by Dhirendrakrishna Deb Barma.



Coins of the Rajas of Tripura

1st row : Ratnamāṇikya (Saka 1386), Dhanyamāṇikya (Saka 1412)
2nd row : Devamāṇikya (Saka 1452), Vijayamāṇikya (Saka 1458)
3rd row : Anantamāṇikya (Saka 1486), Udayamāṇikya (Saka 1489)
4th row : Jayamāṇikya (Saka 1495), Amarmāṇikya (Saka 1499)
5th row : Rājdharmaṇikya (Saka 1508, Yaśomāṇikya (Saka 1522)

Photo : By courtesy of Shri Jahar Acharjya.



1st row : Kalyaṇamāṇikya (Saka 1548), Govindamāṇikya (Saka 1582)
2nd row : Ratnamāṇikya II (Saka 1607), Dharmamāṇikya II (Saka 1636)
3rd row : Krishṇamāṇikya (Saka 1682), Durgāmāṇikya (Saka 1731)
4th row : Rāmgangāmāṇikya (Saka 1743), Krishṇakishoremāṇikya (Saka 1752)
5th row : Isānchandramāṇikya (Saka 1771), Birchandramāṇikya (1279 T.E.)
6th row : Rādhākishoremāṇikya (1306 T.E.), Birbikramkishoremāṇikya (1337 T.E.)

Photo : By courtesy of Shri Jahar Acharjya.